



Many West Potomac students were among the 75,000 ticket-holders who braved sweltering heat at this year's WH Festival. Story on page 18.

## Thompson Wins State Championship; Bryant Named Track Coach Of The Year

Assistant Principal Named All-Met

Felicia Bell  
Nick Slater  
Wire Reporters

The excellence and achievement of the West Potomac track team was recognized last week. Two members of the program in particular were singled out for outstanding individual performances. This past weekend, Yolonda Thompson proved that she is the best in the state in both the long and triple jumps by placing first in the State Championships. Thompson will graduate this year as the school record-holder in those events, as well as several others. Her brilliant performances at the state meet were the latest successes in what has been a dominant year for Thompson.

This year has been just as rewarding for another important figure in the track program, Coach Inez Bryant.

After 12 years of coaching boys and girls track, Bryant, who is also Assistant Principal, was named the All-Met Track Coach of the Year. She has brought West Potomac to a level of greatness as well as secured the tradition of competitive athletics.

Bryant has coached to 25 district championships, 12 regional championships, and her teams have placed second at states five times. Most recently, Bryant led an undefeated girls

track team to victory at the T.C. Williams invitational, winning by 23 points and to a first place finish in districts and at regionals. She also has become and administer at West Potomac this year, and this particular school year was a special one for the Bryant family, with the addition of a baby.

One could say that this athletic award is long over due.

"I think she really deserves this award, although she's tough and works us hard in all types of weather conditions, the training pays off," said Junior track member, Melody Bailey.

Bryant's dedication has encouraged her runners to do their best, and they often have surpassed their own expectations.

"She was there rain or shine, no matter how hot or cold it was, even up to her ninth month of pregnancy," said senior track member, Laura Cooney.

Bryant's secretary, Ms. Winnie Larson, describes Bryant as, "modest and very humble. I always hear about her accomplishment from the media. She has been working hard for this award and is deserving of it."

Bryant is a well respected, motivational force and we are all proud of her accomplishments and the tremendous effort she puts into West Potomac.

## Junior Elected SGA President Jon Dyer Wins Top Spot

Trevor Rathbone  
News Editor

At the start of next year, Jon Dyer will become the first junior SGA president in five years. The last junior to be SGA president was Lee Miller. According to English teacher Ms. Joan Reynolds, Miller has just finished his first year of law school.

Although a junior, Dyer comes well qualified for the job.

He has attended the Virginia Leadership Conference two years in a row.

"I'm looking forward to working with Mrs. Reynolds

and my fellow officers to make next year fun!" said Dyer. Mrs. Reynolds has confidence in Dyer.

She commented with enthusiasm, "I look forward to another year of student government involvement, and hope that next year we can truly activate the honor court."

Next year's SGA is composed of all juniors and sophomores.

Dyer, who was class president for both his freshman and sophomore year, has also received a scholar athlete award.

Vice-President elect, Caroline Denton, was V.P. of her class this year, and she has worked closely with Dyer in the past.



photo by Ally Medina

Dyer delivers campaign speech

### Incoming SGA

President  
Jon Dyer

Vice-President  
Caroline Denton

Secretary  
Jeannie Biniek

Treasurer  
Beth Hansen

### Features

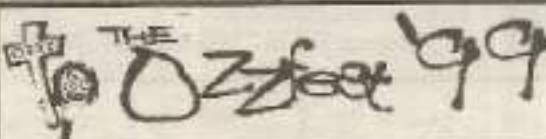
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Maggie  
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Behavior



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Baseball  
Turns Around  
&  
WP Goes  
Surfing



## Revisiting Columbine, resisting fear... Only the Shooters are to Blame

**Ben Rankin**  
Wire Reporter

Columbine was a major slap in the face of school administrators across America. It is an even bigger insult when threats following the incident turn out to be false and people still run scared before them.

Every time a school closes or a student stays home because they are scared to go to school, the killers at Columbine beat us. They have gotten what they wanted, what they always dreamed of back when their classmates pushed them into lockers and called them names: Fear. People everywhere now look at the gothic culture, the quiet people who never talk in class, and the people who are just thought of as weird, and they are scared. Everyone is a little more careful since the Columbine incident, and that's just what the boys wanted.

Who is to blame? Many

people would say Harris and Klebold are the only people on which to put blame. Others think society is somewhat responsible for allowing guns to be so easily attained by minors and those with ill intentions. Still others blame the parents, and ask how they were so ig-



AP Wire  
Students embrace following tragedy

norant as to not know that their children were building pipe bombs in their bedrooms. Some side with those who are picked on every day, and say that the jocks and bullies who taunted the two at school provoked them to retaliate and should share responsibility. Others target Marilyn Manson - the infa-

mous rock star who got his name from a legendary serial killer - to whom both boys listened, and on the goth culture to which they belonged.

Personally, I think blame can only be placed on the criminals. Although they may have been influenced somewhat by others and by the culture they practiced, it is not fair to say that anyone or anything is responsible for the Columbine tragedy besides the killers themselves. The blame should be put on the ones who committed the crime, and neither Marilyn Manson nor the criminals' parents brought guns to Columbine High School and killed 13 schoolmates.

The real question, however, is not where to put blame, but how should we react, and what can we do to prevent this from happening again?

The whole situation makes you wonder. Are we, as a society, so weak that every time someone buys a gun and shoots it off in school we give them the utmost respect for it? Harris and Klebold wanted society to react in fear and cower from their culture. We are giving them what they want. Bullies

have not picked as much on people who follow the Harris and Klebold stereotype because they fear for their own safety. In response to Columbine, bullies have decided to respect these people more by

**We must show  
these people that  
we are, and will  
always be, stronger  
than they are.  
No matter what,  
we will not let  
them beat us.**

letting them be. Isn't this respect only out of fear, however? It seems that we have decided as a society to cower in fear whenever an incident like this occurs.

To ensure that this does not happen again, what we need to do is not back down and cower, but stand up and fight. People ask what we can do to prevent this from happening again. The answer is simple: Fight it. If people see that we will not run

in fear every time a school shooting occurs, then there will be fewer shootings. If they saw that society is not afraid of them in the least and the only response was to fight back, then they will have failed.

We must not reward Harris and Klebold by letting what they did make us afraid. We can only fight back to show such people that they can't take down a society with a gun. We must make an effort to scare criminals and possible criminals more than they can scare us.

The only way to scare these people and protect from letting another Columbine or Paducah or Jonesboro incident occur is to fight back with a stronger force than the criminals. If we can show that society will always be stronger than anyone with a gun, then those people will never win. We cannot show people like Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold that we are afraid of them, or all the people in the world who want power will just get a gun and cause more violence. We must show these people that we are, and will always be, stronger than they are. No matter what, we will not let them beat us.

## Of School Friends and Neighborhood Friends

### Letters To The Editor

An overwhelming number of West Potomac students live on or near route one, but how many West Potomac students have school friends who they hang out with on the highway who are different from them in race, gender, or religious creed?

For me, most of my friends at school are just that, "my friends at school."

I was getting on the bus one day after school, getting ready to go home, and one of my school friends said, "see you later." That's when it dawned on me. No, he wouldn't see me later. We don't hang out together, outside of school. He might see me tomorrow at school, but not later that day. Even though he lives two minutes up the highway from me, he won't bother and neither will I, to get together outside of school.

Some people might say, "Well in school all there is to talk about is school-stuff."

Get real! In school, "school-stuff" is the last thing on my mind. I talk about anything but school. When my friend and I are talking, we might even say we need to get together this weekend and party, but then we know that won't happen. That's pretty sad, given that he is my friend.

I thought to myself that day, I was personally tired of having school friends, then neighborhood friends and then chillin' partners. I wondered what had ever happened to friends to the end? In my mind, this questioning all happened in less than five seconds. Then as I was about to tell my school friend what was actually going to happen, I realized that he would see me later.

Senior Thomasina Moon

Thomasina Moon is a member of the outgoing Wire staff.

*The Wire strongly encourages letters to the editor. Letters must be signed, but names may be withheld by request.*

## Tracking Education

## "Project Excel" Deserves Our Support

**Mary Robb Teague**  
Business Manager

Do you remember the good 'ol days of elementary school? Recess, an hour for lunch each day, "sharing time," and those early closings every Monday afternoon?

For most elementary school students, getting out at 1:00 on Mondays is a highlight of their week. After a relaxing weekend, it is always a delight to know that the first day back is nearly a half day.

However, the policy of Monday early closings may change. The Fairfax County School Board is in the process of voting to eliminate early closings for elementary schools. This effort is otherwise known as "Project Excel."

In the past, some Fairfax County elementary schools have had a large number of students from low income families. According to the county, these schools tend to score lower on state required tests. This may be due to the fact that these schools have more to overcome. The county believes students in these schools will benefit from receiving more time in the classroom.

"Project Excel" is also in-

tended to improve scores on the Standards of Learning tests.

By eliminating short days, these schools will increase learning time for students. By the end of the year, the hours will add up to two more weeks of class time.

**By the end of the  
year, the hours that  
add up will be  
equivalent to two  
more weeks of class  
time.**

Even though this may not seem fair to students, it is an approach the county has to consider. According to Kris Admundson, former chairperson of the Fairfax County School Board, "We just don't have the luxury to ignore these facts anymore."

In order for this transition to be successful, the support of the community and teachers is important. A number of schools have already voted on the proposal. Some have chosen different models.

Because the extra time on Monday afternoons are usually

used for teacher planning and meetings, the new plan would require teachers to attend evening meetings. However, under the "Jefferson Contract," this would mean a significant raise in teacher salaries. This contract is derived from practices at Thomas Jefferson High School, where teachers have eight periods a day and are paid to attend evening meetings.

Some members of the school board have expressed concerns that teachers may feel their special needs will not be met prior to the transition. However, according to Admundson, "Most teachers want to give this a try."

