



Senior
Robin
Kinzer at
The Folger
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After the horror of the Littleton, Colorado murders, America has been left with images such as these: (left) an anti-gun rally was present outside the NRA's annual convention in downtown Denver, Colorado. (right) An anonymous child looks on as he mourns loved ones at the site of the bloody massacre, Columbine High.

Country Reacts to Columbine

Micah Schwartz
Wire Reporter

In the aftermath of the Littleton, Colorado killings, schools around the country have received threats of similar violence. Students and parents appear to be taking these threats seriously, and because of fear, schools have suffered an astronomical amount of school absences in the past two weeks.

West Potomac is one such school. Rumors were circulating around the halls of WP late last week that a "hit list" had been found on a school bus. It was said that the list called for violence to occur on Friday, April 30, the anniversary of Adolf Hitler's suicide.

In response to the rumors, Principal Ms. Carma Norman made an announcement Thursday afternoon that the administration had been informed of the rumors and were taking all necessary precautions.

Despite this assurance, scared students missed school on Friday in record numbers. Compared to the 75-100 students absent on the average day, up to 400 students missed school on Friday, according to the attendance office.

Schools throughout the county have suffered similar attendance problems. Gar-Field High School in Woodbridge was missing 1385 of their 2600 students last Friday due to vague rumors of violence to occur that very same day. Stonewall Jackson High School was missing 950 students. Fairfax High School even closed last

Thursday due to a bomb threat.

Threats of violence in schools has been a problem across the nation. The state of Pennsylvania had 60 bomb threats in one day alone last week.

Unfortunately, not all the threats are empty ones. In a Michigan a chemical bomb was thrown on a high school campus. In Alaska a middle school boy brought a .44-caliber magnum to class. In Texas, cops caught and arrested a group of boys in the process of planning a Columbine-like bomb attack on their middle school.

The violence at Columbine was not the first of its type. Similar occurrences, although with lower death tolls, occurred last year in Arkansas, Kentucky and Oregon. So why has this recent attack been copy-catted more than those in the past?

Experts have many answers. Most notably is the vast media coverage that the Littleton murders received. The two assailants at Columbine, Eric Harris, 18, and Dylan Klebold, 17, were social outcasts looking for attention. Attention which they received after killing 13 people. Students looking for similar recognition seem to be the ones making most of the recent threats.

Also, this most recent display of school violence, more than the three instances that occurred last year, has struck a nerve in parents and school administrators. Students realize this, and know that these threats will be taken seriously.

Then again, spring is a time for pranks, and many kids see the threats as little more than a joke. The weather is warm, and many kids are just looking for a reason to miss school.

Moran Addresses Young Democrats

Discussion Ranges from Kosovo to the Woodrow Wilson Bridge

Michael Wade
Wire Reporter

On Monday, April 19th, Congressman James P. Moran (D-8th District) addressed a group of West Potomac students, as well as teachers in the library. The event was sponsored by the Young Democrats, but was open to all members of the West Potomac community. Moran started off by making an opening statement and then taking questions from the audience. Some of the questions asked included the situation in Kosovo (Balkans), the Woodrow Wilson Bridge, problems in Russia, and Virginia's schools. Overall, he touched on various issues of importance, nationally and locally.

One of the most discussed topics was the current problems facing the United States in Kosovo. He started off by saying that he thought it would be immoral for our country not to get involved. When asked about sending ground troops into Kosovo, Moran said he supported the effort, but only if the military determined that it was absolutely necessary. One down side he saw regarding ground troops was that it might cause the crisis to escalate to even more dramatic proportions.

Moran also talked about the ongoing struggles in Russia. He basically thought that Russia was gradually becoming more of a threat to the U.S. Moran noted close parallels between the Russia of now and the former Weimar Republic of Germany in the 1930's. During most of the years of the Weimar Republic, the government was extremely unstable and had numerous problems. Moran also noted destitute, poor economical conditions

and pervasive corruption. These are the problems that are now preventing Russia from advancing and expanding in the world.

Another problem on all of our minds is the deteriorating Woodrow Wilson Bridge. Moran said that the goal is for the bridge to be built sometime within the next five years. One of the many problems is that Virginia Governor James Gilmore (R) is in opposition of using any federal money of the highway trust fund for the bridge. However, delaying the building of the bridge could result in four hour long morning and afternoon rush hours. One can clearly see why the



bridge is one of Moran's major interests.

At the conclusion of his presentation a majority of the people walked away more knowledgeable regarding very pivotal issues. English teacher Mr. Allan Johnson said, "I enjoy being around powerful people because they exude intelligence. It was wonderful for him to come visit our school." Moran also enjoyed the visit and said that he would come again anytime.

Blame all the Way Around Teen Peers Have Greatest Influence

Jameson Penn
Managing Editor

I wish I could understand where they are coming from. I have never had to endure relentless taunts and abusive actions by my peers. The times I have been teased, I blow it off and convince myself that in the end, who cared if my breath is bad today or I just tripped down the stairs. Did it make me a lesser person in the end?

In less than two months, I will leave high school behind for bigger, better things, or so my parents tell me. High school is conceivably, the most important rite of passage we will face. The teen years, they tell us, are awkward times. Everyone goes through similar problems, it is just some people are better at hiding them than others.

I guarantee that no one at this school goes home to a perfect household. Yet, come 7:25, we put on our best smiles and pretend that everything is peachy. Some people project the dysfunction they get at home on weaker peers in the form of initiations or hallway jokes. Yes, your reputation will be heightened, but look at its cost: unnecessary grief.

Eventually, that branch is going to

snap. Do you want to be underneath?

Picture this: someone goes all the way through school being a little different. Maybe they have a hygienic problem beyond their control. Maybe they talk about things the rest of us scoff at. After days of teasing, locker room beat-downs, and ostracism, that person may flip out. And after they do so, we sit around and wonder why?

Yes, most people can endure physical, verbal and emotional abuse constantly and go on their merry ways without ever picking people off from atop a bell tower. But, not everyone has such good fortune.

After four long years, I watch silently as people hurt one another. Most of the time, the victim doesn't even realize it. Subconsciously, they are adding that last taunt to the pile of fat jokes buried deep down. Because we cannot visibly see a problem does not mean it is not there.

Beware of others' feelings. Yes, it may top the list of clichéd advice, but it still rings true. The knee-jerk response to the massacre at Columbine High School was to blame the parents or the school system. But, it has been proven time and time again that the most influence on a teenager is peers.

School Shootings

Springfield, Oregon

May 21, 1998— Fifteen-year old boy opens fire killing one, injuring nineteen. His parents were later found dead in his home. Awaiting trial.

Fayetteville, Tennessee

May 19, 1998— Eighteen-year old opens fire in parking lot, kills one classmate. Awaiting trial.

Edinboro, Pennsylvania

April 24, 1998— Fourteen year-old shoots to death a teacher at an eighth-grade dance. Awaiting trial and will be tried as an adult.

Jonesboro, Arkansas

March 24, 1998— Eleven and thirteen-year old boys kill four girls and one pregnant teacher, injuring 10. Found guilty of capital murder but will be sentenced to juvenile detention until 21st birthday.

Pearl, Mississippi

October 1, 1998— Sixteen-year old stabs his mother to death, then goes to school and kills two, seven wounded. Convicted as an adult and is serving three life sentences.

West Paducah, Kentucky

December 1, 1997— Fourteen-year old opens fire on a school prayer group killing three, injuring five. Sentenced to life in prison with possibility of parole in 25 years.

Moses Lake, Washington

February 2, 1996— Fourteen-year old kills a teacher and two students, wounding one. Convicted and sentenced to two life sentences without parole.



Conquering Fear

Dear Editor,

*Cowards die many times before their deaths;
The valiant never taste of death but once.
Of all the wonders that I yet have heard,
It seems to me most strange that men should fear,
Seeing that death, a necessary end,
Will come when it will come.
Julius Caesar, 2.2.32-37*

Leave it to Shakespeare to provide the words my students need to hear and analyze as they seek perspective on the turmoil of the past three weeks. I watched them make sense of this passage and discuss it in terms of Littleton, Colorado and their own fears. The passage reinforced their understanding that risk is everywhere: in their homes, in their cars, at their after-school jobs, absolutely everywhere. With a little help from Shakespeare's Caesar, they wisely concluded that he who limits his life because he fears an untimely end will die a little every day; the fearful never allow themselves to taste life fully.

In the wake of the Columbine High massacre, I wanted to know how comfortable my own students were with the school environment and how they coped with society's influences and high school's "culture of casual cruelty," as one Washington Post article called it. With the lure of lengthy telephone chats, impersonal communication by internet and e-mail, suggestive song lyrics, graphic movies, and mind-numbing video games, I wondered how the teenagers I encounter every day manage to turn off outside noise. If interaction with peers is paramount, when do they find time to reflect, to listen only to their own quiet thoughts, to review their past actions or experiences and future plans? How do they contemplate whatever is troubling them with the purpose of making it inconsequential or, at

least, to give it a proper place in their lives?

I asked these questions of my wise and honest 10th graders. First, I offered that I take long walks, preferably in natural and uncluttered settings. Adam Willis volunteered that he plays his guitar or revisits one of his in-progress works of art. Greg Landrum swims every day. Leah Fredrickson runs to clear her head of daily nonsense. These three and a majority of my other students have found healthy ways to deal with life's stresses and annoyances: faithless friends, disappointing grades, games lost to an opposing team, boyfriend/girlfriend problems, a disagreement with parents, the expectations of teachers and coaches, a painful offhand comment from a classmate or teammate, and so on.

