



Dixie Chicks
Going Places

Area Voters Face Tough Decisions November 2nd

Michael Wade
Business Manager

Once again, on November 2nd, area voters will head to the polls to elect our local officials. While we may have to wait until the year 2000 for a Presidential, U.S. Senatorial, or U.S. Congressional race, this year's races are nonetheless important. When local residents cast their ballots this fall, a new Virginia State Senator, Virginia State Delegate and Fairfax County School Board members will have been chosen to represent us.

The three major races shaping up in the Mt. Vernon district are the 36th district state senatorial race with Linda "Toddy" Puller(D) vs. Dan Rinzel(R), the 44th district House of Delegates seat with Kris Amundson(D) vs. Scott Klein(R) and the Fairfax County Board of Education Mt. Vernon district seat with Isis Castro vs. Sharon Baroncelli.

Puller is running for the 36th state senate vacated by popular long serving member Joseph Gartlan(D) and Amundson is seeking election for Puller's 44th district House seat.

While the candidates running for their respective seats may seem very similar, there are in fact several noticeable differences. First, a look at the 36th state senate seat. Puller has stepped forward and stated that public education is her primary concern. She has said that the future of public education should not be put in the wrong hands. Next on her list is the on going transportation struggles that greatly impact the Mt. Vernon area, besides Quander Road at 7:15 AM on a weekday. It is her opinion that Governor James Gilmore (R) has not properly addressed the transportation issues of northern Virginia. Puller, who served on the House Transportation Committee since 1994, has promised to work hard to correct the current traffic problems. On the other side, republican challenger Dan Rinzel feels that Gilmore's transportation plan will solve the problem more efficiently than the proposed democratic plan because the republican plan introduces new methods of regulating the traffic flow. Rinzel also stated that he supports Gilmore's education plan which would add more elementary school teachers. As of now, it appears that Rinzel is merely mimicking the proposals of Gilmore. But, the race between the two is expected to come down to the wire

see Elections page 6



Construction workers renovating the roof are at risk, and must take safety precautions.

Jen Groner

Construction Mishap Mars Renovation Excitement

Jen Groner
Focus Editor
April Brown
Wire Reporter

There is considerable excitement around campus in anticipation of the opening of the first renovated classrooms, the new science and foreign language classrooms. Amid this excitement, there was one construction related accident.

On October 7, 1999 an iron worker named Roberto Martinez, an employee of Dustin Construction, fell 15 and a half feet to the ground. He fell from a platform where the former senior cafeteria was located, on the side, near the doors to guidance. He broke his arm and had trauma to his face. He was taken to INOVA hospital in Mount Vernon and later transferred to INOVA Fairfax.

Since the accident, the construction company has been extremely cautious, in order to prevent subsequent accidents. They have roped all roofing platforms within three feet of the edge, so that the chance for other accidents is less likely. The company also has weekly safety meetings to discuss the dangers of

working and how one can reduce risks. As a another safety precaution, the company requires all workers to wear hard hats, goggles, and protective boots.

On the scene, however, a mechanical foreman of 27 years, who identified himself as "Kojak," pointed out that many workers were not following the requirements for safety protection. The safety fall protection and other safety equipment is provided by the company and mandatory for all workers. Yet there were workers breaking this rule, and risking their own safety. Also there were no foremen enforcing this requirement.

Another Halac Iron Works Inc. employee, Mr. Jose Vardgas, reported that Martinez is still in the hospital for the injuries. Vardgas said that Martinez had only worked for the company for 2 months.

Since the end of the school year of 1998-99, Dustin Construction company has been employed in the remodeling of West Potomac.

Otherwise, the construction is on schedule. The rain has slowed up the progress a little. Although some of the pipes in Gunston weren't located where they should be, everything is back on track. The new science wing will be opening soon.

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Weekend Wanderer? Make Yourself Useful

Alejandra Medina
Photo Editor

Free time is something everybody enjoys and looks forward to, but how many people know how to take advantage of it? Not everyone, that's for sure. As soon as school starts you can hear people talking about the

of your mind all weekend. By doing this, when Sunday night rolls around you don't need to go to sleep at 3 am because you stayed up doing homework. Okay, next step, think of something you want to do either by yourself, with friends or your family. You could go to the museums in DC, go to the movies to check out the latest release or

ON TARGET

Alejandra Medina



weekends, what they're going to do and what they're not, but too often you also hear complaints. How often do people say they don't have anything to do or they're bored or even tired of the same weekend schedule? A lot, right? Well, Alejandra is full of weekend activities to suit the tastes of everyone. We are lucky enough to be minutes away from places like our nation's capital, Old Town, malls, movie theaters, restaurants, libraries, parks, recreation centers and even a river! Getting yourself organized may help you enjoy the weekends a lot more.

When the weekend rolls around, it's just a matter of putting your priorities on a list. Start off by getting homework and studying for tests out of the way. It will take you a few hours, granted, but you won't have that bugging you in the back

invite a few friends on a picnic to the park. You can also use the spare time on the weekends to do something for the community, such as volunteer at the library. It's also important to help yourself too, so perhaps use the weekend to relax at home and get prepared for the upcoming week.

Whining and complaining will not make matters better. This will only make you feel worse and annoy people around you. By doing the simple things I stated above your weekend can take an uplifting turn. Too many times people don't enjoy themselves because they lack organization, so think before you complain. A quick look around your neighborhood may be the key to ending your boredom.

Lastly, for those of you who drive, buckle up!

CRASH COURSE

Jamie Munyan



With the new policy on correctly darkening the ovals in effect for the SAT, Martha was not allowed to continue due to her hand spasms while filling in the sample question.

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Major Merger is a Good Thing

Nick Slater
News Editor

Something huge just happened in the world of media and entertainment. The big event is the merger of CBS and Viacom, two of the most powerful forces in television today. The merger creates a gigantic company, still to be called Viacom, that looks ready to dominate the media industry all over the country and perhaps through the world. This raises questions about the merits of conglomeration and globalization, but to the average high-schooler, of course, the question is "How will this deal affect what I see on TV?"

Well first, Viacom and CBS are both involved in much more than TV. CBS brings into the deal several prominent radio stations, and the rights to popular radio programs, including Don Imus and Howard Stern. Both of these programs are broadcast all over the country and bring in huge amounts of money for CBS. By coming together with Viacom, the power of these radio stations will only become greater.

Everyone hates those annoying pop-up ads that come up when you're surfing the Internet. Well, bad news...get ready to see a lot more of them. CBS was already an online leader before they merged with Viacom, boasting several popular web sites. But now that the two companies have joined, they make a powerhouse advertising team that can't be matched anywhere. This leads to one of the negative aspects of the merger: more online billboards and ads. Of course, this also means that Web surfers will have more chances to buy stuff online. To those who like to buy goods over their computer, the merger was a blessing. But to those who like to surf without the constant interruptions, it will definitely be a nuisance.

The affects on the television industry will be unbelievable. CBS was already the "Most-watched network on TV", but let's face it, if you're under 30 years old, you're probably not watching a whole lot of CBS.

That is where Viacom comes in. The Viacom Corporation owns such channels as MTV,

VH1, and Nickelodeon. Most of the people who watch these channels are young, exactly the type of viewers that CBS has lacked in the past. Now that one company owns CBS, there is no limit to the amount of money they could bring in.

Much of that dough goes to the development of new shows, as well as to the improvement of current ones. For example, CBS viewers will still be able to kick back, crack open a can of salted peanuts and watch David Letterman at 11 PM. But they will also have lots of new shows to watch on the various channels owned by Viacom. The point is, people will have many more choices of what to watch.

People may not realize it, but the CBS-Viacom merger is going to affect them in some way. Whether you like to watch TV or surf the Web, pretty soon you will begin to notice some changes. Although its still early on, right now it looks like most of those changes will be beneficial to people everywhere. The bottom line: this merger is a good thing that we should all be happy about.

Renovation Ramifications Cause Student Complaints

April Brown
Wire Reporter

Students returning to West Potomac this year were in for a big surprise as far as their schedules went. With the Left Quander cafeteria closed due to construction, only two cafeterias are open for the 1600+ students that attend West Potomac. To compensate for the overcrowding of lunchrooms, school administrators incorporated the "C" lunch. Now, the three lunches are decided by the course taken during your 5th and 6th periods instead of by which building you're in. Many students find this to be very annoying because they end up with a different lunch each day.

Senior Catherine King says, "I hate how you have to change lunches every day. That is really stupid. There is no way you can have a healthy eating routine."

Also in question are the new lunchroom assignments. Students who have a class in Gunston during lunch have reason to complain. What was formerly known as the Freshman cafeteria is now the "Gunston" cafeteria. Upperclassmen are not permitted to leave the lunchroom to eat where they wish, and only a brave few escape to join their

friends.

According to Junior Nikki Pritchett, it'll confuse new students, because it confused me the first two days of school.

Many students are complaining about being escorted to lunch like children and not being allowed to eat with their friends. Patrick Morrison, a

the bells were worked out the first few weeks of school, when some bells were eliminated.

One of the most difficult aspects of the new schedule is having 7th period everyday. The administration scheduled the 30-minute silent reading during the last class on Fridays, to equalize the time spent in 7th period and other periods.