If the proposal is accepted, Fairfax County will benefit in many other ways as well. Not only will the level of learning be raised a great deal, but the new plan may attract new and better teachers. Because of the increase in salary, Fairfax County will appeal to many of the best and brightest teachers available.

"Project Excel" is still under consideration in Fairfax County. Even though it may not directly affect high school students, it may affect our little brothers and sisters and even someday our own children. It deserves our support.

# West Potomac's Rep: Why Such a Bad Rap?

Sasha Cannon  
Editor-In-Chief

"Ohh... no wonder. You all are from West Potomac..." she said, with a look of sympathy. Following her comment, half of the room burst into laughter. This was one of the many snide remarks directed at West Potomac students throughout the course of the day. These derogatory and rude comments came from students who attended a recent journalism conference, including the advisors as well as journalists from Hayfield, Annandale, Chantilly, West Springfield, and Lake Braddock, many of whom took on attitudes of superiority towards West Potomac. The West Potomac staff, however, was one of few who continued to offer suggestions and advice to the other schools, and did not stoop to the low level of incessantly gossiping about others.

While in an editors meeting that two of the West Potomac staff members attended, the comment mentioned above was the first of many that were directed towards us. Prior to that, the comments had been much more subtle.

While offering advice to the other editors, it was discovered that West Potomac was the only school that had sent copy on disk to a printer and used a digital camera. All of the other schools process their own photographic film. This came as quite a surprise to them. The other schools were absolutely speechless. No, not because we were more technically advanced than they, but because we did things differently. Although our process was far less time consuming, it was different and therefore considered bad. Looks of disgust now were upon the faces of those who had already assumed "elite/superior" attitudes.

West Potomac, one of the more culturally integrated schools in Fairfax, continually excels at sports, holds top ranks in the county, and in short, is just as good, if not better, than neighboring schools. However, it seems we are sometimes looked down upon. Other schools in the area think we are "ghetto," and they aren't above admitting it.

What is it that causes West Potomac, its students, and the faculty to be the punch line of other school's jokes? The rare incidences of assault? West Potomac has fewer assaults and fewer drug and alcohol related discipline problems than schools in the western part of the county. Is it the few times that school property has been defaced?

I doubt it. Those things happen at every school, and most people are open-minded enough to not connect one bad incident to the entire population of a school. The reason is simple. Many people are narrow-minded and immature. West Potomac is different. People from these "elite" schools, who call West Potomac "ghetto," are unable to accept this difference. However, people at schools like West Potomac, who encounter people of other ethnic groups and races daily, are much more likely to succeed in the real world, outside of school. At West Potomac, we learn to get along, to tolerate differences.

At the journalism conference, the students were almost disgusted that we operated so differently from them. The inability to accept differences, could that be the problem? Could that be the problem throughout America? Throughout the world? And these students, at these "elite" schools, are the ones who are most expected to grow to great success and be the future leaders of our country.

Just recently, in Littleton, Colorado, there was a school shooting killing a total of 15 students, all because two young boys had felt as if they had been outcast due to their differences. In Kosovo, ethnic Albanians are being mass-murdered and shipped out of the country because their leader, Milosovich, does not want different religions tainting his ethnic system.

These students at these "elite" schools, with their bright futures and inability to accept differences will soon be leaders of our country. More intolerance? More smugness? More high school shootings and war mongering? Coming soon to a theatre near you.



Julianne Olsen, Jennifer Adu and Chris Burton show school spirit on Beach Day during Spirit Week.

## Where is the Senior Leadership?

Sarah Bieging  
Features Editor

The incoming Wire staff is composed of mainly juniors and has a junior editor-in-chief. Now the incoming SGA president is a junior. It occurred to me... where is the senior leadership in West Potomac?

This junior leadership will be prevalent throughout many departments of West Potomac next year; the most important being the student government.

Let me start by saying that the student government plays a very significant role in the life of the students at West Potomac. Depending on the decision made by the leaders of the student government, our school may or may not have good social functions, funding, and representation. These four individuals are supposed to represent all of the classes and social groups of the schools population by making decisions on behalf of all the students and provide leadership. Well then I ask you, how is this possible if the government only consists of sophomores and juniors?

Don't get me wrong, I'm very happy for the students in my class who won

their races, but shouldn't we have at least one senior representing our school? How can our school functions and activities "appeal" to everyone if only two age groups are represented?

Traditionally, a senior is president and a junior is vice-president, maybe following in the senior's footsteps the next year. For the junior who is president what's left? Don't you think you might be a little disappointed with treasurer in the next election? I know I would be.

### Shouldn't we have at least one senior representing our school?

To me it's a no brainer. All the speeches say is what a person has done while they attended school here. I mean, unless you would rather have a football player as your president than, say, a track star, I would just vote for the person with more experience. In this case they all lost.

This makes no sense at all to me. Being a sophomore this year, I'm not terribly upset. I have never run for a school office, but I vote every year, if that counts for anything. I never thought too much about SGA until this year. I hope others will agree with me when I say that seniors deserve to have a member of their class as president of their high school.

## 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.



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## The Beach... Sand+Sun= Summer Fun

Erica Fonvielle  
Wire Reporter

Tuesday was Beach Day of Spirit Week, and another reminder that June 23 is approaching and the summer is almost here.

Fairfax County is ending this school year later than usual and no one can wait to start their summer. Many students travel and vacation during the summer, while others sit back and relax. People enjoy attending their neighborhood pools to see all their friends and to cool off. But what could be better than a trip to the beach?

Vacationing to the beach is a favorite summer activity for many West Potomac students.

People enjoy the beach for many different reasons. Some enjoy the quiet environment and the warm weather, while others enjoy the friendly people and the many places to eat and shop. At the beach, there is something for everyone.

Some students vacation in North Carolina because it is relatively uncrowded and has many beaches to choose from. It takes anywhere from five to seven hours to drive to North Carolina, and the prices for renting a house range from \$600-\$5000 a week, which can accommodate any budget.

Duck Beach in North Carolina is visited by many. Sophomore Ryan Amole vacations there each summer with his family for a week. A house on Duck Beach can run \$1,700, which makes it one of the more expensive North Carolina vacations. "When my family and I started going to Duck, it was not crowded at all, but now it's full of people. I don't mind though because it brings the beach new and exciting things to do," said Amole.

Another popular North Carolina destination is Nags Head. This is a popular spot among West Potomac students. Houses on Nags Head range from \$600-\$5000 a week. Junior Rana Suh vacations there every summer for a week with her family. "Nags head is a nice beach to stay at because it is family oriented," Suh said.

North Carolina has many restaurants and stores, yet it tends to be less crowded than Rehoboth and Dewey beaches. Rehoboth and Dewey are both located in Delaware, and are typically full of vacationers.

The main attraction of these beaches are boardwalks which provide daily entertainment for beachgoers. The good thing about Delaware is that there is no tax, so renting houses there is cheaper. Houses range from \$500-\$1000 a week. Junior Crystal Shin's family vacations in Dewey Beach with family and friends. Junior Crystal Shin said, "The best part of the beach is the boardwalk. It is filled with games and rides that are so much fun."

Summer is almost here and everyone is looking forward to their travels. I suggest visiting the beach because nothing can compare to its beauty.

So if you do nothing else this summer, grab a good book and some sunscreen and head to the beach. Maybe I'll see you there.



Duck Beach



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## New Construction Gets Underway



Allison Larrick  
Wire Reporter

As the cinder-block walls go up, students and teachers cannot help but anticipate a renovated West Potomac. Construction teams will be working night and day and through summers to complete the job in three years.

"The only thing that really bothers me about the whole process is how long it will take. But I think it will be nice once it is done," said freshman Beth Magill.

"I think it will take at least ten years for the construction to be completely finished," senior James Crane said.

According to Assistant Director of Activities, Mr. Dale Eaton, the \$29 million project will be well worth the cost.

The first things completed will be the Student Activities Office and JROTC room. Next will be the new cafeteria. A kitchen is being added behind the left Quander cafeteria, which will be the only cafeteria at West Potomac. It

will include the space currently occupied by left Quander cafeteria and the adjacent science and math classes.

Also in the first phase of the renovation is the upstairs of left Quander. This space will house the foreign language department. The new library will be called the 'media center', and will be better organized and more efficient than the current library and will offer better technology to assist students and teachers.

The administrative and guidance offices will all be located in the lower right Quander area. This move will create a natural center for West Potomac and will allow easier access to our school.

The Springbank building will include a Fine Arts Academy. An addition will be added to the rear of the building, towards the football field. The auditorium and Kogelman theater will both be redone in the last phase of the construction.

Following the completion of the renovation, West Potomac will be much more organized. All departments will be



Photos by Sarah Beiging and Elissa Milanowski

Workmen lay block for what will be the library and administrative offices.

grouped together.

For example, all English classes will be in upper Quander.

The Gunston building will house all science, math, business and fashion classes. It will also house the new Health Services Academy, the gyms and the Pulley Center.

The Quander building will house all English, social studies and foreign language classes as well as the administrative offices, the guidance offices, the cafeteria and the media center.

The Springbank building will be home to all art and theater classes. Once established, the Fine Arts Academy will also be located there.

West Potomac will definitely provide a new and improved learning environment in the years to come.

"I'm looking forward to the changes. I'm just sad I'm not going to be here to enjoy them all," said junior Ellie Parker.



Workmen chat in the heat. The new library is expected to be finished by early next year.

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## News Briefs

From May 20-22, the West Potomac choral department performed their annual Spring musical, which was led by choral director Ernest Johnson and professional choreographer Christine Santarlas. While past themes have included "Bound for Broadway" and "Oscar," the 1999 theme was "A Century of Song." The audience was able to relate to a wide genre of peppy songs including "Charleston," "Heat wave," "YMCA," and "Material Girl."



Photostage

The 28 year-old Panda at the National Zoo, Hsing-Hsing, has a serious liver infection that may not be reversible. The Panda was a gift to the National Zoo from China in 1977.

