

THE WIRE

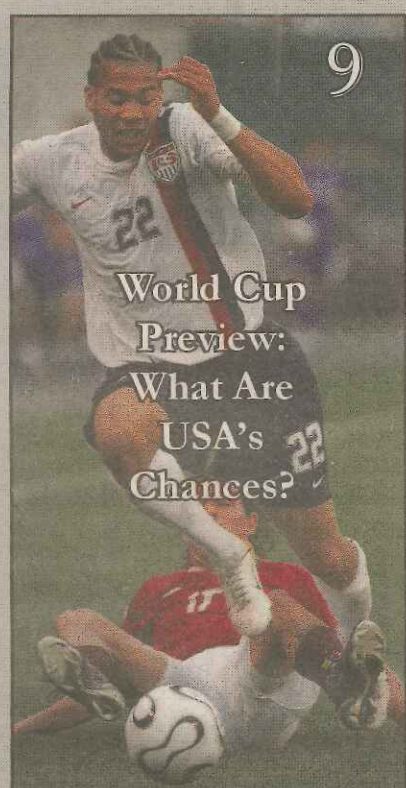
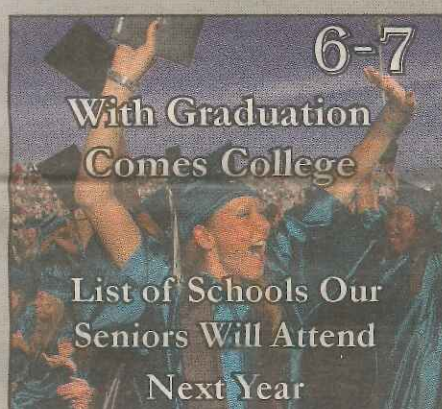
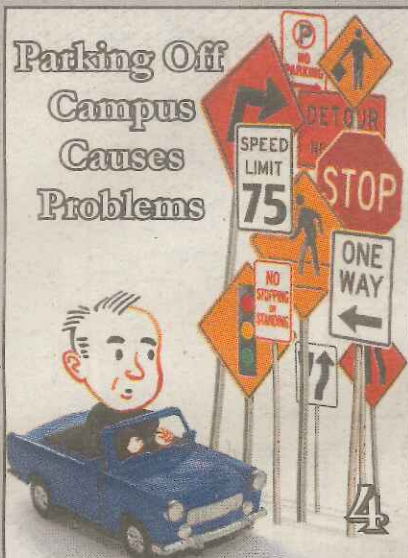
WEST POTOMAC HIGH SCHOOL



West Potomac High School
6500 Quander Road
Alexandria, VA 22307
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Tuesday June 13, 2006

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:



SOLs Test School's Endurance

Taylor Dankmyer & Kate O'Connor

Managing Editor, News Co-Editor

Over the past few weeks, Standards of Learning (SOL) testing consumed students' minds. For many, graduation depended on passing these tests, and SOLs were given even more importance because they had the ability to improve final exam scores. This was the first year all SOLs were taken on computers. Students did well and passing rates improved in at least one subject area.

SOL week opened with confusion from both students and teachers. Treasa Elam, our school's testing coordinator, declined to be interviewed or to provide an explanation for the confusion. Teachers were given a calendar of their class's SOLs, but no schedule was sent home to parents, as was done in previous years. According to parent Mary Jane Malinchak-McCann, "I didn't know anything about the SOL schedule and actually was not pleased about it. There is, in my opinion, poor communication between the principal and the parents." Problems began to arise as teachers realized some of their students were scheduled to take SOLs for different courses during the same day or even during the same class period.

Numerous versions of the SOL schedule were e-mailed to teachers, partly to receive input from teachers to ensure they could fulfill their proctoring duties. "It's a big job to administer these high-stakes tests, but having numerous versions of the schedule floating around was certainly confusing," said Special Education teacher Gary Hoag. Teachers expressed dissatisfaction that different content area tests were going on at the same time. "...There should not be more than one SOL per grade level given

on the same day — it is overwhelming for those students who struggle with the material, and leads to poor scores," said English teacher Kim Wisler. However, students were given the option of taking double-booked tests at a later date, instead of doing two SOLs in one day. "There was a PA announcement on the first and second days of SOL testing stating that students who had more than one scheduled SOL in a day were given the opportunity to choose which one they would take. They would take the other test during the make-up days," said Principal Rima Vesilind. Even with this alternative, there were problems with rescheduling certain SOLs. English teacher Mary Matthewson had a suggestion, "What if we just do each content area in a day: for example: Monday is English, Tuesday is History, etc. until Friday, which are make-ups?"

The schedule for SOL testing did not accommodate teachers who were left without classrooms to teach in because their rooms were used for testing. English teacher Jennifer Appel had no classroom during testing days, and her class read in the hallways and outside during the week of SOL testing. She was unavailable for comment; however, other teachers were disappointed in the organization. "It is appalling that [teachers were] wandering the halls because they had been removed from their classrooms and given no reasonable substitute," commented Hoag.

While teachers were feeling the



Spring Sports review on pg. 9. (above) Sophomore Mara Kate runs in the Patriot District championship.

repercussions of the planning, students were getting heated... literally. The school's air conditioning shorted out in several classrooms during SOL week, especially upstairs Quander. The system burned out due to a technical difficulty. The administration dealt with it. "Students were testing in rooms that were so hot, no one could think," said a teacher, who preferred to remain anonymous. On top of that, teachers were shocked when they were told to find a new location to escape the heat. "How can they [find someplace else] when they have back-to-back tests? How?" continued the teacher. Two other teachers said it was 90 degrees or just less than 90 degrees in their SOL testing rooms.

Teachers also complained about proctors. That same anonymous teacher said, "In our department, there were numerous times when those who were 'helping' us proctor

See SOL, page 4

Summer School is Serious Business

Mariya Ilyas

News Co-Editor

Summer is a time to relax, have fun, and not think about school. People take vacations, go to theme parks, hang out with friends at the pool, or simply stay at home. A good minority of our students take summer school, some for failure and others for credit.

The site for summer school this year, as last year, is Mount Vernon High School for Edison, Hayfield, Mount Vernon, and West Potomac High School students. Registration began on May 15 and will end on June 23. Since an entire course is taught in one month (July 10 through August 10), school is six hours long (7:30 a.m. – 1:50 a.m.). This includes lunch time and casual fifteen-minute breaks throughout the day. One can expect a chapter test every day and two hours worth of homework every night.

Taking summer school is a serious business—there is no time for horseplay or silliness. The discipline in summer school is harsh. "Two days of absence, for any reason, from any high school (24 day) course will result in the student's withdrawal from summer school," states the *Encore '06*, the official summer school registration booklet. There

would be no way for the student to make up the two weeks worth of work, (based on the regular school year calendar, one day is equal to one week). Three tardies also result in ejection from the school. The money that your parents spend (tuition is based on the total income of both parents) will be wasted because you will be kicked

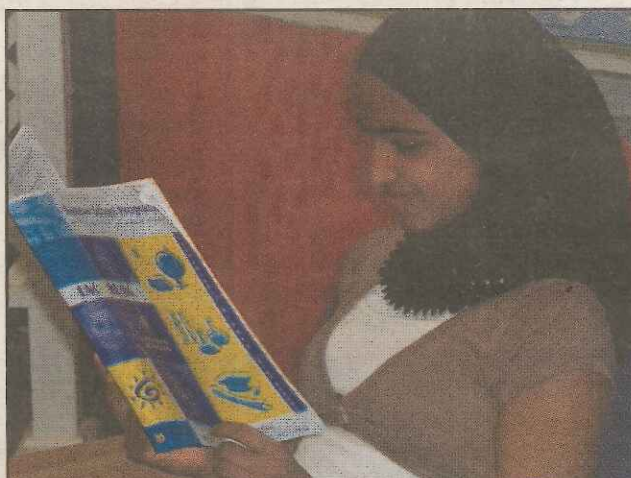
out and no refunds are offered.

There are benefits going to summer school. If a senior was not able to graduate, he or she can take summer school and graduate in August. If a student did not pass an SOL, he or she has the opportunity to do so over the summer. Some administration is also offered to students seeking special help or privileges. One can advance in a course to get ahead.