"It's stupid how we have assigned reading for 30 minutes during 7th period when the period is only 50 minutes long," complained Senior Jessica Boden.

One of the most common complaints from seniors is the loss of the senior cafeteria. "I'm aggravated because it limits the number of my buds at the table and people I don't know sit around me," complained Krystal Cunningham.

In agreement, Lucas Hill commented, "I think there needs to be a senior cafeteria because I'm tired of eating with underclassmen."

Many students complained about the new schedule, lunch schedule and lack of a senior cafeteria. Seniors appreciated the efforts to improve the appearance of the school, but seniors also expressed that none of them will be at West Potomac when it's finished. It will be for the underclassmen to enjoy.

"The bell schedule during 5th and 6th periods gets to where I can't concentrate. Bells are constantly ringing."
- Leigh Gurke

junior, when asked about the new lunch assignments, commented, "I hate 'em! They don't allow us to eat lunch freely."

Other complaints from students focused on the new bell schedule.

Senior Leigh Gurke said, "The bell schedule during 5th and 6th periods gets to where I can't concentrate. Bells are constantly ringing." The bells ring every 10 to 20 minutes during those classes to dismiss students to their different lunches, and students in the halls during lunch, while classes are going on, adds to the disruption. However, many problems with

Save Yourself, Save Us All; Don't Drink and Drive

With the final days of summer long gone and the school year underway, one thing is on everyone's mind: the weekend, especially the homecoming weekend.

After a long week of homework, tests, quizzes, and studying, no sound is more welcome to the students of West Potomac High School than that of the Friday afternoon dismissal bell. At the sound of the bell, the weekend has begun. Football games, dates, movies, parties, and drinking? and...driving?

Although many people may not want to admit it, drinking and driving is a very real issue

all over the country. According to the organization, Mothers Against Drunk Driving, MADD, driving under the influence is the most frequently committed violent crime in the nation.

From 10 p.m. to 1 a.m. every weekday night, one in thirteen drivers is drunk, with a blood alcohol content of .08 or more.

On weekend mornings between 1 a.m. and 6 a.m., one in seven drivers is drunk. These odds are definitely not favorable

and, often times, prove to be deadly.

Driving under the influence is the most frequently committed violent crime in the nation.

a result of drunk driving accidents as were killed in the Vietnam War.

These statistics illustrate the severity of this problem.

Drinking and driving is especially common among high

school students. When the long-awaited weekend finally arrives, it brings parties, which, in turn, often bring drinking.

Statistics from NHTSA show that out of every five Americans, about three will be involved in an alcohol-related crash at some point in their lives. The decision to have those few drinks at a weekend party could have very expensive consequences.

Junior Jennifer Niksich said, "I don't believe in drinking and driving because I would never want to put myself or others in danger."

Maybe more teenagers should have that same attitude.

Halloween Trick, or Treat?

Meghan O'Neil
Wire Reporter

Halloween is just around the bend and for a lot of folks it's a good excuse to stock up on goodies and be able to gobble down the leftovers for themselves. Also, for the kiddies, to dress themselves up as their parents' worst nightmares and, better yet, get free candy!

Back in the good ole' days, streets were rivers of goblins, witches and fairy princesses. Each one held butterflied tummies of excitement and lots of laughs with friends for the fun-filled night of Halloween.

Even driving down your neighborhood street, you could sight the spirit of Halloween by spider-web trees, pumpkined porches and ghosts spewing from every corner of a house. Children

would plan their dream costumes weeks before Halloween for what seemed to be a freak fashion show down any street near you. Adults lined their porches for the event with buckets of candy to pass graciously out and to watch all the kids.

As each year passes, however, the number of trick-or-treaters and open doors sadly thins out. Often, in this modern age, a trick-or-treater will knock on the door and immediately see the lights go out. Signaling that many people are uptight and stingy now a' days.

It saddens me to see Halloween fading out, for it is the most light-hearted and youthful holiday of them all. Even for adults, it brings the kid out of them as they reminisce about their Halloweens past. Childhood is reflected in every mask and a smile is painted on along with the glitter and

fake blood.

While ripping away a child's right to enjoy and partake in this night of make-believe and fantasy, adults are also ripping away a part of themselves. Some parents won't even let their children go out on Halloween anymore. This may be because of religious reasons; some people think Halloween has to do with the devil or demons. This especially might hold true this year as Halloween happens to fall on a Sunday.

I think this is sad, especially for the children who have to miss out on such a traditional thing as trick-or-treating on Halloween night. Some of my most fond memories are of dressing up with my friends and going to trick-or-treat.

I can't say that I don't agree with the parents to a certain extent though. With all that's going on around the world, it is hard to trust people and reasonable to fear what may happen. Some deranged psychotics out

there have turned this fun-loving holiday into an excuse for pranks and a reason for doing wrong. To some it is understood as the night of the devil.

Trick-or-treaters may refrain now because they and their parents are fearful of poison in the candy, kidnapping, or violence that could easily be inflicted on little kids at night. It's sad that a once happy, care-free holiday could be broken down by our own nightmares.

When we once rushed out to enjoy the fun of October 31st, we now hide in the corners expecting and fearing the worst that might happen on this night. I think this is the year to break down those barriers, to go out and buy all the candy we can carry, make a silly costume and act like we're 10 years young again.

Also, I say now, to all the teenagers, take your little brother or sister by the hand and lead them to a candyland of spooks and ole' fashioned, innocent fun!

Photo from Halloween Inc.



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.

Faculty Freshmen



"Mr. Dye seems very friendly and interested in getting to know the students" said Sadie Sayeed.

West Potomac Welcomes New Teachers

**Elizabeth Randolph
Alex Cole**
Wire Reporters

Along with the new additions to the structure of West Potomac, there are improvements occurring inside as well. It is a new year of many new faces and every department is introducing fresh faculty members.

"He's a funny guy, which makes the class go by much faster" said junior Henry Lopez, about this Michigan native. Mr. Michael Montie is the new GT & AP Physics teacher. Montie was involved in industry for 11 years before he was drafted by the army and sent to fight in the Vietnam war.

During the war he was an officer and a paratrooper. Due to injury, Montie was sent back to the states but remained in the army as a career.

Once he retired, Montie began working at West Point, where he taught differential equations for three years. Later, he became a program manager at the Pentagon where he was responsible for the army's classified programs. Montie is now teaching here at West Potomac after resigning from the Lockheed Martin Corporation simply because, said Montie, "I liked teaching. My dad was a teacher." Needless to say, Montie is extremely excited about teaching at West Potomac this year.

This is the 21st year Mr. Brian

Borah has been teaching. A native of Dallas, Texas, he is the new AP English Language, Literature, and English 9 teacher. Borah graduated from Abilene Christian College in Abilene, Texas, and then did his graduate work at the University of Houston where he was a philosophy major. Borah has been working for the College Board since 1990 and also grades the national exam for AP English Language.

"He is doing a great job, I think we will be very prepared for the AP exam" senior Umeir Nawaz said. Borah is the co-author of the English Vertical Team Handbook which discusses how middle school and high school teachers can work together to allow students to get into a more rigorous English program of studies early. Borah has previously assisted Chantilly, Lee, Hayfield, and Herndon high schools with this program. Although there are other things Borah enjoys doing, such as cooking and racing cars, there is nothing he loves more than teaching.

West Potomac's new guidance counselor, Mr. Adrinell Dye, was previously a guidance counselor at Lexington High School in Lexington, Massachusetts for four years. At this school Dye was the coordinator for the school-to-work program, was involved in the peer mediation program, and METCO which is a volunteer desegregation program. In his earlier years, Dye attended North Carolina Central for undergradu-

ate and graduate school, where he received his masters in counseling education.

In his spare time Dye enjoys working out, playing basketball, racquetball, and participating in church activities. Here at West Potomac, he would like to get involved in student oriented activities such as the track team and the College Partnership program.

"Mr. Dye seems very friendly and interested in getting to know the students" said senior Sadie Sayeed. In the future, Dye would like to go back to school so he can one day be an administrator.

Ms. Katherine Wolling is the newest addition to the math department. This is her first year teaching in Fairfax County, as she is just out of college.

"Although it's her first year she really knows what she is doing and she makes it fun" senior Christy Lindsey said. Wolling grew up in New York but just moved here this summer from Pennsylvania where she attended the small Juniata College. In her spare time she enjoys playing the flute and tennis, listening to music, reading, and watching sports. Wolling has some goals for her future; she would eventually like to go back to school to receive her masters and possibly teach college one day. Not only is she a math wizard, but Wolling has a minor in Spanish and would one day like to use this knowledge and travel or study in any foreign Spanish speaking countries. She loves teaching and is looking forward to this school year.

Wolling said, "I enjoy being with people and influencing people. That is why I went into education."

The language department has three new additions one, teaching Latin and two in Spanish.

Bret Simonson is new to West Potomac as the Latin teacher, but he is also new at teaching. Simonson is originally from New Orleans, Louisiana but did not go to college in his home state. Instead Simonson attended the University of Missouri-Columbia for undergraduate school where he studied, oddly enough, German. Simonson came back east for graduate school when he

attended The Catholic University of America in Washington D.C. where he majored in Medieval and Byzantine studies. When asked what he likes most about West Potomac, Simonson said "... the outgoing spirit of the stu-

dents."

