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THE WIRE

WEST POTOMAC HIGH SCHOOL

West Potomac High School
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Alexandria, VA 22307
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Parking Problem Has Resolution

Anum Jaffri

News Editor

A new concession implemented this year is the right for students to choose their own parking spot. When a student registers for a parking pass, they can indicate the spot they want to have for the entire year. Administration hopes that this will cut down on students being unhappy with their parking spot and parking in someone else's assigned spot.

Although, students have gotten away with parking in other spaces before, administration says that checking will be strict this year. Tickets will be written for those parking in the spots of others. Senior Alex Davis remembers driving to school with his sister two years ago. "She just parked wherever there was a free space," he said. But Davis likes the idea of getting to choose your own spot. "I think it would help you get to class on time, instead of hunting around for a spot. You're already guaranteed your free spot."

The beginning of the school year also establishes a privilege that some may come to see as a nuisance. A student driving to school, although allowed, becomes a problem when the student parks where they are not supposed to and when they park in residential areas, sometimes blocking driveways.

complaints when students park on residential streets. Since there are not enough parking spots for everyone on campus, parking in residential areas around the school is not forbidden, but it is not recommended. Students, once parked, also jump fences to get to Quander Road, "really upsetting the neighborhoods," said Haire.

"People used to park in our yard," said junior Stuart Robinson, who lives on Quander Road. Although his family doesn't have that problem anymore, he still thinks that people should ask permission before they park in front of a house.

Students parking in neighborhoods just "shows that we need more parking space," said senior Shukura Abbott. "Or that people just don't want to pay," she added, laughing.

Considering the issue of being able to paint

See Parking, page 4



The new parking system, which allows students to choose their own parking spots.

Photo by Hoot Cooksey

Many residents around our school see students parking on their streets as irritating. The few spots on Quander Road in front of the Quander Road School are "no problem," according to Safety and Security Specialist William Haire. But, as a result the school gets

Wireless Wonder

Kate Sigety

Wire Reporter

The School year hasn't even begun yet and FCPS is already ahead of the technological game. By the end of last year, Fairfax County Public Schools completed installment of high-speed wireless connections in every part of the school network.

Access to the internet within classrooms and computer labs is a resource that has been available for teachers and students for years in schools across the nation. Fairfax County schools also hold the distinction of being one of the very first in the wireless internet movement. Our school system has supplied a wireless signal to "every nook and cranny in every school building," in the county according to Maribeth Luftglass, the school systems chief information officer. "The installation process was a tough period to get through and seemed like it took forever, but I definitely feel like it was worth ever second of waiting," says Zina Facemire, one of the School-Based Technology Specialists. Although the installation of high-speed internet took a while to get set up, it came with many advantages.

"Not only is high-speed internet quicker, it is also becoming much more secure than what it used to be in previous years," says Robert Snyder, another School-Based Technology Specialist. FCPS chose Cisco Systems Internet Protocol to provide the county with a secure and flexible network. 7,500 Cisco Aironet 1100 Series access points have been deployed throughout FCPS's



The mobile labs have opened new opportunities for teaching.

Photo by Hoot Cooksey

242 schools and facilities. Access points are devices used to connect wireless communication together to create a wireless network. Luftglass feels that this could be "one of the biggest wireless installations in the country."

The high-speed wireless internet is only available through laptops as of right now. These laptops are on rolling carts, which can be brought to any classroom easily without any wires or any hassle. Using laptops is more convenient for teachers as well because they do not have to take away from instruction time to transfer students to a separate computer lab. As school populations grow and laptops are now conveniently being used and put on carts, the free space can be used for classrooms.

With such an easy internet connection and mobile laptops, more and more Standards of Learning are being tested online, instead of on the bubble in sheets. Taking the SOL's online makes the testing process easier for students because the information needed for grading is already inserted into the computer. All the students need to do is log into the computer and follow instructions given by the teacher. When taken online, SOL results are accessible within 24 hours, instead of weeks or even months. This makes the grading process more convenient.

Warming Up or Cooling Down

Colin Chaddock

Business Manager

Global warming is a much debated subject. With the improvements in engineering and science over the last few years, a group of people believe that the earth is actually cooling off, not heating up.

Global Warming, in a nut shell, is the effect of CO₂ (carbon dioxide), water vapor, nitric oxide, and methane on the atmosphere. All these chemicals get trapped in the atmosphere and absorb energy in effect making the earth warmer. The added heat melts our ice caps and glaciers eventually causing massive flooding and loss of life.

The reverse of Global Warming is Global Dimming; when soot is released into the atmosphere water vapor condenses around the dirt particles forming what is called a thermal nuclei. This happens with or without human interaction, but when a lot of soot is released such as due to factories, jet air trails, etc. This in turn makes the thermal nuclei smaller and closer together. This process makes the clouds more reflective of light rays and heat rays coming from the sun so less heat and light

get beyond our atmosphere. This cooling could eventually cause an ice age. More immediate problems of Global Dimming are health issues related to unclear air such as asthma, lung issues, etc.

People at our school interviewed said they recognized the term Global Warming, although they did not Global Dimming. The interviewees said that Global Warming was bad and unhealthy. When asked about the healthiness of Global Dimming the answers varied. "I would rather have soot in the atmosphere than the glaciers melt," said senior Erin Burke. "Global Dimming is not healthy," said English teacher Kim Summers. Sophomore Neil Burke said, "I prefer cold weather, so I think that Global Dimming is neutral".

Although both Global Warming and Dimming are serious problems, research has shown they balance each other out. One is heating up the world causing tropical and subtropical climates, while the other is cooling the world off causing ice ages. The end result is a precarious balancing act that could send the earth to chaos.



School Shopping

Here we are again, yet another year with a whole new learning experience ahead. Welcome back students. Perhaps you yawn as you read this greeting. Maybe a few questions will wake you up and get the brain working once more: How long did you stay up over the summer? How many hours did you spend at the beach? Sleeping? Reading? Working on the AP project? How much money did you spend on school supplies? The National Retail Federation survey predicted that families would spend more on back to school supplies this year than last year.

Not that they really needed to, over the years students and parents have found that only the basics are needed: pencils, paper, pens and notebooks "I spent probably thirty or forty dollars" stated junior Jason Brede. However this small amount does not include the clothes, shoes and accessories that come with back to school shopping. "I spent probably at least a couple hundred dollars, clothes are really expensive," exclaimed junior Laura Howell. Many new trends have been targeted toward the teenage spenders making them irresistible to pass by.

Maybe if students received more guidance when shopping before the school year, more money would be saved. Generic supply list were seen in a few random stores to guide spenders however the best resource could only come from the teachers themselves. "I think I'll wait till the teachers say what they want," determined parent Donna Tse. Students often find that teachers may require something different from what they previously bought at the store.

Stores that hauled in the cash include what else? Wal-Mart. "I got a lot of stuff [at] Wal-Mart," admitted junior Rebecca Murphy. Other places include Target, Old Navy, and various discount stores. "I spent my own money" said Murphy. This was also predicted by the National Retail Federation, students spending their own money.

Back to school shopping is a time to prepare for the coming school year. It allows students to feel confident and comfortable with transition. So what exactly are students spending theirs or their parent's money on? Let's do the math: Skinny Jeans at Old Navy \$25, Dell laptop \$800, graphing calculator, up to a \$100, Jansport student backpack \$50. The look on our parents faces when they see the bill, scary. The look on our parents faces as we drag to the bus stop at 6:00 am in the morning, priceless. For everything else, there's Wal-Mart.

Outraged Advice

Dear Editor,

There's only one way to go back to high school - outraged. After all, there's always something to complain about, so as a senior I must impart such necessary fury to every incoming class.

My first nugget of wisdom for How Not to Screw Yourself - take the SAT twice. Your scores will probably drop from the third time onward. And since I didn't know how to sign up for the SAT until halfway through junior year, I'll enlighten any followers - welcome to a place called CollegeBoard.com. It's all the educational super-business that holds everything you need, from study courses for the SAT to college searches to test registration.

Now, I'd like to introduce everybody to the little-known baby sister of the SAT, the SAT II. What on earth is that, you may ask? Well, don't wait until junior year to find out. It's the SAT Subject test. It covers English, Math, Biology, etc. Don't expect you guidance counselor to pop the question about these babies either. Some colleges expect at least three of these tests to apply. But one of the good things is that you can take three at one time. Felling hung out to dry? Yes. Welcome to high school.

Senior, Allison Tse

If you have an opinion on a school-related issue, please submit your Letter to the Editor of 250 words or less to Room 418 Quander, or e-mail us at: kelcy.pierre@fcps.edu. All submissions become property of *The Wire*.

Rants and RAVES

A Rant for having to fill out packets before getting your schedule.

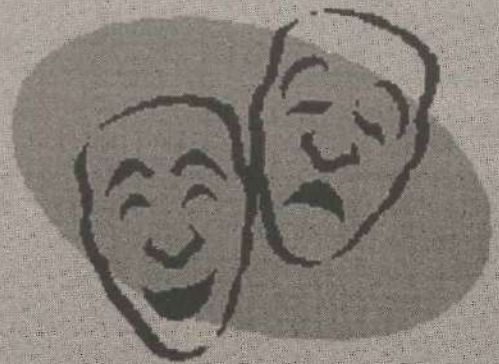
A RAVE FOR THE MUCH NEEDED RAIN!

A RAVE FOR WEST POTOMAC'S HIGHER SAT SCORES!

A Rant for returning to school.

A Rant for school starting five minutes earlier.

A RAVE FOR THE VOLLEYBALL TEAM WINNING THEIR FIRST GAME!



Towers Taking Over Our World

Alex Keckeisen

Editor-in-Chief

We have all been there before. You are in the middle of an extremely important call on your cell phone and suddenly you remember where you are. You think, "Oh god," and think about telling the person you are talking to that you are about to hit a dreaded "dead zone." You brace for impact as you hit it and suddenly your phone sends you a nice clear message. Call dropped.

In the past few years, as cell phone companies have scrambled to keep up with the competition, cell phone towers have been sprouting up in the form of hideous "trees." You can always point out which tree is not real because it towers above the real trees and has metal equipment hanging off the side. These competitive companies try to boast that they all have the best cell phone service around but it always seems as if you can go from full service to no service in no-time.

Sprint Corporation, which is one of the largest telecommunication companies in the country, recently approached Saint Lukes Episcopal Church on Ft. Hunt Road regarding their steeple. Sprint made an offer to buy the church a steeple, which would have to be

about 20-feet taller, and lease the space so that it could install up to three antennas inside. After much negotiation, the church agreed and currently, the tower is being erected.

Frankly, in this day and age we need more



Photo by Alex Keckeisen

phone towers. With busy schedules, students in school work, or just hanging out, we can't afford to have dead zones. Some have said that these towers can cause extreme radiation but there have been no studies that conclusively show that these cell

phone towers can cause any type of harm according to the FCC.