High School was closed and Springfield residents were evacuated to that high school on June 2 when a tractor-trailer filled with 20 tons of explosive fireworks powder overturned. The Capital Beltway was closed most of the day and late buses at West Potomac were canceled.



Washington Post

Women now stand with their male classmates at Virginia Military Institute

## First VMI Women Graduate

**Trevor Rathbone**  
News Editor

Two female cadets graduated from the Virginia Military Institute at the commencement on Saturday, May 15. They are the first women to receive diplomas from VMI.

Chin-Yuan, 23, of Taipei, and Melissa K. Graham, 21, of Burleson, Texas, joined their fellow cadets at the commencement ceremonies. The two have a couple of things in common. They both transferred to VMI in 1997, and they joined the class of 2001 in going through the "rat line," the ritual harassment to which all cadets are subjected.

Although set to graduate in the year 2001, both came into the Institute with enough credits to graduate this year.

Ho transferred to the Institute after

three years at Fu Jen Catholic University in Taipei and is obtaining a bachelor's degree in psychology.

Graham transferred to VMI after two years of attending the New Mexico Military Institute in Roswell, New Mexico. She will also be receiving a bachelor's degree in psychology.

Since it was first suggested that women be admitted to Virginia Military Institute (VMI), it has been controversial. A number of West Potomac parents are graduates of VMI.

In 1997 the United States Supreme Court ordered VMI to become a coeducational school. Thirty women were enrolled that year. Twenty-two remain. There are now a total of forty-eight women attending the Institute, out of 1,250 students. There are still two classes that entered VMI when it was an all male school.



## West Potomac Art Students Take Awards

This year West Potomac participated in the 1999 Scholastic Regional Art Contest and competed against 1,800 entries from other Fairfax County public and private schools. Several West Potomac students achieved recognition and awards in the competition.

Angela Albrink-Certificate of Merit  
Christina Antwisle-Silver Key  
Leah Geeston-Silver Key  
Jennifer Marris-Certificate of Merit  
Christina Miles-Silver Key  
Mary Misco-Certificate of Merit & Silver Key



Artwork by Leah Geeston and Mary Misco. Photographed by Erica Davies.

## Final Exam Schedule

### Thursday, June 17

7:25 - 9:00 Period 3 exam

### Friday, June 18

7:25 - 9:00 Period 2 exam

9:20 - 11:00 Period 4 exam

11:10 Buses depart

### Tuesday, June 22

7:25 - 9:00 Period 5 exam

9:20 - 11:00 Period 6 exam

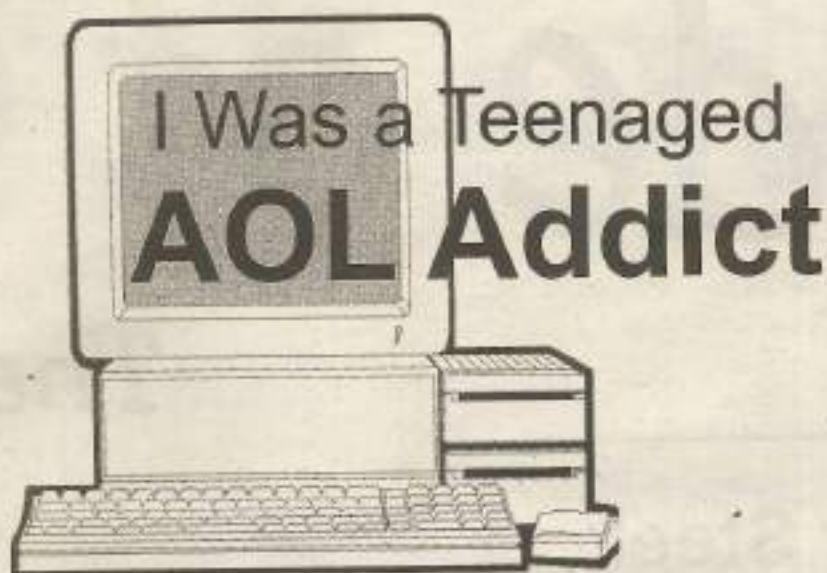
11:10 Buses depart

### Monday, June 21

7:25 - 9:00 Period 1 exam

9:20 - 11:00 Period 7 exam

11:10 Buses depart



"Welcome! You've got mail!" Oh, how these words have become a part of me. I used to be a lively gal, hanging out with my friends and keeping up with what was going on around me. Until America Online was installed, the wonderful dreamland of AOL, my new best friend. It lured me into a new world with millions of different people and I became a prisoner in cyberspace, looking at the clock I would see 3PM, and then before I knew it, it was 3 am. What had I done this whole time? I had navigated from room to room, and poured my whole being into a mouse.

I would come home from school, throw down my bookbag and look outside at a beautiful, sunny day, and then look down into the computer

room, a dark and cold cave with that mystical machine...oh, glorious online. Of course, I choose online. It may be the

### First Person

Meagan O'Neill



purr of the motor or the twinkle to the screen. Who knows what attracted me so to this computer.

As a rose has its thorns, sweet online has its dark side. Many long trances stole warm summer nights from me. Family dinners were missed as I couldn't seem to peel myself away from

the computer. I became moody towards my friends because of lack of sleep. However, I kept going back to online, like a drunkard goes for another swig, although knowing it could be deadly I could not resist.

One cloudy day, I had come home and was ready to sign on, as usual. When AOL cruelly cut me off saying, "Your account has been deleted." These demon words haunt me still to this day. I tried again and again, to claim my precious love, ...yes AOL. I found it was no use. In a panic attack I called my momma' and explained my situation. She called America Online and she was told I had an inappropriate screenname. I don't think it was a bad screenname, it seemed innocent enough to me. In order to get online back, AOL required me to do community service!

LOL. Online lingo for "Laughing Out Loud". I had thought AOL is just make-believe, a fantasy world. How naive I was to think this. A person can and I did get in trouble for doing wrong in cyberspace. I finally did get AOL back, now with a new and approved screenname, as well as appropriate I might add. LuvSKYE.

America Online brings out the "true you", in my opinion because there is no one to judge you, and you truly express what you feel to the people you talk to. It gives you more ease to know that there is a screen dividing you from reality. You can learn so much from the world online. There are many different

kinds of chat rooms to choose from, and a new person to meet in each. They share their views and opinions, and you argue yours. To think millions of people from all over the world are on, and you can talk to any one of them. It baffles me, and try to absorb every bit of it. You don't have to shop 'til you drop anymore when purchasing is literally right at your fingertips. There is something for everyone online.

I don't think anyone will comprehend the tingle I get in my stomach when the word "online" is mentioned, or when I hear the jingle of an Instant Message. Mine is an addiction like any other and should not be taken lightly. Let me tell you some of the warning signs of AOL addiction.

If you refuse an offer by friends to go out on a Friday night in order to stay online longer, you are an addict. If you take your meal to the computer with you at dinner-time, you are an addict. Finally, if you are obsessed by all sorts of cyber engagements, you know you need help! Remember, once the cyberwalls capture you, it is hard to break out of heavenly online.



## Maggie Bowman Hits the Runway

by Erica Fonville and Kelly Mayer

for the Sunday show," said Bowman.

The models were divided into three groups. The first group consisted of professional models, who had their hair cut in advance. Bowman was in the second group, who had their hair cut on Saturday for the show and wore clothes by Boddica. The third group had their hair cut on stage.

Anthony Miscalo, voted the best international hair stylist for three years, supervised all the hair cuts and makeup for the show. The main purpose of the show was to bring attention to Miscalo and the Tigi salons.

Nine-hundred people attended, including many photographers. Bowman wore a wiry, turtleneck made out of a plastic, garbage bag material and pants decorated with colored, triangular-shaped pieces of cloth. Her hair was put in a mohawk and her eyebrows were dyed purple.

Bowman enjoyed the feeling of being on stage. She has wanted a career in fashion since she was a little girl. She was the youngest model in the show and met many new friends.

After the show, Bowman received a call from the manager of Anthropologie, a clothing store, and was invited to par-

ticipate in another show. Anthropologie clothing has a style, "similar to Urban Outfitters," said Bowman.

In the second show, Bowman wore a cotton candy colored wig and matching eyelashes.

Bowman liked the first fashion show more, because there were more people. The second show, "felt more personal because there were less cameras flashing," said Bowman.

She was glad she was able to experience the thrill of being in a fashion show. Fashion has been one of her main interests for a long time. Her favorite de-

signers include: Betsey Johnson, Dolce Gabbana, and Donatello Versace.

Bowman is often told that she should be a model, and these shows have inspired her to pursue modeling in the future. It is possible that Bowman has what it takes. As sophomore Victoria Freed said, "One of the most noticeable things about Maggie is her style. It's so original."

However, all the attention hasn't changed Bowman or her attitude. "She is still just as nice as she was when we met at the beginning of our freshman year" states Sophomore Marie Fukuda.

When Bowman went to have her hair cut, she never dreamed that she would become a model.



Portraits courtesy of Margaret Bowman.