"I don't like it [summer school]," said freshman Joshua Muse, thinking summer school is a waste of time and that he would rather be doing

"whatever comes up." Taking summer school motivates students to do their best during the regular school year and avoid having to go

See Summer School, page 4



Freshman Asma Ahmad, looks over class material in the *Encore '06* about summer school which can help her earn credits in advance and to re-take a class.

Perfect Publication

Dear Editor,

Wow! This year passed by extremely slowly! But, it's all good since *The Wire* publication made my days bright. This newspaper is so cool that I have a collection in my room and make my sister, Zainab, who graduated from here last year, read it everytime. Well, just stopping by to show some love. Have a good summer!

Freshman, Maryam Sajjad

Cafeteria Calamity

Dear Editor,

What's up with the cafeteria staff? I'm not going to name anyone in particular, but some of them really need to step it up. It's irritating when you ask for a certain kind of chips and the lunch lady has no idea, making you have to point in the direction and call out colors. One time, I remember having to specifically point out the Pop-Tarts because they didn't know what a Pop-Tart was. I'm not asking for much, a job is a job and you have to work hard to get anywhere in life. This would speed up the already extremely slow snack "line," making it bearable to wait through without cutting anyone. Don't get me wrong, most of the current workers do a decent job, but I would make a better snack line worker than some of them, which really saddens me. I do give them credit, though, for having to deal with some really annoying people.

Sophomore, Jeremy Bernier

West Potomac Will Be Missed

Dear Editor,

During high school, I have lived in three states and attended three high schools. Of all of the high schools, West Potomac was the most well-balanced. It has strong academics and strong sports programs. The school is interested in actually helping the students, and not just bettering its own name. As my second year here is coming to a close, I know I will fondly remember the experience I had here. Though I still consider Hawaii my home, West Potomac will forever be my high school.

Senior, Daniel Jachowski

RANTS and RAVES

A Rave for no more scantron sheets on SOLs!

A RANT FOR MR. DIXON LEAVING.

A Rave for underclassmen not having school on graduation!

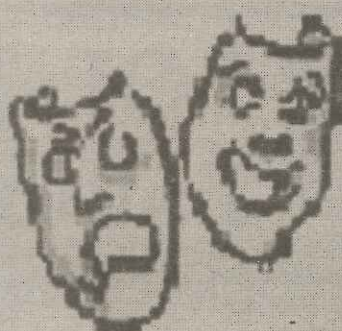
A RANT FOR THE STRANGE SCHEDULE.

A RANT FOR THE CLOSING OF THE PATIO.

A Rave for the Grease assembly!

A RANT FOR THE HEAT IN UPSTAIRS QUANDER.

A Rave for only one week of school left!



Yes, the Bell Matters!

An interesting problem arising among students is that of attendance. Students appear to be showing up tardy more often to class. This could be because it is the end of the school year, or it could be because it is nice outside. Then again, it could be a combination of both. Students simply do not seem to care about the dangers of being late. Another possible reason for this may be that after the SOL tests and the final exams, teachers and students alike seem to zone out until the end of the year.

Something that is important for students to know is that being late can have serious consequences, both now and in the future. As you may or may not know, being late nine times to class is the equivalent to being absent for three classes. The punishment for this is failing the course for the year. For students, the tardiness resets every quarter of the year. However, lateness seems to pile up very quick.

There are steps that students can take to prevent tardiness and absences. One way would be to plan out your routes to and from class. "I always plan my routes to class," said freshman Sam Gearing. "It helps to make sure that I am not in trouble for being late." Another way to help prevent being late is to make sure that you have the things you need for the next class before you decide to socialize with friends. The third step that can be executed to help you between classes would be to know where you are, where you are going, and if you have adequate time to get there.

What do students think about this issue? "I do not care if I am late a couple times," said freshman Keith Jones. "I have never gotten in trouble before, so why now?"

It seems that most students think that it is not a big deal to be late to class. Another opinion was freshman Ben Sovine, who said, "I am late all the time, but I have not failed."

Another of the main reasons that students are slacking off is the fact that the SOL tests and final exams are over or close to over. Some people tend to think that after the standardized tests and final exams are over, the rest of the year does not matter. There may be some truth to that statement regarding most aspects of school, but not tardiness and absences. School rules state that the tardiness and absences rule goes on until the end of the school year.

This is a reminder to try and be on time to your classes for the remainder of the year. Even though it's hot outside, your testing is over, and your friends want to hang out in the hallway, being late still has the same consequences. Nine times, and you fail the class. Just always remember that it is essential to be on time and not to let tardiness hurt your chances to pass or to graduate.

When questioning whether you want to skip or arrive to class fifteen minutes late; think to yourself. Is it really worth failing the class, or not being able to graduate? There is less than a week left of school and then you have the entire summer to have a good time.

Being late to class may seem insignificant now, however, it could become a bad habit that could stick with you for the rest of your life. Punctuality is an important factor that will rise up throughout your whole life. Whether it is in the workplace or a nother kind of engagement, being late does not look good and can effect you.

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Why the Bad Reputation?

Hooff Cooksey

News Co-Editor

When our students think of the school we go to there are many different opinions. It is exciting, it is plain, it is way too much work; however, these thoughts are not even close to what students from other neighboring schools have about our school.

Last summer, I came into contact with two students who attend Thomas Jefferson School for Science and Technology. When I told them where I attend their immediate reaction was, "Oh, you go to West Pot." This was followed by questions concerning whether drug deals happened in our hallways and if there were fights at least once a day. I proceeded to tell them that much of the questions they were asking were very unreasonable because our school is not like that.

Why does our school have such a bad reputation? Our school is filled with young, growing minds, who will in their future go on to be very successful, such as the upcoming graduation speaker who is a former graduate. That seems to be overshadowed by the set-in-stone views other schools have. This may be due to how diversified our school is, caused by how large the area is surrounding

our school which allows students to attend. This should not, however, give our school a bad reputation, but should lead to a good reputation. An organization, like our school, thrives with a large amount of different types of people. It opens doors to new ideas and views that enrich the minds of different cultural backgrounds.

Another reason students from other schools say that our school is a bad place is due to our location. Our school is located about 200 yards from Route One/Richmond Highway. The highway itself has the reputation of being a place where crime often occurs or where other illegal activities happen. In some cases this is true, but in others it is far from correct, and this should not be used to stereotype a school that is located close to it. Students from other schools say that they reference this mostly in sporting events with the phrase, "Go back to the highway." Thoughts about

a school of 2,000 plus students should not be based on where it is located.

Our school is filled with amazing opportunities that would clearly overrule the so-called "bad reputation" our school has been given. Our drama department puts on amazing performances every year, and our high school band(s) receive many awards throughout the year for outstanding performances at competitions. Our school is way more than just a building, close to Route One. It is a building full of students and teachers whose hard work often leads to future changes in the world around us.

Our school is nothing like the reputation it has been given. Many great people have come out of this school, including Wiley Pile, a football player who now plays for the Dallas Cowboys. Many graduates of our school go to very prestigious universities and colleges, like Stanford, University of Virginia, and MIT. Freshmen come into our school not knowing what to do with their lives and then four years later leave with ambitions to become important people who will make positive contributions to society.



Photo Illustration by Katie Samples

Adele's A-B-C's Getting You Through Life, One Letter at a Time



Photo by Lakeisha Langley

Adele Hampton

Co-Editor-in-Chief

Adele, that's me. Throughout the next ten issues I will be your personal guide through the alphabet of life. This will not be an ordinary trip, oh no, this will be a journey like never before. We will be traveling where no column has traveled before. Ok, enough of my whimsical monologue.

The first letter is A, and the A word today is going to be Adele. So, let me tell you a little about myself because I believe that the reader should know one's columnist. I like long walks on the beach, yes as cliché as that may seem, it is actually true. I am also proficient in the arts; like a Greek muse, goddess of song. No vocal chords can match my vocal chords and my piano skills are so advanced you would think Chopin himself rose from the dead to teach me.

Ok, maybe I got a little carried away, but seriously I am just a normal high school girl, nothing special, except for my super-human strength, and the fact that I can shoot lasers out of my eyes. My new found TV show is "Grey's Anatomy." OK, I'll admit, the main reason I like it is because of Patrick Dempsey. Let's just pause for a moment and relish in Dempsey's beauty...ok. Unfortunately for me and thousands of others who belong to the female gender, he is married. So, enough about my life, let's continue on to letter B!