So as new cell phone towers set up our backyard why fight technology if it has been ruling us for so many years. With the way our country is transforming it is inevitable to get more cell phone towers, and when not, technology is a way of life and advancing it is just another step forward.

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The Pros and Cons of Flex

It's Not That Bad!

Must we all suffer?

Taylor Dankmyer
Managing Editor

As I wrote in the May '06 edition of *The Wire*, the Flex schedule is a great idea. That was last year, now we are actually following through with the idea, and people have mixed feelings about the schedule.

I don't think students like change. There are many students, and even staff against the Flex schedule. However, like anything new there are things that need to be worked out in the beginning.

I've never been fond of the old schedule, really; it was okay, but nothing special. *The Wire's* own Hooff Cooksey, in the February '06 issue of the paper, talked about the pros of having a study hall. Well, folks, the Flex is like a study hall. I don't understand why people wouldn't like a period to either do homework or do something that they would have to stay after school for without the Flex schedule.

Many students believe that it is okay to skip, just like any other class, and if you are going to go to another class for help, it has to be prearranged so the teacher will be expecting you. If you don't come, you can be caught skipping. There is more order to the Flex period than many students believe.

Also last year in the poll and around the school, I heard students saying the schedule was confusing. Anything new is hard to get used to and usually hard to understand. Just because students are confused about the schedule, doesn't mean students shouldn't like it. Why don't students give it a chance?

By the way, the schedule is not rocket science. It is confusing at first, like most things in life, but if students took some time to understand it, students would catch on. Our school isn't going to leave you hanging either. There are plenty of knowledgeable people that will tell you where to go, and explain the Flex schedule to you.

The Flex schedule eliminates negatives of the old schedule. Plenty of students and staff complained about the short 7th period. Last year, teachers set up a different schedule for their seventh period class. Also, the 7th period class made it hard to do lengthy things like a test. This is now not a problem!

I also believe that many students are being quite selfish when thinking about the Flex schedule. Many students at our school cannot

stay after because they have work or family obligations, or because on that day the bus doesn't come and they cannot get a ride.

Only a fraction of our school's students drive to school (including me), so to drivers it isn't a problem. However, for the students who cannot get a ride from a friend, a parent or anyone, staying after school is not as easy. Before I had a car, I was in this jam a few times last year myself. With the Flex, students' time spent after school will be decreased, or totally erased.

I mean, let's be honest, how many of us want to stay after school? When school is over, I want school over, especially if you are one of the many that participate in sports. All athletes

stay after school for practice or come back later in the day for practice. Why wouldn't you want to get as much school work done without staying after or having to stay up through the wee hours of the night?

Another complaint students have is that one minute has been taken off students' time between classes.

Want to hear an additional plus that many students probably didn't think about? There are now four lunches. Sure, you have less of a probability of being with all

your friends, but the positive is that there will be less students in each lunch, which means shorter lines, when in turn results in more time to eat, this results in more time

to talk or do that homework that you were supposed to do last night (which will happen less because of the Flex because you will get a chance to do homework during the Flex!).

If you have problems with having a schedule, this is a perfect time to learn how to manage one and stay organized. Folks, here is the perfect time for you and that shiny blue thing called a planner to get acquainted.

Our school did not go into this misguided, they have been planning it sense the end of last year. With everything, there are certain kinks to work out, but that is because the school is going under a drastic change, and it is for the better! Overall, I think the Flex schedule is excellent. It fixes a lot of the problems with the old schedule, and I only wish it had been around for my first two years.



Photo by Grace Powell

Why don't students give it a chance?

Mariya Ilyas
News Editor

As we begin a new year of high school, there is something we must all obey: the Flex Schedule. The Flex Plan was put into practice by the administration this past June for this year and the years to come. Its goal was to provide a "study hall" for students who were unable to stay after school with teachers, who needed extra help, and who needed to make up work. But why should the whole school suffer the consequences and the confusion of the Flex Plan because some students have trouble with time management?

To squeeze in an extra period, the Flex Plan takes away much of our valuable and precious time. An extra lunch period has been added as well, D Lunch, which means we will no longer have many of our friends with us during lunch. There is no longer a seventh period every day, instead a new eighth period is in its place. Every class is four to five minutes shorter than usual. More chaos kicks in when students need to get special permission from both teachers if they wish to be in a different class than the designated Flex period. And that doesn't start until October.

"I feel that the Flex schedule will make it seem as if school is longer than it actually is," said freshman Ayesha Ahmad. "I prefer the regular block scheduling."

The Flex schedule may work well for freshmen since they are new, but it may anger the seniors who have been here all three years and need to relax during their last year here. "Although at first it may be hard, I think the freshmen will have a much easier time adapting to the new schedule versus the students who have been here at our school longer and are used to something different," said sophomore Anna Beth Lee.

High school is where we students learn how to become independent and manage our time. If the school administration keeps guiding us by enforcing practices, such as the Flex Schedule, then we will

soon become *dependent*. High school is supposed to get most of us ready for college and for some, the real world. If an individual cannot manage their time, why should those who can be punished? Students who need such help should consult their counselors or their parents for advice. As far as academics go, it is the responsibility and choice of every individual to make the right and proper decisions for themselves.

The Flex Plan creates many problems; it never should have been implemented!

If a student does not want to study for tests, then that is his or her problem: they will fail. If a student does not want to do homework, then

that is their problem: they will not learn. If a student does not want to seek extra help, then that is their problem: they will lose. There is a different way to deal with such students; punishment for the whole school is not the way. These are all choices that the student makes. He or she will suffer later on in life, why should the peers have to pay the price for actions they choose to take?

Besides all of this, the new schedule is confusing to many students! Will teachers have to waste their class time explaining it to the students? Will the administration call an assembly to clear the confusion? The Flex Plan creates many problems; it never should have been implemented!

The Flex Plan is not only creating problems for students, but some teachers also feel the pressure. "Flex places more responsibility on the teacher because it forces teachers to communicate with one another and be more accurate with its attendance,"

said Health and P.E. teacher, Ms. Denise Green.

I believe teachers, students, and the administration all make up the community of a school. According to the rules of democracy, we all should have been involved in deciding and voting on the Flex Schedule. Only chaos awaits us now.



Photo by Grace Powell

Adele Hampton
Co-Editor-in-Chief

This summer, while others were water skiing and touring the world, I was sitting in front of the television watching the various beauty pageants such as Miss Universe, Miss USA, Miss Teen USA, and one episode of MTV's *Made* where the girl wanted to be beauty queen. So, in honor of those who storm the stage in bikinis and stilettos and who believe in world peace and that special spray that keeps your bathing suit in place, I am dedicating this column to the beauty queens.

Callista awards given for beauty. Going back thousands of years pageants have been the determinants of beauty and grace. Unfortunately, pageants now have no purpose whatsoever. For example,

let's take Miss Teen USA. Being a teen myself, I cannot imagine a worse way to embarrass myself. Between the opening dance routine, to the bathing suit competition, to the evening gown portion, the contestants are on display for the world to see. This could either be a good thing or a bad thing, sadly for most, it is a bad thing. A very bad thing. So, what is supposed to be graceful and exciting event becomes an out of sync mob of blond hair and fake smiles.

Now, I know I might seem bitter and maybe I am. All of those childhood days spent stomping around my house in my mother's heels with bed sheets draped

around me should have amounted to something. But alas, my beauty queen dreams were never to be fulfilled because I cannot twirl flaming batons, heels hurt my feet, and I do not have a southern accent of any kind.



Photo by Lakisha Langley

Desideratum—something that is greatly desired. "Be the crown...you are the crown... I am Miss Menominee Wisconsin." A crown is supposed to symbolize royalty, the utmost power, a true leader of the common people, but in the case of pageant queens, the crown represents something much more. The diamond encrusted cap symbolizes the struggle, the

strength to rise above the prejudice and the misconceptions to ascend to the glory of representing a small town of 100 people.

As many people know, the crown is awarded to the girl with the ugliest dress. In the case of Miss Teen USA, the crown was given to the contestant with the second ugliest dress which then resulted in a hideous scandal. But never the less, the key to winning a beauty pageant is to find to most heinous dress and parade it around without shame in front of the judges.

So, all-in-all the crown is the key to the secret world of beauty queens, a representation of water proof mascara, and the perfect wave. And yes, Miss Menominee Wisconsin, armed with hair extensions, and the most unattractive dress available you are the queen; the queen of world peace and magical spray.

The Appeal of Your Personality ... Online

Kelly Wood

Features Editor

Most high school students have a MySpace and/or Facebook account. In general, MySpace is more popular among high school students, while Facebook tends to attract those in college. So what exactly is it about these websites that draws so much interest?

"I love MySpace and usually go on it at least seven hours a week," said sophomore Ruby Szilagi. MySpace offers a variety of entertainment including music, videos, and games. Not to mention the continuous pattern of leaving messages for friends and receiving comments back.

By just looking at a MySpace account, it is easy to get an idea of what a person is like. The website allows people to express their personality and uniqueness, whether it is done through music, background, or icon selection. Szilagi said, "MySpace makes it easy to talk to friends and I really enjoy decorating it and making it into something that fits my personal taste."

Facebook offers a little less variety but is an ideal website for friends wanting to communicate. "A lot of people like Facebook because they can upload more pictures



Photo By Anum Jaffri

MySpace, an internet network, attracts many teenage fans

there than on MySpace. Facebook also has a lot fewer ads and other garbage on it," said junior Andrea Jensen. Like MySpace, Facebook allows you to leave messages for friends and comment on pictures. A huge difference between the two is that Facebook focuses on pictures. If someone has a picture of you, they can tag it which sends it directly to your account. This allows everyone to see this picture when they view your profile. Only you and the person who tagged your picture are able to remove it from your profile. Facebook is

In Memory of Quiyana N. Pierce-Lloyd

12/24/1990 - 9/3/06

The funeral will take place on Friday, September 8 at 11:00 a.m. at the Kingdom Hall of Jehovah Witness, 7920 Holland Road located behind Mt. Vernon Hospital. Students can be excused from school to attend if they pre-arrange their absences by bringing notes to the attendance office. The family asks that in lieu of flowers, people give a donation to the Sickle Cell Disease Association of America in Quiyana's memory.



Will Flex be a Success?

Drew Smith

Wire Photographer

This 2006-2007 school year starts a new program regarding the schedule, called Flex. There are eight periods and period four is the flex period. The flex period is where you prearrange meetings with a teacher, go to their classroom and get extra help in that particular subject. The program is especially designed to help students get more help and overall improve grades.

The man in charge of implementing this new schedule is assistant principal Rod Manuel, the former principal of Annandale High School. Annandale is the only other school in Fairfax County with the Flex schedule. There the program succeeded in its goal to help students of all skill levels. So, with West Potomac's problems of low grades from students in all grades and skill levels, the decision to bring Flex here was supported by the former principal. "It gives students and teachers the opportunity to be able to meet individual needs," said Manuel, who sees the new schedule as a positive change intended to bring up low grades.