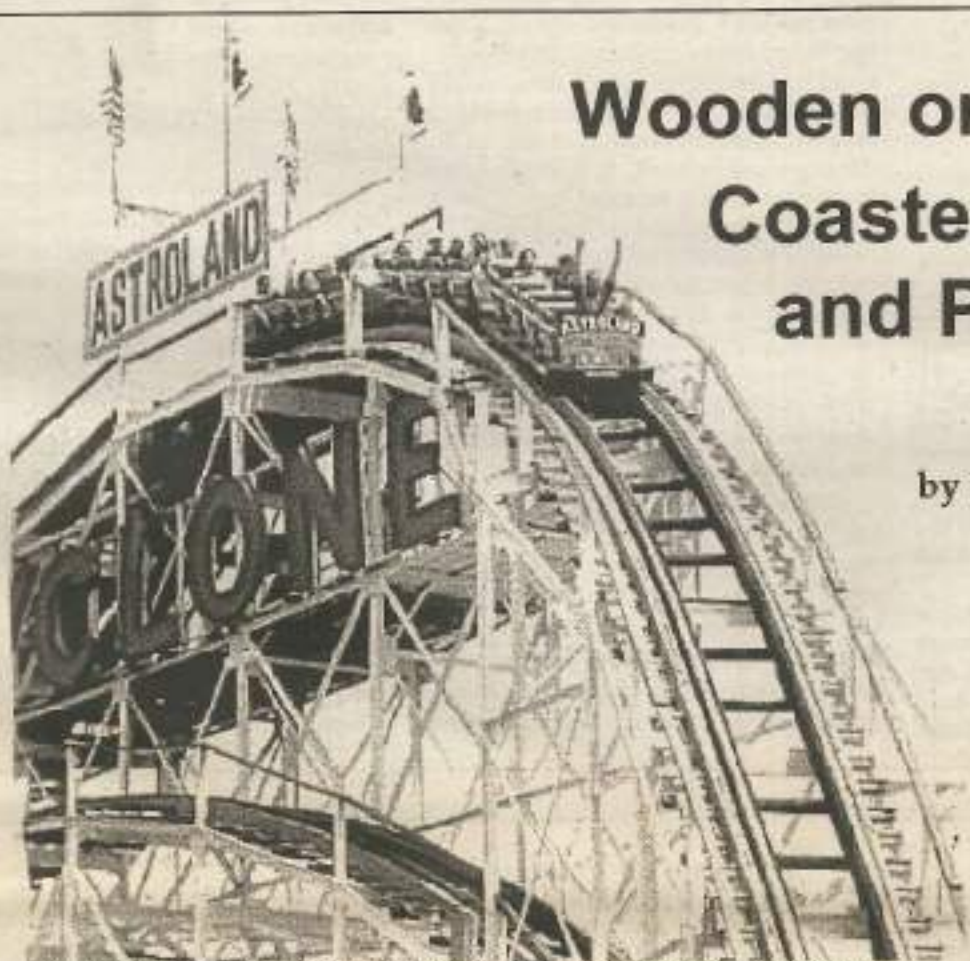
Obviously hairdresser Ivy, a stylist at Bubbles salon, recognized something in Sophomore Maggie Bowman, when she asked Bowman to participate in a hair and makeup fashion show for Tigi Salons.

When Bowman went to have her hair cut, she never dreamed that she would become a model. She walked in with a picture of actress Drew Barrymore and asked to have her hair cut like Barrymore. The cut turned out so well that Ivy invited Bowman to model in a fashion show that she had heard about through her roommate, also an employee at Tigi Salons, and which Tigi Salons was sponsoring.

On the first day of tryouts, a Tigi stylist from the United Kingdom, Kenny, chose models for the show. "He either liked your style or he didn't. If he did, you went back on Saturday to prepare

# The Ride of

The



The wooden Coney Island Cyclone, built in 1927, was for decades considered the wildest coaster ride in America, and is now a historical landmark.

## Wooden or Steel; Coasters Past and Present

by Nick Slater

Since the turn of the century, roller coasters have been the main attraction at amusement parks all over the country. However, roller coasters have evolved in past years. Whereas all roller coasters in the early 1900s were constructed of wood, nearly every roller coaster built today is made of steel. There are pros and cons to both types of roller coasters.

Many roller coaster lovers prefer wooden over steel constructions for a variety of reasons. Some people are fans of the wooden roller coaster because of its classic look and feel. Wooden coasters make a "clickety-clack" sound that newer steel rides do not produce.

Wooden roller coasters are also a bit bumpier than steel ones, so the ride tends to be shakier and more exciting. There is less protective gear, so riders are jerked about more. There is also a feeling of history connected to wooden coasters. The Coney Island Cyclone, built in 1927, has been declared an historical landmark, and it remains one of the top coasters in the country. Riding a classic roller coaster can be like stepping back in time, to the earlier part of this century.

However, the rattling ride provided by a wooden coaster is not preferred by everyone. Many people today like steel roller coasters better. The high-quality steel used in manufacturing the rides today make the riding experience much smoother, and make greater heights and speeds possible. Top steel coasters dwarf most wooden coasters.

In fact, these days the wooden coaster is a rarity. At the turn of the century, the so-called "Golden Age" of roller coasters, around 1500 wooden coasters existed. Today, that number has dwindled to below 200. That incredible and unfortunate decline can be attributed to the increasingly rigorous safety standards and to the rise in popularity of steel roller coasters.

Today, there are societies and organizations dedicated to the preservation and restoration of wooden roller coasters. However, such groups face a diffi-

cult task, because of the common perception that wooden roller coasters are unsafe. This widespread perception, true or not, prevents new ones from being built.

Currently, administrators at parks such as Cedar Point in Ohio are working to restore classic roller coasters, to provide patrons with a fun, traditional ride.

The use of steel in constructing roller coasters has allowed designers to create visually striking and appealing rides. Strong steel beams and tracks are capable of supporting giant loops and other technical innovations that make the ride not only more thrilling, but architecturally beautiful. Such innovations are not possible in roller coasters constructed of wood.

Deciding whether to ride a wooden roller coaster or a steel one may come down to what you are looking for in your ride. If you want a fast, smooth ride, choose a steel coaster. If you want a loose, bumpy ride, go with the wooden coaster. Either way, the ride will be enjoyable.



It is a sunny day during the last stretch of the season at an amusement park has not yet been scheduled. So families and friends are waiting for one car, and drive to the nearest park and excitement.

Once inside the gate, we make a beeline for the attraction, and the moment we get to the humongous line, it hits us. The awe of the ride makes a stomach turn more.

"Wait time, approx. 3 hours."

But do we turn around and leave? Or do we decide to wait in line for a tremendous amount of time just to be on the newest roller coaster? Exactly. Humans seem to have a hunger for fear, speed and the ultimate thrill, and we want to test the new coaster to see if it meets our need. So we grab a funnel of coke, a bottle of coke, and wait in line.

Finally the time has come, the roller coaster has waited the millennium for has chugged onto the platform. As we chose our car, we wait for the moment, the time in which we can let loose, scream, clench our fists, and watch as the train zooms by us. The pulse quickens and the excitement as we hear the unmistakable, "Clank" of the trains climbing slowly toward the top of the drop.



The inverted Raptor rollercoaster at Cedar Point.

## Favorite Five Rollercoasters

1. Alpengeist-Busch Gardens
2. Outer Limits-Flight of Fear-Kings Dominion
3. Anaconda-Kings Dominion
4. Volcano-The Blast Coaster-Kings Dominion
5. The Grizzly-Kings Dominion

-Based on a random sample of 126 WP students

# Your Life

## Experience

by  
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brakes let loose a WHOOSH...and we're off!  
The adrenaline rushes as we go down the first  
drop; the heart drops in the first G-pulling  
turn, our hair is whisked away behind us, and  
we gasp for air as we try to let loose our most  
terrified scream for that infamous photo cam-  
era to capture our most candid moment.

Finally the cars come to a stop, we stumble  
off the platform, smiles reaching across our  
faces, hair in a mess, skin shaking, and of  
course with the urge to yell out how great it  
was to all of the people waiting in line for only  
their first hour. And then the most predict-  
able thing... we get back in line to do it all  
over.



Busch Gardens Theme Park

### Beyond Kings Dominion...

## Parks to Visit This Summer

by Jen Groner

A solid day of driving can land you at a top rated  
national park. The best parks within a days reach  
are probably Cedar Point and Kennywood. Ken-  
nywood is much the closer, near Pittsburgh, and  
it has both the fastest and tallest roller coaster in  
the United States, the steel phantom, and the best  
wooden roller coaster in the United States, the Thun-  
derbolt, according to the National Amusement Park  
Historical Preservation Association. Still, Cedar  
Point is often regarded as the best park in the coun-  
try. It was recently named the "Best Amusement  
Park in the World", by an international survey con-  
ducted by Amusement Today.

Cedar Point holds one of the most prestigious  
awards in its field, the *Applause Award*. It is also  
one of the oldest amusement parks in existence,  
dating back to July of 1870. The 364 acre park is  
located on Lake Erie in Sandusky, Ohio and as of  
this year includes 67 rides, including 13 of the most  
famous and notorious steel and wooden roller coast-  
ers.

One of the most famous and record breaking coast-  
ers is the Magnum XL-200, which is celebrating its  
tenth anniversary this year. When it was built in  
1989, it broke the vertical barrier for a roller coaster  
by reaching 205 feet high. For this it earned a place  
in the Guinness Book of World Records.

This speedy coaster achieves speeds of up to 72  
miles per hour on its first drop of 195 feet. While  
this speed may seem slow as many people have trav-  
eled that fast in a car before, it is in fact quite thrill-  
ing to be traveling at that speed, down a 60 degree  
hill and in the open.

Cedar Point is also the home of one of the fastest,  
tallest and steepest wooden roller coasters in the  
world, the Mean Streak.

In 1994, construction of the Raptor was completed.  
This coasters twisty track turns riders upside down  
six times, and the rider does not have the security  
of a car. Rather, the rider's legs dangle in the open  
air, as they would on a ski lift.

Two years after the Raptor was introduced, an-  
other ground-breaking coaster opened, the Mantis.  
The Mantis jerks you around and turns you upside  
down for two minutes and 40 seconds of sheer ex-

citement, all while you are standing up.

One of the older rides, the Corkscrew, continues  
to give its passengers severe vertigo. Opened in  
1976, it was the first roller coaster to have a full 360  
degree loop, in addition to its two helical curves.

The oldest roller coaster at Cedar Point, the Blue  
Streak, dates back to 1964. Since then, this wooden  
roller coaster has served over 4706 million people.

One of the most popular roller coasters at Cedar  
point is the Gemini, delivering about 3 million rides  
per season. There are two trains on the tracks at a  
time, a red and a blue one, which leave the start at  
the same time and compete to get back to the finish  
first, all around a wooden figure eight track.

