

# The Postscript

The Park School Brooklandville, MD

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## School stages Uhry's *Last Night of Ballyhoo*

by Lucy Silver '07

*The Last Night of Ballyhoo*, the Upper School's winter production, ran February 25 through 27 in the Macks-Fidler Black Box Theater. The first performance, scheduled for Thursday, February 24 was cancelled because of snow, and rescheduled for Sunday. Friday's premier was sold out.

Written by *Driving Miss Daisy* author Alfred Uhry, and brought to the stage by Upper School Theater Director Peter King, the play takes place in Atlanta in the 1930's, and follows the family of Adolph Freitag (David Peck '07).

The title of the play refers to the social event of the year for German-Jewish communities all across the southern United States, Ballyhoo, which culminates in a dance on the final night.

Adolph lives with his sister Boo (Liza Casey '06), her daughter Lala (Laura Gordon '05), his sister-in-law Reba (Alice Barry '07), and her daughter Sunny (Toni Adleberg '06). The family is part of the German-Jewish community in Atlanta, and its members live on a wealthy, predominately Christian block. Despite the fact that they are Jewish, the Freitags celebrate Christmas, referring to it

as an "American" holiday.

Adolph hires a Jewish New Yorker named Joe Farkas (Michael Roswell '07), whose family is from "East of the Elbe [River]" (Eastern Europe), meaning he is of "the other kind", and the German Jews look down on him. "The other kind" is far more religious than the German Jews.

While Joe and Sunny begin to develop a bond, Lala (with the help of her mother) begins to chase after Peachy Weil (Nikko Libowitz '05), a wealthy, respectable German Jew.

The set, designed by James Doyle '06 and King, featured a projection on the back wall, and audience positioning that had never been used before in the Black Box.

*Ballyhoo* deals with the anti-Semitism of the time, and also depicts the way in which German Jews ostracized the less wealthy and less respected Eastern European Jews. Throughout the entire play, the idea of Hitler and Nazi Germa-

ny looms over the characters as a far-away shadow.

Roswell noted, "[The cast] got to know each other a little better [through the production]; it was a lot of fun!" Libowitz stated, "I really grew as an actor."



photo by P. Schamp '05

Boo (L. Casey '06) welcomes Joe (M. Roswell '07) to the Freitag home in *Ballyhoo*.

King described the play as an "ensemble piece," in which no character is the most important. He said the actors "took lots of...risks", and they have "grown as actors a tremendous amount" as a result.

"We had discussions about what it means to try and be

accepted...[and] how important it is to not forget where you come from," said King. "This is a particularly interesting issue to present at Park School," King continued, noting the large Jewish community at Park.

King also explained that Park

began as a school for German Jews because they were not accepted at the other private schools in Baltimore and because the German Jewish adults did not want to place their children in public schools with Jews of Eastern European descent.

## Leon Fleisher to visit Upper School March 9

### Pianist will be Resident Scholar, hold master class

by Ben Weinstein '06

Renowned pianist Leon Fleisher will be this year's Upper School Resident Scholar March 9. The Resident Scholar program, which is limited to Upper School students and faculty, will include an assembly, luncheon, master class and small group discussion for interested students.

Fleisher is a pianist, conductor and teacher whose prolific career started at the age of eight. He debuted in 1944 at age 16 with the New York Philharmonic. For the first 20 years of Fleisher's career, he performed all over the world, and in 1952 was the first American to win the Queen Elizabeth competition in Brussels. Other winners of this prestigious competition include Vladimir Ashkenazy. Fleisher was hailed as one of the finest pianists of the 20th century.



photo courtesy Peabody Institute

Fleisher will spend a day with Upper School students.

Fleisher's brilliant soloist career was cut short in 1965 when he was suddenly unable to move two fingers in his right

hand because of a disorder known as Focal dystonia. The disorder was a result of his obsessive hours of practice and

prevented him from performing with both hands. Treatments were unsuccessful in restoring movement to his fingers and Fleisher was forced into early retirement, but found ways to continue with his love of music, one of which was to perform extensive left-handed pieces. He took up conducting in 1967 and achieved fame as a conductor, performing throughout the '70s and early '80s in San Francisco, Montreal, Cleveland, and Chicago. In 1973, he became the Associate Conductor of the Baltimore Symphony. Fleisher also performed in Europe and Japan, gaining notoriety no longer as a fabulous pianist, but instead as a conductor. He served as the artistic director of Tanglewood Music Center from 1986 to 1997.

A devoted teacher, Fleisher

has held the Andrew W. Mellon Chair at Peabody in Baltimore since 1959.

Miraculously, in 1995, Fleisher regained mobility in his right hand and began playing with renewed vigor. His most recent recording *Two Hands*, released in 2004, celebrates his musicality and dexterity.