Balneary, also know as a bath. Now coming across this word a question popped into my mind, why not just say bath? It is so much easier to say, "Man, I need a bath," than saying, "Man, I need a balneary." When the second sentence is said, it sounds as if one needs a serious medical procedure which requires rubber gloves and a clamp. I know, weird mental picture. This then ties into other unnecessary words. These words include "baedeker" which is another word for guide book and "bersatrix" which is also known as a baby sitter. Let's think back to when we were ten to thirteen years old, could you imagine saying, "Mom! I don't need a bersatrix!" I didn't think so.

Granted, these words were probably made in the 16th century, shouted by heralds and said by royal families as they sniff on their snuff boxes. I can't get the actual history of the words balneary and bersatrix because it is really hard to find. Even on Google. Thankfully society has smartened up, discarded such words, and has replaced them with a smaller, more reasonable vocabulary.

So, all in all, I hope you have enjoyed the first two letters of the alphabet. Hold on to your hats because we still have 22 more words to go! Yes, I know it's really not that exciting, but trust me, it's going to be an alphabet you will never forget.

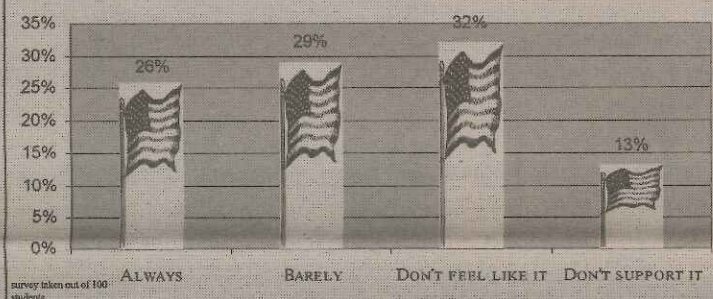
YES

"I've said it my whole life so why stop now?"
-Sophomore, Patrick Dunford

"I love my country."
-Freshman, Alex Reyes

"I feel we should show support to our country because many people have sacrificed alot for our freedom."
-Sophomore, Jessica Dixon

DO YOU SAY THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE?



NO

"I feel that a country that has a pledge doesn't trust its citizens."
-Junior, Patrick Moniz

"I don't say the pledge because I feel that by saying [it], I support America...our government and how corrupt it has become"
-Sophomore, Jamie Coder

"I mean, who does? No one really cares anymore."
-Freshman, Glenda Reyes

No More Allegiance to the Pledge

Grace Powell

Opinions Layout Editor

Each morning during second block the announcements come on and the American flag appears on the screen. Some people stand and salute, others just stand, and a few cower towards their desk, trying to finish their homework. With a country as great as ours, one wonders, why not say the Pledge of Allegiance?

"I just don't like to say it," shrugged sophomore David Molina. Simply put, some students feel that standing for five seconds to say a few patriotic words is a waist of time. The state law declares that the pledge must be administered in the morning; however, it does not require people to stand and recite it, rather expected that they do so.

Obviously, laziness is not the only reason why some choose not to say the pledge. The inclusion of two words "under God" sent lawmakers, atheist, and others in an uproar. "There's no reason it [under God] should be there!" determined freshman Mary Mcknight. "Under God" was included in the 1950's. The phrase was requested by

the Knights of Columbus, a religious group who felt that the referral to the beliefs of Abraham Lincoln (a Christian), was appropriate. The group then sent their idea to President Roosevelt, who, on June 14, 1954 officially included the phrase in the Pledge of Allegiance. That was fifty- two years ago, now the mere referral to God in the government has people clenching their jaws.

On a typical day in my fourth period history class, the pledge will come on, and teacher Emily Millions will tell the class to stand respectfully. She herself does not recite the pledge. "The pledge was not required of students when I was in school, so in part, I never developed the habit of saying the pledge when I was young." She further discussed her reasoning for this habit, "I decided that I didn't [want to say the pledge] because it strikes



Photo by Lakeisha Langley

me that if you demand that people pledge allegiance to a country, then it is too similar in my opinion to demanding that they be loyal, and the moment you get into that territory, I get really weary." She summed up her opinion in this way, "I decided that it is because I am patriotic that I don't say the pledge because I have the liberty to be loyal to the United States without my government forcing me".

Many students do stand and say the Pledge of Allegiance in the morning, junior Nick Friedrich is one of them. "Yes, definitely. It's the right thing to do." Our country is full of freedom, yet has become scarce of dedication. The moment someone utters God or what we have to do, citizens frantically pull out their law book and declare their rights. I have nothing against anyone who chooses not to say the Pledge of Allegiance; in truth I have not faithfully said it all the time either. However I think, that saying the pledge is the least we can do, for a country that grants us almost unlimited freedom.

Every citizen of Kentucky is required by law to take a bath at least once a year.

An ostrich's eye is bigger than its brain.

Your thumb is the same length as your nose.

About two hundred babies are born worldwide every minute.

A quarter of all people who take a briefcase, or something similar, with them to work has something in it for self-defense.



Did
You
Know?

Off-Campus Parking Causes Problems

Kate O'Connor

News Co-Editor

Student parking overflow outside school grounds has created a disgruntled community. No one has the authority to stop students from parking on residential streets, so homeowners have had to adjust their lives.

Every day, around 30 students park on Cavalier Road or in front of Quander Road School and then walk to class from their cars. Our school's security has no jurisdiction over where students park, but they look at the situation from a different point of view. When students park along Quander, the fastest way to get to school is to walk along the side of the road, or in the ditch. This root risks getting hit by a car.

"Because there is no sidewalk, [the parking situation] has become a safety hazard," said Bill Hare, the head of security. "I try to discourage students from parking along Quander but the school really doesn't have any authority there." Although the school can only advise students not to park in front of people's homes, they still have to take the heat from angry residents who do not like cars lined up outside their front yard. "The school gets calls at least three times a day at the beginning of the year but it tapers off as the months go on," said Hare.

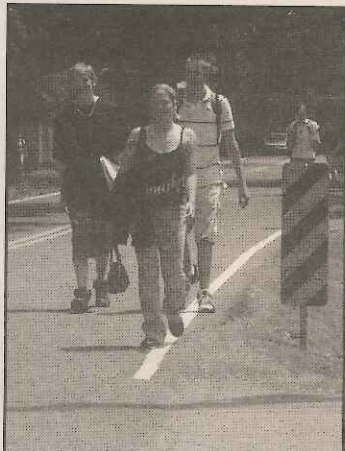
Although students can not be prosecuted for parking in residential areas, the situation becomes a police matter when they block a driveway or cut across public property. Citizens trespassing on certain Fairfax county properties can be fined a total of \$92 after processing fees. This does not stop many students from rushing through backyards to get to school on time. Tyler Miller, a junior, said that one day when detouring through a backyard on his way

to school the owner of the house took photographs of Miller crossing his lawn. "He threatened to show the pictures to the school," said Miller. Although whipping a camera out on high school students may seem extreme, trespassing is against the law and plenty of local residents are fed up.

Parking overflow has changed the lives of local inhabitants, creating obstacles that the homeowners must overcome. "On the night of one football game, a group of kids leaving the game rolled [over] my little car," explained Pat Welch, a Harvard Drive resident (right by Cavalier). "It used to be a lot worse," she continued. "The traffic would flood all the way down the street, blocking driveways." Many residents complain about cars parked in the way of their driveway entrances, forcing them to drive over their own lawns to avoid a crash. Two other residents, who

preferred to be known only as Barry and William, both affirmed that they were tired of students disrespecting their property. "I have to pick up trash bags and soda cans out of my front yard," said Barry, "and [students] speed down my street. I have a [young] kid." William, while annoyed with the situation, allows students to walk through his back yard as long as they close his gate. "You'd think there would be enough room for all those people up at that big school," he grumbled.

Despite the dissatisfaction of local homeowners, most students do not dwell on whether or not to park along the street. "I guess I'm not doing anything illegal," said junior Christian Markson, who parks daily on Cavalier Road, "The alternative is buying a pass and I'm not going to pay all that money, especially because I didn't get my license until later in the year...[parking on Cavalier] is just easier."



After school, students parked on Quander road have to walk on the street, since there are no sidewalks.