Students who can find this tranquil place within are able to move on with life. They will not allow themselves to be paralyzed by an accumulation of pain, and they do not act out inappropriately toward those who inflict pain. Those who cannot find a place or time or means to reflect may need intervention, and, sometimes, because of our objective stance, school personnel are able to recognize this need and facilitate intervention.

Members of West Potomac's administrative and teaching staff have assured students and parents that school is a safe place to be. We recognize that every school in the country, public or private, COULD BE vulnerable to an irrational attack like the one suffered by Columbine. No school can afford to be naive or unguarded. However - and this is a big however - no one connected with any school anywhere can allow fear to jeopardize the important work that goes on moment by moment in America's classrooms.

As we approach scheduled Advanced Placement and Standards of Learning testing, the West Potomac High School community needs to focus its reflections on academics. Students should be busy studying and reviewing in class and at home, with encouragement from parents and teachers. And we must remember that all of life is a leap of faith. I commend those "valiant" students who consistently trust the adults in charge of their safety at school

and the parents who have said to their children essentially, "Life goes on. Go to school. Think. Learn. Never let fear manipulate you."

Erin Brick
English Teacher

Teachers Steal Student Spaces

Dear Editor,

We've all heard the threatening morning announcements about parking and driving privileges at West Potomac by now. And many of us are fretting about what to do since there is no daily parking.

Worse yet, the rumor that annual parking passes may be revoked is another topic of interest. Though I don't believe there's much truth to that rumor, there is still rush for a parking space at this school preparing itself for renovations.

So, where do we, the students, go? Park in one of the many new faculty spaces? Um, I don't think so. If you want a \$25.00 ticket though, there's a place to go. That's an interesting suggestion though.

With all this debate over parking, we find several teachers parking in student lots; mainly by Springbank. This is mainly for convenience since it is a few meters maybe closer to their classroom.

True, students do have the option of public transportation. One still has to question. Though when half the new faculty spaces are empty, students are scrambling for spaces, and there's a punishment for parking in faculty spaces, what's going on here?

This is something to think about and will hopefully catch the eye rise an action in those who have the power to change this.

Name withheld by request

Letters To The Editor



The Washington Post's weather map's new look on the back of the Metro Page.

The New Washington Post The Toast of the Town or Just Plain Tacky?

Faye Rausch
Entertainment Editor

If you had the choice to watch TV in black and white or color, which would you choose? Now apply the same question to the joy of reading the newspaper, black and white or color?

Recently, you would have noticed that the Washington Post has changed its style, not only with colored pictures, but a smaller, thicker, and more manageable newspaper.

Some would most definitely disagree with me when I claim the newspaper to looking better and more appealing to its readers.

The Washington Post looking like an evolving USA Today, is definitely without the cheesy and distracting graphs and statistics, but all the same more interesting to look at with its large, tasteful, and attractive front page pictures.

Two of the most read pages of the Post, Front page and Sports have taken the colored pictures under their wing. Ads are also used to express the Posts colorful lay-out, and don't forget the weather section. It has great information printed on planet positions, detailed moon stages, and color coded local and national weather statistics. This makes it easier for the young and old to understand.

Picture quality is not the only thing that draws in the reader. Ads that are published are us-

ing more color, and more companies are buying their slots to be featured on the Post. This is good, for both drawing in its audience, and making a bigger profit for the Post. So far, no one has complained about the price. It's the same quarter per paper as it has always been. It would be a different story if the people at the Post increased the price, but this is not the case.

So now the third most read paper in the nation is in color, its on your doorstep, in color, even thicker, and the same great price. Are you complaining about it? Don't... change is good.

Kurt Gron and Kevin Mathews
Wire Reporters

Over the course of this school year some of the students here have noticed the changes in The Washington Post, arguably Washington's best newspaper. The changes made have turned this high class publication into something which resembles other newspaper which lack the class and prestige of the Post. The changes, which include smaller overall paper size, color pictures, and the weather page in a different spot are all changes for the worse.

Class is hard to come by. It is the difference from other newspapers which distinguished it from the rest of the Washington Papers; it is what made the Post instantly recognizable from all newspapers in Wash-

ington. With the advent of the color pictures, the post became another USA Today, Washington Times, or any one of a number of newspapers. It also loses the dignity of a newspaper who stayed black and white in an age of color.

The relocation of the weather page is another change for the worse. The idea is gleaned directly from the USA Today, whose weather page closely resembles that of the newfangled Post.

Kevin Howard, an English teacher at West Potomac, says, "Initially, I didn't like the changes, but I've come to accept and like them and even don't notice them anymore." His initial reaction was kept by many who have never come to accept the changes.

Another newspaper with very high prestige is The Wall Street Journal. It has no pictures on the front page, yet it still is one of the best financial newspapers in the nation. In a world of pictures and color, the Wall Street Journal has remained without both on their front page. The Post had the same prestige by not going making changes in an age of color. Being different is sometimes an advantage in a time where many people and things are followers and it is hard to remain different.

The changes made to The Washington Post are changes for the worst. An "ancient" proverb says that "the reputation of a 1000 years can be ruined in just one hour."

Do you feel the reaction to the Littleton shootings has been reasonable?

"In this time of tragedy we all need to be there for each other. And we need to take the proper precautions to prevent it from happening again."

Amy Robinson
11th Grade

"I don't think this could've happened at WP, with Cig and all his people keeping an eye out."

Mr. Westbay
Substitute

"Things like this only happen once in a blue moon, and we shouldn't be so overprotective."

Johnnyson Jones
12th Grade

"It's natural to be concerned but its wise to be sure you're dealing with facts."

Ms. Carma Norman
Principal

"I think the concern is justified, but the media is overpublicizing all incidents, adding to the frenzy."

Mr. Don Allen
Substitute

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.

Are Those Bugle Boy Genes You Are Wearing?

Does Genetic Engineering Promise Solutions or More Problems

Poonum Korpe
Visiting Writer

"Science by itself cannot supply us with an ethic. It can show us how to achieve a given end, and it may show us that some ends cannot be achieved." (Bertrand Russell). When it comes to human genetic engineering, it is better to approach with caution. This field has gotten a lot of attention because of the human genome project and since the cloning of the Scottish sheep. It may seem miraculous to create babies without hereditary diseases, but there is a price to pay. If further advances are made and the cloning of humans becomes common, our world will be drastically changed.

Considered the problem of population. If many diseases are eliminated and everyone lives long, full lives, and has a ton of healthy babies, there will be serious overpopulation problems. As cynical as it may sound, there is not enough room on this planet for everyone to have long, healthy lives. We are already cutting into rainforests and polluting fresh water sources, simply because there are so many of us. A larger population would need more land to live on, more natural resources to use, and would create more solid waste.

If it becomes possible, will people be allowed to use genetic engineering not only to eliminate diseases and disabilities, but also to choose personal attributes such as I.Q., gender, and appearance? If so, we might soon lose our diversity and respect for diversity. Is it not our differences that make us individuals, that make us who we are? Beethoven went deaf, but he still produced magnificent pieces of music. President Franklin D. Roosevelt was bound to a wheel-chair after getting polio, yet he helped the United States through the Great Depression. By supporting genetic engineering, we are, in a way, condoning an artificial perfection.

Genetic engineering could be used to clone replacement organs. But how would that work? Would there be rooms full of headless bodies waiting around in

It may seem miraculous to create babies without hereditary diseases, but there is a price to pay. If further advances are made and the cloning of humans becomes common, our world will be drastically changed.

case one day their genetic counterparts might need organs? Would this be humane or ethical? So many moral issues come with genetic engineering that we as a society would struggle to respond with laws and regulations which in the end would be futile and ineffective. After all, if the technology is available, people will do what they want.

If and when our individual genes are mapped out and become as much a part of our identity as a social security number or fingerprints, who will have access to this information? Would one's genes be a valid reason to accept or reject someone for employment? Would they be a valid reason to make someone pay higher insurance rates? What about for marriage? What if one couple can afford to genetically engineer their child while another cannot? Would it be fair that the genetically engineered child would be more suc-

cessful in life simply because he had "better genes," while the other child had to struggle through life because his parents could not afford the "better genes"? This could lead to a stratified society with little social mobility, where everyone is judged based on their purchased genes. One could argue that the rich are already at the top of our society, but today it is at least possible for people not born wealthy to gain affluence through hard work and accomplishments. In a society based on genetic engineering, this could not happen. We would no longer live in an equal society.

There was a period of time this century when people were persecuted for their genes, the Holocaust. Hitler wanted to create the perfect Aryan race, so he disposed of those who would "taint" the race. Hitler employed his own type of natural selection which led to the deaths of millions of innocent people. He wanted everyone to be the same, and wanted to eliminate the "bad genes." His goals were the goals of genetic engineering.

Again, if the technology is available, it will be used. People will clone themselves, their dead children, or



The cloned scottish sheep Dolly has produced healthy offspring.

even celebrities. Many would not understand that an exact genetic copy of another human being would not be same person with the same spirit and soul. If babies were cloned as replicas of others, what kind of lives would they have? They would be doomed to living in the shadow of the memory of a dead person. They would be held up to expectations based on another person's life. They would never really be able to discover themselves.