This year's assembly will be a combination of piano performances and a prepared speech. Fleisher will also be teaching at least one master class during the day. During this time, a few students will have the rare opportunity to perform pieces for and receive a critique from Fleisher.

The Resident Scholar program, funded by the Parents Association, invites individuals from a broad range of fields to speak to Upper School students. Previous scholars have included Pulitzer Prize winning author Taylor Branch, Poet Laureate Lucille Clifton, Supreme Court Associate Justice Antonin Scalia, AIDS researcher Dr. Robert Gallo, NPR's Daniel Zwerdling and Maestro David Zinman.

## Flu hits; absences average 100 daily

by Anders Hulleberg '07

During the week of Monday, February 14, an average of more than 100 students per day were absent from the school due to illness. Although no one knows for certain the exact cause of the mini-epidemic, many signs seemed to point towards a particularly aggressive strain of the flu.

School Nurse Jan Brant confirmed that one Lower School student tested positive for the flu during the outbreak.

Whatever it was that was going around hit hardest in the Upper School where nearly 20 per cent of the entire student body (roughly 65 students) was absent each day.

By week's end on Friday, February 18, members of the sophomore class had missed the most school time. On any given day, tenth grade absences made up upwards of 40 percent of the total number of students who stayed home.

Brant was busy that week. "On average, I was seeing anywhere from 50 to 60 kids per day," said the nurse.

Park was not the only school that felt the effects of the outbreak. Both Gilman and the Institute of Notre Dame had to close during the week due to the overwhelming number of absences.

"The thing about the flu," said Brant, "is that you are contagious two or three days before you actually come down with it. Such sicknesses spread so vastly and rapidly through those unwittingly contagious students sharing drinks, coming in contact with healthy students, and thus spreading their germs."

The President's Day holiday may have helped ease the outbreak; the daily list of absences in the Upper School is back to normal, confined to a single page rather than two or three.



## Cafeteria loses money offering healthy food choices

by Ben Hyman '06

After switching its food options to healthier choices, the school's cafeteria is losing money. Beginning late last school year and continuing through the fall, the Healthy Foods Committee (HFC), a group of more than 25 parents, has pushed for numerous changes in cafeteria fare. In response, Middle and Upper School students have protested deletions of lunchtime favorites since September.

Park parent Deidre Smith has led the HFC's push for changes in the foods available to Park students, faculty and staff. Smith took on cafeteria reform in part because of Park's philosophy. "Park, as a progressive

school, should be the leader in this national initiative [of cafeteria reform]. We make thoughtful decisions about everything we do, and yet out of convenience and neglect we have been serving basically a variation of junk food to our students. We have an obligation to model healthy behavior in all kinds of ways and food should and can be one of them."

The HFC has proposed many changes to make the cafeteria healthier, and, with Head of School David Jackson's approval, has asked for removal of all soda, fatty foods, large French fries, and battered foods. In their place, the food service has introduced mineral water, baked potato chips, whole

wheat bread, nuts, dried fruits, fresh muffins, and fruit salads.

The means for actually buying the new food falls on the shoulders of Michael Lannon, a district manager for Chartwells-USA, the service that purchases food for nine area schools. Lannon says that moving to a healthier lineup affects the net profit. "The switch from white bread to whole wheat and multi-grain didn't affect the cost, but eliminating soda and adding juices, [came to a] much higher cost." Lannon said that a bottle of soda that retails for \$1.25 only costs him sixty cents, while Naked Juice, a new healthier fruit beverage, costs \$2.00 to buy from the manufacturer. From that wholesale cost,

an additional 40 percent is added for profit. In the case of Naked Juice, the price was raised to \$3.50, well beyond that 40 percent profit-margin.

Despite some increases, Lannon says that Park is always careful about affordability. "Park takes a very hard look [at] selling margins. They try to set prices at a rate where a student can afford to buy a lunch."

The cost increases come at a bad time for the school's budget. Already mired in a \$200,000 deficit, the school has been additionally hit by these new changes. Said Business Manager Joan Webber, "The revenues are down. Soda was a big profit maker for the school. Food sales are also down, but I'm confident

[that], as we continue to improve the foods offered and expand the menu, sales will recover."

The Upper School Student Government is taking action. It has announced the formation of an independent student committee to address food changes and plans to meet with the Healthy Foods Committee. According to Student Council President Sarah Raifman, the HFC acknowledged making mistakes in the process of removing specific foods before replacing them with acceptable alternatives. From now on, the student committee will review changes made by the HFC and make proposals independent of the parent group.