However, despite the administrators' positive outlook on the change, not everyone is as excited as they are. In fact, senior Tommy Ferguson does not even know what the new schedule is, and he is not alone. "I'm not sure I understand it," has been the most common response to the introduction of

the Flex program, and the confusion is still spreading.

With the new "Flex Passes" students are allowed to go to different classes during the flex period. But with the year just beginning, it might prove difficult for teachers to keep track of students who are supposed to be in class with them. The program is designed to give the teachers the power to say whether students can or cannot leave their class, or come to the class. These decisions are to be made ahead of time, so the student can be given the flex pass. But while teachers are available during the FLEX period, whether or not they will be available after school remains yet to be seen.

Concerns like these are spreading among parents and teachers as the thought of keeping track of not only the students they have that day, but students from other classes too. During this confusion, there is still a concern about whether students will take advantage of teachers and the Flex pass and skip school. As English teacher Mary Mathewson commented on how the administrators intend to monitor kids leaving school she replied, "I can't even imagine."

In fact, teachers' appear to be less than thrilled about the flex schedule. The teachers actually had come up with their own idea for remediation, but felt like it was not even considered by the administration. According to math teacher Patti Conrad, the idea was to create an "imbedded second period that acted as a sort of 'mentoring period.'"

Overall, the new program is somewhat divided. While the administration loves it and is already counting on huge improvements, the teachers and students seem somewhat reserved and negative. The FLEX schedule will either be a big success, or will follow the path that the "D-F initiative" did.

September Flex Schedule

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6 Flex 1st	7	8 Flex 1st	9
		1, 3, 5, 7	2, 1, 6, 8	1, 3, 5, 7	2, 1, 6, 8	
10	11	12 Flex 2nd	13	14 Flex 3rd	15	16
	1, 3, 5, 7	2, 2, 6, 8	1, 3, 5, 7	2, 3, 6, 8	1, 3, 5, 7	
17	18 Flex 5th	19	20 Flex 6th	21	22 Flex 7th	23
	2, 5, 6, 8	1, 3, 5, 7	2, 6, 6, 8	1, 3, 5, 7	2, 7, 6, 8	
24	25	26 Flex 8th	27	28 Flex 1st	29	30
	1, 3, 5, 7	2, 8, 6, 8	1, 3, 5, 7	2, 1, 6, 8	1, 3, 5, 7	

New Morning After Pill Ruling Not Extended to Teens

Kate O'Connor

News Editor

The morning after pill, marketed as Plan B, is a drug that prevents pregnancy. This summer, the FDA ruled the drug could be sold over the counter in Virginia to anyone 18 or older.

Before the ruling, nine states, Washington, California, New Mexico, Alaska, Hawaii, Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts and Vermont, already passed regulations allowing sale of the morning after pill to people of all ages. Younger teens are still able to purchase the drug in those states; however, in the other 41 states, including Virginia, anyone buying the pill will be carded by the pharmacist.

Both pro-life and pro-abortion supporters are unconvinced that the age restriction is an intelligent decision. Some say that it will only serve to restrict the number of women able to prevent unplanned pregnancies; others see the constraint as a way for older males to be irresponsible and take advantage of younger women.

"Teen mothers keep getting younger ... If the drug is there it should be open to anyone who needs it," said Karin Neal, an 18-year old West Potomac graduate. She also said the pill made her feel safer, although she doesn't plan on using it.

While the age restrictions create debate, Plan B itself is a controversial drug. Advocates see the morning after pill as a needed option in a woman's choice of birth control; a backup solution when things don't go as planned. They support it as a step toward reducing the nation's three million annual unplanned pregnancies. Detractors view it as a chemical abortion that could increase promiscuity. They say women will

use it as an alternative to prescribed birth control, something it is not meant for because of the high levels of hormones it contains.

"There is no way to control irresponsible sex," said junior Meredith Maple, "but girls deserve this option. It's more important to keep teens from getting pregnant than trying to promote abstinence."

How does it work? It does not end a

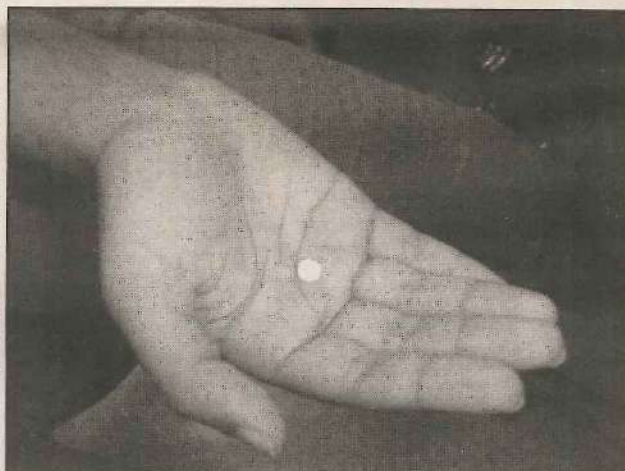


Photo By Kate O'Connor

"Plan B" will now be available over the counter in Virginia

pregnancy, but rather prevents it. The active ingredient, Progestin, is the same as one found in birth control pills, but in a stronger dose. Plan B is designed to be taken within 72 hours of intercourse with a second dose taken 12 hours later. Morning after pills are generally considered safe, but should not be the only contraceptive used because they are not as effective. Plan B will not prevent sexually transmitted diseases like HIV and Herpes, and it won't provide protection more than 72 hours after unplanned sex.

Barr Pharmaceuticals, which makes the pill, says it will begin nonprescription sales by the end of the year. Pharmacies will have to card anyone requesting Plan B, and the pills will be kept behind the counter, just as cold medications containing pseudoephedrine are handled. The only way a younger teen will be able to buy Plan B is with a doctor's note or prescription.

Parking, from page 1

don't want to pay," she added, laughing.

Considering the issue of being able to paint one's own parking spot, Haite said, "I'm not in favor of it." The issue can be discussed with principal Rima Vesilind, but because of having to remove the paint at the end of year, the costs would be too high.

Parking next to the flagpole is also prohibited, as that area is for visitors only.

Competing for College

Sydney Smith

Wire Reporter

The competition to get into college has drastically risen. SAT scores that were in the past considered to guarantee admissions, are now considered "average," and leave the Deans of Admissions questioning your place in their school.

The reason for this change can be pin-pointed to schools getting national attention for their accomplishments. For example, after George Mason's basketball team made it to the Final Four, their Admissions Department saw a huge increase in the number of applicants. However, the number of people that can be accepted stays the same.

Ms. Barbara Conner of the Career Center explains Mason is not the only university gaining applicants. There is also an increase in applications for Mason's competing schools as well. Conner calls this the "trickle down effect."

"A couple years ago, UVA was recognized as the top public college in Virginia and its application pool increased. But so did the pool of its competitors. This causes higher competition across the board," she explains.

With all the competition, colleges are looking for higher SAT scores, higher GPAs, and tough course loads. Also, with the introduction of Honors and AP classes, competition has never been tougher. According to Conner, colleges get FCPS', West Potomac's, and the student applicant's profile, so that colleges can see the courses offered and the courses taken. Her advice, "If Honors and AP classes are offered, but not taken by the student, then it looks like that student didn't apply himself. College deans want to see kids taking the most advanced courses they can take and get A's and B's."

"I think that because it's getting harder and harder to get into colleges that it forces kids to concentrate more on their studies and they become more focused," said junior Paul Disselkoen.

"I've worked really hard for the past four years; I've made good grades, done extracurriculars, sports, clubs, been in honor societies, and did some volunteer work. I guess I'm pretty well rounded, so that looks good to colleges," said senior Gaby Kromal.

After attending the Potomac and Chesapeake Association for College Admission Counseling (PCA-CAC), which is attended by Admissions Deans and High School counselors, Conner says that the number one comment made by the deans was that the strength of the transcript reflects how the kids challenge themselves.

Colleges are looking for original work in the essay portion of the application. The readers of the application want to come out of the application reviewing process knowing something about the applicant or an event that had an effect on him or her. Students should also be specific in describing this event.

Interestingly, according to the Dean of Admissions at William and Mary, "students should have conservative and professional e-mail addresses." Conner agrees, "Deans don't want to open anything that appears to have sexual innuendo or shows immaturity of any kind. They just won't open them."

Conner suggests that students take advantage of the upcoming College Fair (on Sunday October 15th from 7:30pm to 9:30pm at Fair Oaks Mall) and College Night (on Monday October 16th from 7pm to 9pm at Hayfield High School). Also, last year alone, Conner had 81 college admissions staffers from in and out of Virginia visit our school. "My goal for this coming year is to have 100. Both juniors and seniors should attend, it gives them great exposure. Also, these are applicant readers, so if you make a great impression, they will fight to get you into their school. That means dress appropriately." Conner will post the college representatives in the Career Center and is always there to answer any and all questions.



Selective colleges makes students work harder on their SATs.

Photo courtesy of KNT campus

General Assembly Gave Financial Holiday to Back to School Shoppers

Mariya Ilyas

News Editor

Over the summer, the Virginia General Assembly decided on a bill to help families financially. The bill that was passed allowed consumers to purchase school supplies free of tax. Many students and businesses benefited from this policy.

The early-birds who got their back-to-school shopping done at the beginning of August took advantage of a special Virginia policy implemented this year. According to the official, Virginia Department of Taxation website, "Virginia's General Assembly unanimously approved the state's first sales tax holiday earlier this year."

Virginia's first Sales Tax Holiday began at 12:01 a.m. on Friday August 4, 2006 and ended at 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, August 6, 2006. During Virginia's "holiday," retailers were not charged the five percent sales tax on selected school supplies priced at \$20 or less per item, or on clothing and footwear priced at \$100 or less per article or pair.

Spanish 2 and 4 teacher Victoria O'Connor said, "When I first moved to the D.C. area in 1994, I remember hearing about a Sales Tax Holiday in the District. I always wondered why the other jurisdictions (VA and MD) didn't have a similar program. I think VA has now learned that by having a Sales Tax Holiday, the state gets some good publicity."

Virginia's first Sales Tax Holiday was created under House Bill 532 and Senate Bill 571. Its impact is to offer approxi-

mate savings of \$3.6 million to consumers. It is up to the dealers to absorb the tax on any non-exempt items during the holiday; however, there is no requirement to do so. The reason the General Assembly approved a Sales Tax Holiday was to help families with children in school and to help boost the retail economy in Virginia.

For those who missed the tax-free holiday, there is no need to worry. "In 2006, the General Assembly approved Virgin-



Students who took advantage of the Virginia Sales Tax Holiday saved a lot of money on special school supplies.

Photo by Mariya Ilyas

ed most from this policy as the majority of items on the list are more specific to student back-to-school needs than teacher back-to-school needs."