Genetic engineering is far from becoming a reality. At this point, it is still in the trial stage. In the experimental stage the process would surely not be flawless. As scientists try to perfect methods to clone human beings, outcomes will not always be as expected. These experiments could result in deformed babies. Is it really fair to toy with the live of these individuals, to treat them as the "guinea pigs" when the scientific community does not have experience in this field. It could be argued that with every new scientific advancement, the experts do not have a complete grasp of what is going on, but never before have we tried to recreate human beings through artificial methods. We are dealing with human lives this time. Genetic engineering has the potential to change the world as we know it. The question is: are we really ready for the change?

Leigh Guorke
Visiting Writer

Genetic Engineering has the potential to improve the world we know now, as well as the world of tomorrow. Right now, scientists are creating new ways to treat heart disease. They are developing new drugs using gene therapy and genetic engineering. Dr. Horan, formally of the Heart, Blood, and Drug Institute, believes that in the future, clogged arteries and other heart-related problems will be treated with medications rather than surgery. Not only will recovering from medication be easier than recovering from surgery, these treatments will cost the ailing patient less. Since 1958, heart disease has been one of the top three causes of death in America. We need to keep researching heart disease to try to combat this illness.

Consider a real-life family. A grandmother has phase-two diabetes. She has 27 grandchildren, two

Human Genetic Engineering is useful, practical, and in everyone's best interests. It will produce medical breakthroughs and help us feed the world.

of whom are born with phase two mutations. The grandmother passes away five years after her last grandchild is born. Her death is attributed to heart and respiratory problems caused by diabetes. Knowing that these diseases skip generations, the remaining grandchildren realize that they have a 75% chance of facing these problems as they grow older. Can you imagine living with that fear? They anticipate needing a shot of insulin and blood work every day, and then passing the disease down to their own grandchildren. Now imagine that doctors are working on a way, through genetic engineering, to eliminate diabetes from your family tree. This research is being done now, in the effort that those two grandchildren might one day lead normal lives, and that the remaining 25 can grow up without the fear of getting the disease and slowly and painfully deteriorating and dying.

Genetic engineering has applications beyond medicine. Scientists have been working on developing new type of rice which contains three times the amount of dietary iron as conventional rice. According to researchers, iron insufficiency ails more than 30% of the world's population. This rice will help a country with a poor economy feed its starving people.

Human Genetic Engineering is useful, practical, and in everyone's best interests. It will produce medical breakthroughs and help us feed the world. The society that we know will now change in many ways within 10 years. If we do not keep researching in this technological age, our society will fall apart before our eyes.

A Great Idea

The deli lunch line has proven to be an excellent idea. The food is cheap and good. The deli line ought to be continued after renovation.

Pregnant?



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JROTC Receives Highest Ranking in Recent Inspection

Phil Severson
Wire Reporter

West Potomac's JROTC program has recently completed their military inspection. This review, which occurs every three years, is their second such inspection since the program started.

Both times they received the highest possible ranking, Honor Unit With Distinction.

They are graded on several different categories which involve marching drills, a color guard review, general questions about ethics, and a uniform oversight.

The inspection was conducted by active duty Army officials from nearby Ft. Belvoir. West Potomac received a 96 percent, only four points off perfection. All members of JROTC were required to be there. Absences by participants would result in the loss of points.

The JROTC is headed by Major Russell Easter. This is Russell's first year here at WP, after replacing former head

Colonel Jesse Watson. He was happy with the groups performance. "I'm very proud of them," said Easter. "They rose to the level of the occasion." Under Easter's leadership, Colonel Watson's effort before him, West Potomac's JROTC

Of those who remain in the program for the entire four years, however, over sixty percent of them pursue some kind of military career.

program has increased each year. This year the program has reached a staggering 171 students, the highest thus far at WP.

The majority of those students are freshmen, and only one-fourth of them are upperclassmen. The rigorous demands of the program are re-

sponsible for this fallout. Of those who remain in the program for the entire four years, however, over sixty percent of them pursue some kind of military career.

Senior Nick Parker has recently been accepted to the Naval Academy, despite the fact that this is his first year in the program. Another Senior, Cadet Lt. Colonel Lakeshia Batista, has been in the program for all four years and is the highest ranking Cadet and the Battalion commander. During college she plans on participating in the ROTC and will seek to continue her military career following after college is over.

The success of the JROTC, Batista hopes, will bring more respect to the program. "Without the corps of cadets and staff, this inspection would not have been a success," she said. "Thank you very much to everyone who helped and to everyone who participated."

The success of the JROTC has been a tradition so far at West Potomac. Hopefully this trend will continue for years to come.



courtesy JROTC

JROTC students present the colors as their inspection.

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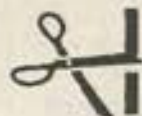
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News Briefs

Forensics Club Performs In Competition

The West Potomac Forensics Club has competed quite well in their competitive events this season. At the Northern Virginia Forensics League Tournament, West Potomac placed third out of all of the schools in Fairfax County. At the Regional Forensics Tournament held at West Springfield High School, West Potomac placed fourth out of all of the high schools in the region. West Potomac competed in numerous categories such as original oratory, dramatic duo, prose, poetry, and Shakespeare. Overall, there was tremendous participation throughout the team. Congratulations!

BCA Taking A Field Trip

On Saturday May 22nd, the Black Cultural Alliance (BCA) will be taking a field trip to Baltimore, MD. While they are there, they will visit the Black Wax Museum, ESPN Sportszone and going to the Harbor.

Deca Returns From Nationals on Top

Seniors Laura Zagby and Meghan Butasek returned this week from National DECA competition in Orlando, Florida with first place awards. They were joined on the trip, by DECA sponsor Ms. Tricia Wenzel, seniors Carrie Weaver, Micah Kauffman, Laura Cooney, Caitlin Stangel, and junior Ashley Patton. Butasek also received a one thousand dollar college scholarship during the competition.

Graduation Guest Announced

Senator Harkin To Speak To Class of '99

Mike Wade
Circulation Manager

At the beginning of each school year, the senior class officers sit down and decide on an individual to speak at Graduation. This year, the list included elite individuals such as, John Glenn, Jesse Jackson, Summer Sanders, Bill Clinton, and Tom Harkin. As one can imagine, acquiring a person like Bill Clinton to speak at Graduation would be a very unlikely event. This resulted in the list being cut down to more realistic candidates. Finally, after the committee cast their votes, the list was narrowed down to one speaker, United States Senator Tom Harkin.

Senator Harkin is the ranking Democrat from Iowa as well as the father of senior and SGA President Jenny Harkin. He has led an extremely successful political career in the United States Congress. First elected to the House in 1974, he served five consecutive terms before making a run for the Senate. He won his first Senate race in 1984 which was successfully followed by wins in 1990 and 1996. Harkin has been the only

Senator from Iowa to be elected to an unprecedented third term. He made a run at the Presidency in 1992 but dropped out after a fourth place finish in the New Hampshire Primary. Harkin then went on to support current President Bill Clinton in his run for the White House.

As of now, no one at West Potomac is quite sure what Harkin will touch on during his commencement speech. However, the outlook is definitely positive. Senior class sponsor Ms. Terri Stirk said, "We are looking forward to having a member of our own community speaking at this year's Graduation." The student body also appears to reflect



Ms. Stirk's thoughts. Senior Courtney Heffernan said, "I think Mr. Harkin speaking [at Graduation] will be a positive thing. As a result of his career, he gives numerous speeches and should do very well." So, with hopes high and the outlook good, this year's Graduation has all the right ingredients to be one of the best ever.

Community Group Turns to Students Opinion To Help Curb Alcohol Drinking

Sarah Ashton
Editor in Chief
Daniel Shaffner
Copy Editor

In the last three months, concerned parents and administrators have met four times with professional counselors to discuss the issue of teenage suicides in the immediate community. This group refers to itself as the Community Action Planning group. They are dedicated to working in three areas—prevention, intervention, and postvention—as a long term approach to the problem of teen suicide.

The group sees the problem of underage drinking as a significant contributor to teen suicide, and so the focus for much of these meetings has been on how to control under age drinking. West Potomac students, seniors Patrick Murphy, Johnny Lam, Sarah Ashton and Dan Shaffner, were invited to the meeting on March 19th to communicate ideas on how to reduce underage drinking in the community.

Underage drinking has always been a problem at West Potomac and other county schools

The CAP acknowledges the differences present in the student body and is looking for a way to solve the problem of teen drinking for all the students. PTSA President Dan Storck heads the group in looking for other activities for those students who feel there is nothing better to do on the weekends than to drink.

The seniors present at the meeting encouraged the parents and administrators to come up with different activities to present to the high school students. The students at the meeting agreed with the parents and administrators that there really were no other activities, aside from typical dances, athletic events and drama and choral productions during the school year, that brought students back to school on a Friday or Saturday night.

The students encouraged the teachers to look into ways of increasing the number and variety of school functions that would give the students something to do and some place to go. They said that in their sophomore year at West Potomac, the SGA attempted to hold informal dances after the football games. Unfortunately though, after their sophomore year, there were no dances.

Those dances, just like any other activity, created an out for students on the weekends. They were a place to go for students who had nothing to do, and prevented those students who attended from going to someone's house and consuming alcohol.

The importance of controlling underage drinking was not the only issue addressed by the group. Restricting student's access to alcohol was also addressed by intervention and the postvention sections of the group. One idea addressed by the group was to place posters inside windows of 7-elevens and other stores that students turned to to buy alcohol. The group felt that by doing this, it would let students know that the store is not interested in selling to minors, and would prevent them from getting alcohol. If these posters in fact are posted, the goal is to keep students out of these stores with intent of buying alcohol.