## Groups plan Spring trips

by Tony DeMarco '08

Although Spring Break is a time for relaxing and getting away from school, three Park-sponsored trips—Habitat, the French Exchange, and Girls Lacrosse—will be held during the break.

Thirteen students, along with Upper School Science teacher Elliott Huntsman and Upper School French teacher Raymonde Arseneau, will travel to Paris. While there, they will be staying with families. The group will go to museums and visit other tourist attractions, including spending a weekend in Normandy, where they plan to visit Mont Saint Michel and the D-Day landing beaches. According to Arseneau, these students have made a substantial commitment to French. "Once they decide to go to France, they have pretty much signed up to take French through senior year."

Nineteen female lacrosse players, both Varsity and JV, will travel to Disney World for the second half of spring break. In

past years, the girls have gone to Santa Fe, New Mexico, as well as to other places in Florida. They will not spend all their time on the lacrosse field, but will also enjoy a visit to Disney World. According to Robin Cardin Lowe, Physical Education Chair and Girls Lacrosse Coach, the team goes on these Spring Break trips for multiple reasons, which include team building, getting a head start, and having fun in the good weather.

The Habitat trip will be led by Upper School Science teacher Julie Rogers. Rogers, as well as another yet-unnamed faculty chaperone, will be taking approximately 16 students to North Carolina where they will work with a school from New Jersey. This trip will be more exciting than normal Habitat work in Baltimore because the group will be building houses from the ground up rather than just renovating them. According to Brad Mendelson '06, a Habitat Head, "It should be a lot of fun to work with other students. Hopefully we can make a large impact in the community."

## Artist's paintings challenge viewers

by Cassidy Fein '07

On February 16, through the Diana Lee Fox Resident Artist program, Walton Ford came and spoke to the Upper School. Ford, who earned a degree from the Rhode Island School of Design, initially intended to become a filmmaker, but instead began to paint, incorporating his talent for storytelling into his paintings.

Ford spoke about his paintings in an assembly, a private luncheon with members of the Gallery Committee, and a question and answer session with interested students during X-block. He also met with members of the AP Studio Art and Studio Concentration classes for a critique.

During the assembly for the entire student body, Ford showed and explained works of his, including "Nila", "A Sensorium", and "The Forsaken".

Though Ford uses watercolors for most of his paintings, a few of the earlier ones he showed to the Upper School were done in oil paint. Because Audobon, the artist who inspired Ford, used watercolors, Ford decided to make that shift as well.

Ford's paintings have been in many galleries, including the Whitney Museum, and were even featured in a documentary entitled *Art in the Twenty First Century*.

The majority of his paintings have a story behind them. Ford used much of the assembly time to explain those stories, which ranged in inspiration from interesting historical events to stories he had read.

In his question and answer session during X-block, the artist spoke about the challenge of realizing the meaning behind his paintings that his viewers face.

However, Ford views this as an asset rather than as a problem. "A painting needs to have a certain amount of depth to continue to be interesting. What you're trying to do as an artist is give it everything you can. The reason people talk endlessly about the Mona Lisa is because not everything is

there... it keeps people engaged. You want those qualities in your work."

Ford's work is currently on display in the Richman Gallery of the Wyman Arts Center.



Benjamin's Emblem by Walton Ford

## MS recruits replacements for '05-'06 academic year School will soon say goodbye to Fishback, Okutoro, and Valerio



Mirna Valerio

Lydia Okutoro

Mike Fishback

by Everett Rosenfeld '09

This will be the last semester for three Middle School teachers at Park. Before we even have a chance to say our goodbyes, the process to replace

them must begin to fill the void.

Social Studies and Language Arts teachers Mike Fishback and Lydia Okutoro, as well as Mirna Valerio, a Spanish teacher for both the Middle and Upper Schools, will be leaving next

year. Fishback and Okutoro will be pursuing graduate degrees, and Valerio will be relocating to New York.

To fill positions, the school undertakes a number of steps, including placing ads, and employing two national search agencies. Associate Head of School Louise Mehta and Middle School Principal Bonnie Rosenblatt screen all resumes. Candidates whose resumes stand out spend a day at the school.

For the Language Arts and Social Studies position, the school has invited 12 people,

while for the Spanish position it has invited five.

When a prospective teacher arrives at Park, he or she meets with teachers from different departments. The prospective teacher also observes and runs a class. Besides meeting with Head of School David Jackson and Mehta, the teacher also meets with Coordinator of Community and Student Services Traci Wright in order to discuss service and diversity.

The candidate also gets together with eight students from different grade levels and of different genders. The students,

who are chosen by Rosenblatt and the Department Heads, interview all of the candidates.

According to Mehta, "A number of people have actually come to Park because of the kids."