Cedar Point not only houses roller coasters but  
other thrill rides as well. Other attractions include  
kid's rides and live performances. There are three  
resorts where families can stay for a few days to  
enjoy Cedar Point and its neighboring parks, such  
as Soak City, a water park. There are also accom-  
modations for RV's at Camper Village.

Cedar Point is an excellent vacation spot for any  
family or group looking for a good time, and the  
price is right. A day at Cedar Park is only \$32.95 for  
anyone 4-59 years old.

Looking  
down a drop  
on the  
wooden  
Colossus  
rollercoaster



### National Top Five

aging Bull- Six Flags  
Magnum XL-200- Cedar Point  
Dipper- Santa Cruz Beach  
Boardwalk  
Alpengeist- Busch Gardens  
The Beast- Paramounts Kings  
Island

According to Rollercoaster.com

### Where to Find Them

Cedar Point-Sandusky, Ohio.

1-(419)-627-2350 [www.cedarpoint.com](http://www.cedarpoint.com).

Kennywood- 10 miles from downtown Pitts-  
burgh.

[www.kennywood.com](http://www.kennywood.com)

### The Fastest and the Tallest

1. Steel Phantom- Kinneywood  
Park, at 80 mph, 225ft.
2. Steel Force- Dorney Park, at  
75 mph, 200ft.
3. Magnum XL-200- Cedar  
Point, at 72mph, 205 ft.
4. The Beast- King's Island at  
64 mph, 142 ft.

According to Discovery Chan-  
nel

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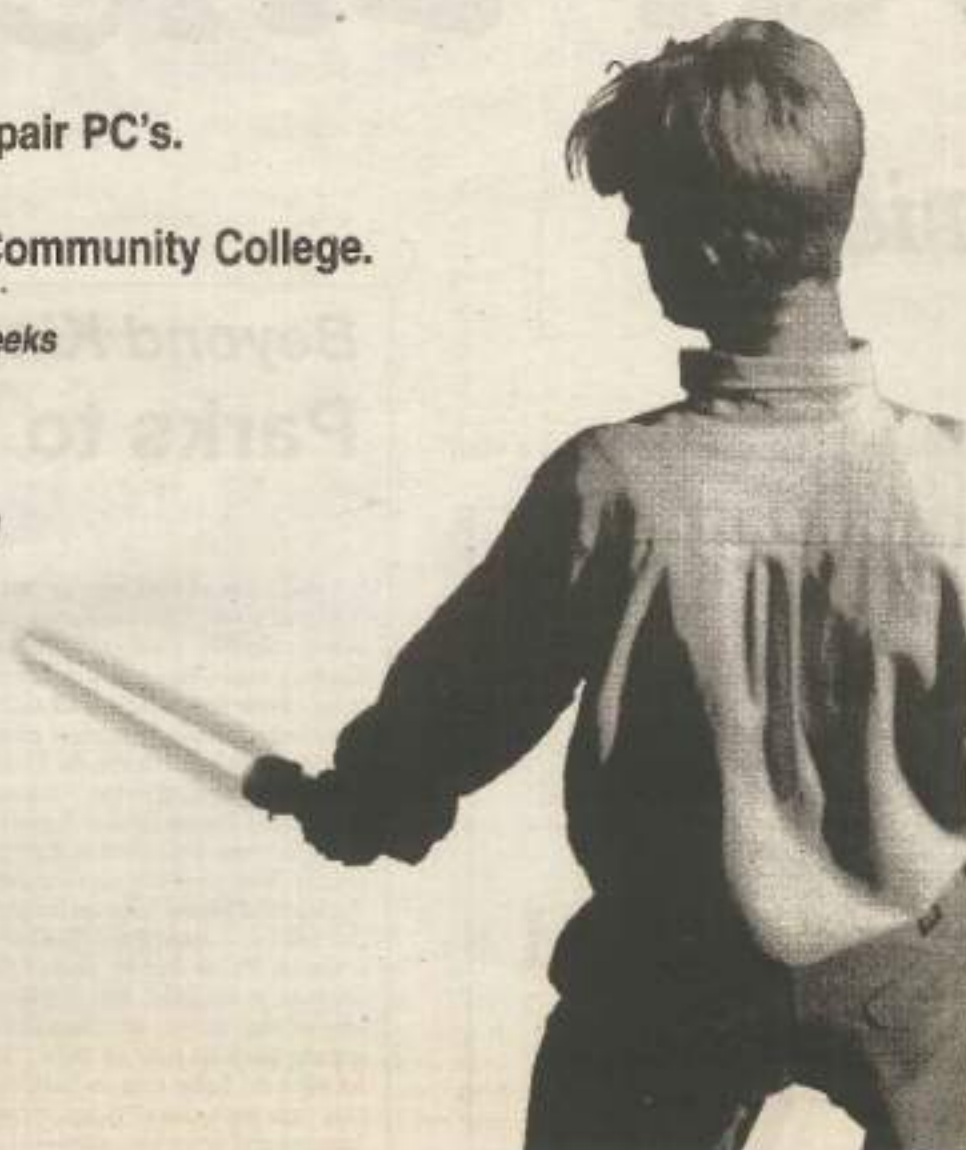
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-Shel Silverstein  
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UVA  
NOVA  
West Virginia University  
Penn State  
Undecided  
Ohio State University  
GMU  
VCU  
Indiana University  
Undecided  
Ferrum College  
NOVA  
Undecided  
Hampton University  
University of Florida  
Undecided  
Undecided  
North Carolina Agriculture  
NOVA  
VA TECH  
West Virginia University  
Undecided  
University of Miami  
Undecided  
JMU  
Merchant Marines  
Catholic University  
Agnes State  
GMU  
Air Force  
Air Force  
JMU  
NOVA  
NOVA  
Undecided  
NOVA  
Wilson College  
NOVA  
Hampton University  
Texas Oddessa  
Undecided  
Undecided  
VATECH  
U.S. Naval Academy  
Kent State  
Undecided  
Undecided  
Undecided  
JMU  
Vanderbilt University  
Undecided  
Undecided  
JMU  
Ferrum College  
College of Charleston  
Oakwood College

An apology to those seniors who are listed as unde-  
cided, but are in fact not. The career center and the  
Wire had not been informed by deadline of what some  
of these students would be doing next year.

Good Luck Next Year Class of 1999!

-Sarah Ashton, Editor in Chief



Class  
of '99

## Seniors

"You gotta get on with your life. You gotta let go of the past and Mikey, when you do, I'm telling you the future is beautiful. Look out the window; it's sunny everyday here. It's like manifest destiny. Don't tell me we didn't make it, we made it! We are here! And everything that has past is prologue to this!"

From the movie "Swingers"



## MP3's and Bootlegging Music:

### Record Companies Crack Down on Copyright Infringement

Today it seems that just about anything is available via the Internet, and music is no exception.



A software audio format called mp3, short for mpeg layer 3, makes it possible to send music across the net with ease. Before the creation of mp3, it was virtually impossible to do this because of the extremely large file size of regular audio tracks, like those copied from CDs. The mp3 format solves this problem by compressing an audio file down to one-tenth the original size, thus making it possible to download them efficiently. According to mp3.com an mp3 is created by removing all of the sounds from an audio file that cannot be heard by the human ear, thus drastically reducing its

size while maintaining CD quality sound. So what once took several hours to download can now be downloaded in minutes.

Mp3 has opened the door to countless enjoyable, but very illegal, activities practiced by millions of people worldwide.

What the mp3 format allows people to do is download free copies of music at a fairly fast rate. It is possible to download everything from short clips of songs to entire albums, absolutely free of charge. However, once the music is on the computer, it is not confined there. With the help of a free program, they can be converted back to their original form and copied onto CDs using a recordable CD ROM drive. These bootleg CDs cost about \$2 apiece and will play just about any CD player. The majority of the people who bootleg mp3s are of high school or college age and are short on money but high on technical know how.

This illegal activity has angered many

people, namely record companies, who charge that the use and distribution of

**The growing popularity of mp3s has also cost the music industry millions of dollars in lost profits.**

mp3s is copyright infringement and that the people who do it are stealing money out of their pockets. They are right. The distribution of mp3s violates numerous copyright laws and is punishable by imprisonment. The growing popularity of mp3s has also cost the music industry millions of dollars in lost profits.

In an attempt to solve this growing problem, several of the big names in

technology, including IBM, Sony, and AT&T, are coming together to create a replacement for the mp3 format that offers copyright protection. An attempt at solving this seemingly enormous problem is also being undertaken by the Recording Industry Association of America. They have formed the Secure Digital Music Initiative (SDMI), a group of record company and technology executives that looks to create some type of regulations on downloading secure and copyrighted music.

Even if the industry develops some type of bootleg-proof format for downloading music and even if they succeed in replacing mp3 with it, there is still the possibility that someone will figure out how to crack it, rendering it once again insecure. It will also take some time for the industry to develop the necessary technology and for the proposed standards of online music to actually go into effect. So, until this all happens, everyone out there enjoying free music can, for the time being, continue to enjoy it.

## Anorexia: Lives At Risk

In today's world, everywhere one looks there is a super thin, bony model. It seems like nowadays being a skeleton is the 'in' look. Unfortunately this fad has encouraged millions of women to turn to anorexia.

Anorexia is a severe eating disorder. Those affected by it starve themselves. It can also cause psychological and endocrine problems.

According to researchers, this disease almost exclusively affects adolescent white females. It has also been suggested that one out of every 200 American girls aged 12 to 18 will develop some form of anorexia.

Most victims of anorexia come from white, middle to upper middle class homes that place a significant emphasis on high achievement, perfection, eating patterns and physical appearance. Most have been described as the "model child." Since people with anorexia do not seem to have control over their lives, they take control of their eating, which results in anorexia.