Photo by Anum Jaffri

SOL, from page 1

came late (15-25 minutes, those first minutes are when the proctors are needed the most), never showed up at all, or left after the first few minutes. Many of us scurried around trying to help since test glitches will occur and the testing teacher cannot leave the room. Where is that 'professionalism' that we hear so often about?"

On the other hand, the majority of students were pleased with the online testing. 90 of 100 of students said they preferred taking the SOLs on the computer to the old system (filling in bubbles on paper and reading the questions out of booklets). "I think it is easier for students on the computers, because when you are taking the SOLs in a booklet, there can be ten questions on one page, however, on the computers, only one question is showing, so you can zone in on that one question," said technology specialist Zina Facemire. The English Reading passing percentage went from 88% last year to 91% this year. These are preliminary scores because the state has not verified them. Due to computer testing, the school can receive immediate feedback. There was no way to bubble in the wrong bubble and teachers received their scores back in two to three days. If handled correctly, this could fix the problem of students having to wait a long time to get scores, only to find out that they failed.

Students who were polled liked using computers and teachers liked the quick results; however, the number of testing computers at the school did not accommodate everyone despite our student to computer ratio of 2:1. Principal Rima Vesilind said, "We need to have more computers, especially more mobile labs, in the school." This appears to be the main problem causing most of the other problems. If the school was given more mobile labs, then students could take their SOLs in their assigned classroom, tests could be taken during their class period and hopefully next year the air conditioning will cooperate.

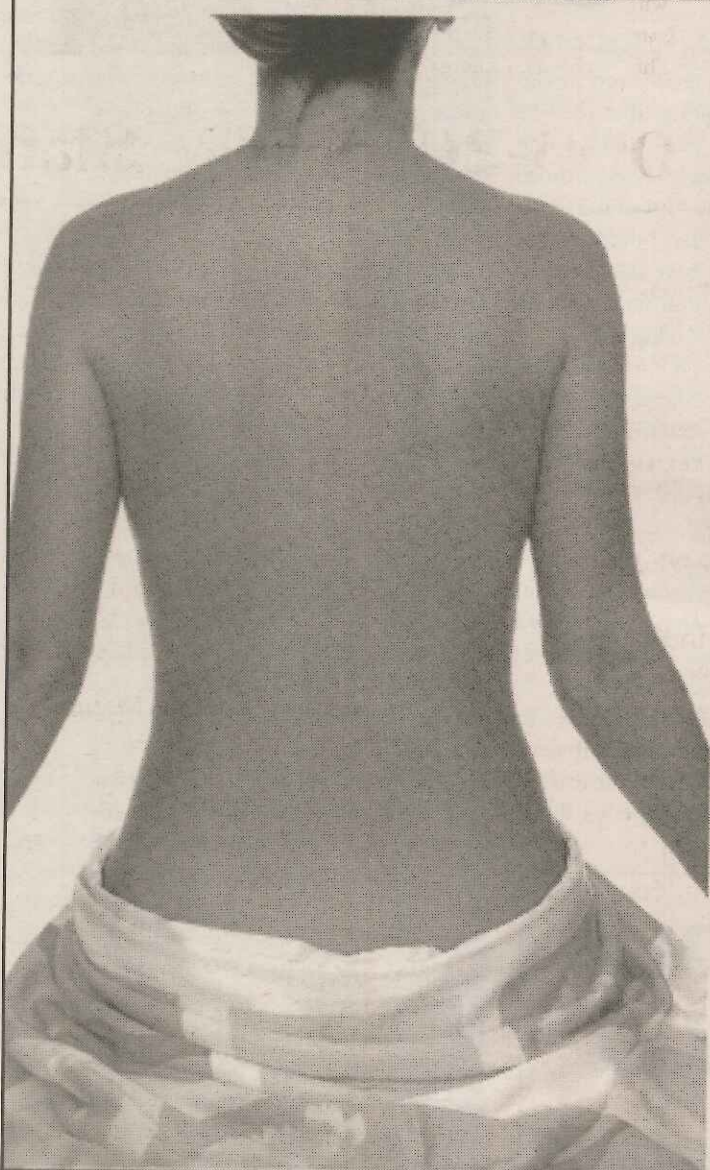
Summer School, from page 1

trouble over the summer, just as it did for Muse. "If you don't try, you'll feel consequences later," explained Muse.

There are still many students who take summer school for credentials. Some hope to advance in some subjects, while others cannot fit classes into their regular class schedules. "I'm taking summer school because I want to advance in studies," stated freshman Asma Ahmad. Summer school helps her achieve more than the regular school year, "I think so; this is my first year taking a course over the summer." Sometimes the scorching weather is unbearable in the summer, but the efforts are worth it. "Hopefully it won't be that bad," remarked Ahmad.

Summer brings different plans and goals for everyone. Summer school may not be on everyone's list—be it a necessity or a want.

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Teachers Leaving Say Their Goodbyes

William Ferzoco

Why are you leaving?

"I am leaving West Potomac in order to teach at South Lakes, my community High School."

How long have you been an educator?

"This is my 5th year as a professional educator."

Why did you decide to become a teacher?

"Summers off"

What is the greatest part about being a teacher?

"Having upperclassmen say hello in the halls. Seeing the transformation students undergo from September of freshman year to graduation. Knowing that my AP Bio students will thank me next year."

David Browning

Why are you leaving?

"Moving to England to teach an international school."

How long have you been an educator?

"3 years."

Why did you decide to be an educator?

"It is so rewarding."

What is the greatest part about being a teacher?

"Making a difference in so many people's life."

Martin Settle

Why are you leaving?

"I am moving to Connecticut to be closer to relatives."

How long have you been an educator?

"15 years."

Why did you decide to be an educator?

"Because I enjoy learning. I enjoy people. I get excited when students learn for learning not just to pass a test."

What is the greatest part about being a teacher?

"Having a student say I made a difference. Watching as a student learns to develop self confidence and the ability to think for themselves."



Photo by Lakeisha Langley



Photo by Lakeisha Langley

Why are you leaving?

"I'm 65 plus, have worked since I was 18, it's time to enjoy doing little or nothing."

How long have you been an educator?

"8 years-all at West Potomac."

Why did you decide to be an educator?

"A friend suggested it 10 years ago; I tried it; I liked it and stayed."

What is the greatest part about being a teacher?

"The students; their enthusiasm; Their willingness to experiment with new ideas."

Larua Strano

Why are you leaving?

"Moving to Naples, Italy."

How long have you been an educator?

"3 years and I've probably already heard every single excuse there is out there from my students."

Why did you decide to be an educator?

"I wanted to have steady career between undergraduate and graduate school, and I like to share my knowledge."

What is the greatest part about being a teacher?

"The impact you can have on somebody else's life."

Other teachers who will be leaving:

**Steven Gill
Michele Harris
Bristol Martin**

**Laura Peña
Cheri Day
Brett Simonson**



Photo by Lakeisha Langley



Photo by Lakeisha Langley

Gretchen Alemian

Why are you leaving?

"It is time for a change. I will be teaching at Lee High next year. Added bonus-it is right down the street from my house."

How long have you been an educator?

"About 7 years. I began my teaching career ay West Potomac in the 1999-2000 school year."

Why did you decide to be an educator?

"I had the worst kindergarten teacher ever. I decided at the age of 6 to become a teacher and save future kids!"

What is the greatest part about being a teacher?

"The greatest part about teaching is that everyday is a new day. You never know what will happen."

Kyle Brown

Why are you leaving?

"I am taking a position as an economist at the Bureau of Economic Analysis."

How long have you been an educator?

"Only 1 year."

Why did you decide to be an educator?

"I've always loved math and I really enjoy working with kids."

What is the greatest part about being a teacher?

"Summers off!!!"



Photo by Lakeisha Langley

David Goldfarb

Why are you leaving?

"I'm going to graduate school for a year."

How long have you been an educator?

"(I have been) teaching for 12 years."

Why did you decide to be an educator?

"Teaching is one of the most effective (ways) for empowering others."



Photo by Lakeisha Langley

What is the greatest part about being a teacher?
"Working with students and my colleagues."

Judyth Caruso

Why are you leaving?

"Getting married and moving to New York. My fiancé is a cop with NYPD."

How long have you been an educator?