Some teachers have complained about how interviewing applicants is a disruption of the day. They base this on the amount of classes both students and teachers must miss in order to conduct the interview. When faced with these complaints, Mehta said, "We know it is disruptive, but selecting great teachers is incredibly important in the long run."

## Towson Mall Tragedy

On Friday evening February 18, on the fifth floor of Towson Town Center's parking garage, near the entrance to Nordstrom's, two teenagers confronted William A. Bassett, a teacher and dean of faculty at St. Paul's School. They had planned robbery, but committed murder, shooting him in the head with a shot gun. According to reports, the pair had come to the mall, much frequented by many Park students, with the intent to rob someone, and have now been charged with the first degree murder of a highly-regarded educator who spent 31 years at the independent school just up Falls Road from Park. Without cameras in the undercover parking lot, and no security nearby, Dean Bassett made an easy target, as easy a target as anyone who just happens to plan a trip to the mall on a typical Friday night.



photo by D. Al-Ibrahim '05

by Mica Fidler '08

I have always felt safe around Towson mall. My friends and I walk around by ourselves, paying minimal attention to our surroundings. We shrug off parental warnings such as, "Be careful when you leave the mall," "Keep your money in your front pocket," and even "Stick with the group." Perhaps this is what stunned me the most, when I heard about the death of the St. Paul's dean. As upper schoolers, we feel totally

in control of our surroundings, as if we have outgrown those clichéd parental admonitions. However, I realize, now, that when I am out with my friends, we tend to isolate ourselves from what is going on around us.

The dean's attackers were identified by a driver who noticed suspicious behavior in a neighboring car and decided to write down the license plate number, just in case. I realized that if I had been in that situation, I probably would not have noticed the behavior nor had the foresight to write down the license plate number. I do not think that we should all walk around noticing and recording everything we deem as out of the ordinary. However, I know that I have certainly learned from the awareness of that driver. And the next time I go out with my friends, I will definitely try to be more attentive to my surroundings.

## Missing the Point

by Eric Gottlieb '06

If you've been to Student-Faculty Forum since the presidential campaign, you've witnessed what appears to be emotionally-charged, intellectual discussion. Twenty students and teachers vigorously debating and interrupting each other—what could be more engaging? Participating in these discussions makes one feel like an active, informed member of the community and the discussions are quite entertaining.

But the minute you realize the students and teachers are engaged in a heated argument about the occasional sub-par assembly or four days a year of Immersion Week, the progressive Park School, with its vocal students, starts to seem like every other school. The administration makes real decisions while the students and faculty rile each other up with inconsequential questions, always backed by the Park School philosophy, as if there were something philosophical about them.

The problem with such dis-

cussion is that the smallest disputes become major issues while the real issues are dealt with behind our backs, leaving the community with only a superficial understanding of the school's daily and long-term operations. For example, while we were fighting over our minor concerns, most of the student body and the parents had no idea that several part time teachers were being laid off because the school was so low on funds. While the predicament was not kept secret, few were attuned to it. Thus, senior administration resolved the issue without input from those who would be affected by it.

Because Park is such a small, close-knit community, discussion in one part of the school doesn't stay there. Issues brought up in Student Faculty Forum begin popping up in other discussions and for some time, the school is inundated with discussion of issues that don't exist. And we thought politicians fabricated crises...

In addition, when we become so infatuated with small issues, we miss excellent oppor-



photo by M. Levy '06

tunities to consider those that really matter. It's as if we believe our progressivism makes our academics and our environment so perfect that we can devote the greater part of our energy to the most minor nuances rather than the Park School experience as a whole. We should not be so arrogant.

Within Park, we have our own microcosm of society. If we really want to enrich our experience, we should be talking about the quality of classes and curricula, the appropriateness of the assessments, the college guidance process, and the school's social dynamics. We also have a larger world, which is riddled with real issues of life or death and is worthy of discussion. But, sheltered inside our private school, we talk about Immersion Week.

## Why is Ug(g)ly in Vogue?



photo by M. Levy '06

by Rachel Katz '06

Uggs. The phonetic sound of the word can be confused with that of 'ugh,' which is a sigh of discontent. It also sounds like the word 'ugly,' which I find extremely appropriate. Upon the release of these shoes in the U.S., my mother immediately wanted to buy me a pair. I believe it was over the summer, so to avoid hurting her feelings, I told her it was too hot for fleece-lined boots, and politely refused the offer. She thought they were simply marvellous. I had to disagree.