A specific list of articles and supplies was posted on the website. Some of items included binders, pens, legal notepads, paints, notebooks, textbooks, handheld electronic schedules, sheet music, index cards, diskettes, and compact discs. But computers, a highly needed school supply for college students were not listed on the list as tax-free. The website provided no specific reason as to why, but O'Connor believes it was not fair for such items to not be included in tax-free list. "I have often wondered why the bigger ticket items such as computers were not included," said O'Connor. "I do not think it is fair to exempt these items but I understand why the state does this. The lost tax revenue on items such as these would be too burdensome."

Thirteen other states offer sales tax holiday to their people too. Tennessee and Alabama are new to this policy just as Virginia is. New York was the first state to offer a sales tax holiday in 1997 while Maryland has been offering a tax break since 2001. Other states that offer a tax exemption on school supplies are Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Iowa, Missouri, New Mexico, North Carolina, South Carolina and Texas.

The Sales Tax Holiday is one of the most beneficial policies which can help save money in years to come, both for businesses and consumers. Don't miss out next year!

Paying the Price of Being a Senior

Kate Sigety

Wire Reporter

Senior year is a glamorous one. It is waited for and anticipated by many since middle school and maybe even elementary, but during all of these years of anticipation, do we stop to consider how much it really costs to be the school's top dog?

Senior year is not only the final year of high school, but most likely the most memorable and enjoyable, but excitement comes at a price. The number one thing that comes to mind when thinking about how much money goes into senior year is definitely senior dues. Like all other fees, no senior looks forward to paying their dues, which in the past years have usually averaged around 100 dollars. "The senior activities are already set for this year, a letter has been sent out to senior

parents, and soon the senior class website will be edited on Blackboard," stated excited



The costly Prom tickets gave students a chance to dance with principal Ms. Rima Vesilind.

Courtesy of Electric Entertainment

senior sponsor Iris Cox. But with hefty dues come many rewards and benefits. For example, a perk of having dues paid is the opportunity to attend the faculty vs. senior basketball game and the all night graduate party, both of which you have to wear your senior t-shirt. "At first 100 dollars seemed like a lot of

money to me for senior dues, but then I realized where it was going. Our grad party was held at ESPN Zone and that was an experience of a lifetime and worth every cent," stated former 2006 graduate, Karin Neal.

Before senior year even begins, rising seniors talk about, get nervous about, and prepare for their senior pictures. There

are so many choices to pick from when it comes to senior pictures, ranging from how many outfits to wear, what different poses and different backgrounds to use, and not to mention what different styles girls want to go for with their hair and makeup. "For my senior pictures I went all out and had my hair and

makeup professionally done. I wanted to look my best," said Neal.

Senior prom might be the most prominent memory of all of high school. The tickets are expensive enough as it is, but there is so much more to pay for than just an entrance fee. A whole lot of effort and stress goes into prom night, and the event can often drain one's wallet. Reservations for dinner at a nice, classy restaurant can be stressful to reserve, not to mention the cost for the actual dinner. Then of course there is the expense of a dress or tuxedo. For girls there is the stress of hair, nails and makeup. Last, but certainly not least, transportation, especially if you're looking at limos, can jack up the price of the night even more.

All in all the dollars add up senior year, but for most part, memories outweigh the cost.



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The Summer



Photo by Taylor Dankner

"What would a trip to Europe be without a visit to Shakespeare's birthplace?"

~ English teacher, Mr. Mims

"I went to Maine this summer too visit my family."

~sophomore Clarice Medrano

"Over the summer I hit every club in D.C. to evaluate them."

~senior Demetrius Smith

"For my summer vacation I went to Bethany Beach with my family."

~sophomore Emily Baucom



Photo by Sara Mathewson

Hustling Haurie

Evan Fritz

Wire Reporter

Who says that a non-traveling summer is a boring one? Someone's home turf can be bustling with fresh experiences waiting to be found. One just needs to know where to look to find such experiences.

For senior Samantha Haurie, summer vacation was anything but mundane. Even though she found herself in Virginia for the entirety of vacation, she had no problem finding things to do. Haurie found most of her time spent socializing with friends, which was fine with her. "Every night it was something different, I was never bored," she said. Apparently Haurie wasn't the only one who stayed in and around home. With many students rooted to Fairfax during the summer, the social scene was surprisingly active. Haurie also filled her time attending the UNGC Summer Music Camp, a program that works with music students to help further develop their talents stretching throughout the middle of July. "We played music for five hours a day", said Haurie, "and we had a concert at the end. It was great."

The summer was not all fun and games for her as she was obligated to pursue a summer career opportunity. The most important things that Haurie learned over the summer came from her involving work. "I experienced a job in a corporation. I'm not just saying 'you want fries with that?' I learned how to work hard." This is definitely a positive output coming from a span of time infamous for the amount of information and academic discipline drained from the average teenager's brain. Taking in everything that she has experienced over the vacation, Haurie claims that this has been her best summer vacation by far.

When asked why she thought so, she said it was because of the amount of leeway granted by her parents. "I had a lot more freedom than I used to." That would do it, just a little freedom and who needs the airplane ticket.

This was a cathedral in NSCL

Hartley Hardly Rests

Evan Fritz

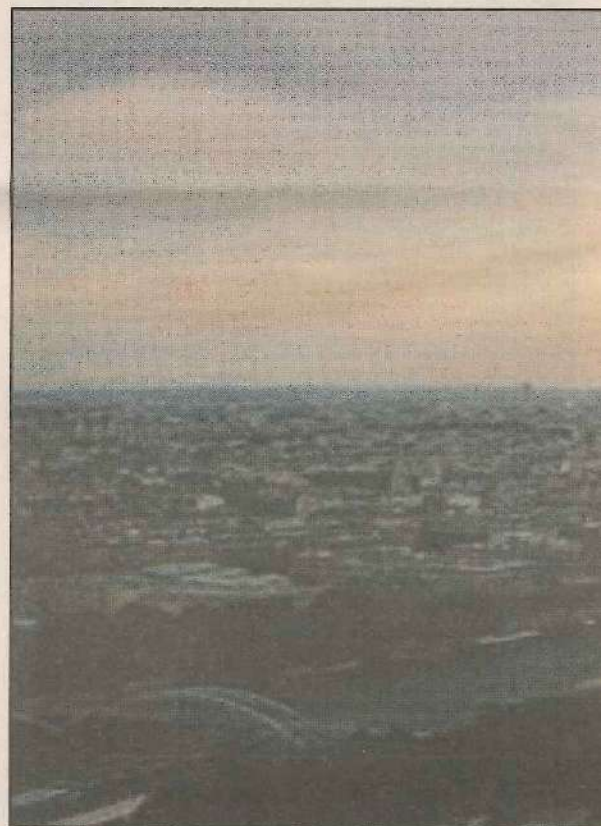
Wire Reporter

Yes, summer is known as an anticipated yearly retreat into a state of relaxation. Yet for many, each consecutive summer vacation becomes increasingly riddled with more responsibilities. One such responsibility is that of a summer job. One person who had to fit work into her free time was senior Megan Hartley. Many people are unable to rip the "work band-aid" off and most end up layering the entire summer with regular work. However, Hartley was one of the privileged few who were able to get the dreaded summer work out of the way during the first half of summer turning the rest of the summer break into a true relaxation period.

Was it skillful negotiating on Hartley's part or was it her employer's benevolent nature? Either way this breathing room allowed her to travel along with her family to Wisconsin

or two weeks, Florida for one week, and Texas for another week. Reflecting on the summer, Hartley confirmed that the traveling portion was her favorite part of the break. "I got to see a lot of my friends from the Midwest while on vacation." In a sense, this is what made her vacation unique. Older friendships with friends and family only strengthened during her trip out west. "I grew a lot closer to people." When asked how this vacation compared to previous summer breaks, Hartley labeled it as her best summer yet.

With her summer work finished halfway through the break, she was able to spend plenty of time with friends and family. Apart from the normal aspects of a summer, Hartley had some unique experiences. "I learned to water ski!" exclaimed Hartley, clearly displaying her vacation as an unforgettable one.



This picture was taken by Emily Kubbach from the top of the life Tower



Juniors Justin Kremer and James Dressing play frisbee during their past time in the summer.

Photo by Caroline Staples

Fun with a

Caroline Staples

Focus Editor

What's better than staying home in good old Alexandria, VA during the summer? Absolutely nothing according to juniors Justin Kremer and James Dressing.

The three boys started playing frisbee when Schaum suggested something fun for them to do together. They play just about every day at Fort Hunt Park before and after their cross country practices. "Do you believe in frisbee throwing?" Dressing believes the reason the world's number one rated recreational activity according to the Guinness Book of World Records is that it just keeps kids safe.

Besides frisbee throwing, they were able to do other enjoyable things during the summer. Dressing had an unusual, but exciting trip to the Arctic where he saw polar bears. He also ran nearly every day to get in shape. The boys were put into effect at the cross country camp in Michigan where they ran on long trails.

While keeping in touch with your friends over the summer, a high schooler could do, frisbee also prepares them for the favorable conditions of the summer. Students when not taking classes and sometimes staff, frisbee is a fun activity around the world.

her Scoop



Emily Kubbach on her trip to Europe with the

Photo by Emily Kubbach

Kubbach Visits Europe with NSCL

Emmanuel Koduah

Asst. Business Manager

For some of us, summer is a time to relax and take a break away from school. Junior Emily Kubbach spent her summer traveling around the world, literally. First stop on her trip was Charlottesville, Virginia for a crew camp on the UVA campus where she endured a week of vigorous training. Just two days after arriving home from crew camp, Kubbach flew out to New Jersey to meet with forty other students who would be participating in the National Student Leadership Conference (NSCL). "No one knew anyone else and it was really awkward," said Kubbach.

This awkwardness soon passed as the group spent a 7-hour flight together to Amsterdam in the Netherlands. They spent the next five days in The Hague, which is the headquarters of the international justice system, and also traveled around to monumental places. According to Kubbach, "We visited the Peace Palace and International Criminal Court, and also spent a good deal of time learning about the culture of the Netherlands by visiting places like the Anne Frank House, Van Gogh Museum, doing a lot of shopping, and just walking around, taking in the town." They continued on to Brussels, Belgium where they "did some more shopping, toured the city, went to an awesome amusement park, and watched the World Cup final." After touring and more shopping, Kubbach and her friends traveled to Paris, France, where they visited the

famous Eiffel Tower. "It was a really awesome experience," she said.

After Paris, the group returned to New Jersey where, sadly, they each had to go their separate ways. A few weeks after returning from Europe, Kubbach packed her bags and headed for California. While in California, Emily visited some prospective colleges including the Claremont Colleges in Southern California. The trip was not all business, though, as she toured Paramount Studios. "I saw the kid from *Everybody Hates Chris*, which was really exciting," said Kubbach. She also spent an entire day at Disneyland and California Adventure, which she described as "the longest, coolest day ever." While in California she was able to visit her cousin, who is a screenwriter in Los Angeles, as well as a friend she made on her NSCL trip. When asked about her trip to California, Kubbach said, "It's pretty much the best state ever." After about a week of fun in the sun in California, Kubbach returned home.