One of two new Spanish teachers at West Potomac, Carla McKenzie comes to West Potomac from Brooklyn, New York with four years of teaching experience under her belt. McKenzie went to school in Pennsylvania where she attended Lincoln University. At Lincoln University, McKenzie majored in both English and Spanish.

Julie O'Bryant, who is originally from Richmond, Virginia, has just begun her third year as a teacher, though this is her first year teaching Spanish. For the last two years O'Bryant taught English as a Second Language (ESL) in Ecuador. O'Bryant went to Furman University in Greenville, South Carolina where she studied Spanish.



Ms. Wolling is a fresh face in the math department

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Career Center guru, Ms. Galeota, is an excellent source of information on testing and preparation for college.

SAT Scores Soar Seniors Earn the Highest Scores

Margaret Chadbourn
Wire Reporter

It might ease some minds in the Senior Class to know that they scored the highest average scores ever recorded by West Potomac students. West Potomac scores have increased, especially when compared to Mount Vernon, which had dramatically lower scores this year. "Right now I'm taking an SAT class to try and raise my scores as high as possible before I have to send them out to colleges later this fall," said senior Sarah Powell.

Whatever the technique West Potomac students are using, it is definitely showing in the rise of their test scores.

"I'm hoping colleges will see my SAT scores and be im-

pressed," said Senior Cris Burton. "I think I'll be okay, considering I did pretty well on them last Spring," Burton said.

West Potomac is not the only school in Fairfax County where SAT scores seem to be climbing. Superintendent Daniel Domenach released the scores for Fairfax County Public School senior's and found that FCPS Students scored higher than average, and very high when compared to the rest of Virginia and the nation. The math average score was 533, compared to 511 nationwide and 499 statewide. On the verbal section, FCPS students scored significantly higher with an average score of 541, compared to 505 nationwide and 508 statewide.

It is hoped students will find the news of the rise in average

SAT scores as a relief for some of their stress when applying to colleges this year.

It might also help students' perspectives if they keep in mind that SAT scores are not the only criteria college admissions personnel will review.

The Senior Class could be satisfied with Superintendent Domenach's conclusion that he is "pleased with the overall trend in SAT scores."

Many seniors at West Potomac will soon enter a stressful time in their lives: facing the task of applying to colleges. With essays to write, teacher recommendations to be requested, and only a few chances left to raise their SAT scores before they are sent to college admissions offices, but seniors may find recent SAT scores reassuring.

Students Await Approval For New Club

April Brown
Wire Reporter

Here in Alexandria, Va, Senior Robin Lyon along with fellow classmates and their sponsor Mr. Russell are hoping to start a chapter of Students for a Free Tibet at West Potomac High School. As of right now the club is still awaiting approval by administration. The goal of students here at West Potomac is to raise political awareness in the school and educate the students about international affairs.

Students for a Free Tibet (SFT) was started in August of 1994. There have been 4 annual conferences and SFT also participates in the Ti-

betan Freedom Concert. Their goal is to "educate young people about the realities of Tibet and work on translating that awareness into action through non-violent political, economic, and social campaigns." (Students for a Free Tibet, Inc.) They recognize the legal and historical status of Tibet as an independent country and support the right of the Tibetan people to determine their own people.

Many people ask, why Tibet? First, China finds great use for Tibet's natural resource deposits. Also, being in the center of Asia, it is an ideal strategic military location. Another reason may be a racially imperialist policy.

The Chinese outnumber Tibetans in their own homeland due to transference by China to ease overpopu-

lation. Under Chinese occupation, the Tibetan people are denied most rights guaranteed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The Chinese language has replaced Tibetan as the country's first language and the Tibetan people are often subjected to severe forms of torture which include beatings, electric shock and other such cruel inflictions.

Tibet is a country made up of 3 provinces located in the center of Asia and China has occupied Tibet for 40 years. As of right now, China's mission is to change the identity of the Tibetan people to suppress the issue from public attention. Hopefully SFT will be able to raise public awareness of this cause and West Potomac can be a part of that.



Photo SFT

John Randolph Proudly
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Pride and Prejudice: Unusual Fall Production Underway



Matt Beltz and Stephanie Phillips run through their scene on stage for the *Pride and Prejudice* production in the fall.

Nick Walker
Wire Reporter

Throughout history, human beings have searched for the one event that will forever influence their lives and drastically reshape their futures. With the millennium fast approaching and the 1999 West Potomac Fall Play just around the corner, could we possibly have found just such an occa-

sion, which will culminate the countless years of civilization and bring about a metamorphosis so radical as to change the way we look at the world?

Well, probably not. All that aside though, the drama department's fall production is expected to be both a serious drama and a comedy, according to senior April Brown, who plays Mrs. Bennet.

Adapted from the original novel by Jane Austen, who brought us "Sense And Sensi-

bility", this play by Helen Jerome portrays life in the genteel rural society of early nineteenth century England.

The story begins with Mrs. Bennet trying to marry off her three daughters to rich husbands because the estate is entitled to snobby cousin, Mr. Collins.

Two wealthy bachelors from out of town arrive and are immediately preyed upon by Mrs. Bennet. Mrs. Bennet throws a ball in her home and even sends one of her daughters to London in pursuit of one of the males her mother desires for her, all in order to have her daughters married off.

Now the play tells of the initial dislike between Elizabeth Bennet (played by Stefanie Phillips or Victoria Freed, depending on which performance you see) and Darcy

(Christopher Baidoo and Brendan Bradley), which later becomes mutual adoration. Jane Bennet also finds love in Darcy's best friend, Mr. Bingley.

The play also features Danny Carmichael and April Brown as Mr. and Mrs. Bennet, Ashley Young and Veronica Fitzpatrick as Jane Bennet, Sara Byus as Lydia Bennet, Autumn Brown as Lady Catherine de Bourgh, Carolyn Ricks as Lady Lucas, Kristy Jacobs as Charlotte Lucas, and Matt Beltz and Chip Ballenger as Mr. Bingley and Katie Carmichael as Ms. Bingley.

"Pride and Prejudice," A sentimental comedy in three acts, opens on Wednesday, November 17th at 7:30 pm in the Kogelman theatre, and plays each night until Saturday, November 20th.



Ashley Young, Danny Carmichael, and Eric Price read over their lines while waiting to rehearse the scene.

Elections, from page 1

in this final month heading to the election.

Another close race is expected between, the Democrat, former Fairfax County School Board Chairman Kris Amundson and her Republican opponent Scott Klein. After serving a tenure on the school board, it is not hard to see that education and school safety will be at the top of her agenda.

Over the years, Amundson has worked hard to prevent violence in our schools and improve the quality of education. Amundson has also said that if elected, she intends to work with other legislators to seek a well organized, long term cure of local traffic headaches. Amundson's adversary, Republican candidate Scott Klein has admitted that our current transportation system has its flaws, but, like Rinzel, believes in Gilmore's plan. Klein also supports the increasingly popular movement towards telecommuting as a possible solution to traffic problems. In terms of education and school safety, Amundson's experience will make it difficult for Klein to win voters on this issue. However, he has brought up the idea of possibly launching a school voucher program in certain locations.

Voters will also be electing members to the Board of Supervisors, School Board, and sheriff.

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Cultural Drinking: America vs. Europe

Catherine Thrasher
Wire Reporter

Drinking habits of teenagers are always in the spotlight. The fact that our laws say drinking is illegal for teens does not seem to make a difference as to whether they drink or not. The difference is how they drink.

Drinking habits vary among teens in different parts of the world. Laws also vary greatly from country to country, especially between America and Europe.

Most European countries have a legal drinking age of 16. Though some countries, such as the UK, some parts of Spain, Germany, and Denmark, have certain restrictions on adolescents under 18 years of age. These restrictions usually include what they are allowed to buy, no spirits or wine in some cases, or the time of day in which they can buy it, among other things.

America's law of no one under 21 being allowed to drink, with no exceptions, is extremely unusual.

The age at which people start drinking is also lower than that in the US. In the UK, a survey stated that over one fourth of boys ages 9-10 had a drink in the week prior to the survey.

For age 11, this statistic rose to one-third. By age thirteen, almost 90% of kids had consumed alcohol at some point. In contrast, most American kids have their first taste ever around age thirteen.

Even though American kids drink at a later age, they acquire extremely different habits.

In a survey conducted of kids in the UK, they were asked why they drank. 26% answered for a special occasion, 25% answered because they were seeing friends or relatives, 11% answered to help them unwind, and 4% answered to get drunk. This information was obtained by the Eurocare Advocacy for the Prevention of Alcohol Related Harm in Europe.

In a similar survey conducted of American kids, there were so many binge drinkers, the survey focused on just those drinkers.

About 10 million teens were drinkers in the US during 1995. Of these, 4.4 million were binge drinkers, almost half, including 1.7 million heavy drinkers

(SAMHSA, 1996.) The survey stated that 58% of binge drinkers drank when they were upset, 39% drank alone, 30% drank when bored, and 37% drank to feel buzzed.

A much greater chunk of American kids drink for the sole purpose of achieving the drinking effects.

A general feeling among teens is that low tolerance to alcohol is more convenient, for it takes less alcohol and less money to reach a state of intoxication, the ultimate goal. With alcohol being introduced to American kids at age thirteen, they seem to do much heavier drinking in shorter periods of time.