Anorexia has many symptoms which, if detected early, can improve a victim's chance for recovery. Social withdrawal, obsessive-compulsiveness and depression often accompany the physical ef-

fects of anorexia. Other physical symptoms include hair loss, growth of fine body hair, constipation, low pulse rate, and intolerance of cold temperatures. Furthermore, researchers have found

### VITAL SIGNS

Christine Burns



that the hypothalamus, a part of the brain, begins to function improperly after the onset of anorexia. Maintenance of water balance, regulation of body temperature, secretion of endocrine glands, and sugar and fat metabolism are all controlled by the hypothalamus.

Fortunately, anorexia is a treatable disease. Treatment involves nutritional therapy, individual psychotherapy, and family counseling. The main goal of treatment is to get the patient to eat and gain weight. This is done by gradually adding calories to the patient's diet. The best way to get a patient to gain weight is to let them be in control of the situation. If she is in control, she is more likely to be willing to recover.

In addition, the individual psychotherapy teaches the individual about the disease and its effects. It also focuses on what might have led the person to turn to self-starvation.

Furthermore, family therapy is used to rebuild the family relationships. In most cases, the anorexia has placed a great deal of strain on the family due to the parent's frustration with their daughter not eating.

Anorexia is serious and should be taken care of as soon as possible. Its effects can lead to death if it is not treated. Many lives have been lost to anorexia, including singer Karen Carpenter, whereas others, like actress Tracy Gold, have recovered.

If you know of someone suffering from anorexia convince them to get help. There are local and national hot lines, as well as treatment centers that are more than willing to listen and help.



Karen Carpenter, a popular singer in the '70's, died in 1984 at the young age of 32, of heart failure, due to anorexia.

## Support Scouting

From  
The Friends of Scouting

## Checkers Good Fries But No Prize

April Brown  
Wire Reporter

Checkers is the new hot spot, a fast food restaurant located on Richmond Highway, next to KFC. Pulling into the parking lot, the decor caught my eye. The original Checkers decor was red and black. The building, which appears large from the outside, has a small dining area but offers a nice picnic area out back.

It's a very bright, clean restaurant, good for a night out with friends but not recommended as a private, relaxed setting.

As we entered, we were greeted by friendly smiles, but the service was not much to shout about. The prices are reasonable- in the Wendys or

McDonalds range.

According to Diana Schall, "Their fries and nuggets are tremendous."

Checkers does not, however, serve salads- a major disappointment. Jen Groner felt that the chicken sandwich was well worth the \$2.29. She did regret the \$2.19 spent on her Bacon Cheeseburger though.

"Um.... but isn't a Bacon Cheeseburger supposed to have bacon? Do you see any bacon? I've had better burgers."

In the opinion of Shannon Milan, "The service was horrible and the food wasn't very good. It's cheap but it's not worth it."

In sum, Checkers has good fries and chicken sandwiches, and it's a nice change from other fast food joints, but it doesn't live up to the recent hype. We could take it or leave it.

# Dixie Chicks Rouse Crowd... Strait's Festival Wins Converts to Country

Cristy Heffernan  
Wire Reporter

On Saturday, May 15th, RFK stadium was visited by George Strait's Country Music Festival. The concert was highlighted by the Dixie Chicks, Tim McGraw and Jo-Dee Messina, all of whom are country artists who have replaced the stereotypical southern twang with a modern beat and sent the popularity of country music among teenagers skyrocketing.

The concert-goers packed RFK, filling 60,000 seats. The show kicked off at 1:00 PM with Asleep at the Wheel. During the opening act, concert goers continued to stream in. By the time the second act, Mark Willis, finished up, and popular newcomer Messina took the stage, the stands, field and stadium corridors were packed full of eager country music fans of all ages.

Messina brought the huge crowd to its feet with her hits, including "I'm Alright," and "Bye-Bye," and she poured her heart out about the recent killings at Columbine High School. Following her energetic performance, the stage was reset for Kenny Chesney, famous for, "She's Got it All!" The crowd got into the performance when a number of orange beach balls were thrown into the field audience during Chesney's recent hit, "I Wanna Know How Forever Feels."



George Strait led an all-star cast at his own festival.

As the superstar trio, The Dixie Chicks made their entrance, most of the crowd stood, and they remained standing through the entire set. The Dixie Chicks poked fun at the audience, their tour mates and one another. The joked about their own success, saying "a few of you may have heard this before," and then

going into "There's Your Trouble," one of their most popular songs. The entire stadium crowd sang along.

Following the wild performance of the Dixie Chicks, Tim McGraw was warmly received by the audience. His songs "Just to See You Smile," and "Everywhere," the title track of his most recent album, made young and old sing and dance together. When McGraw held his Nokia phone to the microphone during his hit love song, "It's Your Love," implying that his wife, fellow country star Faith Hill, was on the other end listening, the crowd ate up the staged affection. Sponsors Bud Light and Nokia were incorporated into every aspect of the show.

After McGraw, headliner George Strait took the stage. His performance held the attention of die hard fans, who stayed on their feet and cheered the entire time, but as the clock ticked past 9:30, a heavy stream of fans left the stadium and rushed for the Metro.

The day was long and the sun was hot, but most of those who attended felt it was well worth the time and money. Freshman Melissa Olsen said, "There were all kinds of people there, and everyone seemed to get along. All the performers gave great shows that made everyone get up and dance."

Even those not entirely familiar with the country music scene enjoyed themselves. Freshman Casey Self said, "It was the best time of my life. I got up and danced to all the songs. Even the ones I had never heard before!"



Elisabeth Grant  
Wire Reporter

The crowds rolled in and filled Nissan Pavilion

June 4th, 1999, to experience the fourth annual Ozzfest. Like the Ozzfests of the past, it was a day



Photo courtesy: Ozzfest

long festival with many bands, but featuring the tunes of Ozzy Osbourne as the finale. This year was a little different though, instead of finishing the day off with just Ozzy, it was the whole crew from Ozzy's former band "Black Sabbath" on their reunion tour.

Gates opened bright and early at 11:00 a.m. and the fans rushed in. As they made their way to their seats, or spots on the grass, they stopped to look at the various booths selling crafts, jewelry, and

clothing. There was even a freak show where for fifty cents you could see a giant, four-foot rat (although if you looked closely it looked a bit more like a wombat).

People also passed through the food lines, checking out the extreme prices of four-dollar cheeseburgers, and eight dollar personal pan pizza all while standing in what seems to be like hour long lines.

The day was warm, the high temperature only

getting up to the mid-eighties, which made sitting on the lawn more bearable for those who didn't have seats inside the pavilion. It also made the show more enjoyable over at the second stage as well, where everyone was out in the open.

The concert as a whole

started on the second stage with bands such as: (hed) pe, Slipknot, Puya, Static-X, Apartment 26, Drain, Pushmonkey, and Fear Factory. At different times, bands would play at the same time just on a different stage, so depending on who they wanted to see, fans would have to make sure they weren't watching one band on the second stage while a band they really wanted to see was playing on the main stage.

The concert on the main stage started off with Flashpoint, then followed with System of a Down, burned skin, exhausted limbs, and ringing ears, it was all worth while cause



Ozzy Osbourne

they also left with the classic heavy tunes of Ozzy Osbourne and Black Sabbath.

## After 30 Years Will Woodstock Still Rock?

Carter Chandler  
Sports Editor

From July 23rd to the 25th in Rome, New York, Woodstock '99 will be held, Woodstock's thirty-year anniversary. The original Woodstock was held in upstate New York in 1969 and this year's show looks to continue it's idea of bringing a generation and it's music together in one three day festival.

This year's concert will top the twenty-five year anniversary show, held in 1994, promising over forty of today's most popular acts. The lineup includes Aerosmith, George Clinton and the P-Funk All Stars, Counting Crows, DMX, Dave

Mathews Band, Jewel, Korn, Live, Metallica, Rage Against the Machine, Red Hot Chili Peppers, Wyclef Jean and the Refugee All Stars, and many more. According to Woodstock online, Woodstock '99 will feature two main stages, an arts village, a film festival, an experimental theater, a concessions village, beer gardens, ecology displays, craft demonstrations, a technology park and video walls. The concert is expected to draw 250,000 or more people.

One of the things that the concert's producer's were most concerned with was the eventual gate crashing that oc-

curred at both the original and the '94 shows. This year's show boasts a 12 foot wooden wall reinforced with steel, making it virtually impossible to get into the concert without a ticket. In addition to the wall, there will be over 2800 security personnel and 800 "Family of Woodstock" staff members roaming the grounds to take care of any potential problems. The goal of the producer's was to create a virtual city on the concert site. To accomplish this, they included a 240 acre camping area, a hospital, a utilities and waste system, 5 security substations, 3.6 million gallons of water, fire protection, and various means of communication.

Bus packages were made available through Ticketmaster a week before

general admission tickets went on sale. These include a ticket to the festival, transportation to and from the concert, and a private camping area. The Washington DC package is \$280 and packages from other cities are \$240 and up. For those who wish to provide their own transportation, the tickets are \$150.

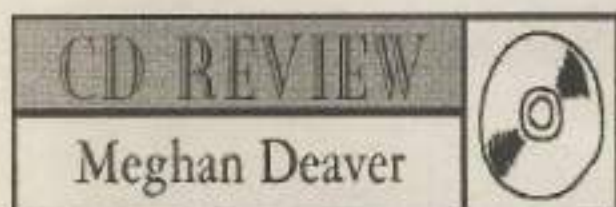
Woodstock '99 looks to be the biggest and best musical event since the original, three decades ago. For more information on the concert you can visit Woodstock '99 on the web at [www.woodstock.com](http://www.woodstock.com) or Ticketmaster online at [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com).

## Jordan Knight: Wearing Out His 15 Minutes Of Fame

Former lead singer of The New Kids on the Block, Jordan Knight, has just recorded his first solo track entitled "Give It To You." Listening, people sure don't want what he's giving.

The song itself is just another hip hop piece, a pathetic attempt to catch up to the Back Street Boys and N'Sync. The instrumental background, something of a waltz, would make this a perfect track to play at a cheesy carnival. Now if only his looks were as good as his dance steps.