Photo by Emily Kubbach



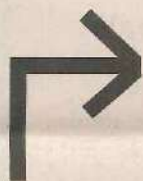
Emily Kubbach poses with friends she met at the National Student Leadership Conference, which visited other countries.

places she visited, Emily's favorite memory from this summer was all the new friends she made. "I made some awesome friends, who I still keep in touch with," said Kubbach. "If I could I would do it a thousand times over".



once on her vacation to Europe.

Photo by Emily Kubbach



Virginia

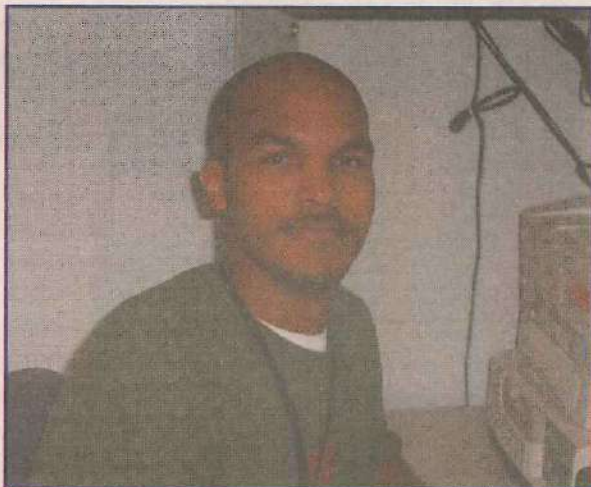
Mr. Mims started out his long journey around the U.S. in Virginia where he lives.



His last scenic view he wanted to see before heading home was the fascinating Niagara Falls in Ontario, Canada.



Mims took his first stop in Dayton, Ohio where he explored the Wright Brothers Museum.



Mr. Mims sitting at his computer getting work together before the first day of school.

Photo by Taylor Dankmyer



Taking a break in Detroit, Michigan, Mims was able to enjoy the Motown Museum.



Breathtaking views of the CN (Canadian National) Tower stopped Mims from leaving Toronto.

frisbee

aying frisbee with your closest friends
Kremer, James Dressing, and Nick

ne activity around the 4th of July as
re; on the fields at Carl Sandburg and
other teammates. How did Schaum
because he is just random. "frisbee is
ool kids," said Kremer while Dressing

as well. Kremer occupied his summer
unning many miles everyday for cross
a where he went on a cruise with his
hileage for the fall season. "These miles
orked hard running up sand dunes and

of the most important things a high
surely sport. Often played by college
ently seen on many college campuses

Video Games of the Summer

Taylor Dankmyer

Managing Editor

Ah yes, some of us have our fascinating trips to Italy, France, Switzerland and maybe even China. However, some of us don't do as exciting things. Instead some of us play video games! With the release of *Madden 07* and *NCAA 07* this summer, football gamers had plenty of fun, while others stuck to classic greats like *Halo 2* and *Super Smash Brothers*.

Super Smash, as it has been nicknamed, is a game geared towards teenagers, however the characters in the game are pretty elementary.

"Jigglypuff is so weak," replied junior Jimmy Toth. "No, he's not!" contested Matt Perseckian, a former Wolverine now attending Hayfield (ew). This is a typical 7-10 year old conversation, however, and once again, sadly, 17 year olds are having this conversation.

Junior Andrew Swinson, who said his two favorite sports are "football and *Super Smash*" (yes, he declared it a sport) is known for his anger, grunting, and yelling while playing the game. "We do

plenty of other activities in the summer, but playing video games, especially *Super Smash*, is definitely in the top 10," said Swinson.

Madden 07 was a huge hit nationwide, selling more copies in a week than ever before in its 17 year history of the game franchise. West Potomac students held their own personal gaming tournaments at their house. Also, a video game store called Play N Trade was put in Mount Vernon Plaza on Route 1. The store has already held tournaments for *Super Smash Brothers*, and has a *FIFA 06* and *Tekken 5* tournament scheduled. Not all of us want to do something exotic and overly exciting all summer. Summer is about relaxing, and sitting down playing a video game is a great way to relax. Playing video games was defiantly a part of my summer, was it a part of yours?



U.S. Athletes Falling Out of Favor

Controversy Continues to Follow U.S. in International Play

Jon Yoo

Sports Editor

For the past half century, America has been seen as the leader in global sports. This continuous domination left a feeling of invincibility and even immortality among many American athletes. We, as a country, have taken such great pride in our stars being consistently successful that we have resorted to any means necessary to keep up this winning tradition.

This is why it has been no surprise to see a growing majority of our athletes admitting to using various performance-enhancing drugs. However, it has been shocking to see the diversity of athletes from various sports testing positive. Furthermore what type of impact will it have on our youth? Football head coach Eric Henderson said, "I think steroids are rampant. Schools that emphasize strength over being a better athlete are setting themselves up for abuses like we see in the news. Steroid use reflects our society and our desire to win at all costs and getting the most money in the process."

This summer alone three major American athletes have tested positive for steroids. The World's Fastest man, Justin Gatlin, five time

Olympic medalist, Marion Jones, and 2006 Tour de France winner, Floyd Landis, all have failed both their A and B samples, which confirmed that performance enhancing drugs were in their system while in competition. All three have, at one point or another, been the main stays and future of their respective sports, and have been an inspiration to millions around the country. Gatlin has even spoken out against the use of steroids, especially among the younger generation of athletes. It is then tragic to see that an unnatural substance has aided their amazing, individual accomplishments. Senior Nick Frederick said, "It makes American athletes look like cheats. If the major figureheads of our sports use it what do you think the rest of the athletes are doing?"

It is natural for athletes to get faster and stronger with the newer techniques and technologies that are available in this day and age. However this has led to increasing pressure for athletes to always improve, and it seems that even their very best is just not good enough. This is the reason why many sports view steroids as a step towards success. It is an aid to reach their potential and beyond. Track coach Dan Lundin said, "Steroids has cast

a dark shadow on many sports. The reason why so many athletes continue taking them is because every human body has a maximal sustainable training threshold and once that threshold is reached you begins to plateau. This plateau can frustrate the athlete who has often spent the majority of their life training in this sport." This has led to the destruction of the pureness in sports, at least in the U.S., and has left every sport vulnerable to this fall. Many believe that the use of steroids will eventually lead to the downfall of America's dominance in sports.

The growing concern is what kind of impact it will have on our youth. Will these recent tests help them become more aware to their surroundings, or will it convince them that this is the only way to get to the top? Both Lundin and Henderson are concerned about the possibility of being confronted by these drugs. Lundin said, "As a coach it truly worries me that I will have to deal with this issue. Kids often think that using steroids will make you invincible when in fact the opposite happens. When you take steroids your muscles grow at a rate that is beyond what your tendons and ligaments can keep up with, this leaves your body more susceptible to injury."

In The Numbers

5

consecutive titles that Tiger Woods has won after his victory in the Deutsche Bank Championships, in which he shot an 8-under 63. His best round ever.

1

win against perennial district rival, McLean for the varsity volleyball squad. The Lady Wolverines won by a score of 3-2.



number of points the varsity football team allowed in a 20-0 shut out win in a scrimmage against Osbourne Park.

177

points that the Redskins have been outscored by in four games in the 2006 preseason.

Perfection in Mind

Kyle Rosenkrantz

Wire Reporter

Around mid August the fall sports at our school like Field Hockey, Cross Country, Football and Volleyball

Fall Sports

Wolverine Football

Head Coach: Eric Henderson

2005 Record: 4-6

Key Matchups: Sept. 15 vs. Mt Vernon, Sept. 21 at Centerville

Players to Watch: QB Chris Farquhar, RB Josh Wells, LB Shane Sixsmith, LB Cody Demmell

Insight: Coach Henderson finally seems to have the right mesh of players to go deep into the playoffs.

Wolverine Volleyball

Head Coach: Jean Coder

2005 Record: 11-4

Key Matchups: Sept. 25 at West Springfield, Oct. 25 at Lee

Players to Watch: Jayne Seward, Jesse Hines, and Stephanie Gerow

Insight: The Lady Wolverines are set out to build on last year's success, and to avenge their early exit in districts.

have gone through rigorous training programs to get ready for the new season. Most coaches seem to be very confident on the team's progress and the way they will perform this season. Head Coach Eric Henderson believes

that the football team will do better this season than in previous years.

The football team has gradually improved each year since Coach Henderson took over in the 2003. After finishing with a 5-7 record last year Coach Henderson hopes the team will do better. "We've changed some things on offense and become more solid on defense", says Coach Henderson. However, he has not predicted how many games the team will win, but is more focused on their season opener against Yorktown. Coach Henderson believes that having a solid group of veterans and talented young players will greatly improve the team's performance.

As far as fall sports go, the school's Volleyball team has been phenomenal under Coach Jean Coder's guidance for the past three years. It is expected that the team will do just as well this year. Junior starter Stephanie Gerow said, "Even though we lost a lot of good veterans from last year, our seniors this year have shown a lot of leadership and the rest of us are working hard to measure up."

Both teams seem to be ready to improve from last year, with a stronger team as well as a more experienced coaching staff. They have set their standards high, and expect to accomplish nothing short of them. Senior linebacker Nick Frederick said, "Our expectations are to play at our potential, which includes reaching states. If we fail then we are not meeting expectation."

A Look Ahead

Wolverine Fall Athletics Schedule



Varsity Football

Date	Day	Opponent	Location	Time
9/8/2006	Fri	Yorktown	Home	7:30
9/15/2006	Fri	Mt. Vernon	Home	7:30
9/21/2006	Thurs	Centerville	Away	7:30
9/29/2006	Fri	Hayfield	Home	7:30
10/6/2006	Fri	West Springfield	Away	7:30



Varsity Volleyball

Date	Day	Opponent	Location	Time
8/31/2006	Thurs	McLean	Away	7:15
9/5/2006	Tues	Falls Church	Away	7:15
9/6/2006	Wed	Thomas Jefferson	Away	7:15
9/12/2006	Tues	Mt. Vernon	Home	7:15
9/14/2006	Thurs	Wakefield	Home	7:15
9/18/2006	Mon	Washington-Lee	Home	7:15
9/20/2006	Wed	Herndon	Away	7:15
9/25/2006	Mon	West Springfield	Away	7:15
9/26/2006	Tues	TC Williams	Home	7:15
10/4/2006	Wed	Hayfield	Home	7:15



Varsity Field Hockey

Date	Day	Opponent	Location	Time
8/28/2006	Mon	Stuart	Away	7:30
8/31/2006	Thurs	Wakefield	Home	7:30
9/6/2006	Wed	Washington-Lee	Home	7:30
9/8-9/06	F-Sat	Herndon Tourney	Herndon	TBA
	Fri	vs. Fairfax	Herndon	4:15
	Fri	TBA	Herndon	TBA
	Sat	TBA	Herndon	TBA
9/12/2006	Tues	Yorktown	Home	7:30
9/18/2006	Mon	TC Williams	Home	7:30
9/25/2006	Mon	West Springfield	Away	7:30
9/27/2006	Wed	Hayfield	Home	7:30
10/3/2006	Tues	Annandale	Away	7:30
10/5/2006	Thurs	South County	Away	7:30



Varsity Cross Country

Date	Day	Event	Location	Time
8/31/06	Thurs	Time Trials	Ft. Hunt	6:00p
9/9/06	Sat	Monroe Parker Inv.	Burke Lake	8:00a
9/19/06	Tues	WS, SC, & LB	Burke Lake	5:00p
9/23/06	Sat	Spike Shoe Classic	Penn State	9:00a
9/26/06	Sat	Oatlands Inv.	Ft. Hunt	5:00p
9/30/06	Sat	Oktoberfest Inv.	Leesburg	9:00a



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Day in the Life of...an Admirable Assistant

Zach Feinstein

Wire Reporter

Every year, students and teachers, new and old, come back to school in the fall. This year, Ivan Johnson will be joining our school's administration as the new ninth grade assistant principal and the head of the math department.