It has been made obvious to the students who attended the meeting, that the major focus of the intervention portion of the group seemed to be intervening in the cases of students who were abusing alcohol or other drugs.

At the meeting there were social workers who specialized in dealing with the young people and they felt that the group was working in the right direction.

Underage drinking has always been a problem at West Potomac and other county schools, however it was not until recent years that the devastating impact of alcohol abuse was really felt.

SOL Testing Bell Schedule

Block 1	7:25 - 8:45	80
Block 2	8:55 - 11:05	130

EXAM SCHEDULE BY PERIOD

Tuesday - May 11 "A" - 3, 1, 5, 7	Tuesday - May 18 "B" - 2, 6, 5, 4
Wednesday - May 12 "B" - 4, 2, 5, 6	Wednesday - May 19 "A" - 1, 5, 3, 7
Thursday - May 13 "A" - 1, 3, 5, 7	Thursday - May 20 "B" - 2, 4, 5, 6
Monday - May 17 "A" - 1, 7, 5, 3	

MAKE-UP SOL

Friday - May 21 "A" Period 1 English Science Period 3 Math Social Studies	Monday - May 24 "B" Period 2 Period 4
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Internet 2 May Be Coming to a Classroom Near You

Mark Andraschko
Online Editor

On February 24, 1999, from Union Station, surgeon Jerome Johnson assisted in a gallbladder removal in Columbus, Ohio via high speed video on

a new network known as Abilene. This network is named for a railroad built in Abilene, Kansas in the 1800s that proved vital for coast to coast transportation. Abilene, which operates at speeds up to 2.4 gigabytes per second (45,000 times as fast as a 56k modem), will be, in the words of Washington Post reporter Mark Leibovich, "a conduit for the nation's best ideas, experiments, and inventions" and is the backbone network of a project known as Internet 2.



Fresham Yosef Tekola explores the internet using the resources available at West Potomac library.

In October, 1996, a group of universities joined together in response to various internet problems, such as the lack of security, little graphics capabilities, high congestion, and low speed, and began working on Internet 2. The primary goal is to create a web that is 100 to 1,000 times faster than today's internet.

Other purposes are to bring researchers at universities and elsewhere together by allowing for better, easier exchange of information and to create dazzling new internet applications, someday allowing for things like

3D virtual meetings via "tele-immersion" and stereo-quality sound. These types of applications will later make their way to the world wide web.

Since its creation, Internet 2 has grown and now involves over 140 universities and companies including Yale, Harvard, University of Virginia, IBM, MCI, and

AT&T. The project's efforts are coordinated by the University Corporation for Advanced Internet Development (UCAID), which was established in September, 1997.

Internet 2 has cost its member universities over \$70 million per year and corporate members have contributed more than \$30 million. The project has also received a number of grants from the

Tidbytes

similar government project known as Next Generation Internet (NGI).

NGI and Internet 2 have many ties and are working together to ensure interoperability of the developing technologies. Just as Internet 2 will be deployed at universities, NGI will only be at federal agencies at first.

Eventually, Internet 2 will be open for everyone, but initially is just available to the member schools and companies. This is similar to what happened with the original internet, which started out in the '70s as a Defense Department research project but gradually became an enormous electronic network for the government and researchers and later the massive, uncontrolled, commercial venture that it is today. This will mean

a faster web with unlimited graphics and audio capabilities.

Stephen Wolff, who works for chief technology officer at Cisco Systems, said, "The needs of higher (education) are the needs of the consumer market in a few years. We want to be in a position of selling to those markets through the creation of next generation applications."

Wolff and others believe Internet 2 will eventually lead to an Internet 3 and Internet 4 with even higher speeds and capabilities. Not everyone views the project with such optimism, however.

Senators Conrad Burns, Ron Wyden and Ted Stevens, members of the Senate Telecommunications Committee, worry about rural representation in Internet 2 and NGI. Stevens's assistant called it a "situation of internet haves and have-nots."

"Internet 2 is a sham," said Alan Taffel, vice president of UUNET Technology, a major internet service provider in Fairfax, VA. "It's just another way for universities to use government funds to create their own private internet."

Good or bad, Internet 2 is already the go, with over 70 universities and search facilities to be connected Abilene by the end of the year.

Civil Air Patrol Helps to Build Futures For West Potomac Students

Paul Rukenbrod
News Editor

The Civil Air Patrol (CAP) gives students more than just an opportunity to fly. Several students who attend West Potomac are also members of the Civil Air Patrol.

The CAP is a program that serves as the official auxiliary of the United States Air Force. This means that the CAP provides help and support to the other branches of the Air Force.

The members from West Potomac are part of the Mt. Vernon squadron, which is part of the Capital Wing of the Middle East Region.

The group meets at Davidson Airfield every Thursday for about 3 hours, where they participate in flight simulations, perform physical training, and go on orientation flights in the squadron aircraft.

The Civil Air Patrol's cadet training program is an excellent introduction to the Air Force or any branch of the armed services.

The squadron is in charge of two aircraft and one van. The seven West Potomac students in the CAP are Master Sergeant Mike LaBarre, Staff Sergeants Brad Quesbarth and Devin Sperling, Technical Sergeants Erick Rechenback and George Cushman, Sergeant Tony Tucker, and Airman Craig Boylston.

Unlike most West Potomac students, most of these

guys know exactly what they want to do after high school: join the United States Air Force. Some are also interested in attending the Air Force Academy after high school graduation, such as junior Devin Sperling.

"CAP looks great on a resume for any of the academies", said Sperling. The Air Force Academy is a highly competitive institution that prepares its students for the Air Force. According to Sperling, the attraction for him to the Air Force is, "mainly the flying, air combat, and serving the country."

There are many duties to be fulfilled by the members of the CAP, the most important of which is the completion of search and rescue missions. The CAP is responsible for performing 86% of all the inland search and rescue missions in the United States. One of the most important things that the Cadets learn is Emergency Services Training, which they occasionally get to use in real life situations.

Their training includes land navigation, search techniques, Crash site security, radio operation, first aid, and L-PER operation.

The L-PER is a device in all aircraft that sends out a traceable signal if it crashes. The cadets learn how to receive these signals and then use them to locate a downed plane.

The CAP also is charged with the missions of Aerospace Education, and the Cadet Program.

The skills learned by the Cadets are put to the test frequently on weekend training missions. The Cadets on one occasion were driven to a wooded area with only their standard issue gear and some rations and



Juniors Devin Sperling, Mike LaBarre and Sophomore Eric Richenback at the Capital Flight Academy

told to find a downed airplane using the L-PER device.

These mock search and rescue missions teach the cadets what conditions in the field are really like and give them real world experience in camping and survival skills.

The Civil Air Patrol was created in 1941 to protect civilian aviation during World War II. CAP aircraft flew search and rescue missions, and patrolled the U.S. coast for Nazi U-Boats. During the war, the CAP saved or damaged 9 U-boats, despite the loss of 30 airplanes. Shortly after its formation, the CAP divided into 8 regions, and 52 wings, one for each state plus DC and Puerto Rico.

The Civil Air Patrol's cadet training program is an excellent introduction to the Air Force or any branch of the armed services for those who are interested in a career in the military. But it is also a great program for anyone who is interested in flying and would like to learn discipline and leadership skills.

After 40 Years.... It's Still A Barbie World

Alejandra Medina
Wire Reporter

Barbie Millicent Roberts has caused a lot of commotion since she showed up in toy stores everywhere in 1959. Not only have bands, such as Aqua, made songs about the Barbie doll, but cartoons such as the *Rockettes*, and clothes have been made to promote them as well.

Barbie recently turned 40, on March 9th, although by the looks of her she isn't a day over 19. In some ways, Barbie doesn't change, but in other ways she has changed a great deal over the years.

When Barbie first came out, she depicted women of the day, the 50's, conservative and elegant, and she was a simple doll to play with. Now Barbie is also a role model of fashion, and not just an ordinary plastic doll, although if an actual woman had her body, she would tip over. As a matter of fact there have been computerized tests run to see how a woman would look having Barbie's proportions, and it is naturally impossible for a woman to

have them. Well that is unless they pull a "Pamela Anderson." She would be 5'6" tall with a 39" bust line, an 18" waist and 33" hips.

Not only young girls, but even some teens, have fun playing with Barbies, dressing them up, combing their hair, and even acting out "plays" with them. Who said you couldn't make up your own soap opera?

While Barbie's look has changed for the better, her production quality has gone downhill. Not only does she now have huge joints that make her look as though she's got arthritis, but her once delicate feet have been turned into long, thick "clown shoe" feet. Her body shape has gotten a bit disturbing, and her head seems a bit weak and tends to fall off after about 3 months. Barbie's hair used to be shiny, and styled to perfection. Now you're lucky if her hair has been cut straight.

Along with Barbie's

new figure, she has also gotten some new family members. Skipper in 1964, Kelly 1995, Tutti and Todd (twins) 1966, and Stacie in 1962.

There are some friends Barbie has had that are memorable and yet oth-

(1963), Theresa, and Kira. One good friend, who Barbie has had throughout the years, is Ken, who came out with real hair in 1960.

In 1962 they went a little "cheap" and started to paint on Ken's hair.