His video for the song doesn't even cover up the horrible voice cracking lyrics, and the scene just makes it worse. The carnival scene starts out with Knight trying to serenade a beautiful food vender working on the fair grounds, wearing the typical outfit of a carnival worker, the child like pin striped costume. Later the video breaks into a dance routine that makes a bad mix between R&B choreography and trendy Britany Spears, two styles that should never be combined.



When Knight's Juliet appears in full wardrobe change, they both try to recreate the famous scene from the movie Grease, when the "new" Sandra Dee meets the surprised and turned on Danny. In a major change from his 80's get up, Knight has turned to a more conservative slick and sexy look. This new look doesn't seem to fit his dance moves at all, he did better with the rest of the Kids than on his own. The other Kids distract fans from Knight's lack of stage performance skill, (umm...dance movement).

The old Knight's voice is still there, though slightly modified. Some things haven't changed: the teen voice cracking and the alluring, seductive and whirly tone that the rest of his voice carries are still there. Although people may agree it was good for him to try to solo, most must admit it wasn't good enough.

The New Kids on the Block ruled in the 80's. Back when Madonna was still doing her "Vogue," and Michael Jackson was still dancing around with his gems and glove. Jordan, with the rest of the New Kids, toured the worlds stages, had his face on merchandise targeted to the crazed fans screaming for the five man band. He experienced such overwhelming fame at the age of 15, just joining the band.

Knight had his problems of course, the results of the



Interscope Records  
It seems Jordan Knight has traded in his old 80's get up for a new slick look....

emotional and physical demands of being a teen idol. The main frustration Knight had was with the band itself. Having five members in the band, the guys tried to keep each other in line.

In press material released by Interscope Records, Knight recalled, "We kept each other together. If one of us starting freaking out or getting out of line, the other four would say, 'Hey come on back'."

With five opinions involved, Knight grew frustrated that, "I never really got a chance to do exactly what I wanted to do musically, the way I wanted to do it...there were always four other guys to check with."

Knight got his chance to go solo in 1994 when The New Kids on the Block released their final album and split apart. He has admitted that it may be quite strange without Jon, Joey, Donnie, and Danny but after the New Kids thing, "...I still really wanted to perform."

Without the rest of the New Kids, Knight can keep his main focus at heart as a solo artist. He believes, "I'm a better singer now because I have a freer attitude. I'm not afraid to take the risks that lead to a greater level of expression. You can do all those runs

and gymnastics with your voice, but if the feeling isn't there, that stuff is just meaningless."

Knight was inspired by his older brother David, who had his own band, soon Knight formed his own as well at the age of eight. Of his first bands performances he remembers that him and the rest of the members, "...played Beatles songs at church talent shows." Other musical inspiration include classic rock, soul, and other singers such as: The Who, Queen, The Temptations and Freddie Jackson, which were his earliest childhood recollections of music. Later in his teens rap made its mark with Knight as it paid off when he was with the Kids in the 80's.

At age 16 Knight was drawn to the musical techniques of the keyboard, which he improvised learning with some help from Maurice Starr. Knight recalls, "Maurice Starr, the New Kids producer, was a great musician in his own right, and I was always bugging him to teach me stuff. I'd always be asking 'What key is this in?'"

Knight's experiences with the keyboard pay off, as one can tell when they listen to this album.

Song writing came into his life at the age of 17, however none of his material was used in the New Kids due to the fact that Starr wrote much of their work. Knight still determined to put his song lyrics to use offered his composition of "I'll Be Your Everything" to a singer Tommy Page in 1989. Page's version of the song (which Knight produced) spent 13 weeks at #1 in 1990.

When he was searching for a solo career, he was offered a deal and was quickly signed to Interscope Records by former A&R executive John McCalin (the man who introduced Janet Jackson to Jimmy Jam and Lewis Terry). Later singer, song writer, and producer Robin Thicke also was introduced to Knight by McCalin. Robin then became Knight's best friend and collaborator.

Will history repeat itself?

Knight recalls that his first album with the New Kids didn't do as well as planned, the second one struggling as well until a Florida radio station chose to play it.

"...Then they started getting calls. One thing led to another..." said Knight.

He also admits that he seems to be too busy dreaming of seeing all the faces of his fans again when performing.

"I haven't been on stage since the last New Kids show, and I really miss it...My first solo gig will really be a rush."

However Jordan Knight should learn from his past experiences, and he should enjoy fame while it comes because as many know, all good things must come to and end.

## Shock Jocks Don and Mike's Humor Understood by Most Listeners

Kurt Gron  
Focus Editor

Entertainment that shocks people and causes controversy has always drawn large audiences because of its very nature. For those who like simple, hilarious, and sometimes quite crude humor, the choices nowadays for this type of entertainment seem endless, even perhaps overly abundant. One of the most popular shows of this type is the Don and Mike show on WJFK 106.7 FM.

Often chided for imitating Howard Stern, another of the so-called shock jocks, Don and Mike capitalize on the often infantile humorous qualities of items such as crude body functions, disgusting happenings, and even laughing at the misfortune of others. The show is broadcast nationwide and is carried by over fifty AM and FM stations. Over four million listeners tune in daily to the show which is broadcast daily from 3-7 PM.

The show is based on short comedic bits which are reinforced by high quality celebrity imper-

sonations by the two hosts, Don Geronimo and Mike O'Meara. Events which occur regularly on the show are prank calls to a host of locations, many international which we all have wanted to make but didn't

**Most listeners understand that their comments are made in jest and not to express their real life opinions.**



Photo Courtesy WJFK

have the guts or the money to be able to complete. Other regulars on the show include straight man newsman Buzz Burbank and henchmen Dennis Murphy, Louis, and assorted other persona's. Don and Mike frequently send someone to heckle televi-

sion crews and yell Don and Mike's own personal messages to celebrities. The best example of this behavior was their enlistment of Louis to go to New York for Jerry Seinfeld's last HBO special where he succeeded in getting Seinfeld's attention with his yelling, "Don and Mike Jerry!" at the comedian, interrupting his set.

The show has frequent contests and games. One example of their unique games is one in which people at phones in three or four cities nationwide give out their location on the radio and the group which assembles the most people at that location in a given amount of time wins prizes. The numbers at any given location often reach into the double digits.

While often criticized for their offensive skits and sometimes hypocritical nature, most listeners understand that all of their comments are made in jest and not to express their real life opinions and views. To a first time listener however, many of the show's gags may not make sense. If one follows Don and Mike's slightly unrealistic advice, and listens every day for the entirety of the show, it is easy to catch on and understand the hilarity and nuance of the show.



Photo by Kurt Gron

## Scorching HFStival Pleases Fans

Kurt Gron  
Focus Editor

As the unrelenting heat beat down upon the 75,000 spectators drenched in sticky sweat, they awaited the opening of the gates. Scattered chanting of, "Let us in!" developed while the anticipation grew. This was the beginning of the day long fun-fest, the HFS experience.

At the end of May each year, thousands of fans of modern rock, especially the followers of 99.1 FM WHFS, anticipate the HFStival, one of the largest alternative rock festivals in the nation. Since starting in 1990 as a small festival at Lake Fairfax, the HFStival has grown to a 75,000 plus person event which up to last year had been held at RFK Stadium in the District, but this year moved to Baltimore's PSinet Stadium to accommodate more fans.

Tickets for the festival go on sale about a month before the event, and the show typically sells out in about 90 minutes. HFStivals are events to remember, and this year was no exception.

This year's HFStival, took the area by storm. Twenty bands gathered to produce excitement that may never again be equaled.

The bands appeared on two different stages at PSinet Stadium. The outer stage, located in the parking lot, was more intimate, with the not-so-famous, up and coming bands playing in a carnival atmosphere. There were varieties of food and shopping at unique stands, playing at the Playstation tent, and doing chin-ups for the Marines. Adding to the glamour of the outside was a smoke filled Techno/Dance where DJ's showed their stuff.

The real show, however, was on the main stage located in the inside of the stadium. The big, hugely popular bands played here. Their songs inspired many spontaneous mosh pits and crowd surfing to result.

The first band began at 10:15 AM and the last ended around 10:15 PM. The styles encompassed many genre's of rock: punk, grunge, pop, and some styles which cannot be characterized. While it was not possible to see every band, because many times bands are

playing simultaneously on both stages, the concert goer could choose which they would like to see and pass freely around the stadium complex.

The HFStival opened with SEV on the outer stage. They had won a contest for the right to open the festival. They were followed by the talented, euphoric pop-rockers Fountains of Wayne, the Living End and 2 Skinnee J's.

The first three inner stage groups were popular, but not crowd favorites. These were Jimmies Chicken Shack, Lit, and

Blink182. Following these was Silverchair, an established Australian grunge band who were just teens when they became popular several years ago. Following Silverchair came

the Mighty Mighty Bosstones, making their third consecutive HFStival appearance. Orgy and Sugar Ray, appearing after the Bosstones, did not electrify the stage as the four ensuing bands would. These four bands included Live, the Goo Goo Dolls, the Offspring, and The Red Hot Chili Peppers. These four national bands, with the Red Hot Chili Peppers headlining, laid the groundwork for perhaps the best lineup the HFStival has yet seen.

Live and the Goo Goo Dolls played hit song after hit song and while the crowd reaction was not as hectic as others, their melodic songs allowed for some calmness and appreciation of the music. The Offspring played with gusto and force. For the fans in the crowd in front of the stage, the atmosphere could best be described as muddled, disorganized, and really fun. The Offspring played all of their novelty hits, such as Pretty Fly For a White Guy, but also many older and new serious songs.

The final band, taking the stage after dark, was the Red Hot Chili Peppers. Known for their wide spanning of the musical spectrum, ranging from funk to alternative, and from rap to pop, the Chili Peppers did not disappoint. They played their best songs, often with a fast and interesting bass by Flea and guitarist John Frusciante.