Johnson, who shouldn't be confused with chorus director Ernest Johnson, is originally from Oak Harbor, Washington and came to the east coast to attend college at the University of North Carolina (UNC).

After college he was the athletics director and the assistant administrator for Bladensburg High School in Prince George's County.

Now with school approaching, he said he came to our school because "I like Mrs. Vesilind and the staff. I feel comfortable here."

Johnson who will have his first day on September 28, 2006, has a very tough schedule each day but he said, "All jobs are demanding but it will be a fun year." His daily routine will consist of checking on the teachers and walking around the buildings while listening

in on classes. As the faculty comes back to school a week before students do, they all must go through

meetings and Mr. Johnson seems quite alright with that.

"Yes, I have meetings but I will help out Mrs. Vesilind and the other administrators so the school is in a safe and orderly environment."

The new assistant principal has come to our school with a

very good reputation as said by some teachers. Math teacher

Gloria Robinson said, "I've heard very good things [about him] and he has a good record. He brings to the table leadership skills and knowledge of

math. Those I've talked to said he would be a good asset to West Potomac." He has definitely impressed everyone with his amazing academic record. At UNC

he earned two different majors and two different masters. As a message to the incoming freshman, Johnson

said, "I want ninth graders to be involved in school whether it's sports or clubs because the more there involved the more successful they'll be in school."

When asked about why he became an assistant principal, Johnson said, "I love kids and I want to see them advance in being successful."

With such an impressive reputation in the classroom and the front office, Johnson shouldn't have any problem fitting into our school's community. So for the new freshman, you have a

new assistant principal who is willing to help you all succeed in school, so return the favor.

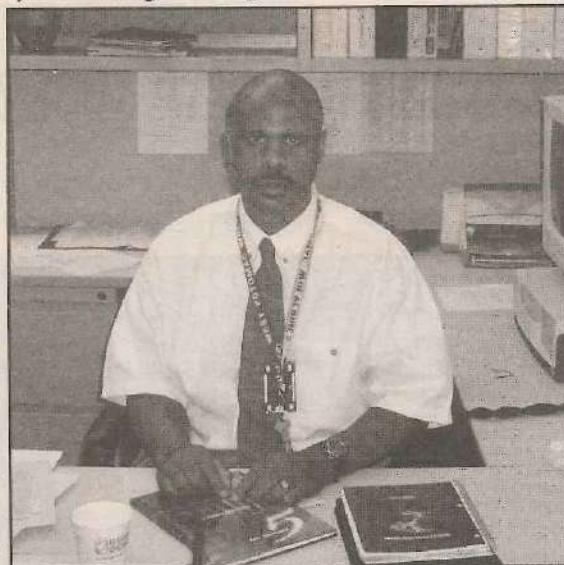


Photo by Zach Feinstein

The new ninth grade assistant principal Ivan Johnson says that he is looking forward to a new school year here at the school.

Teens Breaking The Tradition

Adele Hampton

Editor-in-Chief

Senior Carolyn Gibson used to follow the rules of Catholicism. But after a negative incident involving her family and her church, she now follows her own. "There are no steps to heaven, and rules are stupid," Gibson said. She has discarded such decrees as going to Mass every Sunday and confession each month.

Once, people followed those rules religiously. They looked to the church for guidance, and to God for answers. But by 2004, one in 10 Americans was a non-believer, an atheist or an agnostic (a person who is not committed to believing in a higher being, but acknowledges that such a thing could be possible), according to the Pew Research Center, a group that studies American trends.

Nonbelievers and those who follow nontraditional faiths are breaking through the stark customs of religion, exploring new ways to live life, without God.

The Skeptics

The number of nonbelievers has been on the rise in America and the number of nonreligious teens has mirrored this trend. According to the 2003 National Survey of Youth and Religion, 16 percent of teens aged 13-17 were not religious. This percent is the third highest, following Protestant (52 percent) and Catholic (23 percent). This number has more than doubled since 1996 when the percent of nonreligious teens was 6, says the Pew Research poll.

For some, not believing is an escape from their parents' religious constraints. Others just don't believe in God. 22 year-old Robin Leopold, who is an agnostic, agrees. "The Bible was created to ex-

plain things that can't be explained." He says that a person should figure out and discover religion for themselves rather than inheriting a religion from parents.

French teacher Dan Fitzgerald agrees with Leopold, saying, "I think it is im-

community charity, leading a good life, and in some cases, living spiritually in accordance to nature. These non-secular religions are inclined to be more tolerant than traditional faiths. For example, the Unitarian church accepts gays and lesbi-

ans and says abortion is a personal decision, not a religious one. This tolerance appeals to those who don't know what to look for in a religion or those who don't want the rigorous structure of faiths such as Catholicism or Judaism.

Unitarianism accepts people from all different backgrounds and religions, connecting through the community and spirituality. "Basically, Unitarianism is about people helping people; more of a nonprofit organization than a reli-

gion," said Leopold, who comes from a family of Unitarians.

While it is called Unitarianism, this religion encompasses ideals from other faiths and teaches different aspects of those creeds. For example, a person can be both a Christian and a Unitarian.

"For me, it's been life changing," said Adele MacLean, co-chair of the Social Responsibilities Council for the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Richmond. "The thing about Unitarianism and Universalism is that you're not required to have one theology...It's about love, connection and community."

Another nontraditional movement is Universalism, which was created by Dr.

Ford Vox in 2001. This new movement encompasses the belief that a person's meaning and purpose is defined by personal reason and experience.

"The Universist religion began as an effort to unite free thinkers, who were divided up into labels such as atheist, agnostic, deist, pantheist, and transcendentalist on the basis of differences in viewing the concept of God," according to the Universist Movement website (<http://universist.org/fullfaq040606.htm>). The Web site also says that the movement could be defined as "the philosophy of the universe."

But with the emergence of these non-traditional religions, issues concerning these faiths and the government arise.

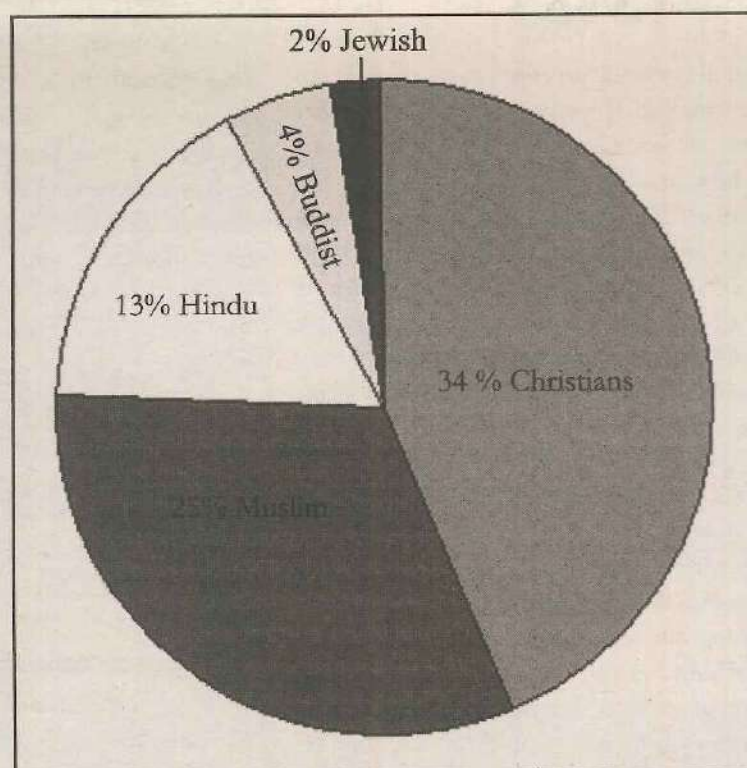
The Divide

The separation of church and state is not a new issue. While some might think non-believers are at the forefront of these cases, Kent Willis, director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Virginia, disagrees. "It's not just people who are not religious who are offended," he said. "It's people who are religious as well."

Willis described how, because of these new movements and religions, society has changed for the better. He explained that Americans are now more tolerant towards different beliefs. "There is a different way we wear our religion now," he said.

The Change

Standing among school mates, dressed in jumpers and knee-highs, Gibson would recite the rosary in the chapel of the St. Mary's School. Now, she stands among friends, in jeans and a white T-shirt, singing her heart out to her favorite song, "Travelin' Soldier" by the Dixie Chicks. The once-devout Catholic is now traveling her own spiritual road, following her own rules.



portant for all people to think about questions of spirituality. I think it's important for students to question everything to increase knowledge and strength of their convictions, whatever they may be."

Many teens who have lost their faith or who don't agree with the traditional religions turn to other faiths. These other religions and movements tend to promote tolerance and have more lenient guidelines.

The Nontraditional

While not focusing on a higher being, religions such as Unitarianism and the newly formed Universism, support the idea of bettering yourself based on

Reading For Rewards

Zach Feinstein

Wire Reporter

Maybe as we get older we grow apart and that's the way most students feel with the summer reading program at Sherwood Hall Library. Sophomore Ilene Gillispie summed up the whole program with "I did it when I was younger but I didn't this year."

The summer reading program consists of high school students reading eight books throughout the summer. When the student is done reading a book then the student writes down the book and the author on the reading log from the library. To get a reading log, you must go to the library and must fill out a sheet that says your name, age, and school you are going to. When you have completed reading all of the eight books, then you return the reading log to the library. For a prize,

they give you a coupon book which you can use for prizes. For example, you can use it to get things from McDonald's and discount prices to water parks.