Strangely enough, the history of the name of the boots traces its origin back to the word 'ugly.' "These original boots were not pretty to look at; in fact they were rather ugly, where the term Ug is believed to have originated... Ugly boots - Ugg boots." Where is this quote from? Frankly, I hate Uggs. I find them horridly unattractive and I really don't understand what's so "cute" about them. I suppose if you enjoy wearing sheep on your feet and don't mind the unattractive outer shell, then, by all means, go buy a pair

of Uggs. But they clash with skirts, which people seem to pointedly ignore; they make your feet look elephantine; they create wrinkles in your jeans if you tuck them in, which again, looks extremely awful, and they look like a person murdered my dog and turned his epidermis into shoes—and maybe dyed his fur a bit.

I really don't see the point in wearing ugly clothing. It totally baffles me that some people who own them *actually* admit that they are hideous. So what if they're comfortable? If they're ugly, they shouldn't be allowed to be worn out of the house. Sure, if you wear them in the privacy of your own home, I could care less, but seeing the boots in public grates my nerves. I don't understand how someone could spend such a hefty sum on ugly shoes. If they were attractive, sure, go splurge and spend a hundred. But they aren't. So don't.

Recently, I've found that the uglier the shoes are, the more expensive they seem to be. Take for example, the most expensive shoes on the Steve Madden website: a *hideous* pair of cowboy boots. They're an ugly brown leather with a tilted stacked heel that just evades be-

ing a good height and a big buckle on the ankle that looks like it just doesn't belong. And they are obscenely overpriced. But maybe it's just the leather.

The whole infatuation with Ugly Fashion really bewilders me; I remember when a person who wore clashing patterns was harassed by all who saw him or her. Now a polka-dot shirt with a plaid skirt is perfectly acceptable as long as the colors are coordinated. I feel it's as if designers ran out of attractive looking clothing to design and decided to make "ugly" a new trend.

We took Australian surfer shoes, which surfers made to keep their feet warm, and made them trendy. Practicality is one thing, but at school, there is no cold water to give us frostbite, and we really have no use for the shoes. They are ugly, we don't need them, and I for one don't want them.



photo courtesy JumboUggs.com

## Pace Yourself: It's Good For Your Health



photo by J. Nethercut '07

by Jen Webber '07

Not a day goes by in which 10 people don't come up to me, lean their heads against my shoulder and sigh, "Oh God, I'm so tired." What encourages us to go from eight hours of school, which includes endless X-Block activity meetings, to two strenuous hours of practice? Why do we sit on the line between physical exhaustion and a mental break down? Do we ask too much of ourselves, or are we merely misjudging the commitments we are making?

Sure, I'd love to play three varsity sports, perform in the spring production, write for the school paper, work with Habitat, sit on the Senate, and

participate in Mock Trial, but there just isn't time. I'd rather be really committed to two or three activities than spread myself too thin. Despite what you might think, if you burn the candle from both ends, sooner or later it's going to go out.

Stress has great effects on our bodies and our mental states. It makes our bodies release stress hormones into our blood. The imbalance of chemicals in our bodies can lead to extra adrenaline and thus can cause anger, fear, worry, and aggression. Added stress on the body can also lead to a depleted immune system, which might explain the recent absence of a fifth of the student body from the Upper School. This added aggression could be responsible for much of the tension and anxiety felt in the hallways of the school during the week. So, next time you're considering taking up another activity on top of the 30,000 you already participate in, consider the rest of the student body and faculty and, for our sake, back off. We don't need another angry exhausted teenager crowding the hallways.

## Schedule Some Time

As the three-year-old schedule comes up for review this spring, faculty and students will meet to discuss the positives and negatives of long blocks and long breaks, especially those created by the almighty G.

Instead of sticking to seven-blocks when the schedule change was made for the '02-'03 academic year, the Upper School chose to limit the academic schedule to six blocks, but allow for an extra 150 minutes per week, called "G", which would be dedicated to Parksingers.

G Block preserved Parksingers as a credited class and guaranteed its survival. Because six blocks, rather than seven, was a conscious choice made by the schedule committee, G Block cannot be used as a seventh block—G creates a significant amount of time for Parksingers without creating the option of a seventh class.