Every year brings changes for Barbie, but also some new dolls, such as a new journalist Barbie, along with doctors, multicultural Barbie, lifeguards, basketball players, ice skaters, and so on.

Not only can you buy your Barbies at the store, but you can make your own Barbie!

Mattel has made an online site in which you can pick out the features you want Barbie to have. From hairstyle and color, to dress and accessories.

If you want to buy her, she'll cost you about \$40.00, but she's well worth it. This is surely taking Barbie to an ultimate level.

The only hope the Barbie players have left is for a Barbie "renovation." Perhaps by doing this, new generations of Barbie lovers can say that the quality gets better every year, and not say "They don't make 'em like they used to!"



You can now personalize and order your own Barbie online by visiting the web site www.B Barbie.com

ers have faded out through the years, like her first best friend Midge

Are You Getting Enough Sleep?

Elissa Milanowski
Feature Editor
Sarah Bieging
Copy Editor

Everyone knows that girls take longer to get ready for school, or other events in the morning. Ever wonder why? Many say it's because guys don't care how they look, and in many ways this is true. Girls find themselves waking up an hour early so they can take a long shower and still have time to do their make-up and hair. Boys roll out of bed ten minutes before they leave, throwing on a pair of jeans as they run out the door.

Sophomore Read Urban said, "It only takes me ten minutes to get ready each morning, some-

Losing only four hours of sleep in a single night can make a person's reactions 45 percent slower than normal.

times less."

However, whether you are male or female, chances are you don't get enough sleep. Studies show that teens need to have ten hours of sleep each night. Surveys have shown that the average high-school student gets eight hours of sleep, but our survey of one-hundred West Potomac students showed that the average student gets only 6.5 hours of sleep. The most common causes of lack of sleep for high school students are homework, sports, jobs, and other after school activities.

Losing sleep can be dangerous. Losing only four hours of sleep in a single night can make a person's reactions 45 percent slower than normal. When a person loses a large amount of sleep, they start to show symptoms of sleep loss, including itching or burning eyes, craving of foods high in fat and carbohydrates, or waves of fatigue. These symptoms can be dangerous, especially when the fatigued sufferer takes to the road.

Montgomery County Schools have recently implemented later school openings hoping to improve student's academic performance. It has been proven through numerous studies that high school students work better later in the day as opposed to early in the morning.

According to a study done at Brown University, there is a definite link between grades and sleep. Students who got 6 hours of sleep had a C or lower average, while those who had 7 or more hours of sleep had A and B averages. Junior Ibn Mustafa said, "I think school should start at 8:15 am, because people would be more attentive in class." An indication of the inadequate sleep West Potomac students are getting is the pictures on the wall in Mr. Joe Rose's classroom. The wall is covered with pictures of students who have been caught asleep in his class.

There are ways to prevent fatigue. Exercising in the morning and afternoon helps to create a regular sleep pattern as does eliminating daytime naps. Avoiding caffeine and alcohol is also important, as these substances disturb healthy sleep patterns. Until someone is able to come up with a solution for lack of sleep, high school students must continue to budget their time, and attempt to have sweet dreams.

Survey conducted by Erica Fonvielle and Kelly Mayer



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Sherry Sims, E.A.
Business Counselor

DIGITAL

No Wait, No Film, No Fuss...

New Cameras Create Crystal Clear Images

Mark Andraschko
On-Line Editor

For those who are tired of having to wait for their film to be developed to see how a picture turned out, digital cameras offer a quick alternative. One of the biggest benefits of digital cameras is the elimination of film. This saves both money and time. However, these savings may be offset by the cost of batteries, which some digital cameras guzzle like there is no tomorrow.

Cameras with LCD (liquid-crystal display) preview screens drain batteries even faster. To compensate for this, many cameras will turn the screen off after as little as two seconds if no picture is taken. The purpose of the LCD is to allow you to line up your shot more accurately. Many models also allow you to look at previous shots and delete those you do not want.

The heart of digital cameras is their electronic rather than chemical film storage. Memory cards are the most common type of storage systems and these can be removed and connected to ports on home computers. Other types of storage include standard floppy disks and a variety of direct cable connections.

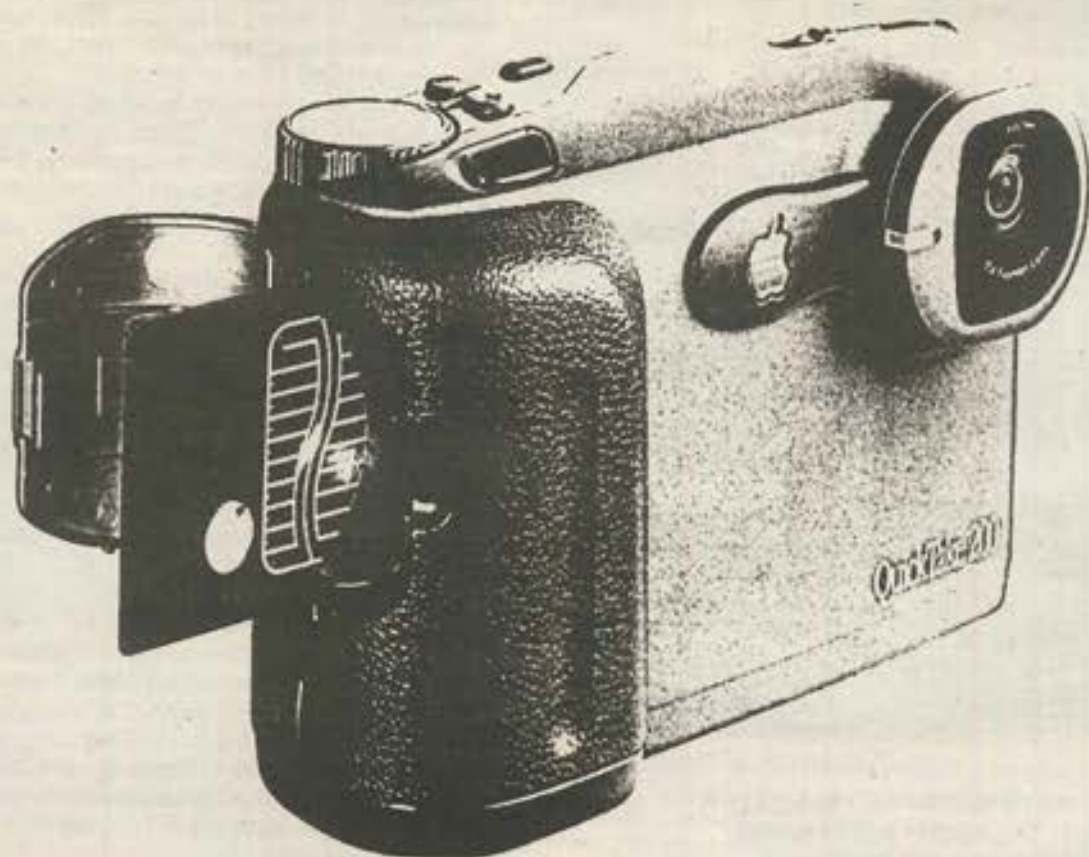
Many digital cameras allow for the compression of images. Compression increases available memory, allowing you to take and store more pictures, but only by trading off image quality.

The heart of digital cameras is their electronic film storage.

The main problem with digital cameras is the relatively poor picture quality, compared to regular film cameras. "Even a cheap film camera produces far higher quality images than a very expensive digital camera," according to Cary Lu, in *Digital Cameras: The New Generation*. For web pages or wallet-sized pictures, this clarity and detail is not necessary.

Another problem is the lack of the manual controls that allow you to adjust shutter speed, exposure, and focus, among other things. These are controls that nearly all standard cameras have.

While digital cameras are not as good as film cameras in some aspects, digital cameras will continue to improve in quality, size, memory, and other features, so film developers may want to begin considering a new line of work.



Apple Computer, Inc.

The Apple QuickTake 200 is the latest and most user friendly model of the digital camera, to date.

The electronic world is fast changing the way in which people communicate. For more information page for *WIRE* time and how

Richard Charlton
WIRE Reporter

Digital

It may be quite the greatest thing to happen to home video in the beginning. DVD stands for Versatile Disc, but is also known as Digital Video Disc.

Using DVD, film makers are able to put entire movies on a single side of a 4 and 3/4 inch discs, much the same as a regular CD. The sound quality of DVD is much better than a regular video tape makes for a much sharper, clear picture.

With DVD you have a lot more options when it comes to how video is watched. On DVD, movies are divided up into chapters that can be accessed like songs on a CD. Each movie usually has between 10 and 40 chapters. But when

Interesting Facts:

*Digital cameras were used on March 22 for the Oscars. The pictures were available almost instantly on the internet.

*DVD drives can also read CD-ROMs, audio CDs, CD-R, and CD-RW disks.

WORLD

wing and is increasingly influencing
ct their daily routines. This is an in-
ers of different technology out at this
will impact the future.

leo

ing the movie regularly, the DVD
plays from chapter to chapter with-
out any interruptions.

These "chapter stops" are a great
advantage because they allow the
viewer to quickly get to a point in
the movie that they want to watch,
or return to from a previous view-
ing.

DVD also allows the
viewer to customize their
viewing experience. By
pressing the "menu" but-
ton, the viewer is able
change the language and
subtitles, delete scenes, look be-
hind the scenes and view personal
interviews with the cast, and look
at biographies of the cast and crew.
These are just some of the features
that are accessible to the viewer.