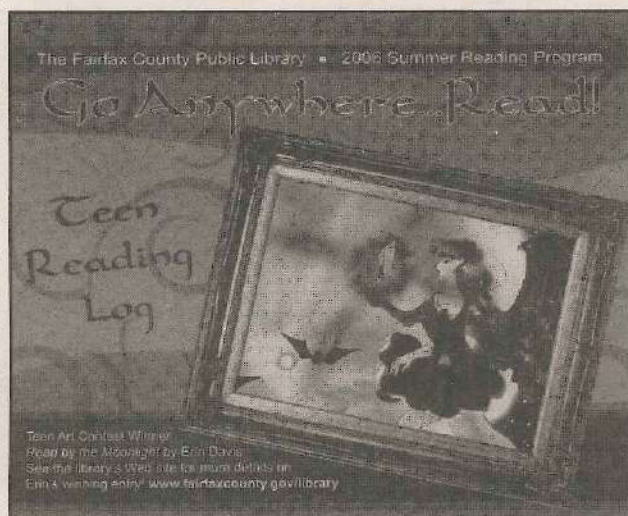
Even though coupon books are great, it probably isn't enough to get some students to read over the

summer. Before the program begins the library orders 2,400 log sheets for elementary students. For high school and middle school students it only orders 400 log sheets. Junior Emily Kuhbach said, "I always thought it was geared to little kids. I read what I wanted to." Even with that, Sherwood Hall Library manager Kathryn Rzasa said, "The library gave out

all 400 high school log sheets." But why haven't some students completed it? Sophomore Neil Burke said, "I didn't do it because I didn't want to read those books. I don't need a list to know what I read." Sophomore Leighton Good said, "I've never heard of it."

The last day to turn in the reading log is September 2, 2006.

No matter what the excuse is for not doing the program, reading is still very important to everyone's education. The library would like more high school students to complete the reading program but as long as we keep coming for books and assistance I think they'll be okay.



Those working with the summer reading program at the Sherwood Hall library encourage high school students to participate in the program.

Photo by Zach Feinstein

Concentrating on College A How To On College Visits

Angie Palma

Managing Editor

As each year in high school commences, planning for college becomes more and more important. There are exams to take, essays to write, and applications to fill out. Nonetheless, preparing for life after high school does not have to be all about paper work. One part of getting ready for college that can be very interesting is going to visit different schools. While there are some features that every school offers like dorms, and classrooms each individual school presents things differently. No

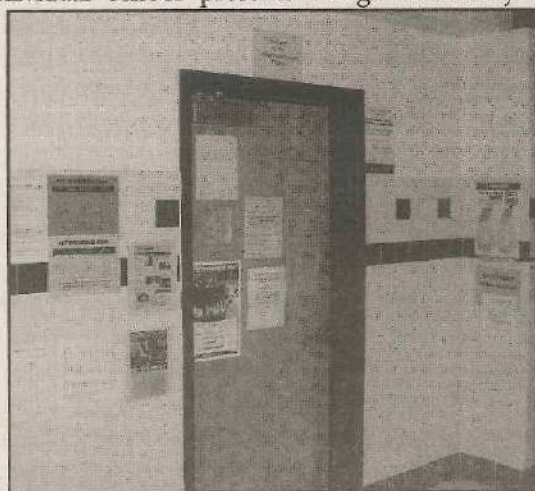


Photo by Alex Keckelsen

Students may visit the career center to set up visits with colleges, and also to gain information on the college of their choice.

two schools are identical and it is that individuality that may make attending one school more enjoyable than going to another. The best way to decide whether or not you want to spend the next couple of years somewhere is to experience it firsthand.

More likely than not, when you go on a college visit there will be an information session followed by a campus tour. In the information sessions there is usually an admissions counselor who can answer any questions and it is very important

to ask questions whose answers may directly affect you. For example, if you are an avid athlete the best things to ask about would be what sports are offered and how are the training facilities on campus. Senior Joey Albano said, "Just ask about their academic standards." Those include average SAT scores and GPA's from applicants. Other pieces of information that might be good to ask about are minority ratios, and the percentage of students to receive financial aid in the rising freshman class.

After the information session, there will be a tour of the grounds. You will be shown a variation of classrooms, libraries, and buildings for specific majors, dorms, offices, and historical places on campus. Be sure to ask any questions that come to mind because there is probably someone else who is thinking the exact same thing. Pay attention to everything because you just might end up spending a lot of time in the places you are shown.

Senior Marissa Watt suggested, "After the tour, go back and take a second look at places that were mentioned. If your guide took the time to point out a certain library, go and take another look around." While I was on a tour of VCU this summer, my tour guide highly suggested to ask about meal plans and to even try out the food in the cafeteria. Most schools require freshman to purchase a meal plan and since you will have to eat the food on campus, it's best to make sure you at least like it. Some meal plans enable you to buy food at certain locations around the school. If you have time, it would be a good idea to see what food is offered near by. Last but certainly not least, I recommend that you take the time to get an idea of what else is offered in the surrounding areas.

When you choose to go away to a school, you are choosing to make your life take place at that school. It is important to see what the town or city has to offer you all around.

Freshman 411

Hooff Cooksey

News Editor

As the school year begins, students prepare to return to high school, one year closer to graduating. However there is always the new group of students, the freshmen. In summer before their first year of high school the freshmen may hear many things that disappoint them, scare them, or make them happy about our school.

Here is a little advice to help you make it through those first couple of weeks.

1) **Don't be afraid to ask questions.** Freshmen should not be afraid to ask questions. This school is much larger than middle school, so there will be exceptions made for being late or going to the wrong class. Teachers will tell



When freshman Colin Mathewson has questions, he can rely on his senior friend Elex Speights to help him out.

you how to get to a certain location as will some students, but be prepared, some students are not as nice as the teachers you talk to.

2) **Don't believe everything that people tell you.** A lot of things are said to the freshmen, such as that there is a pool on the roof of the Quander building. Well, there

may be a pool on the roof, but that is for you to find out. However most everything else you hear that seems somewhat skeptical, usually is.

3) **Stay on top of your academics, they are important.** Take advantage of being able to stay after school to get help. It is key that as freshmen you do the best you possibly can. This is your first year of high school, set a good standard for your self with good grades. Also, do not think that your coach will be angry with you if you miss part of practice to stay after school. You are a student-athlete, student coming first, your coach will understand.

4) **Get involved with extracurricular activities around the school.** Another important thing for freshmen is to get involved in extracurricular activities, such as clubs or sports. Doing extra things outside of school looks good on your college applications and gives you something to do after school. It has been proven that when teenagers have more stuff to do in a small amount of time, then they will manage their time better.

5) **Learn to take the jokes from the upper classmen. They will only get worse if you fight them.** The one thing freshmen boys do need to be worried about comes from the seniors. The first few weeks of school involve freshmen males getting wedged by the seniors. It is a tradition here at our school. The advice here is to not struggle, let it happen and then it will be over soon, and you will never get wedged again. For those of you that do have older siblings in the 12th grade it may be worse for you because the seniors tend to give wedgies to the freshmen they actually have met before and know.

Freshman year is both exciting and nerve racking. It is a larger environment with tougher school work. Rising freshman Colin McConville said, "I am both nervous and a little excited. I am ready for a change." The transition from elementary school to middle school is said to be harder than the transition from middle school to high school, so ninth graders have already overcome one of the hardest obstacles. Freshmen need to come into high school ready to do their best, and not worry about things that may happen to them in the future.

Photo by Jocelyn Flurrock

Talladega Nights: Not Worth the Money



Kenneth Llewellyn
Wire Editor

During the summer, Will Ferrell released his much anticipated NASCAR comedy, *Talladega Nights: The Ballad of Ricky Bobby*. The film is about NASCAR driver Ricky Bobby, who either finishes first or does not finish at all. Ricky is the best in NASCAR and has everything he could want, until Frenchman Jean Girard shows up on the racetrack and changes everything.

Ricky Bobby has it all: a wife, two kids (Walker and Texas Ranger), and a best friend (Cal Norton Jr.). But his life is turned upside down when former Formula 1 champ Jean Girard comes to NASCAR. Girard signs with Ricky Bobby's racing team but the two teammates do not get along very well. Jean breaks Ricky's arm in a bar fight but that does not stop Ricky from racing. Towards the end of the race, Jean causes Ricky to spin out and crash on the track. Ricky, being really stupid, thinks he is on fire and is traumatized by the incident. He can't seem to get back on the race track, and the fear of catching on fire consumes him. Ricky's wife leaves him for his best friend and Ricky and his kids go to live with his mom. He takes a pizza delivery job and is pretty much the biggest loser on earth. It seems Ricky is done until he meets his trashy former racecar driving dad, who helps him conquer his fear. Ricky returns to Talladega Raceway to face his nemesis Jean Girard.

Talladega Nights has been widely advertised across the country and was the number one movie for two weeks. But *Ricky Bobby* isn't as good as advertised. The commercials make this movie look as good as other Will Ferrell movies, such as *Anchorman*. Although the two films have very similar plots (main character is the best at something, newcomer beats him and main character is traumatized, main character jumps back on horse), *Talladega Nights* is not nearly as comical as previous Will Ferrell hits. It is still an entertaining movie but it's not one of those movies where you repeat the lines over and over until it gets old. Waiting for it to be released on DVD is not a bad idea but if you have to see it in theaters, it wouldn't be a complete waste of money.

Ricky Bobby is not a role model, and his film lacks any important lessons. However, it is very sophomoric and humorous, so if you like movies such as *Dodgeball* or *Zoolander*, this is right up your alley. The movie also appeals to those who like action. The racing scenes are pretty intense and there is a lot of violence. Although Will Ferrell movies are usually films not to be missed, this film could be better and is definitely not the funniest film of the year. Although it won't be receiving any Oscars, *Talladega Nights* is a decent movie for high school teens who are fans of this type of silly comedy.

World Trade Center Re-creating the Tragic Past

Sara Mathewson
Style Editor

September 11, 2001 is a day that everyone will remember, whether they were directly a part of the tragedy or not. In a recreation of this horrible day, Oliver Stone portrays the strength and courage of all of the heroes that both lived and died on this day.

This film follows a group of New York City police officers on their way to rescue those trapped in the World Trade Center. The main characters, John McLoughlin and William Jimeno, are played by Academy Award winner Nicholas Cage and Michael Pena. The movie follows the officers, beginning in the morning getting their first rounds, and stays with them until they all

break off to go in different rescue groups. When a few of the officers become buried in the rubble, it becomes a fight to stay alive.

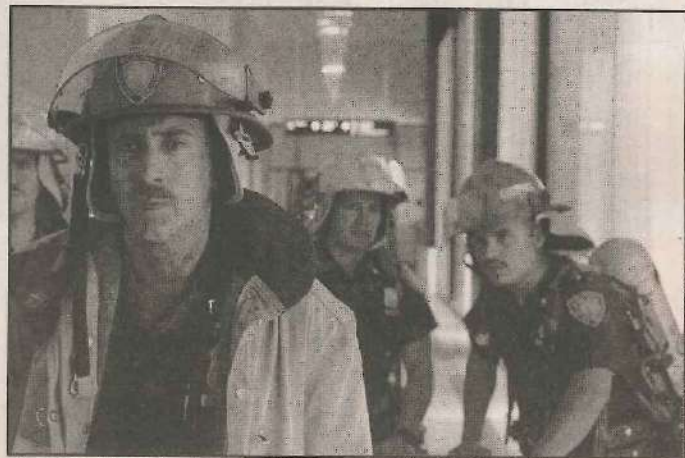
World Trade Center is about the struggle that these two men went through to stay alive, and how they had to rely on each other to survive.