One of the last songs they played was their old hit *Under the Bridge*, during which the lighters came out and up and capped off the perfect set and a near perfect day.

Since starting in 1990 as a small festival at Lake Fairfax, the HFStival has grown to a 75,000 plus person event

# State of the Arts

## Summer Concert Picks

### JUNE

June 12- Jimmy Buffet - Nissan Pavilion  
June 12- Damon Wayans- Morris Mechanic  
June 13- WCW Great American Bash- Baltimore Arena  
June 14- Santana- Merriweather Post Pavilion  
June 14- Ani DiFranco & Maceo Parker- Wolf Trap  
June 14- WCW Monday Night Nitro- MCI Center  
June 15- Ani DiFranco- Pier 6 Pavilion  
June 16- Seal- Wolf Trap  
June 18- Elton John- Baltimore Arena  
June 18- Seal- Pier 6 Pavilion  
June 23- Hootie & The Blowfish- Merriweather Post Pavilion  
June 23- "All That & More"- 98 Degrees, Monica, etc.- Virginia Beach  
June 24- Harry Conick Jr.- Virginia Beach  
June 25- Tom Petty & The Heartbreakers- Nissan Pavilion  
June 26- Brandy- Merriweather Post Pavilion  
June 26- Randy Travis, and Deana Carter- Nissan Pavilion  
June 29- Motley Crue, and Scorpions- Merriweather Post Pavilion

### JULY

July 4- Mary Chapin Carpenter- Pier 6 Pavilion  
July 5- Whitney Houston- Constitution Hall  
July 6- Britney Spears- Constitution Hall  
July 7- 'N Sync- Virginia Beach  
July 11- Cher & Cyndi Lauper- Nissan Pavilion  
July 11- Wynonna Judd- Wolf Trap  
July 16- Paul Simon & Bob Dylan- Nissan Pavilion  
July 17- Brandy, and Tyrese- Virginia Beach  
July 21- Brian Setzer Orchestra- Merriweather Post Pavilion  
July 23- Tim McGraw, and Dixie Chicks- Virginia Beach  
July 28- 'N Sync- Nissan Pavilion  
July 28- "Lillith Fair"- Sarah McLachlan, Sheryl Crow, Dixie Chicks, and The Pretenders- Merriweather Post Pavilion  
July 29- Faith Hill- Wolf Trap  
July 29- WWF Wrestling- Baltimore Arena

### AUGUST

August 1- Dave Matthews Band- Nissan Pavilion  
August 6- Bare Naked Ladies- Merriweather Post Pavilion  
August 13- Vince Gill, and Jo Dee Messina- Wolf Trap  
August 18- Dwight Yoakum- Wolf Trap  
August 19- Cranberries, and Collective Soul- Nissan Pavilion  
August 21- "All that and More"- 98 Degrees, and Monica- Nissan Pavilion  
August 24- Goo Goo Dolls, and Sugar Ray- Merriweather Post Pavilion  
August 25- Alanis Morissette, and Tori Amos- Merriweather Post Pavilion  
August 26- Jimmy Buffett- Merriweather Post Pavilion  
August 26- Bruce Springsteen- MCI Center  
August 27- Vince Gill- Baltimore Arena  
August 28-29- Bruce Springsteen- MCI Center  
August 25-29- Riverdance- Wolf Trap  
August 28- Jimmy Buffett- Merriweather Post Pavilion  
August 30- Jewel- Merriweather Post Pavilion  
August 31- Goo Goo Dolls, and Sugar Ray- Virginia Beach



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Photo courtesy of Tyler Eckhoff

Following in his father's footsteps, Tyler Eckhoff rides a killer wave towards the sunny shores of Malibu, California.

## Surfing Trio Lives for the Beach

Faye Rausch  
Entertainment Editor

With the summer of 1999 approaching, dreams of all day excursions to the beach linger among students at West Potomac High School. Three students in particular, however, dream of the ocean side year-round.

Sophomore Tyler Eckhoff, Junior's Nihal Dhillon and Taylor Peterson all share the same passion.

...surfing.

With beaches such as Huntington Beach, Virginia Beach, Zuma Beach, and Laguna Beach under each of these surfers' belts, all are inspired to keep surfing until water no longer exists.

"Not just the cutline, but the feeling you get once you cut the wave, excites me. Surfing is not just a sport but a definite art form," said Dhillon. Being the only girl in this surfing trio, Dhillon expresses deep interest in achieving more in years to come.

Owning two boards, a Rip Curl and a HIC, and having one more being made, Dhillon dreams of the day in which she could take one out onto an uncrowded beach in Hawaii and experience the 10 foot swell

**"The best way to surf is naked, the wetter the better."**

she yearns for.

Peterson, who has just recently started surfing, got into for one simple reason, "I get to be with my boys." Although Peterson's experience in surfing has just begun, he has already found his favorite surfing style.

"The best way to surf is naked, the wetter the better!"

16 year old Eckhoff is not a newcomer to the sport. He started surfing at the age of four. Following in the footsteps

of his father and older brother Ryan, who was a 1999 Regional Winner, Eckhoff plans on pursuing surfing for the

rest of his life. He has surfed at many beaches across the nation, and for a simple reason.

"Cause the beach is full of chicks in bikinis, enough said," said Eckhoff.

Eckhoff not only surfs for the passion, but for the competition he can take part in as well.

On August 3, 1998 in Malibu California, Eckhoff completed another competition to add onto the list of many others. Eckhoff won third place out of approximately thirty-five entrants.

The best part? "The free goodies," Eckhoff replies.

In fact he does find that one

of the best parts. In most major competitions, he has won on average second or third place, and first place in minor meets.

Taking his 9'0 Ukulele board with him, Eckhoff will be moving back to California this month, and plans on continuing with much enthusiasm, the sport of surfing.

All three surfers still have many years upon blue waters ahead of them. All three plan on improving their skills and surfing at a more challenging levels.

Anybody interested in surfing should start now. The summer is here, and one of these three would be willing to give more information.

"Surfing is great, being alone with yourself in the water, allowing yourself to be free-spirited is what it is all about," said Eckhoff.

## A Turnaround Season Baseball Hits a High

Trevor Gibson  
Wire Reporter

The 1999 West Potomac baseball season. Turnaround. Big turnaround. In the words of left fielder and catcher Sean Hoffman, "We made a huge jump, from 1-17 to 9-11." That's a winning percentage of .055 to .450.

The team was led at the plate by seniors Jed English, Jeremiah Malmberg, Sean Hoffman, Jake Carter, and Dustin Sternbeck.

In addition to the seniors, 1st team all district designated hitter Justin Brandenburg, and Ronnie Watson, both juniors, hit well.

On defense the team received solid showings from sophomore Matt Somerville, catcher Jed English, in-fielder Alex Layton, and center fielder George Haskins. Ronnie Watson was the teams' ace on the mound.

Among strong performances, pitcher Joe Saunderson's 1-0 triumph over West Springfield was most notable and helped him be named a 1st team all-district pitcher.

In the first inning of that duel, 1st team all-district catcher Jed English scored the decisive run with one of his 7 home runs of the season. English is going to Virginia Tech next year where he has received a scholarship to play baseball.

Jeremiah Malmberg summed it up as a, "... good team season, and definitely

my personal best."

His personal best was good enough for the Patriot District coaches to give him an "Honorable Mention," mainly for his hitting performance, especially in the clutch.

Senior pitcher Dennis Condon's runs allowed may have been twice as many as his earned runs allowed. Despite this, he commented that, "This season was much better for the obvious, it was good to have hard work pay off in the win column."

Senior Dustin Sternbeck also stressed the word turnaround when commenting on the season. Fighting a back injury early on, he later showed his power in a game at Hayfield, with a three-run 360-foot plus homer to center field. In one Tuesday night game right fielder Heart Ebersole and first baseman Matt Somerville, along with second baseman Alex Layton, collided in shallow right field. Ebersole was badly shaken up, and Somerville had a broken wrist. Unable to play for the remainder of the season, Somerville commented, "I was disappointed when I got injured, I hated to see the infield get broken up."

The first round loss in the district tournament was a little disappointing to the team, as Sean Hoffman said, "I thought and hoped we could have gone deeper into the postseason." For next season and beyond, 4-year varsity player Jed English commented, "... the young players should make next years team exciting."

## Spring Varsity Sports Awards

### Scholar Athletes

Male - David Hicks  
Female - Annie Dittreyer

### Fort Hunt Athletes of the Year

Boy's Ind. - Casey Reardon  
Boy's Team - Carlton Phelps  
Girl's Ind. - Yolanda Thompson  
Girl's Team - Katie Beal

### Fort Hunt Athletes of the Year Honorable Mention

Boy's Ind. - Jerry Harris & Jennie Harris  
Boy's Team - Gedion Tekola & Cedric Robinson  
Girl's Ind. - Meghan Hoffman & Kella Williams  
Girl's Team - Rachel Withers & Morgan Jones

### Boy's Crew

MVP - Ted Bernet  
C - Luis Toomassen

### Girl's Crew

MVP - Rachel Withers  
C - Emily Vietti

### Boy's Track

MVP - Casey Reardon  
C - Jerry Harris

### Girl's Track

MVP - Yolanda Thompson  
C - Kella Williams

### Boy's Lacrosse

MVP - Ryan Astry  
C - Dan Schaffner

### Girl's Lacrosse

MVP - Kirsten Hurne  
C - Emily Dickert

### Boy's Soccer

MVP - Abdul Kamara  
C - Gedion Tekola

### Girl's Soccer

MVP - Katie Beal  
C - Lynn Farguhar

### Softball

MVP - Morgan Jones  
C - Chrissy Miles

### Baseball

MVP - Jed English  
C - Jeremiah Malmberg



Photo by Faye Rausch

West Potomac's surfing trio, Taylor Peterson, Nihal Dhillon, and Tyler Eckhoff