Are the kids to blame for this or is the law? Why do kids feel they need to binge drink?

Many teens say that downing 4 or 5 drinks in a short period of time is easier than stretching out the drinking time, which would result in less alcohol in their system at one time and lower intoxication. It also lessens the period in which they have alcohol in their possession, making a run in with the law less threatening.

In Europe, however, these types of drinking pressures are lifted greatly. Instead of fearing their parents' wrath, the majority of European kids say they consume most of their alcohol in the presence of their parents.

In France, the production of wine is part of the culture. Wine is also the dominate drink among teens. Even though this popular alcoholic drink is part of France's economy and lifestyle, only 6% of 16-17 year olds claimed to be regular drinkers, while a whopping 72% claimed to be rare or occasional drinkers.

Spirits and beer were the most popular drinks in Europe, while beer and wine coolers dominate in America. American teens drink 1.1 billion cans of beer a year and 35% of all wine coolers.

European adolescents are integrated into the world of alcohol at an earlier age and drink mostly for occasional purposes.

American kids are introduced to alcohol at a later age and often by other kids.

American kids have alcohol experiences with other kids. European kids are educated, and their curiosity dampened. The difference is obvious and the advantages of the American way debatable.

Courtney Brown Looks Inside the Music Biz

This summer I had the chance to fulfill one of my lifelong dreams. I got an inside look at the music industry.

Like many of my classmates, I applied for numerous summer programs. And like many of my classmates, I was turned down by most of them. Being denied, however, ended up being one of the best things that ever happened to me.

The Y.E.S. to Jobs program is a national organization that finds paid internships in the entertainment industry for minority high school students. They accepted me! I've always wanted to be involved in the music business, so naturally, I was excited. It was no easy task however. Over 100 students from the D.C. area initially applied and fifty were then called back for interviews with the program. That number was cut again to twenty-five. Approximately five people were sent to each interview. I was sent to Universal Music and Video



As soon as I was hired, it was a non-stop roller coaster ride says senior Courtney Brown

I sat in on marketing presentations, where I heard new music before any "outsiders," and I even saw an exclusive Redman/Methodman movie.

My second week there, I ate dinner with the presidents of Def Jam, Lyor Cohen and Kevin Liles. I saw an impromptu performance by Dry Hill's Sisqo in the conference room, and even

got a chance to hold a conversation with him about the status of the group.

The list doesn't stop there. That same week, I got VIP tickets and backstage passes to see the groups Silk and 702. I helped coordinate an exclusive listening party for MCA Records, where I met Rahzel, (from the hip-hop group the Roots,) and three guys who I used to be in love with, Immature, now known as IMX.

First Person Courtney Brown



Distribution (UMVD) in Lanham, MD. I was then interviewed and selected by my soon to be head supervisor, Bill Tywman, Regional Director for UMVD.

As soon as I was hired, it was a non-stop roller coaster ride. For starters, I had no idea what a distribution company was, and no idea of their place in the industry. I soon learned that it worked like an assembly line. The label works with an artist to make the album, the album is put onto a tape or CD by Distribution, and the label creates a marketing plan for the artist. Next, Distributions job is to carry out a marketing plan, as well as make sure they distribute the records to the stores.

Although my responsibilities included a number of things, one of my main jobs was to keep track of concert information for every city on the East coast, from Norfolk to Eastern New Jersey. This included Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Richmond, Atlantic City, Baltimore and of course, D.C. I worked hand in hand with the Urban Music Specialists (UMM's), creating flyers, decorating record store windows, and calling stores to check on record sales.

Of course, I also had to occasionally do grunt work, such as mailings and making copies. However, my summer job was hardly all work and no play. Every day was filled with a new surprise. I never wanted to leave when my day came to an end around 6 o'clock. I was privileged to receive numerous CD's before they were released.

Perhaps my favorite experience, however, was what they call "in-stores." When we had an in-store, we'd take an artist to a couple of record stores in whatever city we were in, and have them sign autographs.

I got to do an in-store with EPMD and two in-stores with up and coming rappers Memphis Bleek and Beanie Segal. That Sunday, they performed at a DCLIVE, and I got to go with them.

I enjoyed my summer job so much that it was really hard to say good-bye to all the people I met. The two women I worked directly with have adopted me as their little sister, and I talk to them often. I even got an offer for a job as a college rep next year. If everything goes as planned, in ten years you'll see me on the cover of every magazine, the President/CEO of the most successful record label ever to exist. Watch out Puff Daddy!



At Kemp Mill Records, Courtney Brown meets with EPMD members, Eric Sermon and Patrick Smith. This classic rap duo were only a few of the many celebrities Brown met during her summer internship.

photo courtesy Courtney Brown

FRESHMEN

- *First class required to pass the SOL's
- *First class to attend West Potomac after renovation is completed
- *Participation in fall athletics:
 - 7 (Boys) Cross Country
 - 2 (Girls) Cross Country
 - 11 Field Hockey
 - 44 Football
 - 3 Drill Team
 - 4 (Girls) Tennis
- *Boy:Girl = 218 males 214 females
- *Class Size = 432
- *Choir/Chorus members:23
- *Band Members:59

SOPHOMORES

- *First sophomore class required to take an extra Social Studies
- *Largest class in West Potomac
- *Participation in fall athletics:
 - 8 Cheerleaders
 - 3 (Boys) Cross Country
 - 2 (Girls) Cross Country
 - 9 Field Hockey
 - 32 Football
 - 10 Golf
 - 5 (Girls) Tennis
 - 4 Drill Team
- *Boy:Girl= 229 males 205 females
- *Class size = 434
- *Choir/Chorus members:17
- *Band members:42

JUNIORS

- *Uphold top leadership positions in the SGA (President and VP)
- *First class to be offered non-GT World Civilization block
- *Participation in fall athletics:
 - 6 Cheerleaders
 - 5 (Boys) Cross Country
 - 1 (Girls) Cross Country
 - 6 Field Hockey
 - 18 Football
 - 5 Golf
 - 10 (Girls) Tennis
 - 4 Drill Team
- *Boy:Girl = 168 males 194 females
- *Class size = 362
- *Chorus/Choir members:27
- *Band members:31

SENIORS

- *First class to graduate in the 21st Century
- *Record high SAT scores
- *Participation in fall athletics:
 - 6 Cheerleaders
 - 5 (Boys) Cross Country
 - 4 (Girls) Cross Country
 - 7 Field Hockey
 - 24 Football
 - 5 Golf
 - 7 Drill Team
- *Boy:Girl = 168 males 156 females
- *Class size = 324
- *Chorus/Choir members:30
- *Band members:29

Wolves

Wolves

by

As you wander the hallways the week before Homecoming, you are complete with the much-forgotten mall bangs. The next day you are body paint. It's that time of year again, when students suddenly find themselves in the game and dance. It's Spirit Week.

Although many school-sponsored events are thought of as trite, in the thematic days of Spirit Week. Pajama Day and Decades Day are spirit known by sporting terrycloth bathrobes and platform shoes.

Senior Ashley Young says, "My favorite Decades Day is the 80s. Even though dressing up in eccentric costumes dominates Spirit Week, school activities, including a game of Twister or a pie-eating contest, are left around campus, but also by the cheers and crowds that surround them.

Perhaps the most thrilling part of Spirit Week, at least for the upperclassmen, is when the junior and senior girls can duke out their class rivalry on the football field. Otherwise known as Powder Puff, the upperclass females typically train for two weeks in order to compete against their opposing grade in the all-girl football game.

According to Junior Jenny Charlton, "I can't wait until Powder Puff. It will be lots of fun, and I hope we beat the seniors!"

The climax of Spirit Week is reached with the pep rally, which is traditionally held on the Friday of the Homecoming football game. The gym is filled with echoes from exuberant students who are participating in the big game, but who are mostly relieved to be dismissed early from their last period class. The highlight of the pep rally, of course, is the lively performance of the All-Male Drill Team. The entrance of the upperclass males, disguised as drill team members with makeup and skirts, is immediately followed by the laughter of their fellow classmates.

Wear Y

F
Enter

Many have wondered why the once popular trend of sporting a letter jacket. The good ol' days of "Grease" have ceased, girls no longer wear a letter jacket. Why has such an old school tradition almost disappeared?

During the 1950s, to order a letter jacket was a common sight. It was a way for students to order an item that was both functional and fashionable. The jackets were pressed by the kind of people who were the sides of the engraved, in an optical pressing a jacket. Those available where students in the fall. The cost is paid for the jacket.

Senior Sam first in his class. Letter jackets are hard to find, but their royal can cost up to \$100. Student for ter in one's front of the Potomac high school.

Junior Li 1994, and a student who Now in 1995 to find a pe Even the trends are slowly coming back, and many are taking advantage of it.

Every year we watch to see if school spirit will move back to puzzled many, as students try to figure out if the school is in "spirit" traditions.



Drawing by Nick Deutsch

ine Pride!

e Pride

avies

roup of girls decked out in leather miniskirts, their hair crimped and a group of rowdy guys, who are covered head to toe in blue and white lives anxious to show some school pride in honor of the Homecoming

nd faculty members alike look forward to expressing their originality tes among West Potomac students, who are enthusiastic to make their

you can imitate Madonna and the other 80s rock stars." my students opt to join their classmates in the more rambunctious in- sularity of such events is apparent not only by the remains of pie crusts nes during lunch time.