"4 years."

Why did you decide to be an educator?

"I enjoy working with young teens and I love learning."

What is the greatest part about being a teacher?

"The students! They have such energy and a natural curiosity."



Photo by Mariya Ilyas

The 2006-2007 Wire Staff

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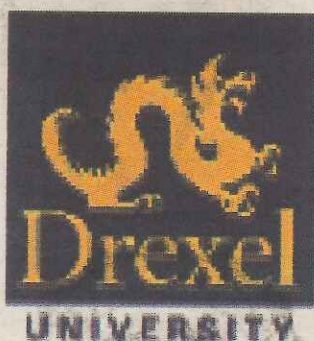
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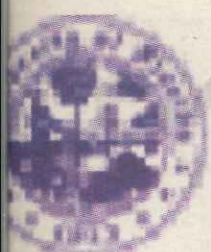
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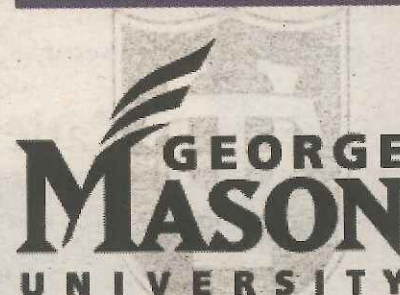
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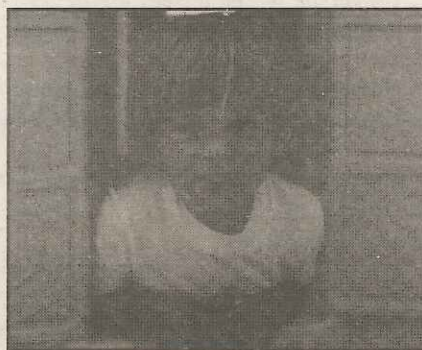
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Salute to *Wire* Seniors

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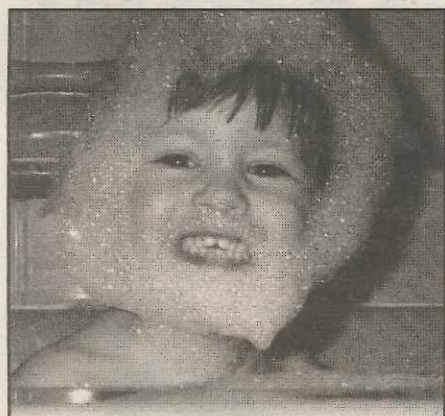


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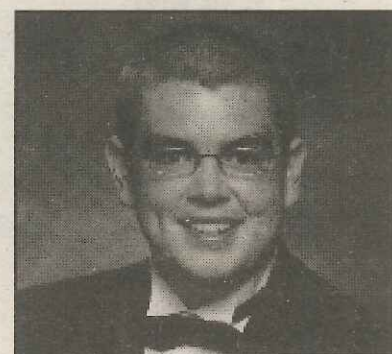
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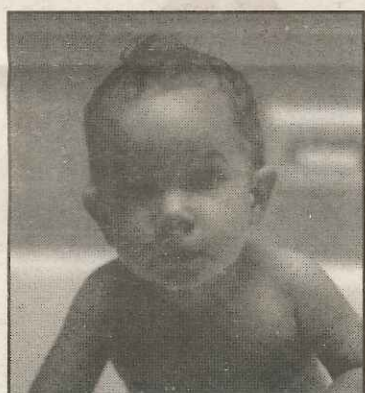


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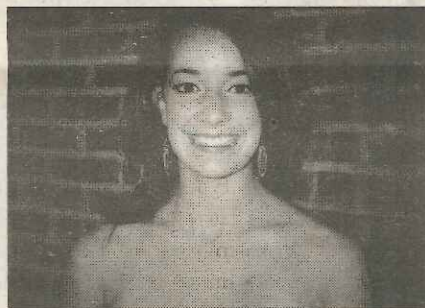


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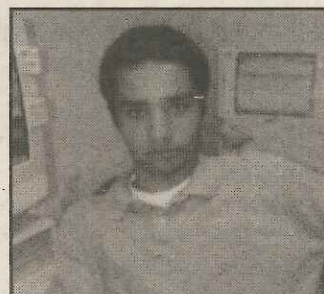


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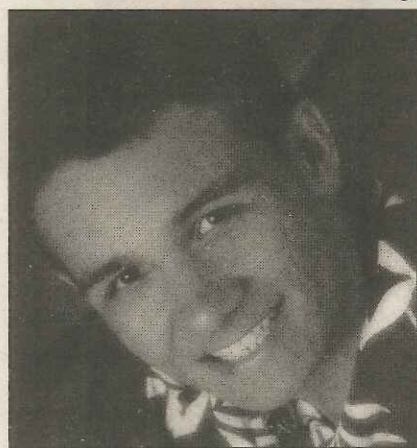
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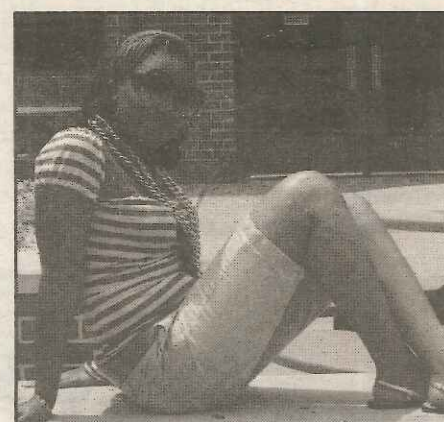


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Step Aside World, Its Our Turn

Jon Yoo

Sports Editor

The wait is over! The time has finally come for the start of the 2006 World Cup. Thousands from all over the globe will be at hand, in Germany, to participate in the most anticipated and popular sporting event in the world. The rest of the world will be cheering on for national teams and its star players. Unfortunately, for many Americans it will be just another lousy soccer game with a little bit more hype. However, there is a growing buzz of support for this year's U.S. squad that has a chance to make a mark in this as a real contender, and maybe just maybe make history.

Led by Coach Bruce Arena, the 2006 U.S. team enters the World Cup as the fourth ranked team in the world. This is significant progress compared to the '94 and '98 squads that were absolutely embarrassed in their runs. The team has flourished under Arena, who coached the team in 2002 World Cup were the red and blue lost in the quarterfinals by a goal to eventual runner ups, Germany.

The surprising run drew the attention of many sports fans throughout the country, and enabled the sport to finally receive some of the spotlight

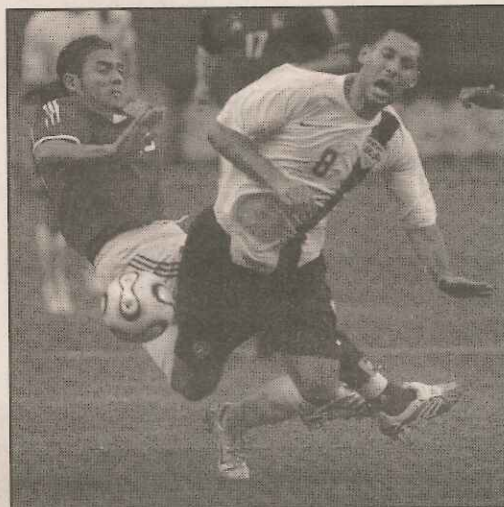
in the States.

Americans have anxiously waited for four years to see what they will accomplish this time around. With a more experienced roster, led by stars Landon Donovan and DaMarcus Beasley, and the highest ranking ever attained by a U.S. squad, great expectations and pressure have been placed on the team.

Nike, the main sponsor of American athletics, has taken a gamble by marketing U.S. soccer jerseys and other merchandise all across the country to gather Americans attention and support. They even have placed a billboard in New York that states, "The world no longer wants to play us." ESPN has broadcasted the U.S. friendly games live, and have repeatedly played the commercials leading up to the Cup. Junior soccer player, Alex Mounts said, "This is the most coverage that soccer has had in America. More and more people in school seemed to know about the team's chances. I hope they come through."

On March 22, 2006, the team, which was undefeated internationally all year, faced their biggest test against World Cup host, Germany. The match was tied going into the second half, where key mental mistakes led to a 4-1 blowout. Junior Mija Saracevic said, "That just shows that the U.S. is still not on the level as the world elite like Germany." Arena seemed to share the same thought, after the game he told the media, "Certainly the better team won today. We got beat and we deserved to get

beat." Some throughout the world speculated on whether this proved the point the America was over hyped. However, it has been nearly three months since the loss, and the team has recorded impressive wins over Venezuela and Jamaica.