In addition to this, the viewer is
also able to view scenes at multiple
angles. This feature is even newer
than DVD. It is only on selected
titles, but will be more widely used
in the near future.

Disc

* In the year 2008, all
television stations in the
United States will be
converted to HDTV.
They have been avail-
able to Japan since 1990
as NHK television.

Nintendo is Back With Emulation

Daniel Shaftner

Copy Editor

Game systems have come and gone. Ev-
eryone remembers the original Nintendo
and Sega systems, some people probably
have them stuck in their
closets somewhere. A new
craze has begun to sweep
the computer world, emula-
tion.

Emulation is the process
by which one computing
system can process like an-
other. In layman's terms,
with emulation programs, a
computer can perform like
an old Nintendo game sys-
tem.

On the internet it is pos-
sible for people to down-
load free copies of old
Nintendo, Sega,
Supernintendo, and
Gameboy games.

One only needs to go to
one of the dozens of internet
search engines, type in "emulation," and
hundreds of links with emulators and free
games will come up.

These games can be played on the com-
puter using the emulator program designed
for copying that particular game system.

"I enjoy playing the old games on my com-
puter because the screen is better on my com-
puter and I don't have to set up my old sys-
tem," said sophomore
Jared DeBlander.



This new internet
craze has sparked a
new debate on piracy
laws in connection
with the internet. Most
of the sites that offer
copies of the games
have waivers that a
person must agree to in
order to download the
game.

However manufac-
turers of the game sys-
tems do not condone
the free release of their
games and the ability
to play them.

On one internet site,
a person can download
an emulator for the new Nintendo 64 system
and a copy of a couple games and save a hun-
dreds of dollars. Because of privacy, game
prices go up so that the software companies
can pay for the production costs of making the
games.

Theatrical screen in your living room...

HDTV is What's Next in Television

by Rebecca Griffith

WIRE reporter

An acronym for high-definition tele-
vision, HDTV is the next big thing in
home entertainment.

In August, Panasonic introduced the
first models to the people of San Di-
ego, California. More than 10,000
people showed up the first day alone
to see this amazing new breakthrough
in American technology.

Why is HDTV such a rave? An
HDTV signal holds 1,080 horizontal
lines and 1,920 vertical lines- three
times what your average television set
has. This creates a picture as vivid as
the ones in the movies.

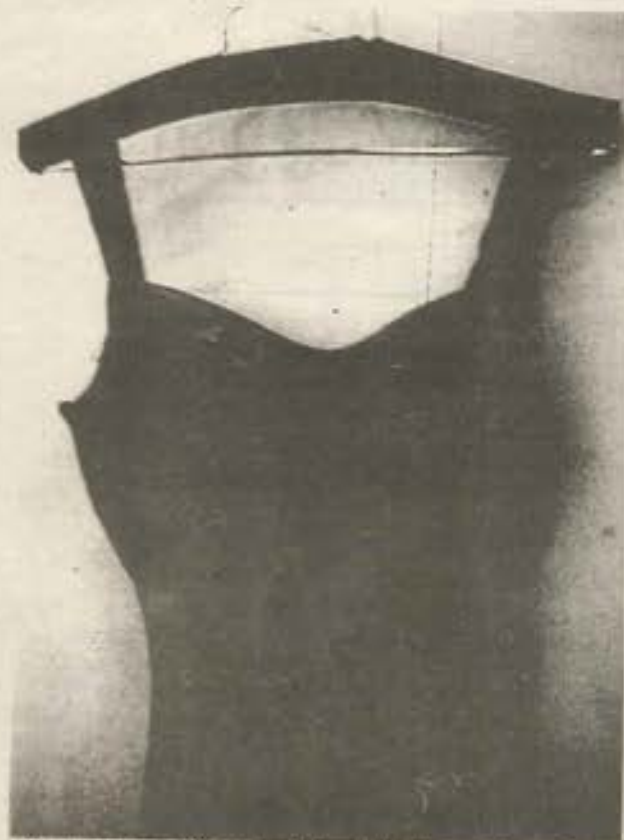
The screens on these sets can be as
long as 64 inches, which, in compari-
son, is the size of your average teen-
ager.

Is there a reason not to buy an HDTV?
Well money can be a problem. The
cheapest HDTV set, which Panasonic
introduced, is \$5,499. Sony's model
goes for \$8,999.

Presently Companies are scheming
to come up with a 64-inch screen for
only \$7,995. These companies include
Zenith, RCA, Samsung, and Sanyo.

Getting Ready For Prom 99

Get the inside scoop of how to coordinate your way to a perfect night



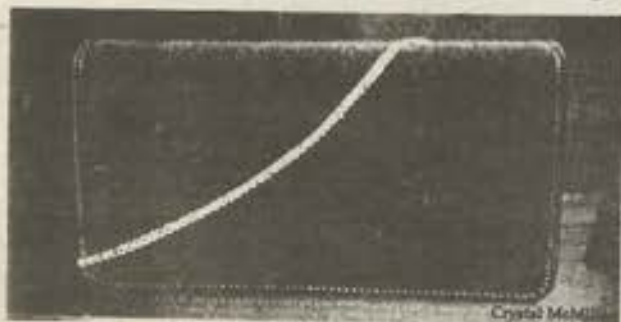
This dress shows off a cowl neckline. This dress can be purchased at Ellie. Cowl necklines are popular this season and will be seen throughout many stores.

Crystal McMillan
Wire Reporter

Get ready to Party like it's 1999! This year's Junior/Senior Prom will be held Saturday, June 12th at the Crystal City Hilton. Here's the scoop on the hot new trends this season.

The new romance is not about gushing, but built on clean lines and soft shaping. It could be as little as extra fabric dipping down to add that special look. Even though vibrant colors are back, pink is everywhere.

Starting with your hair. You can choose to wear your hair up, down, or half up. Girls with short necks should stick to stud earrings when putting hair up. If you choose to dress up your do with hair clips,



This stunning bag is the perfect size to carry necessary accessories. It can be purchased at Nordstrom's or other major department stores.

make sure that you do not over do everything else around the face. "Showing off a great neck will turn heads." In Style April 1999 If you have long hair and choose to wear it down, accessorize with studs. Short hair is sportier, therefore it does not need as much

dazzle.

There are many different necklines that add character to any dress. A few are strapless, plunging v, bateau, and halter.

With a strapless dress, the focus is the neckline. Therefore, to keep the focus on the face with out overdoing it, diamond or pearl studs would be the way to go.

A dress with a plunging neckline is all about cleavage. So one option is not wearing a necklace, or wearing a choker. When wearing a dress with a bateau neckline, the concentration should be on the ears.

Cluster earrings work well with this type of dress. On to the halter neckline which is also a high neck dress. In this case you need to wear earrings only. There is no way that you can wear a necklace with a halter dress. All that a necklace would do in this case, would divert ones eyes to your necklace and away from the dress.



Crystal McMillan

This dress found at Norstrom's, gives a plain appearance that can then be livened up with any accessories one pleases. A matching scarf around the neck or the dress is just one of the many possibilities that can be used to complement the simple style of the outfit.



Crystal McMillan

This blossomed rose bag, a spring attire, is a great accent to liven



Crystal McMillan

Open toe shoes are the style for the summer and spring. Wearing the right pair can make or break the figure of ones dress. Keep in mind that you will be spending all night in these shoes so make sure you find ones that fit the dress and are comfortable.



Crystal McMillan

This beaded necklace adds dazzle to any occasion. Especially with a low neckline dress. This necklace can be purchased at Nordstrom's or any major department store.

Intel Introduces Pentium III

Eric Lautenschlager
On-Line Editor

Now that the technology has become better, computer chip makers are able to make chips which are faster than ever. Intel, the leading manufacturer, introduced the Pentium III (Katmai) process only a few weeks ago. This new chip is the greatest addition to the Pentium family, and the most significant extension of the x86 architecture (design of the chip) since Intel stretched it from 16 bits to 32 bits in 1985. Even so, this chip is not the end of the speed increases. In mid 2000 Intel plans to introduce the Merced chip which will further boost the speed of computers. The Merced chip will be the first of the IA-64 architecture. The greatest difference between the x86 architecture and the IA-64 architecture is that x86 chips are made with 32 bits, and the IA-64 chip is made with 64 bits.

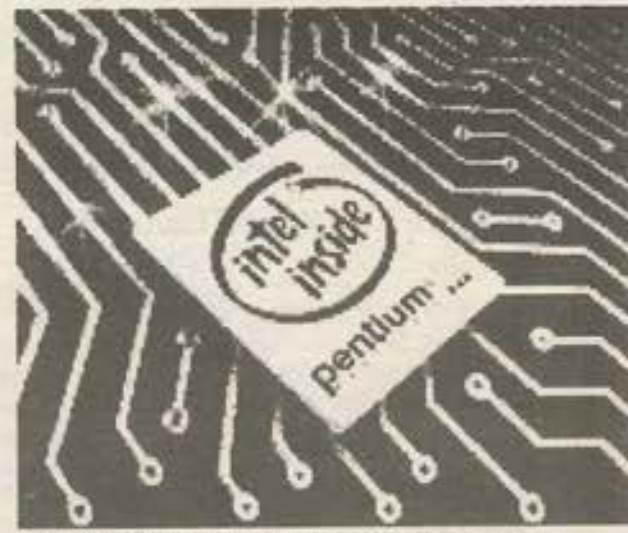
"Merced and the IA-64 [architecture] will extend our reach in terms of performance," said John Miner, vice president and general manager of the Intel Enterprise Server Group in a interview with Computer Reseller News.