In 1990, a tricycle race was included in the spirit week activities



r Spirit

h
Editor

ter jacket or wearing a class ring has somehow turned sour. boyfriend's class ring on a chain, and most jocks don't wear extinct?

he sophomore year in high school, 10th graders are allowed e a class ring. The ring is supposed to symbolize the gradu- nt belongs to, and the ring provides several options to ex- sts. The color, cut, and size of stone can be arranged as well a you would like to have placed underneath if desired. On a Fairfax County logo and West Potomac Wolverine will be student decides to pick one of the several options provided

Designs such as a sport you are involved in, symbols ex- cific religion, or flags representing heritage are just a few of it who order their ring, do so during lunch periods in school, itted for size and pay a down-payment. Rings finally arrive as juniors, where the balance of the approximately \$130.00 the ring is left for the student to enjoy.

said, "My class ring has to be the most unique, mine is the have a CUT black onyx stone placed inside of it." h don't even come close to the popularity of class rings, are Potomac. But when spotted, they are unmistakable, with d exterior and white leather sleeves. Letter Jackets, which 00, are adorned with the "WP" varsity letter earned, by the activities, mostly sports. Once a student has received a let- ey will receive a pin or charm to attach to the letter on the for each year they continue that activity. However, West owed up on this tradition for a while.

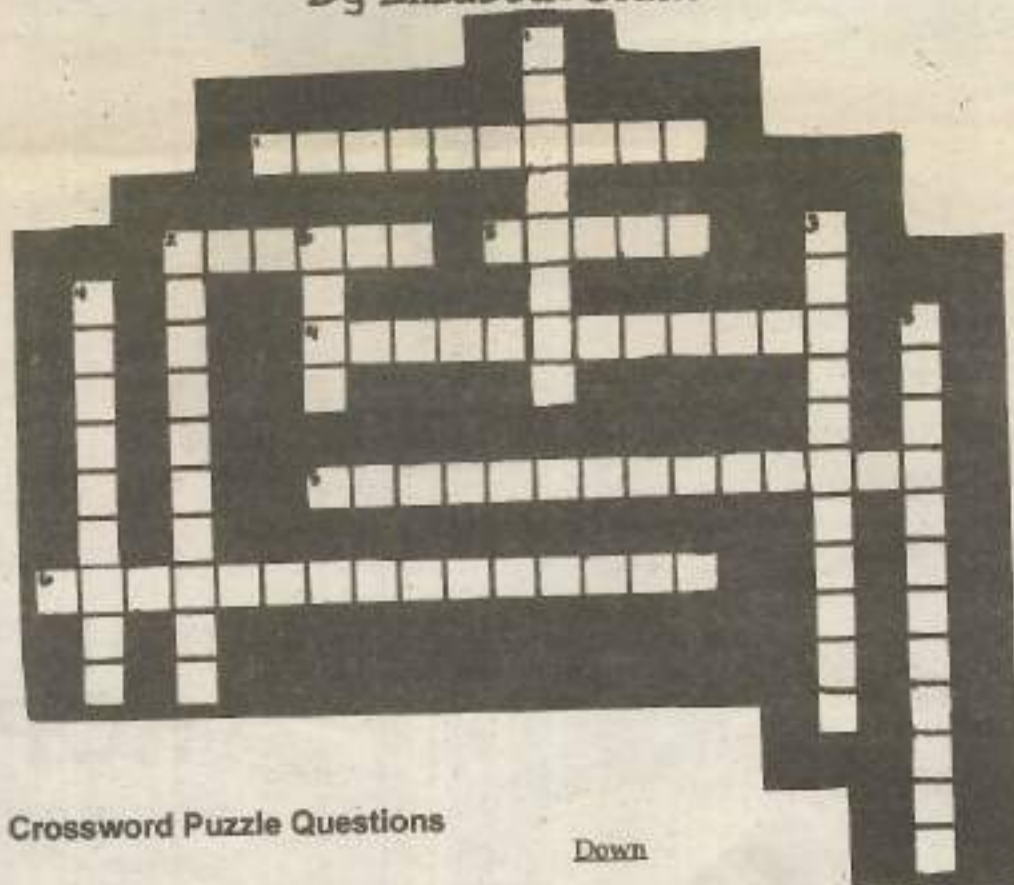
remembers, "My sister was a graduate of West Potomac in to wear her letter jacket all the time along with every other rd the school. It was definitely something everybody had. est Potomac lacks in that school spirit. You would be lucky ring a letter jacket in the hallways."

ident does not need these items to have school spirit, these e opportunities to buy rings and jackets.

he "Saved By the Bell" days. West Potomac has definitely ytical" high school, and participate in many of the "school-

Spirit Crossword

By Elizabeth Grant



Crossword Puzzle Questions

Across

1. Spirited Junior and Senior girls play in the _____ game. (two words)
2. A particular mood or emotional state characterized by vigor and animation; strong loyalty or dedication.
3. Name of the Wolverine Mascot.
4. Group that gets the crowd spirited at football games.
5. When students use vandalism to promote their school. (two words)
6. Our school's colors. (three words, alphabetical order)

Down

1. In school gathering, usually the Friday before Homecoming. (two words)
2. Days before Homecoming when students dress up in different goofy ways. (two words)
3. Girls in sports teams use food and candy in bags called _____ to raise team-mates' spirits. (two words)
4. Popular fast food hang out after West Potomac football games.
5. Outer-wear used to display participation in sports and activities. (old school tradition, almost extinct?)
6. Students show spirit by painting West Potomac's _____

Pregnant?



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Summer of Danger Accidents Plague Theme Parks Across the Nation

Allyson Larrick
Wire Reporter

For most people, the last summer of the century was an exciting one. It was filled with beaches, swimming pools, fireworks and fun. But for others, it was the summer of tragedy.

According to People Magazine, there are 750 amusement parks in the United States. Attendance this year reached a

**On August 22,
12-year-old
Joshua Smurphat
fell over 100 feet
to his death
after falling out
of the restraints of
a 207-foot freefall ride
called the Stunt Tower.**

record-high 300 million people. That figure is up 20% since the beginning of the decade. In 1998 alone, amusement park accidents accounted for 4,500 trips to the emergency room and 4 fatalities. The number of accidents have risen 60% in the past 4 years and amusement park accidents this summer have the country in a state of unrest.

The first in a long line of rollercoaster accidents was that of 28-year-old Valeria Cartwright. On March 21, Cartwright drowned on the Roaring Rapids ride at Six Flags Over Texas after her raft caught on a pipe at the bottom of the man-made river and flipped over. The other eleven riders on Cartwright's raft survived, including her brother DeWayne.

Five months later, in a similar but unrelated accident, a family of four and four other passengers were trapped under an overturned raft at Riverside

Park in Agawam, Massachusetts. Fortunately, all riders survived.

On the boardwalk in Ocean City, New Jersey a 39-year-old mother and her 8-year-old daughter were killed while riding the Wild Wonder rollercoaster. On the way up to the first drop, their car unexpectedly released from the line of cars and the woman and her daughter were ejected, hitting the ride's steel support beams and dying instantly.

On June 11, in Coney Island, New York a falling piece of scenery caused the death of 17-year-old Nadine Caban on a ride called the Super Himalaya.

At the Great America park in Santa Clara, California yet another accident occurred. On August 22, 12-year-old Joshua Smurphat fell over 100 feet to his death after falling out of the restraints of a 207-foot freefall ride called the Stunt Tower.

In Bristol, Connecticut Matthew Henne, a 16-year-old amusement park worker was killed after falling from a platform and being partially crushed by a ride called the Tornado at the Lake Compounce amusement park. His family may file a suit against the park, but the park counters the Matthew crossed a safety line before the ride had come to a complete stop.

At nearby King's Dominion, twenty-year-old Timothy Fan was killed after falling from the Shockwave rollercoaster. After close inspection, park officials and the Hanover County Sheriff said Fan intentionally slipped out of his harness.

Weeks later, on the Shockwave again, 13-year-old Eamon McIntyre leaped from the ride after he thought his safety restraints were too loose. Luckily, he

landed on a catwalk, suffered a minor knee injury and walked to the bottom of the ride and met the ride's operator.