Phil Masturzo/KRT

As the fifth ranked team in the world, there have been many expectations and pressure placed on Team U.S.A. entering the World Cup, in Germany.

With the World Cup on the horizon, many more Americans will be watching the tournament due to the coverage the U.S. squad has received and the expectations around them. We can only hope for the best outcome. However in a recent interview, Donovan put it perfectly by saying, "I do not know if we care about the result. At the end of the day it does not matter. It's not like we are battling to get a 0-0 draw. We are going to play and make the game fun."



Phil Masturzo/KRT

Americans show their support during their opening match against Czech Republic.

'06 Spring Season: It's All A Wrap

Hooff Cooksey

News Co-Editor

Baseball:

The varsity team finished with a 5-7 record; including many tough losses. The baseball was instituted almost a brand new coaching staff, with new head Varsity coach Jim Sullivan, as brought the team back to win twice as many games as the team did last year.

MVP: Hunter Lord

Boys Lacrosse:

The boy's team finished with a .500 record, the best record our school has had in this sport in many years. They lost in their first round district playoff game, however most of the players believe that the season was a huge success. "We could have done better, but all in all it was a good season," said junior Jesse Torbert. With a young, core group intact, many players can not wait for next year.

MVP: Chris Farquhar

Boys Soccer:

The team finished with a disappointing 2-5-4 record, with the four losses being close games. The team were led by Chris Porter and Alex Mounts; however they just were not able to put that talent together to help the team. The season could have been either very successful or a learning experience, and it was a learning experience.

MVP: Chris Porter

Girls Lacrosse:

The lacrosse team had a disappointing season, due mainly to an inexperienced roster. Besides inexperience, the girl's team faced many obstacles including a tough district league. This season turned out to be rebuilding one. With a new coaching staff as well as the senior player problem, led them to losses, including many by close deficits.

MVP: Chandler Rogers

Softball:

The team finished with a 14-0 district record, which was a first ever to occur in the history of the Patriot District. However, softball ended their year in a crushing loss in districts. However, The team entered the district tournament and advanced to the championship where they lost to West Springfield. The team had automatically advanced to the regional tournament where they lost to Madison in the first round. Our softball team finished the season with an overall record of 17-4.

MVP: Becky Boucher and Nicky Demmel

Girls Soccer:

The girls had a highly successful season. The team pulled off many upsets, such as beating Chantilly, who were ranked third in the region by the *Washington Post*. In the district tournament they played T.C. Williams, who they beat 5-3. In the semi-finals, they beat West Springfield. The girls lost a heartbreaker to Lake Braddock in the finals. The game went through regulation time into four over time periods followed by a shootout, which the girls lost by a goal. This lead the girls into the regional playoffs where they beat Madison in the opening round. The girls then lost to Centerville. The squad was satisfied with how well they played throughout the season.

MVP: Alison Brody and Nicole Gerow

Spring track:

The track team had yet another successful season under first year coach, Dan Lundin. The boys won districts by over seventy points, and went on to finish second in the regional tournament. The team was led by seniors, Antwane Minter and Josh Rodriguez. The girls team shared similar success, and finished second in the district behind Lake Braddock. Sophomore Elizabeth Heath, Kat Lee, and Kelly Jemison were spectacular throughout the season. A total of thirteen track members advanced to states, where they all performed at a high level.

MVP: Josh Rodriguez

Tennis:

The boy's team had very successful year. The squad finished with a placing of third in the district, while the girls pulled out a fourth place finish, when they were predicted to finish either seventh or eighth. There were very impressive performances by both the boys and girls.

MVP: Matt Vennell and Victoria Good



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In The Numbers

22

goals scored by sophomore soccer star Stephanie Gerow this spring, making her the first Golden Boot winner and setting a single season school record.

2

Coach of the Year awards presented to softball coach Denn is Day for both the district and northern regions.

60

consecutive matches on clay that tennis star, Rafael Nadal, has won after beating Roger Federer in the French Open finals.

1

College Division that both senior soccer stars, Chris Porter and Nicole Gerow, will play at for Virginia Tech and James Madison.

9/11: Is It Being Re-Created Too Soon?

Sandy Slippen

Copy Editor

The world has seen many dark days throughout its long history, but none is remembered as painfully as September 11, 2001, a day that would not have been considered out of the ordinary in any way had it passed by without incident.

Terrorists working under the Al Qaeda network under estimated mastermind Osama Bin Laden, joined forces to create the worst attack on American soil in U.S. history. Not surprisingly, five years after the fact, Hollywood has come out with two high-profile films about different events both taking place on this horrific day. While the studios behind these two movies both adamantly declared that their goal is not to make profit but to provide a stirring, heartfelt reminder of the heroes of that day, the films are still proving extremely controversial, splitting opinions on if it is "too soon" or not.

The first of the two major motion pictures released this year about 9/11's events have already been released in theaters. Universal Pictures acquired British director Paul Greengrass (*The Bourne Supremacy*) to write and direct *United 93*, a fact-based account of United Flight 93, the only plane hijacked on September 11 not to reach its intended target, presumably the Capitol building in Washington D.C., when the passengers on the flight foiled the terrorists' plot. Released on April 28 of this year, *United 93* has grossed a respectable \$30.8 million, against a production budget of just \$15 million. Although those numbers are not astronomical, they have been considered strong by those in Hollywood given the extremely difficult subject matter, which many would prefer not to rehash.

Although there are those who feel that Hollywood has improper motives regarding the production of these films, others believe that not nearly enough time has elapsed since the events to be making films about it. "It has been 5

years, but I still think that it is too soon for movies [about September 11] to be coming out in theaters," said sophomore Bess Crimmins.

Much to the likely chagrin of those who are against these feature films about 9/11, another major motion picture is arriving in cinemas this year about the events. High-profile director Oliver Stone's *World Trade Center* stars Nicolas Cage as real-life New York City Port Authority officer John McLoughlin, who was trapped under the rubble of Ground Zero along with several officers following the destruction of the World Trade Center.

Like *United 93*, Paramount Pictures has claimed that their intention with *World Trade Center* is to tell the story of 9/11 and to honor heroic actions, not to exploit anything. Sophomore Devin Clarke, who has relatives in New York City, believes the movies serve a worthwhile purpose. "These films are demonstrating to the public all of the sacrifices the men and women made to their country on September 11." Unfortunately, it will be difficult to determine if Paramount is being accurate in their claims, as *World Trade Center* is not released domestically until Wednesday, August 9.

One of the main controversies that *United 93*, *World Trade Center*, and all of those involved in the production of the two pictures have faced is a question of ethics and morality. Is it too soon to dredge up the memories of that painful day, less

than five years after? Or do the "greedy" studios even have a right to make profit off of movies such as this? According to

AP World History teacher Dave Goldfarb, the issue of studios donating profit or keeping it for themselves is a difficult question to answer. "Studios don't have an obligation to donate profit to memorial funds, but doing so would show and provide respect to those the films are honoring in the first place." Goldfarb's sentiment is fairly universal in most regards. While many disagree on the ethical rightness of making these films, most agree that while studios cannot be forced to donate some of their profit, it is probably the right thing to do. Universal Pictures has agreed with this, donating 10% of *United 93*'s \$11.5 million opening weekend to a September 11 memorial fund. Although Paramount has not announced if they plan to do the same with *World Trade Center*, it is speculated that they probably will.

Although the events of September 11th remain embedded in the hearts, minds and souls of most of us, we all have different opinions about making movies about the events. Whether the issue is if it is too soon to see them or if it is ethically wrong, it is clear that these movies are prompting plenty of valuable discussion.



David Hanson/KRT

September 11, 2001 is an event that Americans will never forget, but are we ready to replay the event over and over?

Preparing for the Sizzling Summer

Jocelyn Finfrock

Style Co-Editor

Shorts were first introduced to society in the early sixteenth century but were only worn by men. One of the first types of shorts were called breeches, which were knee length, tight shorts that were usually worn with stockings. Since then, shorts have evolved and are now worn by both men and women.