McKinley, the second of the IA-64 bit architecture will be introduced in late 2001, offering twice the performance of Merced, and maker hope it will break the 1GHz mark. When this chip is introduced, it means that computer speeds will have become more than 10 times faster in the last 10 years. According to CRN magazine, chip speeds will double in the next 4 years. The McKinley chip will feature a super set of the Merced bus, with enhanced bandwidth. Although the Merced and McKinley chips are designed mainly for Workstations and Servers, they show just another step in the acceleration of the computer speeds on the market.

Along the line of home PC's, Intel also plans to in-

troduce the Coppermine chip which will be the same as the Pentium III chip adding a level 2 cache, and will later introduce the the Cascades chip which will feature a 133MHz bus. Bus, also referred to as the System Bus, transmits information between the CPU, cache, and RAM. This chip is planned to clock speeds as high as 667MHz this year, and 733 by next year. This chip will use the new 0.18-micron process to improve on the new Pentium III processor. In late 2000 Intel will introduce the Willamette chip which will be manufactured in the same 0.18-micron as it's predecessors, but it's design will give it higher clock speeds which will break the 1GHz barrier. These chips will also use the Level 2 cache, which are four times faster than today's Slot 2 processors. Cache, a small but very fast memory used to store frequently used data or instructions. When the computer opens a file multiple times, the processor looks into the the cache rather than reloading it from it's source. There are many things that limit the speeds that computers can reach. The main limitation is temperature. Many companies have tested designs on ways to keep the chips cool, but the only way to make computers faster by either making the computer much larger or much more expensive. There have been tests where a computer was hooked up to a refrigerator, and this computer reached much faster speeds than ever recorded, the only problem with this is that most people do not want a refrigerator sitting next to their computer, and the prices would be much more than they presently are.

Many ask the question of whether or not this will be Intel's last x86 processor. This will depend on how the IA-64 chips. Even so, if Intel does decide to switch to the IA-64 chip design, it's competitors will most likely keep it on the market. The main problem faced by Intel with the IA-64 chip is making it compatible with programs made for the x86 processors. The solution to this problem is building decoders into the IA-64 chips. Although the IA-64 chips will be far faster



Intel introduced the Pentium Processor in late February

than the x86 chips, it will be nowhere as fast as a x86 chip running a chip designed for it. This problem faced by Intel is much like the problem faced by Apple in 1994. When Apple switched from the 680x0 series computers to the Power PC chips, they had to find a way to distinguish the code. Many people thought that they would never be able to get the Power PC's to read the old code, but surprisingly enough, it works. And although the emulation of the x86 chip to the IA-64 chip is more complicated than Apples, the biggest gamble made by Intel is not that of the emulation, but that of whether or not the IA-64 chip will be successful enough.

Although Intel is the largest chip manufacturer, it is not the only one making these fast chips. According to Computer World Magazine, AMD will be introducing the K7 chip in June. Chips like the K7 chip, will be the biggest competition for Intel, although they will not introduce the IA-64 chips like Intel will be doing. Intel is hoping that with the new chips on the market reinforced by and already dominant market position will make them top chip manufacturer on the market.

Old Skool Shoes Comeback

John Temple
Wire Reporter

Isn't it funny how history repeats itself. All of a sudden, old school shoes have hit mainstream fashion. Students are getting tired of the new, high tech, super-sophisticated, air-filled, mini fortunes on their feet. It is time to tone down your sneakers to the styles of the 80's. People almost scream when you mention the 80's, but when you think about the shoes, they're rad.

The New Balance 1900 will cost you 160 dollars, while a pair of Nike Air Force 1 will cost you a whopping \$60. Not only are the styles of modern shoes getting out hand; so are the prices.

Adidas, New Balance, Nike, Puma, Saucony and Reebok have all returned to some old styles. Saucony Jazz come in navy blue, black gray suede(\$10 dollars extra) and a very bright red. They



Adidas shoes are popular amongst students

can be seen in the front window of The Athletes Foot. These awesome shoes will only cost you \$40. Nike's Air Force 1 are 59.99 at The Athletes Foot. Reebok also has the Turbos which are the same price. The Nike's are hi-tops with a nifty strap on the top to help you with your shoelaces. You may prefer the Nike Cortez for \$49.99 at Sports Zone at Springfield Mall. The popular Adidas Shell Toe has been selling extremely well at \$59.99, anywhere at Springfield Mall. Senior Shannon Petrillo, who purchased a pair of Adidas Shell Toes said, "I prefer the classic look with shoes. I think

old school shoes are here to stay." So now you know the cost and the places to buy these wonderful shoes. Throw out your nice little leather shoes and get a shiney pair of Saucony.

Senior Costs: They All Add Up

Carrie Weaver
Focus Editor

The seemingly carefree life of seniors does not come without cost. True, they have trudged through thirteen long, hard years of school. And yes, many have had to make sacrifices for friends and family. But quite literally, senior year is expensive.

The average senior applies to six colleges or universities. With an average fee of \$40 per application, this racks up a tab of \$240. Initial fees for SAT's average \$25. Scores are sent to four colleges, but each additional score report costs about \$7. High school transcripts cost \$4 each for five or more. Thus, applying to colleges alone spends around \$290.

In addition, senior fees begin at \$45 and increase as the year goes on. This money pays for a cap and gown, graduation announcements and invitations. At the end of the year, seniors have the opportunity to attend the senior cruise, the all-night graduation celebration. This costs about \$30, not including the t-shirt displaying the cruise logo.

Most seniors opt to purchase not only senior pictures but cap and gown pic-

tures as well. Senior pictures range from \$80 to \$200. Cap and gown pictures taken at the end of the year run about the same price range.

Then there are the extraneous events that occur throughout the year. The senior picnic, the class dinner and the class picture all add up to about \$25. Homecoming, prom and beach week also cost a pretty penny. With the purchase of a dress or suit, the ticket and dinner, homecoming can run up to

Homecoming, prom and beach week also cost a pretty penny.

\$100, and prom over \$200.

Some seniors celebrate graduation by renting a beach house the week after graduation, known as "beach week." Prices for this also range depending on location, number of people and the size of the house. Gas, food and lodging included, this ends up costing about \$300.

So here is the grand total... (drum roll please)... \$1270.

Only Twelve More Days Left Until "The Phantom Menace"

Upcoming May 19 release excites Star Wars fans anticipating the long-awaited prequel

Brooke Lombardi
Business Manager

A long time ago, in theaters not so far away, moviegoers worldwide were enchanted by the Star Wars Trilogy. Later this month, a new generation will experience it all over again with the release of the first prequel, the *Phantom Menace*.

The world's infatuation with such classic characters as Princess Leia Organa, Han Solo, Luke Skywalker, Darth Vader, Yoda, and Jabba the Hut has been strong since its release in 1977. In fact, when France defeated Brazil in the 1998 World Cup, the loudspeakers blared out the theme from "Star Wars" rather than "La Marseillaise."

On May 17, the Star Wars prequel will appear in theaters across the country. The producers of Star Wars, decided to release the film on a Wednesday, knowing that lines would be ridiculously long if they were to release it on a Friday. Senior Ferben Yazigcoulu commented, "I expect it to be an instant box office hit and make more money than any movie in history."

The *Phantom Menace* was directed by Star Wars creator, George Lucas, who plans to create two more prequels. As usual, the director went to great lengths to film the movie, by filming in such locations as Italy, Tunisia, and England. He went to equally great lengths to keep the movie secret.

For months rumors have been about on the Internet about what happens in the prequel. But, fans are now just beginning to learn the true details as the media blitz of articles, magazine covers, and interviews begins to reveal what fans have been waiting so long to find out about.

Two weeks ago *Time* featured Star Wars on its cover. *Premiere*, the film magazine, had four different covers this month. Even *Vanity Fair* had one of the stars Natalie Portman on its May cover.

Lucas also was very exact about the theaters his new film could be shown. The theaters could only show so many previews before his film, it has to be shown on the largest screens in the theater and it must be equipped with digital sound.

The original Star Wars films, *A New Hope*, *The Empire Strikes Back*, and the *Return of the Jedi*, left audiences in suspense over the truth about the villain, Darth Vader. Vader, who was discovered to be the father of heroes, Princess Leia and Luke



A scene from the much anticipated Episode One of the Star Wars series

LucasFilm

Skywalker, had once been a Jedi knight who fought for Good.

The mystery of Vader's youth and downfall will be explored in the prequel, when Vader, is a nine year old boy named Anakin, knowing nothing of his dark destiny. Yazigcoulu noted, "Ever since I was a little kid I have lived the fantasy of Star Wars. I am anxiously awaiting the *Phantom Menace* to be released."

Among those starring in the film are Natalie Portman, who plays a young queen, Jake Lloyd, who plays the young Anakin, Samuel L. Jackson, who plays a Jedi master named Mace Windsor, Ewan McGregor, who plays Obi-Wan, and Frank Oz, who returns to provide the voice of 900 year old Jedi master, Yoda.

Star Wars fans worldwide are anxiously awaiting another saga of light sabers, droids, adventure, and of course, the force. Senior Elizabeth Allen explained, "My older brother told me that I had to go see it because it is an opportunity of a lifetime."