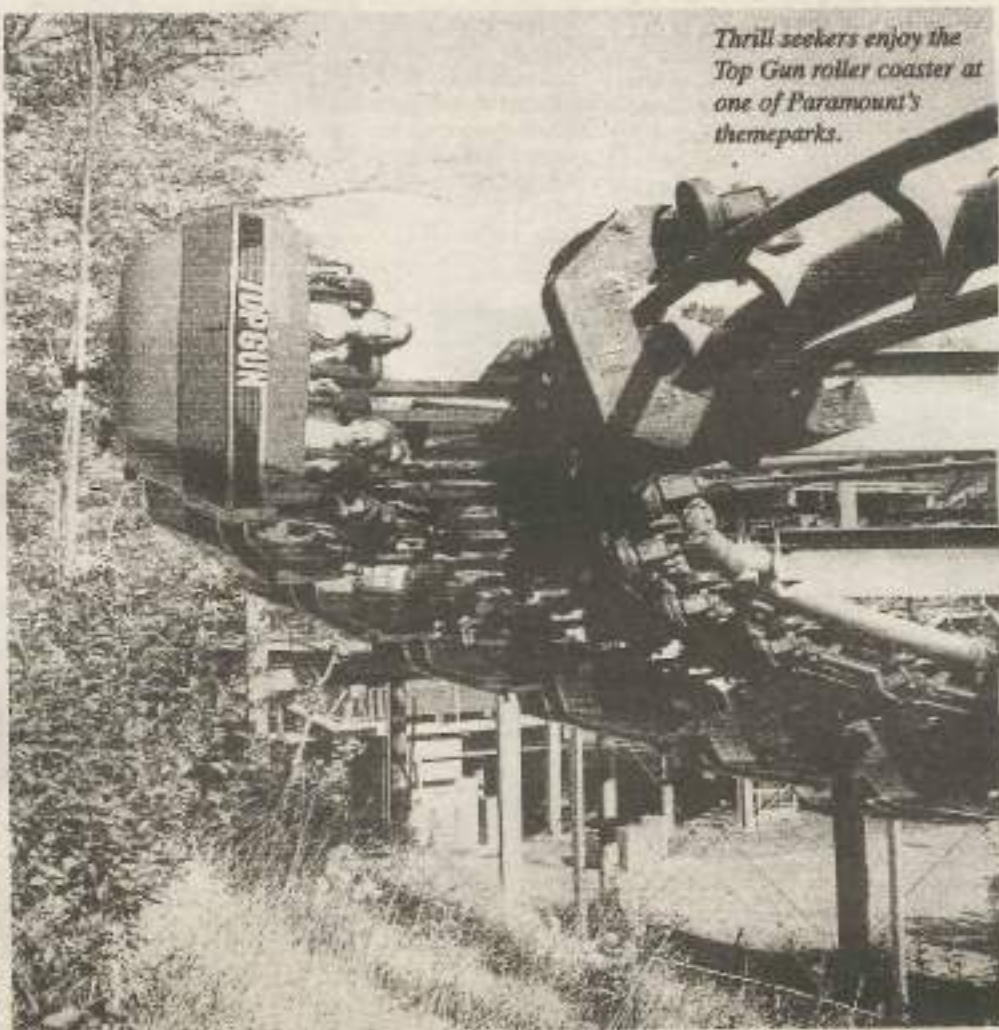
West Potomac students have a variety of feelings on the issue of the safety of rollercoasters. Some students are indifferent whereas others show genuine concern.

Sophomore Patrick Harmer said, "Going on the rides is kind of sketchy, but I'm still going to ride them."

Junior Anderson O'Choa had similar feelings when he said, "I'm not scared at all, I'll go on them anyway."

However, some students are more concerned about the summer's

*Thrill seekers enjoy the
Top Gun roller coaster at
one of Paramount's
themeparks.*



Vital Signs..

Vitamins: Are You Getting What You Need?

Margaret Chadbourn
Wire Reporter

If you're the kind of person who is able to eat 3 to 5 servings of vegetables and fruits, generous amounts of meat and dairy products, and 6 to 11 servings of grains everyday, you don't have much to worry about. Vitamin supplements are ideally for those needing certain nutrients and proteins that are lacking in their diets, which the body needs each day for normal metabolism and growth.

Many are prescribed or recommended to use vitamin supplements when going through periods of growth,

suffering from medical conditions, when participating in sports, or when their diets don't include enough proteins or nutrients. Vitamins are essential for our general well-being and the normal functioning of our bodies. When the body is not obtaining the needed amount of nutrients, they must be supplied in the diet or through vitamin supplements.

There are thirteen known vitamins that are required to keep the body healthy and prevent sickness. Vitamins are necessary for regulating

metabolism, converting fat and carbohydrates into energy, and assisting in the formation of bone and tissue. With few exceptions, the body cannot manufacture or synthesize

said, "I know I'm not getting enough proteins in my diet because I'm a vegetarian, so I make sure I take a vitamin everyday."

The Federal Drug Administration (FDA) started to prepare "Recommended Dietary Allowances" (RDA) in 1940 of vitamins and nutrients the average person should include in their daily diets. This RDA is a helpful guide for making sure you include the right foods and proper nutritional requirements in your diet. Used as a

reference found on food labels and nutritional books, the RDA can be a beneficial source to review and to determine what you should be consuming in your everyday meals, and if there are certain aspects of your diet that are scarce in proteins and nutrients. If so it might be advantageous to look into taking vitamin supplements.

Evidence shows vitamin supplements are only needed when certain shortfalls in your diet prevent you from getting the proper proteins or nutrients, or when sickness impedes your health. As long as you make sure generous amounts of vegetables, fruits, dairy products and meats are included in your diet, you should be able to get along without taking vitamin supplements.



these needed vitamins and they must be supplied by outside sources. Senior Shannon Milan

include the right foods and proper nutritional requirements in your diet. Used as a

Nine Inch Nails Five Years In the Making, Does Reznor Still Have It?

Five years in the making, the new Nine Inch Nails double CD already has a lot to live up to. Fans and critics alike have been eagerly awaiting the newest project from Trent Reznor, the driving force of Nine Inch Nails. "By far the best record I've ever done," proclaims Reznor which heightened the anticipation surrounding the September 21st re-

lease. The CD may disappoint a few long time fans of the band since it is said to be not traditional Nine Inch Nails. The *Fragile*—halo fourteen originally had 45 songs but had to be cut down to 23 tracks spread over two CDs. Reznor categorizes his CDs by "halos" similar

to volumes. In doing this it shows how far he has come in the making of records. The two CDs in *The Fragile* are an interesting medley of styles. Reznor captures sounds that are strictly Nine Inch Nails, while others go off combining music genres previously unexplored. This variation between the songs stylistically is one of the strengths of this album. Nine Inch Nails is typically characterized by distorted vocals, electronic elements, and long introductions with abrupt endings. Unfamiliar technical aspects present in the record include bold piano medleys, violins, Buddhist chanting, and even a marching band. This album differs from past records of his due to the fact that it includes breaks between songs, "Allowing the songs to breathe," writes Time magazine.

The first song released for radio play was "Starfuckers, Inc." This song is unmistakably Nine Inch Nails, an electro-metal sound similar to that found on "Pretty Hate Machine" released in 1989 and "The Downward Spiral" released in 1994. The next single, "We're

In This Together", possessed a different characteristic, more of an alternative vibe with whiny vocals piercing through the heavy percussion and long interludes of guitar riffs. An intended single, "The Day The World Went Away", is more of an eclectic mix. It

switches from loud, overpowering guitar to dark, gloomy piano entangled with crisp vocals.

CD REVIEW

Kelly Beyer



Reznor demonstrates the range of his musical talent fully on this CD. In fact, save a few notes here and there, Reznor wrote and played the majority of what is on the album. He also co-produced it on his record label, Nothing Records which features such acts as Marilyn Manson.

According to Rolling Stone magazine, several guest musicians appear on the CD with Reznor. These include Mike Garson pianist for David Bowie, King Crimson guitarist, Adrian Belew, and Ministry drummer, Bill Rieflin. Although Trent Reznor is the one man that makes up Nine Inch Nails he does hire musicians that tour with him such as; Charlie Clouser, Jerome Dillon, Robin Finck, and Danny Lohner. Being the only person to make up Nine Inch Nails sets Trent apart from other bands. "I still feel like I don't fit in anywhere", said Reznor to Time magazine.

The Fragile was a giant project for Reznor and after going through all his musical endeavors he produced an excellent album. The variations in the music keep the listener interested and eager to see where Reznor is going with the song. The mood of the CD was perfectly described when he said, "It was all about not being afraid."

Reznor has strong opinions about music and resents politicians who blame music for violent outbursts within the social cultures of youths today. One in particular being blamed as a result of

music is the recent Columbine massacre. Reznor calls the blaming of music, "scapegoating" and blurring the world of reality and fantasy. I don't have messages of Go kill yourself or Don't kill yourself in my music. People have to be given credit and responsibility for their own actions." Time magazine was told by Reznor in the September 1999 issue.

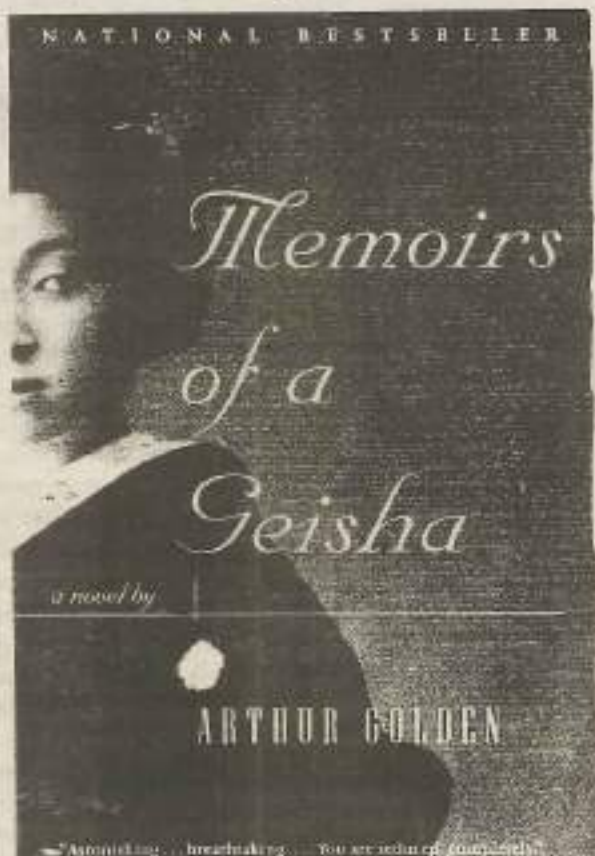
Though *The Fragile* is a change from most of his other works it best described when Reznor spoke to Time magazine saying, "The *Fragile* is a journey out of a place of desperation...there are threads of optimism". Certainly these "threads" will prove beneficial to Reznor's career as we look forward for the next halo.