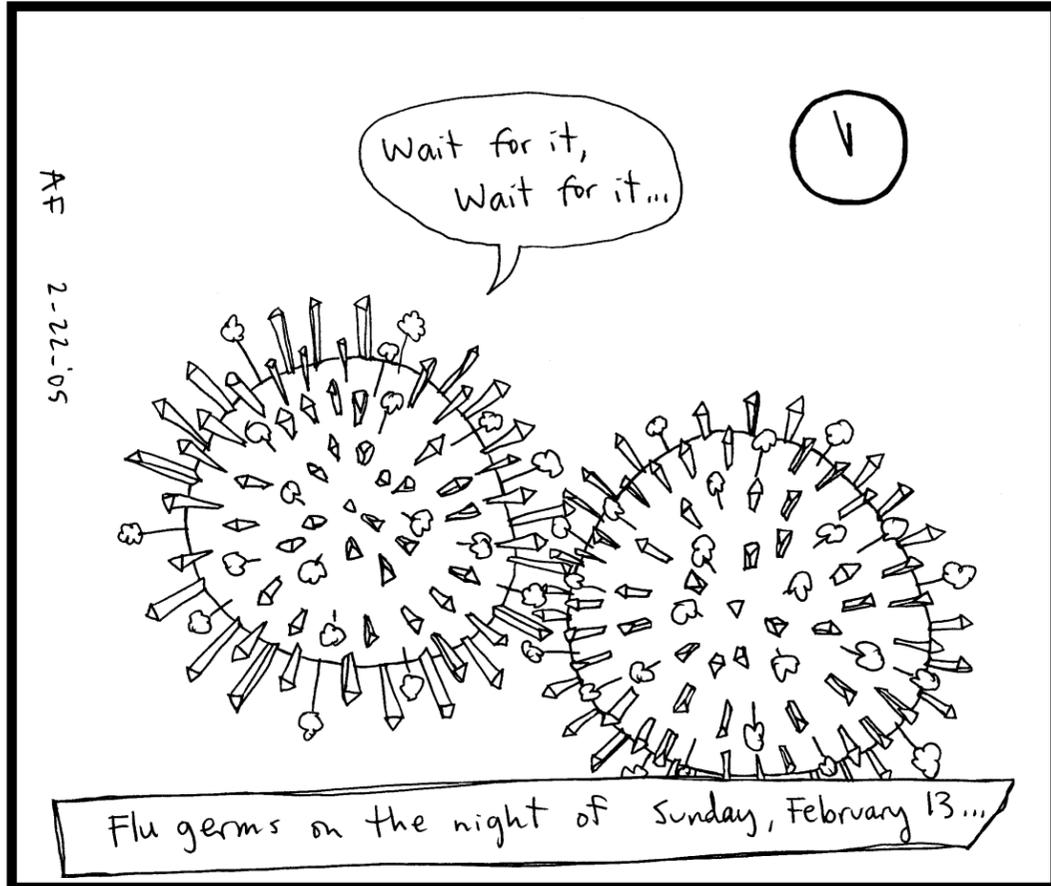
Despite the Parksingers restriction, the mandatory Sexual Health Seminar is now being held during the block. On the other hand, the block creates a space for other wannabe but can't-be classes and forbids two-thirds of the student body from doing anything for credit.

The problem with calling for classes in G is that doing so automatically excludes all Parksingers from those classes, or else it forces them to jump ship for something they find more enticing. It breaks the agreement made three years ago to secure a block solely for Parksingers.

Despite the promise of "G for Parksingers only", there is a real need in the schedule for additional offerings during the block—both to give a large number of students something worthwhile to do and, more importantly, to create some space, perhaps with a bit of credit, for big activities such as *Postscript* and *Brownie* which, like other time- and labor-intensive endeavors, depend on many hours of outside-of-school time for production. Unfortunately, production is all there is time for: there's no real opportunity to learn complicated software, page design, writing, and other aspects of journalism. It's putting the cart before the horse.

With *Brownie* advisor David Golaner leaving next year, control of the yearbook will fall to a faculty member. It's important to note that the last time a faculty member was advisor, the yearbook did not come out at the end of the school year. This may be evidence that the inordinate number of hours consumed by these activities demands more in-school time, both for teaching and production.

The Upper School must now make some decisions about G block. Too many students have too little to do, and, while the restriction preserves Parksingers as an activity and gives members credit, it prevents the flexibility that the schedule could afford for other credit-worthy activities.



## Letters to the Editors:

### If assemblies are a problem, offer solutions

To the editors:

I am responding to Jake Loewentheil's diatribe "The Assembly Chore" (2/3/05). Each year begins with a handful of open assembly spots. Interested faculty, community leaders and students request these times because they want to share ideas and information with the

US audience. This year's variety of presenters have included politicians, writers, percussionists, painters, NAG and Daniel Jacoby. There are no scripts for assembly, the committee is based on trust between the presenter and the audience. It won't always be a perfect situation. Student reflections and

solutions about assemblies have since been discussed at G.U.T.S. and Student Faculty Forum. I did not see Jake at the G.U.T.S. meeting. Loewentheil's commentary should've offered solutions for his burden.