They are garments that you cannot live without, especially in the heat of summer. There are so many styles to choose from that one may not know where to begin. Bermuda shorts, short shorts, board shorts, track shorts, skorts, zip-off shorts, and cargo shorts are some of the most popular.

In the spring, as the weather becomes increasingly warmer, a good choice of shorts is the Bermuda shorts. They used to be worn by mostly men but are now becoming increasingly fashionable among women. They are the perfect length, not too short and not too long and come just above your knees. "I like Bermuda shorts," said sophomore Stephanie Gerow.

Whether you are exercising or just trying



Pablo Alcala/KRT

Flip flops are the most popular footwear to go along with shorts.

to stay cool, track shorts will get the job done. These are usually made of a lightweight material that will keep you cool in the summer. "My favorite type of shorts is Sofie's," stated sophomore Jocelyn Garay. Sofie's are cotton shorts that come in every color and are very popular among teenagers, they are not expensive and you can wear them almost anywhere. Most like to wear them during athletic events.

The length of your shorts is dependant on your personal preference. Some women prefer longer shorts while others like short shorts. Some like jean, others like khaki. Certain women like Capri's and some make their own shorts by making cut-offs. There are also skorts, which look like a skirt on the outside, but underneath they are shorts. Same goes for men. Some men prefer jean or khaki shorts, while others like board shorts; which are a combination between shorts and a bathing suit.

Shorts are an all time favorite type of clothing amongst people of all ages. With so many selections today you can find the perfect pair. So grab your wallet, and head to the mall to find your perfect pair of shorts.

Astounding Aromas

Sara Mathewson

Style Co-Editor

There are many different smells that permeate the halls throughout the school day, especially among the male students. Some of the most popular men's colognes include Polo Black, Adidas Moves, and Burberry for men. But when is it too much? When should one refrain from using cologne?

Other scents, not necessarily cologne, are popular among students in the school. For example, Axe is a very famous spray. It comes in many different scents. Axe can also be purchased in deodorant as well. Popular

scents amongst students in the school include different types of Polo, such as Polo Black and Polo Blue, Burberry, Armani, and brands of Adidas. Junior Rosa Moran said her favorite was Jean Paul Gaultier, while her least favorite was cologne by Versace. Junior Mike Nichols said, "My favorite cologne to wear is Abercrombie Fierce or this German cologne called Marco Polo."

Many females in this school, including Moran, believe that a guy should have good smelling cologne or spray to have a chance with them. She said, "When I look for a guy, they have to smell really GOOD!" However,

when one does not have a stupendous smell, Moran stated that she would simply purchase them a better smelling cologne. Nichols stated, "The worst kind of cologne is the Polo Green, it is disgusting!"

Guys must know that their smell has an effect on the ladies. Otherwise, they would just buy any kind of cologne, and not ask for a girl's opinion and input. For Nichols, he said, "I think that a guy's smell has an effect on what girls talk to you because I get compliments on Abercrombie Fierce all the time because every girl on the planet is in love with it."

But when should one know when to stop spraying? "At one time, I use two to three sprays on my shirt and neck," said Nichols. Moran said, "You can tell when a guy has too much cologne on when you can smell them coming from around the corner."

There are so many different types of cologne to choose from. Anywhere from the many brands of Polo, to the more expensive name brands, such as Armani, Versace, and Burberry are good choices. Simple ways to choose the impeccable cologne, according to Nichols, are to either smell them in the store or to just ask a specialist that is working at the time. Because there are so many to choose from, it is very hard to go wrong in the selection process.

"When I look for a guy, they have to smell really GOOD!"

~junior Rosa Moran

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Summer Movies to Watch and Enjoy

Matt Lupton

Wire Reporter

The 2006 summer season has started for most people. Many movies will be hitting theaters this summer that will be considered a blockbuster hit. We might want to start saving our money because our pockets could be empty by the end of summer.

The movie theaters have already had a blockbuster hit over Memorial Day weekend, with *X-Men: The Last Stand* starting the summer hot and fresh. That is not going to be the only "most wanted to see" movie, there will be more like the upcoming

Superman Returns on June 28. This Superman movie looks electrifying from what you can see in trailers. Senior Bhuvnesh Singh agrees and said, "It's going to be action packed." IMAX theaters will be playing this movie and it could pop a movie-goer out his/her seat.

Another movie that could be a hit this summer is *Cars*. This movie was created by PIXAR. PIXAR created *Finding Nemo*, and *Monsters, Inc* and these movies were major hits in their releases several years ago. *Cars* is expected to be adventurous and fun for the family. *Click* looks like a promising upcoming movie that stars Adam Sandler, a funny actor, who is sure to make it humorous. *Click* is supposed to be about a guy who has a

remote and can rewind, fast forward, pause, slow down or play his life. These are good movies coming out in the month of June that you won't want to miss.

In July, we have the second *Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest*, coming to town. The three main stars in this movie, Keira Knightley, Johnny Depp, and Orlando Bloom, all return and face a

new set of species in this adventure. Two seniors, Virginia Stilwell and Emily Fitzgerald, believe this movie will be the best of the summer. Stilwell had thoughts of expectations in this movie and said, "Entertainment value, actors are great, great script." Fitzgerald believes that the cast is great and responded,

"Heck yes! Because the actors are all seasoned and work well together, they rock!" In August, *World Trade Center* will open starring Nicolas Cage telling a story on the day of September 11, 2001 and the fall of the World Trade Centers. *Anchorman* director Adam McKay and star Will Ferrell will team up again in a NASCAR movie called *Talladega Nights: The Ballad of Ricky Bobby*. You know what this could mean, comedy. Will Ferrell can't ever leave his audience without a laugh.

This summer is filled with many movies to see, and will give you a reason to get out of the house. Enjoy the thrill, comedy, adventure, romance, and action of every movie this summer!



Cyclops (James Madsen) and Jean Grey (Famke Janssen) appear in a scene from the highly anticipated movie, *X-men 3, The Last Stand*. The movie grossed almost \$86 million in the first weekend alone.

Photo Handout/KRT

Starbucks-The Place to Be

Gina Adamski

Wire Reporter

"I'll have one Grande Café Mocha Frappuccino, please!" This is a common phrase at the famous coffee chain, Starbucks. Many people love this now famous coffee house. Some say they just like the coffee, some say it is inexpensive, and others say that it is just a great place to hang out with friends. Others, however, say that Starbucks is way too expensive. Either way, Starbucks is very popular in our school.

One of the most popular things in our school about Starbucks is that people like the variety of the different beverages that they offer. They have blended coffees (such as Starbucks Christmas Blend), cappuccinos, lattes, frappuccinos, iced coffees, and many other coffee drinks. Also, they have many coffee-less drinks (drinks without coffee), as well. Some of these include Tazo

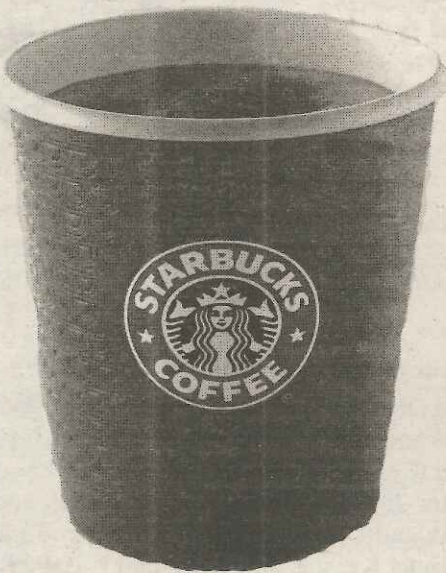
Teas (black, green and herbal), coffee-less frappuccinos, and an assortment of already bottled drinks for sale. When asked if he likes Starbucks, freshman Joe Bradley said, "Yes! I love it because they have many different drinks and many different flavors." Freshman Vanja Gvozderac's reply when asked why she thinks it is appealing, said, "They have a variety of drinks,

not just coffee, but they also have drinks without coffee in them."