Trent Reznor on stage

Publicity photo

Enter the World of a Japanese Geisha... An Enchanting Must-Read



"In our little fishing village of Yoroido, I lived in what I called a 'tipsy house'. It stood near a cliff where the wind off the ocean was always blowing. As a child it seemed to me as if the ocean had caught a terrible cold, because it was always wheezing and there would be spells when it let out a huge sneeze—which is to say there was a burst of wind with a tremendous spray." And so we enter the world of Chiyo-chan, a young Japanese girl who lives in a small fishing village with her dying mother and aging father. In an act of desperation, Chiyo's father is forced to sell his two daughters, who are uprooted from their "tipsy house" and sent to the city of Kyoto. Because of her beauty Chiyo is sent to an okiya where she will be trained to pursue a career as a Japanese geisha, while her older sister is sold into prostitution. Chiyo's life is intricately traced from her clumsy days a scorned servant to her life as a renowned Kyoto geisha.

During Chiyo's initial years in the okiya she is sabotaged by Hatsumomo, the beautiful but villainous geisha that she lives with. She is scorned by the mother of the okiya, who tells her that she will never make anything of her life. Her career becomes seriously threatened by Hatsumomo's deceit, but Chiyo, whose name is later changed to Sayuri, overcomes her rival with the help of distinguished geisha, Mahema. Mahema takes young Sayuri under her wing, and helps her to build a strong reputation within the community. Sayuri goes on to gain confidence through her work and through it all she searches for a special man that she desires to spend her life with.

Throughout the novel, the reader receives much insight into the traditions and rituals of the geisha cul-

ture. A geisha is defined as a "Japanese girl who is trained to provide entertaining and light-hearted company, especially for a man or group of men." Author Arthur Golden, however, makes it evident that a geisha is so much more. Despite some Western beliefs, a geisha is by no means a prostitute.

They entertain men intellectually instead of physically. Golden provides an intriguing description of a geisha's significance in Japanese society. A geisha's purpose is to entertain men through clever conversation and artistic performances. For these highly disciplined women, looks are everything and grace and wit a essential. Geisha are required to attend schooling to learn proper behavior including everything from pouring tea and sitting properly to dancing, singing and playing the shamisen. Golden spent ten years studying geisha in Japan and hence describes the astounding lifestyles of Kyoto geisha both

It will draw you into the world
of the geisha and leave you with
the desire to learn more about
this captivating lifestyle.

Book Review

Elissa Milanowski



accurately and intensely. The view into the heart and soul of Sayuri is remarkable considering that an American man wrote this best-seller. He captures the heartache, the friendships, the betrayal and the romance involved in Sayuri's life so well that it seems almost unbelievable that this character is a work of fiction.

End of Concert Season for Fort Reno

Meghan Deaver
Entertainment Editor

Meghan Deaver



Stage where Fugazi got their start

An empty stage is what is left of Fort Reno Park's concert season. Throughout the months of June, July, and August, the park has served as a site for the local music scene for about 30 years.

Located at 39th Street and Fessenden, in Washington D.C., Ft. Reno park is the closest concert place out of the Patriot Center, Merriweather Post Pavilion, R.F.K. Stadium and the MCI center...not to mention that the concerts are FREE! A few miles past Georgetown, the park is easy to find and for people who choose not to drive the park is accessible by the Tenleytown Metro stop (red line). The local area has much to offer, with restaurants such as Armands Pizza and Starbucks within reach along with other stores for different uses as well.

Shows are held every Monday and Tuesday night from 7:00 pm to 9:30 pm. High School garage bands, first time acts, signed and unsigned bands are just a few of the performances seen on the stage. Even nation wide know artist Fugazi performed their first shows at Ft. Reno, and make it a point to come back every year to play. This year was wrapped up by Fugazi, who played the last show, and even though it rained they played showing their dedication to the community...however their show was cut short half way through due to lightning.

The only rules of the park are no glass bottles, no alcohol, and no drugs. With these exceptions in mind the park serves as a nice, casual, laid back place to be entertained. The stage is a permanent one, located in the middle of a shallow hill, surrounded by a few trees. People of all ages come to gather at concerts, even middle age grown ups with their children right

next to the crowd of teenager punks. They bring chairs, blankets and their pets to watch the shows and even have room to breathe due to the wide spacious area unlike other concert halls.

When not in concert season, the park is the place for soccer games, joggers, bikers, and even tourists. Ft. Reno has been standing since the Civil War. The area is known to have the highest elevation in the District and the fort itself is 429 feet tall, just 126 feet shorter than the Washington Monument. In 1863 the fort was built by the 119th Pennsylvania Regiment as one of the many forts that surrounded the Washington area to fight against Confederate troops. The area that the Union protected with the help of the fort is now today's Nebraska and Wisconsin Avenues. Presently the fort is maintained by the National Park Service and is undergoing construction for restorations.

While Fort Reno has this history, most people just know it as a great place to hang out. From soccer games, tennis matches, golfers practicing their swing, and artists even sketching a scene of the beautiful surroundings, everyone is welcome to enjoy the atmosphere.



Fort Reno's highly visible tower

Meghan Deaver



Sony

Dixie Chicks Going New Places, with new CD *Fly*...

The second I heard "If I Fall You're Going Down With Me," I was hooked. Hooked on the Dixie Chicks was something I never thought I would be. Their first major label CD, *Wide Open Spaces* didn't make much of an impression on me. Sure, tunes like "I Can Love You Better" and "There's Your Trouble" were catchy and fun, but they got old—fast.

For a group that came out with their first major label album only a year ago, the Dixie Chicks have come a long way. *Fly*, the follow-up to their first

Kelly Mayer



album, is quite impressive. The new album is a mixture of fast songs, such as "Sin Wagon," and slow songs, such as "Without You." There are also songs that are both fast and slow, such as "Hello Mr. Heartache."

The cover booklet is a good introduction to the CD. The first thing I noticed about the booklet was how colorful it was. In a way, the album is "colorful" as well—it paints many images of flight. The booklet is full of fun pictures of Natalie, Martie, and Emily—pictures of them on a swing in brightly colored dresses and pictures of them riding on rockets. The fun that the Dixie Chicks seem to be having carries over into their music. The booklet and all of the songs are unique and distinctive. Trust me, you have not heard these songs before.

"Good-bye Earl," an abusive husband murder song is bound to get some criticism from critics due to the nature of its content. The Dixie Chicks tried to make a serious issue more lighthearted by including a quip below the lyrics to the song: "The Dixie Chicks do not advocate premeditated murder, but love getting even."

A lot of times, I purchase a CD because I really like the first song off of the album. After I get home and listen to the rest of the album, I discover that the only good song on the album is the one that encouraged me to buy the CD in the first place. That was how I felt with *Wide Open Spaces*. I liked the songs they played on the radio, but the unpromoted songs were nothing to get excited about. But *Fly* is different. Every song is developed and has a full sound, complete with strong vocals, harmony, and flattering solos. Any one of the fourteen songs from *Fly* could be a hit single.

What you have with *Fly* is an album that is twangier, more energetic, and just plain better than their first. You may ask: How can you compete with the success of *Wide Open Spaces*? Well let's just say that *Fly* is a pretty good encore, sure to open up some even wider spaces for the Dixie Chicks.

State of the Arts

OCTOBER-NOVEMBER

Nation:

Oct. 28 - The Kids Want A Riot Tour

Dropkick Murphy's

And-Flag

Blood For Blood

Bombshell Rocks

Oct. 31 - Pietasters, Puffer

Spring Heeled Jack

Nov. 6 - 311

Nov. 26 - Pat McGee Band

Nov. 11 - String Out, Pennywise

Baltimore Arena:

Nov. 5 - Bob Dylan

9:30 CLUB:

Oct. 15, 16 - They Might Be Giants

Oct. 24, 25 - Ben Folds Five

Oct. 26 - Type O Negative

Oct. 28 - Counting Crows

Oct. 30 - Cypress Hill

Oct. 31 - Rage

Nov. 5 - Marcy Playground

Nov. 6 - Sava Farris

Nov. 7 - Gwar, Misfits

Nov. 13 - George Clinton &

P-Funk Allstars

Nov. 16 - Primus

MCI

Nov. 24 - Shania Twain

Constitution Hall

Nov. 12 - Sting

Black Cat

Oct. 22 - The Roots



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New Owner Brings Change to Redskins

Brett Banes
Wire Reporter

For Redskins fans, any change in the organization is welcomed with open arms. Let's face it, the Redskins have been horrible. They've been horrible for nearly an entire decade. Not since the 1991 season, when they won the Super Bowl, have the Redskins even made the playoffs. The Bush administration was still in office the last time Redskin fans had something to cheer for. Well, one fan is determined to do something about it. His name is Daniel Snyder, the

Washington Redskins' new owner.