—Adele Dinerstein,  
Assembly Programmer

### Trust declines and theft continues to rise

To the editors:

Thank you for expressing outrage over the increasing problem of theft at Park School. I couldn't agree more and hope that your editorial spurs Park students to take some constructive action. What saddens me is that after the pain of last year, and all the discussion about trust and community, the problem continues. Our family has been the victim of theft over the years, but I can confirm that this year has been the worst. One of my sons left his pencil case containing his TI-83 calculator in the Middle School commons believing it was a

safe place to leave things. He was wrong. My other son believes he left his TI-83 in the keyboard lab. It was taken, too. Both calculators were engraved with their names, but they have not been returned and we have scoured the school for them. Just the other day one of my boys took his wallet out to play basketball in the gym after school. He forgot to pick it up and when he went back the next morning it was gone and no one has turned it in. The same with one of his shirts! This is getting ridiculous.

The theft is probably the work of a small number of peo-

ple, but it is these few that force the hundreds of honest Park students, staff and faculty to live in fear that their belongings will be snatched if they aren't locked up or attached to their bodies. What can be done about this situation? Perhaps students (or faculty or staff) should periodically list items that have been stolen at an assembly and describe the ensuing hardship or disappointment that the loss of that item has caused. If the thieves are in attendance, hearing this might shame them into stopping their thievery.

—Dawna Cobb

### Larger issues still require greater attention

To the editors:

I appreciate Mike Fishback's response to my election commentary (*The Postscript*, December 17, 2004 issue). Indeed, the statistic on the percentage of gays in America is somewhat uncertain, and does range from two percent to, possibly, as high as 12 percent. And I absolutely agree with him that equal protection under the law must be given to all of our citizens if we are to uphold the

ideals with which this country was founded.

What concerns me is the implication, in Mike's response, that I am not in favor of allowing gays to marry. In fact, my original article makes it clear that I am in favor of gay marriage. That being said, I remain quite dismayed by a system that allows issues of narrower concern to distract or displace attention from questions affecting much larger groups within

our citizenry. My solution to that, however, was not to deny equal rights to gays; it was to put them on a firm footing without delay and turn our resources toward other even more basic rights—medical care, housing, education, employment, peace—whose lack is felt by an even greater percentage of our population.

—Pamela Fitzgibbon,  
US Faculty

## Postscript

Brooklandville, MD 21022

February 28, 2005

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## Rwanda succeeds without violence

by Rebecca Martin '06

Any movie based on contemporary episodes of mass violence runs the risk of becoming heavy-handed. How can a movie convey devastation and horror without overusing scenes of graphic bloodshed? *Hotel Rwanda*, which deals with the Rwandan genocide of 1994, avoids this pitfall. It does not attempt to encompass the entirety of the disaster, during which one ethnic group, the Hutus, slaughtered another, the Tutsis. Instead, it focuses on the true story of one man, Paul Rusesabagina (Don Cheadle), a hotel owner who shelters over one thousand refugees, despite the threat to himself and his family.

*Hotel Rwanda* shows very little violence directly. One long distance shot of Hutu men slaughtering Tutsis with machetes establishes the genocidal violence, but we never see a massacre in detail. In our culture, where violence is entertainment, the moviemakers appear to have realized that audiences would soon forget scenes of mass killings. Yet the movie still finds effective ways to convey the shock effect of gruesome violence. The most chilling scene takes place on a quiet night, as Paul's car thumps over obstacles in the road—the audience knows be-

fore he does that he is driving on a route strewn with dead bodies.

Paul, who also has a Tutsi wife, ties the movie together. Until the massacre, he lives his

others, he gradually finds himself assuming a role he did not want: that of the hero. Don Cheadle's performance is outstanding and his character is written beautifully. Paul never becomes a saint. He is just a good man who happens to have skills that prove to be essential to the survival of a hotel full of desperate people.

*Hotel Rwanda* is not just about Paul's courage in the face of the devastation. It also makes an urgent political point.

The most infuriating part of the story is the way the Western powers turned their back on the unfortunate disaster. They sent in troops only long enough to make sure that white tourists got out: rescue missions even turned away orphan children.

Those few westerners who stayed had their hands tied; UN workers, dramatized in the character of Colonel Oliver (Nick Nolte), were originally in Rwanda to keep the peace during the election that preceded the genocide. Once violence broke out, they were forbidden from even firing a shot and could not persuade the rest of the world to act.

*Hotel Rwanda* should be on everyone's "must see" list. One of the best movies of 2004, it has an important political moral. It is also cinema at its finest.



photo courtesy United Artists

life with the aim of consolidating his relationships with the powerful, both Rwandan and European—he knows who to flatter: whoever gets the best drinks and the biggest rooms.