The movie also follows along with their respective families. Both men had families, wives, children, mothers and fathers waiting for them.

This movie was both sad and comforting. It may seem as though it might be too early to recreate such a tragedy, but Stone was able to

do it in a way that you could mourn over those lost, but also celebrate those who survived and became heroes on that day. English teacher Mary Mathewson said, "It was nice to come out of the movie with that kind of topic with such a good feeling." We are able to know first-hand what happened to those stuck in the rubble because we have those who have survived.

World Trade Center does not focus on the fact that such tragic things happened that day, but it focuses on the heroism that came out of everyone. Oliver Stone did a great casting job, picking some of the most highly rated actors and actresses to portray what needed to be shown. According to Mathewson, he showed the spirit of America.



A scene from the tear-jerking movie, *World Trade Center*, starring Nicholas Cage. This movie brings back memories and honors those involved in the tragic September day in 2001.

Photo Courtesy MCT

This movie was not about the awful things that occurred on Sept. 11, and it was not an effort to make you cry in sadness at the end, but to have you cry with happiness and to give

you a firsthand account of what really happened. Mathewson said, "People seem to focus too much on the bad that happened that day, and not enough on the good. This movie allowed me to focus on the good. I would recommend this movie for everyone."

Shadow Baby Touches the Heart

Anum Jaffri

Wire Reporter

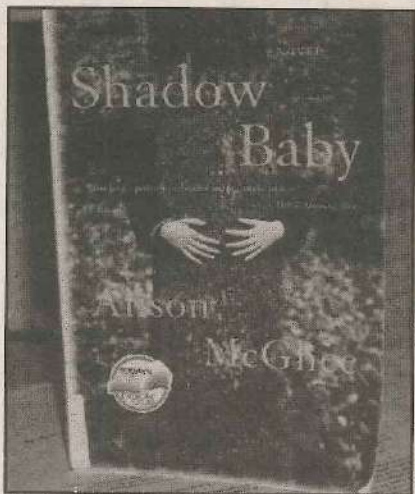
"Let me tell you that a girl of eleven is capable of far more than is dreamt of in most universes." Clara, the heroine in the novel *Shadow Baby* by Alison McGhee, makes this point clear early in the novel. The statement holds true to the end; another story about an eleven year old will never move you the same way again. Beautiful and sad, the sage and matter-of-fact voice of the narrator, Clara, makes this book a swift but heartrending read.

Clara winter spells her last name with a lower case w, to de-emphasize the name of the season. Clara hates the winter, the season she was born in and the season she lost her twin sister in. Clara's mother gave birth to her in a truck stuck in a blizzard, and because of complications and the lack of medical attention, Clara's twin dies the night Clara is born. Clara's single mother, Tamar, keeps her past a secret from Clara. She has no idea who her dad or Tamar's dad is. As a result, she often makes up stories about the people she meets, imagining how their lives must be and must have been like. She vividly imagines her own

father and grandfather, to the point that she sincerely believes that her pretend stories must be true. With chickens that attack her, boys that make fun of her, and adults that fail to understand her maturity, Clara's imagination is often her only savior.

With no real friends, Clara is ecstatic when she befriends an old man by the name of Georg, who lives in a trailer near her. Being lonely himself, Georg cheerfully spends time with Clara, teaching her how to reuse old scraps of metal and making them into intricate tin lanterns. The unlikely pair share stories

over hot chocolate, and Clara learns that Georg also has lost a loved one because of winter; his brother died in a blizzard when they immigrated to America. Along with reusing scrap metal, the two learn to reuse the remains of their lives, and start to regain their happiness.



Shadow Baby emphasizes the bond between family and friends, making the book hard to put down.

Photo by Anum Jaffri

When tragedy strikes, Clara is left alone again. However, remembering the lessons learned by her old companion Georg, Clara continues to live life and even helps her mother accept her own past, her father, and Clara's father. By the end of the story, Clara has experienced more life-altering events than most adults. She comes to terms with her mother, who previously only ignored Clara's questions about her father.

The book helps the reader realize how important family bonds are, and how empty life can seem without any knowledge of them. It also describes the value of friendship, and dealing with loss. Like using fire to warp old bits of tin into works of art, the heroine learns to collect the shards of her life and mold them into a masterpiece.

I have never read an entire novel in one sitting, but this one kept me up until 4 a.m. Every time I tried to put it down and go to sleep,

thinking about the story and wondering what would happen to little Clara next kept me picking the book back up again. The striking language and the poignant wording kept me crying from about halfway through the story until the very end. This touching coming-of-age story is one I will find hard to forget.

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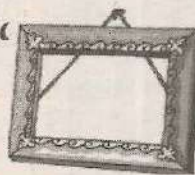


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Decoding David

Drew Smith

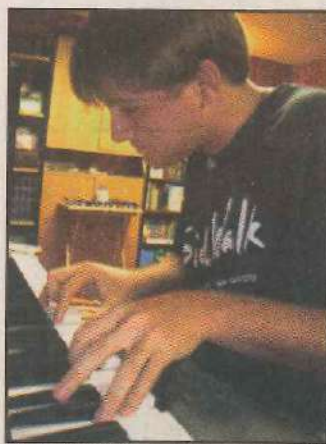
Photographer

While most kids spend their summers lounging by the pool or working, Senior David Cappelletti traveled around the world to Australia. However, for this travel lover an elaborate vacation to a foreign country is the norm. Now having been to about forty three countries and six continents, travel is David's passion. When asked why he liked to travel so much he replied, "Sitting in History its like, Oh! I've been there! And then you get more out of what you're talking about in class." But his favorite exotic destination was the beautiful Italy. Why? Because his whole family is Italian! And the Italian trait of good hospitality is strong in his character.

David is known among his friends as always being supportive and loyal, and he has known almost all of his friends since elementary school. When asked what

made David such a good pal, lifelong friend Jon Mulligan giggled, "He has hilarious anecdotes!" Another quality that makes David stand out is how understanding he is. In fact, every person who was interviewed said the exact same phrase, "He's so understanding and easy to talk to."

This senior also has his mind set on school. With a 3.3 GPA and an SAT score of 1420 (or 1980), it is clear David loves to learn. However, he does not always have time to study while traveling. One example of this would be when he returned from Brazil and had to take an Algebra test. Not having been in class for two weeks, David answered the number "12" for three



Senior David Cappelletti enjoying a little music during his off-time from traveling the world.

answers, and got them right. This is why "12" is now his favorite number.

Stories like this show us another side of David's personality, as well as his amazing way to find humor in everything. And as good friend Gaby Krohmal said, "Why wouldn't you wanna be friends with a person like that?"

David's plan for the future is to attend Boston College, and become a criminal lawyer. When asked why he wanted to become a lawyer he answered, "Because that's what my Dad is."

Photo by Drew Smith



Where has David been?

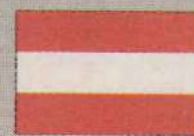


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- *Ireland

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- *Italy
- *Mexico
- *Monaco
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- *Netherlands
- *Norway
- *Peru
- *Poland
- *Portugal
- *San Marina

- *Scotland
- *Spain
- *Sweden
- *Switzerland
- *The Isle of Man
- *Turkey
- *United States
- *Wales
- *Yugoslavia
- *Vatican city



DAVID Cappelletti

JANA DECOSTER

DeCoster finding Success

Sara Mathewson

Style Editor

Senior Jana DeCoster is known for her outgoing personality and her spunky yet angelic attitude.

DeCoster is known around the school partly because of her commendable athletic abilities. She has been a tri-athlete for her entire high school career here at West Potomac, participating in sports including track and field, basketball, and field hockey. She excels in both winter and spring track. During the spring track season of last year, DeCoster ranked fifth in the district for hurdles, and her 4x1 team placed second in the district and fifth in the region. She is also one of the three starting varsity captains of the field hockey team at this school this fall season. In the previous year, while playing for varsity, she was first team All-District as a junior.

Not only does she excel in athletics, but also in academics. The classes that DeCoster is looking forward to participating in include her English class and her photojournalism class. For her senior year, Jana will be busying herself with not only her sports activities, but with the numerous AP classes she is taking this school year. These include AP Statistics, AP Government, and also AP Literature.

After high school, DeCoster plans on attending

college. Her top choices include Salisbury University in Maryland, York College in Pennsylvania, NC State, and St. Louis University. She hopes to play both field hockey and track at whatever college she chooses to go to.

Besides her busy life of school and sports, DeCoster likes being around her friends and family. During her weekend breaks from school, she enjoys hanging out with friends and simply relaxing. She doesn't mind

taking jokes from her closest friends. Senior Nick Friederich always makes fun of her, saying that she

has a duck walk and a boring, monotone voice. One of her closer friends, senior Alex Mounts said, "My favorite thing about Jana is that she is such a good friend and she has a good heart." Friederich stated that, "We like to play Madden together, and I beat her every time."

DeCoster enjoys facing challenges during the day, whether they be in sports or academics, or competitions amongst friends, and enjoys the downtime in the evening. She knows her strengths. She said, "I think that I am very easy to talk to. I want to be there for my friends when they need me." Friederich agreed, "I always feel like I can talk to her about anything. She is a very considerate friend." Mounts stated that, "Jana is a nice person. She is fun to be around and I never get tired of her. She is 100% wonderful."

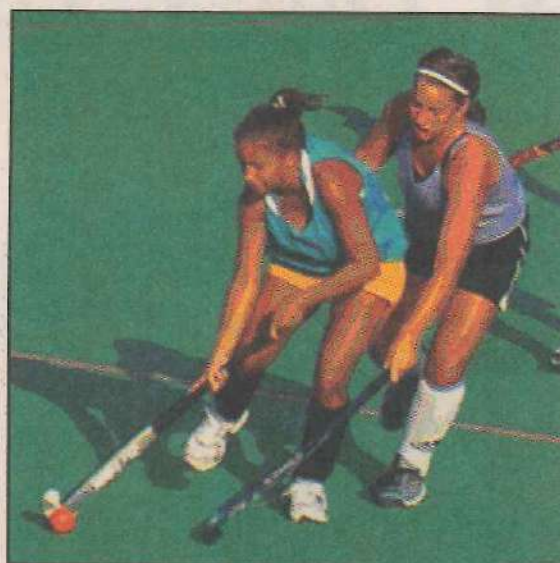


Photo by Mary Mathewson

Senior Jana DeCoster practicing with her other dedicated Varsity Field Hockey teammates. Jana plays for our school team and gives one-hundred percent on the field and for all of her other endeavors.

Do you know any Seniors with an interesting story?

*stop by the Journalism room, 418, or e-mail Mrs. Pierre at Kelcy.Pierre@fcps.edu

*Seniors nominated should be a role model student and have an aspect about themselves which helped them to stand out from the crowd.