Daniel Snyder says he has been a die-hard Redskins fanatic since he was a young boy. For those who were not convinced, perhaps his eight-hundred million dollar purchase of the franchise made them believers. His purchase of the Washington Redskins is the most money ever spent for an American sports franchise. However, a transaction as monumental as this creates a debt, a rather large debt actually, and in order for Snyder to profit, or merely break even, he must quickly return the organization back to

its winning tradition.

When Snyder took over as owner, he immediately fired most of the front office including general manager Charles Casserly. Head coach Norv Turner certainly feels the pressure of urgency. Many speculated whether he too would be fired along with Casserly in the off-season, but Snyder has made no move in that direction...yet. Already, Snyder has lost several veterans to free-agency and expansion. He has made drastic personnel moves such as firing offensive linemen Joe Patton, and signing veteran Irving Fryar, bringing him out

of retirement. Snyder has shown interest in going after such high profile players as Joey Galloway, and running back Barry Sanders. Jack Kent Cooke Stadium, named for the former owner of the Redskins, has had its name changed to Redskins Stadium. Improvements in the box seats have been made in hopes of selling more tickets, and new advertisements appear throughout the stadium.

Through action already taken, Daniel Snyder has made it clear that the coaching staff and personnel are under the



gun. If he is dissatisfied, appropriate actions will be taken in order to protect his investment. Will these changes be enough to make this franchise a powerhouse once again? Redskin fans sure hope so, but only time will tell. It's hard to imagine that they could get much worse.

Wolverine Football Striving to End Skid Against Hawks

Joe Caponio
Wire Reporter

The West Potomac varsity football team is off to a rough start with a record of 3-3(0-3 in the district). Despite disappointing losses at Annandale, West Springfield, and Robinson, the Wolverines lead the Patriot District in scoring, with 195 points. The Wolverines don't seem to have lost a step on the offense even with the losses of running back Devon Adams and quarterback Carlton Phelps. This is mostly because of the job that Geoff Todd and Jamal Mills are doing to pick up the slack of the departed seniors.

The part of the team that is getting the highest praise is the offensive line. Several different players are saying how the line plays such a great role in the success of the team. Junior Marques Coffie said, "The offensive line plays a significant role in keeping our running game a threat." This idea seems to be shared by coach John Howerton, who said, "The offensive line has good potential, although it needs some work. But there is a lot of

time needed to learn the offense, especially with three new starters. We have good strength and good size."

The season opened at home against arch-rival Mount Vernon after nearly three weeks of summer practice. Mount Vernon got off to a pretty good start in the first quarter, and hung with the Wolverines for the first 15 minutes, with the score tied at 14. But that was all the Majors could accomplish, as West Potomac finished the game by scoring 47 unanswered points. The key stat of the game was rushing yardage - the Wolverines had three players with 85 or more yards rushing. After the 61-14 win over Mount Vernon, the Wolverines were off to Yorktown where they got off to another slow start. Yorktown scored 13 points in the first quarter, but like the Majors a week earlier, they were shut down by the tenacious West Potomac defense over the final three quarters, leading the Wolverines to victory.

After consecutive wins to start the season, the Wolverines were ready to take on Washington-Lee. But they had to wait a day, as the game was pushed back due to stormy weather. When the game was finally played, West Potomac rolled over their opponent. Up next for


the Wolverines was a huge challenge against Annandale. The Atoms were riding an emotional high, celebrating their 46 years of football and playing in front of 2500 fans, 200 of them former players. The atmosphere seemed to fuel the Atoms, as they handed the Wolverines their first loss of the season.

Coming off the loss to Annandale, the Wolverines suffered another blow, losing to the West Springfield Spartans 10-7. The Wolverines continued their downward spiral, losing at Robinson

despite a valiant fourth quarter run at a comeback.

The Wolverines take on the Hayfield Hawks this week for the homecoming game. It is a must win situation if they are to have any hope of making the playoffs. This game has added importance because it would keep the Wolverines above the .500 mark. West Potomac has never had a losing season and the team has no intention of making this the first.

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In the Numbers

3

Games lost by the varsity football team so far this year.

1

Regular season losses by the varsity football team in both the 1997-98 and the 98-99 seasons combined.

10

Members of the female cross country team.

1

Number of strokes the golf team lost to Hayfield by.

22

Members on the all male drill team.

1

Number of touchdowns scored in the Powder Puff football game.

Field Hockey Takes Strides to Improve

Erika Benitez
Wire Reporter

If you asked the field hockey team about their record two weeks ago, they'd probably tell you that their hard efforts just weren't paying off. Beginning the season with two losses, the WP field hockey team was off to a disappointing start. Suffering losses to Lake Braddock and TC Williams, Coach Carol Horton said, "The girls outplayed teams at the beginning of the season but in a low scoring game the final score didn't always show it." However, with a dramatic turn around, the team has earned themselves a current spot as

second place in the district.

On Friday, October 1, the Lady Wolverines beat the Annandale Atoms 2-0. This vic-

In addition to their rise over Annandale, the Varsity field hockey team had a winning streak against 4 more teams.



Senior Lynn Farquhar strides towards the goal during a practice

tory boosted the teams ratings; Annandale had previously been undefeated in the district.

Last Friday, in their exciting win over the Robinson Rams, West Potomac scored, by jun-

ior, Katie Beal, on a corner in the last second of the game. Leading the team in overtime Senior, Erin Sixsmith scored in 1 minute and 24 seconds.

This years Varsity field hockey team has definitely proved themselves worthy of a stiff competition. With a 5-3 record in the district, the members of the varsity field hockey team are excited about taking the team to the regional tournament. "We practice hard and it pays off in our games," say juniors, Michelle Hofmann and Vicki Robella.

Coach Horton says, "We're on a roll and playing well, come see us play for our last home game next Wednesday!"

Robella Vaults Her Way to The Top

Mary Robb Teague
Business Manager

Seven years of experience, twelve months of training a year, seven months of competitions, and 22 hours of practice a week has shaped freshman Christine Robella, into an incredible gymnast.

Robella placed first in state competitions in Virginia Beach, first in regionals in Allantown, Pa., and competed in nationals held in Austin, TX. As a level 9 at a Las Vegas competition, she placed first in finals on floor routines as well.

At home, at Capital Gymnastics in Burke, Va., Robella holds her position as a level 10 (one

step below an 01 "elite"- gymnast who train for possible Olympic placement). Her group consists of 9 gymnasts, all between the ages of 12 and 17. Their typical practice (events pending) begins with an hour on the vault, an hour on floor routines, an hour on beam, an hour on bar, and 45 minutes on conditioning. Training includes focus on individual skills and endurance drills, such as push ups, running, crunches, v-ups, and ropes.

Anyone who knows Robella could easily say that her

strength is unsurpassed. Most remember her at age 10, when Robella proved her skill with 40 pull ups for physical fitness testing at Stratford Elementary School. Beyond her physical agility, Robella proves her discipline and mental toughness through devotion. This winter, West Potomac's Gymnastic Team will feel the benefits of her devotion as well.

Robella plans to follow in the footsteps of her older brother, John Robella, who competed for the WP Gymnastic Team as a senior last year. She's excited

ter for her first high school season as a freshman. Her initial goal is to someday receive a scholarship for gymnastics, but today she is focusing on her skills in competition.

Last year, after suffering from a stress fracture in her groin and inflammation in her ankles, she missed her whole season. "It's a very demanding sport, and can be stressful sometimes," said Robella. But now that she's back on the bars her attention has turned toward perfection. "It's never as easy as it looks," she says.

Whatever challenges this years season may pose, Robella will be ready for the mount. We look forward to cheering her on this winter!

"It's a very demanding sport, and can be stressful sometimes."

Join Crew

Come to the Crew Team Potluck Dinner on Sunday, October 17th at 6:00
At the Heritage Presbyterian Church
8503 Fort Hunt Road



Other Dates:

Winter Training Begins Monday, December 6th
Crew Wreath Sale Begins November 27th
Spring Practice Begins Monday February 21st

Sports In Brief

Golf

The golf team, coached by Mr. Carl Hurley, is doing exceptionally, considering that they are composed mostly of sophomores. They have only lost two games for the district. One to Lake Braddock and the other to Hayfield.

In both of these matches the score was close even until the end, and West Potomac golfers fought until the very finish. Their reputation for

exciting ends has earned them the name "The Cardiac Kids" due to the high excitement towards the end of the matches when the game is often very close.

While the golf team's participants are young and the team is small in size, Hurley says "We have a chance to win it all." The Cardiac Kids will take on the districts and the states soon.

Tennis

Although the tennis team has not won any of their eleven matches, the new coach Mrs. Bonnie Rivkin and her team agree that they have improved through the season.

Junior Courtney Rivkin said "Throughout the season the team became more supportive and friendly." This will have a positive effect on the team next year.

Seeing as this is a young team, she is probably correct and it is likely that the '00-'01 season will be great.

This year's team, with no seniors, is soon to face districts. However, their main goal right now is to improve, not win it all. Looking towards next year as one of much strength, the girls are prepared for an even better season.