Additional Reporting by Nick Slater

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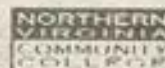
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Simon Says: Get a 'Jump Start' On Their New Album

Meghan Deaver
Features Editor

You might have recognized their name from the soundtrack of Varsity Blues, with their song, "Ship Jumper". Their name is a childhood game and their debut album, "Jump Start" is out now. The 12 tracks of this CD prove that these four guys are ahead of their time.

Calling Sacramento home, Matt Franks (vocals), Zac Diebels (guitar), Michael Arrieta (bass), and Mike Johnston (drums), have been playing together for the past five years.

Being extremely young, (their ages range between 19-22), they share many amusing common interests: major fetish for tennis shoes, appreciation for aggro-melodic music, the enjoyment of Calvin Klein underwear, and the strong belief that "friendships are the best foundation for cohesive song writing."

Simon Says first formed in 1993. Diebels, Johnston, and Franks met while they were juniors in high school. Diebels graduated from Bella Vista and Johnston and Franks graduated from Del Campo. Arrieta is from El Dorado County and graduated from Oakridge High.

College is in the life of these guys as well as making music. Johnston is a music major at American River College; Diebels is a government major at California State University, Sacramento; and Arrieta attends Cosumnes River College, leaning toward majoring in computer science.

The band did not really make much progress until a couple years later when Mike Arrieta joined them on the bass. Al-

ready having two D.I.Y. albums; the 1995 "Little Boy", which sold over 5,000 copies and the 1997 "Perfect Example", which sold out its limited edition run; the band has a regional fan base. To make "Jump Start," the band signed with Hollywood Records, and was produced by Rob Cavallo (known for his work with Green Day and the Goo Goo Dolls) along with Mark Needham from Cake.

Their new album however has its own sound, which is a mix of styles well-known today and the bands own emotional tastes. "Nucleus" and "Trip Wire" are two tracks on the album that seem to remind listeners of hardcore punks who have sort of, well, psyched out. With drowning voices, wailing guitar cords, and occasional incoherent screaming, Simon Says' songs sound of a mix of the hardcore bands Korn and Deaftones blended with some Rage Against the Machine, Creed, and punk rock vibes. Catching and questionable openings of tracks, "Sever" and "Perfect Example", lead with sounds of oblivion of dazing dream warps resembling the band Tool. Other openings include shocking guitar cliff

hangers that drag the screeching of cords making listeners wait for the beat to actually start (...still don't get cliff hangers?...think of the band Elastica.)

As for the lyrics, they simply revolve around the theme of

show toward one another's creativity is a key factor in the composing of the music. Each musician in the group has a equal share in the bands original compositions. Each musician will write his instruments music for each song. Lyrics are

generally in the hands of Franks, who says, "The guys, as well as myself, feel that I cannot sing as emotionally about something I did not write."

Don't expect the members of Simon Says to be "artists", "We're energetic kids. We want bubble gum and soda," says Diebels.

With this no B.S. attitude, the guys seem not so materialistic. Franks believes that their work, "is in pursuit of the dream of making a living doing what they love."

"I don't have to be as big as Pearl Jam or Michael Jackson or Madonna," Franks added. They don't need, "lots of lights and stuff, we just jump around and feel the music...Hey, we'll be jumping around even if we're just playing for a bartender and nobody else," said Franks of the bands performances.

What also gives a sense of focus to their energy is the fact that none of the members, "Smoke or do any drugs," said Diebels, "We've seen it affect too many other musicians in a

negative way." Yet some of the sensitive side of them can be found in the hidden lyrics of "On My Way" and "Act One," which somewhat whine about finding the better side of the bad. (Picture a very youthful Everclear).

Simon Says, already touring, has posted dates for their 1999 High School Tour and ESPN shows. "We're playing music that makes people's ears bleed, and the end of the night they give us money for it," says Johnston. However, their High school Tour is free. The Tour is just what it sounds like. Simon Says has already played at high schools in Sacramento, during lunches.

"The high school performances are important because they are a chance to give potential club patrons and compact disc buyers," a little taste for free," said Johnston.

Simon Says' members, still part of a struggling local band, keep jobs and accept support from parents and other family members in order to pay their bills and expenses. Johnston teaches at Drum and Guitar City on Folsom Boulevard and Franks works at a warehouse at the Federated Logistics Distribution Center in West Sacramento.

Hopefully, "Jump Start" will introduce people nationwide to this new sound that Simon Says has created. ESPN shows were held on May 1&2 in Baltimore at the Pier 6 Pavilion will be held tomorrow night, May 8, in Richmond, at the Federal Revenue Building.

To check out their web site and judge for yourself what you think they are all about, get yourself connected at www.thesays.com.



A cheesy photo of what appears to be nothing more than another teeny-bopper boy band.

the record which, says Franks, "Is deal with your problems and move on. Even when things are a bit intense-and we get pretty pissed off at times-we try to keep looking ahead." Such tracks as "Ship Jumper" that shout, "Go and find your own life.", and the track "On My Way," which Franks says is, "specifically about going back to an old neighborhood... and making amends to old friends, dealing with old regrets, and making and moving on with life," reflect the message.

The respect that the members

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Kinzer Attends Folger Theatre High School Fellowship

Robin Kinzer
Visiting Writer

When I walked in to the room, I was instantly at ease. One doesn't usually think of high-backed velvet chairs and antique tables as comforting, but there were smiling teenagers draped all across the furniture. I had just entered the Folger Shakespeare Theatre and Library, which would be a home of sorts to me in the next few months. These

First Person

energetic people were the family that came along with it.

I was one of sixteen high scholars selected to take part in the Folger Shakespeare Theatre High School Fellowship this year. That's a long and weighty label for three of the most intense and educational months of my life. We came together two or three times a week. We studied Hamlet and several other plays extensively. We went to performances, read essays, wrote essays, took classes in voice and stage combat, saw gorgeous scenery in the back stages of two of the city's most fabulous theaters. We analyzed, satirized and picked apart the texts. For three months, we were obsessed.

One of the most exciting things about

the program was just how close we were to the source. Looking up from the pages of a book, I might find the author sitting across from me, ready to teach one of our lessons. An hour after seeing an amazing performance, we might be lounging around a table, having tea with the actors. At times, it was nothing less than awe-inspiring. We leafed delicately through copies of plays hundreds of years old and sat side by side with some of the most exalted scholars alive. We debated strange theories of theme for hours on end and kept laughing the entire time. I was a non-stop process that intertwined knowledge with joy.

I've always loved Shakespeare; that pretty much goes without saying, but I was never sure to what extent that love would reach. It makes me sad that high school students are forced to read Julius Caesar and end up hating Shakespeare, instead of being given the chance to appreciate him. My three months at the Folger showed me just how much there was to learn. We penetrated the pages, of the text so deeply that my head spun with the pos-

sibilities. My entire outlook changed. My appreciation of Shakespeare transformed from abstract love to passion.

Those sixteen teenagers are some of the most enthusiastic and intelligent people that I have ever met. The chance to be with them, as a unit, and to share

so many exciting experiences with them is something that I will never forget. I wish everyone in high school could have a chance like that. A chance to discover what education is really about—and to take it into your own hands.



Kinzer's final project for her fellowship: an interpretation of a Shakesperian character, Cleopatra. On the left is a Classical approach; to the right is Cleopatra, modernized.

Oprah vs. Jerry: Whose Corner Are You In?

Sasha Cannon
Sports Editor

If you've heard anyone talking about their favorite talk shows lately, two names probably dominated the discussion. Jerry and Oprah.

With the top two ratings for talk shows, this down-to-earth woman is running a close-second to this spontaneous man.

Oprah, with her motivational-gone-saintly episodes, has been around for quite a while and has outdone the best of them until now. With her "I aim to heal," complex, Oprah has come quite a way in a world less entertained by good doers.

Jerry, on the other hand,

with his "Don't throw the chairs!" attitude, and his big poster-boy-for-steroids security guards, has produced what is now known as the most entertaining talk show in

and strong, extreme opinions. Jerry keeps his ratings through obscure yet strangely amusing violence involving peculiar love triangles and freakish rivalries.

On the other hand, Oprah keeps her audience by helping others and simple niceness.

Through these two popular talk shows, America's vast personality differences are displayed to the rest of the world. Imagine what others think. Suppose some people are visiting here from another country and decide to grab a quick cultural experience by watching the number one talk show in America. So, they look through the TV guide and turn on Jerry Springer. Maybe our English isn't as good as we thought, they say, when a scene that is ever so similar to Twister shows up. The two chairs flying across the screen must have thrown them off. But seconds later, they are reassured that their language

lessons paid off when, in the background, a crowd starts chanting, "Jerry! Jerry!" The number one representation of the problems in America, all featured in episode after epi-

to heal oneself is to beat that betraying person with an inanimate object until he or she reaches a comatose state. Jerry's simple violence is little like a talk show, but more like a celebrity death match.

In the past, whoever didn't like Oprah with her sugar, spice and everything nice, turned to "trash" hosts, such as Geraldo (long gone), Donahue (couldn't keep up) and Sally (who hasn't been the same since she dropped Jesse Raphael). Thus, came the underdog, Jerry. He's the guy who thinks the healthy way to get rid of anger is to get it off your chest... and on to that backstabbing cheater of a husband who left you for

your mom. A sick way to relieve unresolved anger?

Ahh... let the healing begin.



Oprah in her big-hair days



Springer in typical form

sode of chair slinging, fist swinging excitement.

So, there are the options. Some think that healing comes from within, and others seem to have found that the best way