Some more aspects of Starbucks that appeal to our school are the drinks themselves. "My favorite drink [at Starbucks] is their Vanilla Bean Frappuccino because it's beastly. It's just simple and it tastes good," said freshman Jesse Schiffres. Sophomore Stuart Robinson said, "I like the Vanilla Bean Frappuccino with caramel or chocolate on top, tastes like cookies." As one can see, most people's favorite drinks are the Frappuccino despite the high amount of calories (a tall Vanilla Bean Frappuccino with whipped cream has 370 calories). Gvozderac also said, "I love their Café Mocha Latte because it is super good. Also, if you are mad, you can drink one and it will make you feel better."

Students have also expressed their like in the atmosphere found at Starbucks. "It's chill," said Schiffres. Freshman Jessie Rodgers said, "It's a jammin' place. It's relaxed and a great place to hang out." One can find many people hanging out at the Starbucks that are near our school, King Street, Old Town, etc.

If we narrow down to the main reason that our school loves Starbucks, the conclusion has come to the fact that it is a great and relaxing place to hang out, they have a wide variety of drinks, and they are delicious.



Chicago Tribune/KRT

Movies by the Books

Kyle Rosenkranz

Wire Reporter



Photo Alix Leger/KRT

Hollywood has made it a tradition to produce movies based on bestselling novels. We all know which ones have flopped and which ones have been hits. However, the real question that is constantly debated by audiences is whether or not the movies are better than the book they are based on.

Books like *Gone with the Wind* and the more recent novels like *The Da Vinci Code* have reached widespread acclaim by avid readers including those studio executives from Fox and Universal who want to make a hit movie from these bestsellers. Many people believe that a movie can be better than the book, while others believe a movie can only be as good as, or worse than the novel. Let's see what our school's students have to say:

Gone with the Wind: Movie(1939), Book(1936)

In *Gone with the Wind*, a young southern belle by the name of Scarlet O'Hara struggles to live through the time after the Civil War while very persistent gentleman, Rhett Butler, tries to win Scarlet's heart. English teacher Susan Paxton thought, "*Gone with the Wind* was better than the book because of the pacing, the development of the characters, the plot, and of course, Gable and Leigh as Rhett and Scarlet."

Holes: Movie(2003), Book(1999)

Holes tells the story of Stanley Yelnats III, who is sent to Camp Green Lake where you get to dig a five by five by five foot hole to build "character". What the occupants at Camp Green Lake do not know is that the warden is not having these kids dig for "character", she's looking for something and Stanley wants to find out what. Freshman Danny Peterson said, "*Holes* was worse than the book because I think the characters were described better in the book than they were portrayed in the movie."

Their Eyes Were Watching God: Movie(2005), Book(1999)

The free-spirited Janie Crawford searches for happiness while going through several different marriages during the 1920s. "I think the movie was worse because the main point of the novel was not in the movie", says junior Franklin Pagan.

Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory: Movie(1971), Book(1964)

Charlie is a poor young lad who is always told stories about that wonderful factory owned by Willy Wonka. The mysterious candy maker claims he has a contest to give five lucky winners a tour of his factory. When Wonka declares that he has hidden five golden tickets in five of his Wonka Bats, the whole world, including Charlie, searches for the chance to see Wonka's factory. "The movie is better than the book because it's much more colorful and much more interesting than the book" said sophomore Melih Ertekin.

The Lord of the Rings series: Movies(2001, 2002, 2003), Books(1954)

A young hobbit by the name of Frodo Baggins finds his uncle's old ring, which he finds has a terrible history. It is the evil Ring of Power created by the Dark Lord, Sauron. The wizard Gandalf employs Frodo to go on the journey to Mordor to destroy the ring in the only place it can be unmade. "I think the movies were a lot more interesting than the books were," said senior Shannon Smith.

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More Than Just A Sister

Caroline Staples

Focus Editor

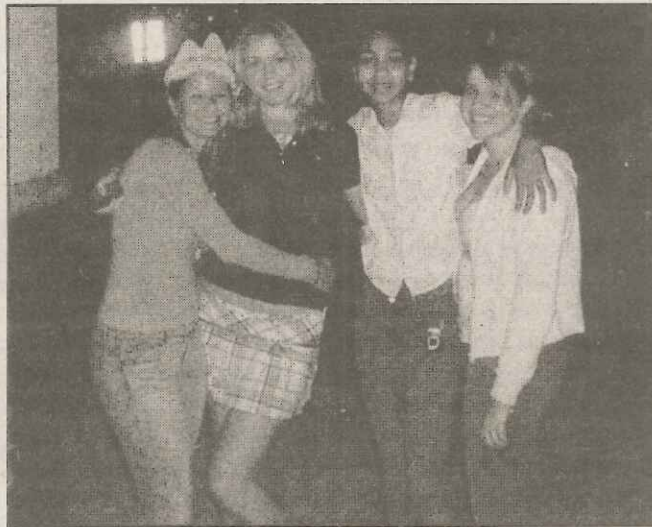
Katie Staples, my sister, unlike most people loves making strawberry smoothies for her family, eating cheese sticks, and standing about three feet away from the television yelling out the answers to questions on Jeopardy! before the contestants on the show can.

An average morning for Staples' is a bit sluggish. "I hit the snooze button four times and stumble to the shower." Then she travels to school in her 2004 blue Jeep Liberty. "I love it, I love it so much and it makes me feel gangsta ridin' round Waynewood, but it doesn't have any pick-up so don't ask me to race," said Staples.

Her meticulous schedule includes AP Spanish Language, AP Calculus AB, and AP Biology, which just happens to be her favorite class taught by teacher William Ferzoco. She upholds a GPA of 3.74 and although this may seem impressive, Social Studies teacher Bill Rhatican said, "She could be better." After applying to five colleges, she will attend the University of South Carolina Honors College next year with Academic Scholarship of \$16,000 a year. She was accepted for her prestigious math scores, but will probably change her study to engineering like her mother. Her boyfriend, senior Sergei Dubograev, who is going to a different college, said, "I will miss her, but in college it will be easy to drive and come visit her." Staples is also a member of NHS, Spanish Society, and has been a Girl Scout for the past thirteen years.

Every year of high school she has been a part of the newspaper, *The Wire*. For her first and second year on staff she was Focus Editor, third year she was Features

Editor, and this year she rose to the important position of Editor in Chief. Also, throughout high school, Staples was an athlete of the Track and Field team for seven seasons and went to districts all four years for pole vault. She is captain of the pole vault team alongside her father, Richard Staples, who is the pole vaulting coach. Two things she will miss about high school



Staples with her closest friends Laura Reiman, Marcia Hollingsworth, and Caitlin Spangler out having a good time together.

are her sister (me), and getting money from her dad.

Staples is not allowed to have a job throughout the school year, so during her off season of track she does not really have anything to do. Although she says she

does nothing, in fact she is quite busy with her group of friends, aka LiCKD' eM. This phrase makes up the first initial of each name of these five friends in order: Laura Reiman, Caitlin Spangler, Katie Staples, Diana Blazkiewicz, and Marica Hollingsworth. Staples and her "gang" have theme parties like Superbowl and Dance Dance Revolution parties. Senior Caitlin Spangler said the reason that she and Katie are best friends is because in the 5th grade they sat next to each other due to alphabetical order of last name. She also enjoys playing street hockey and football with students outside of school, hanging out in Old Town, fishing in the Potomac River, and

kayaking in Diana's pool. When asked what she enjoys most in life, Staples replied, "Living with Caroline Louise Staples."

Not only does she love living with me, but acting quite like a goofy person. Her past-times include quoting lines from the movie *Finding Nemo* and the tv shows *Andy Milonakis*. Her favorite and probably most used quote is "I'm the coupon!", which is popularly said between her and pole vaulting buddy, sophomore Caroline Beaudette, from *Mr. Milonakis*. Besides quoting lines from the crazed media, Staples loves cooking with Easybake. "If you give me a recipe, I can make it," said Staples.

At age 14, Staples rode horses at Justin Snowden Farm, now called "something" Farm, just off of Collingwood Road for a year. She has also been to seven different countries not including the USA. Since she was fifteen, she has traveled to Costa Rica, Germany, Austria, Wales, England, France, and Mexico. This could be one of the reasons for Staples' multiply outlandish voices which can be frequently heard at school, home, and sadly, out in the public.

When she leaves for college she will not only leave her mother and father lonely, but me as well. She, being my only sister, leaving me alone at home is a difficult thing to bear. And although it is sad to say good-bye as we send her out on her own, there is always that feeling of happiness; she will finally be out of my hair!



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