So at first, he watches the rise of ethnic violence without much worry. He doesn't believe the Hutu insurgents will carry out their threats, and even if they do, he thinks his contacts will protect him and his family. But, as his country falls apart, and he learns to expect little from

## Carter: A sports triumph

by Yohance Allette '05

*Coach Carter* relives the classic 1998 high school scandal Coach Ken Carter sparked when he locked the gym and benched his entire team simply because the players' grades were unacceptable. The coach made the decision to do so when he

Still, there are a few overly distracting problems with *Coach Carter*. For one, the movie tends to pile too much drama on the basketball players (especially the father-to-be) which greatly bogs down the flow of the story and stops *Coach Carter* from reaching the sports movie heights it could have. Also, the film tends



photo courtesy MTV Films

learned that the school only expected 50 percent of the school to graduate each year, a number that rarely included anyone involved in sports.

An MTV Films production, *Coach Carter* does an excellent job of reliving the problems plaguing the team and fleshing out the players. From the top scholarship prospect (*Finding Forrester*'s Rob Brown) with an expectant girlfriend (Ashanti), to Carter's son Damien (Robert Ri'chard from TV's *One on One*), who transfers from an exclusive private school to play for his father, each character is developed and intriguing. The cast is exciting because it displays yet-untapped acting talent, and the viewer is left wanting to see more.

to stray from the actual story of Ken Carter in an attempt to connect better with today's youth. This is feebly attempted by using several urban stereotypes and detracts from the reality of the film.

This said, *Coach Carter* is still an excellent movie. The subplots of the players often lead to humorous conclusions, and no matter how many times it happens, each high-flying slam dunk incites a reaction of pure, simple joy.

The best part of watching *Coach Carter* is realizing the truth of the movie after it's finished, from the statistics to the gritty life in the inner city. Hands down, *Coach Carter* may very well be one of the best sports movies to date.

## Lost crash lands into dull arena of television drama

by Ben Gamse '05

Care to be captured, captivated, and compelled into watching a non-stop, aesthetically pleasing barrage on the senses? *Lost*, a new show that has crash-landed its way onto TV, can fulfill that desire. In a time when television is dominated by reality shows, sitcoms, and over-dramatized dramas, *Lost* proves to be a breath of fresh air and keeps the concept of original, character-driven dramas alive.

The show's concept is simple. After a plane full of passengers crash-lands onto a deserted island, the passengers must start from scratch in building and maintaining a civilized society. Sound familiar? Perhaps like some tired, stale, over-used clichéd mix between *Lord of the Flies* and *Survivor*? Fortunately, the backstory is where *Lost* leaves many of those similarities behind. This

show has interesting stories to tell and it actually uses talented actors to tell them.

As much as *Lost* is an exotic

the characters into the depths of an unknown island, the show quickly draws in its audience. This leaves questions such as,



photo courtesy Disney Inc.

adventure, it is also a powerful, character-driven show.

After the dazzling special effects of the plane crash plunge

where are these people? Will they escape from the island? What else is on the island?

Quickly, the focus shifts from

the present drama to the backstory of the characters and their interactions with each other. The identity of each character becomes clear as each episode focuses on a different person's past. These flashbacks explain the actions of the characters as the story unfolds. The list of characters includes an escaped convict, a guitarist in a band past its prime, a con man, a pregnant woman, a painter; the list goes on and on.

What makes the show so great is that it can be whatever genre you want it to be. It's a mystery, it's a family drama, it's in a genre of its own. The heart of *Lost* lies in the characters themselves and in the tense circumstances in which they must make extreme choices, forcing their true colors to show.

The list of characters is too long to go through, but the depth given to each character through the extensive flash-

backs makes the viewer feel extremely close to each person. The main character, Jack Shepard, is an introspective surgeon who becomes a leader figure to those stuck on the island. But the viewer feels so close to all of the characters that, in essence, there is really no one main character; rather, every character is a supporting character.

The genius of this show lies in the fact that the characters are completely unrelated, but they all "crash" together, abandoning their pasts in an effort to survive. What is truly scary is that these people could be anyone—killers, rapists, suicide bombers—and at times, the characters seem to be playing a real-life game of Clue. The island itself also offers some danger. *Lost* is truly groundbreaking and like nothing you have ever seen. It revolutionizes the way hour-long dramas are made.

# The Grammys: Worth the Watch?

## A Night of Entertainment

by Rachel Kutler '06

The night of the 47<sup>th</sup> Grammys was filled with performances by an array of artists from every genre of music. Although not all of the performances were wildly successful, every one was entertaining in some way.

Keith Urban, Gretchen Wilson, and Tim McGraw collaborated with classic Southern rockers Lynyrd Skynyrd, Elvin Bishop, and Dickie Betts on a slow-starting mesh of southern country and southern rock which eventually led to a rousing performance of "Sweet Home Alabama."

Alicia Keys sang her always soulful "If I Ain't Got You" and then paid tribute to Ray Charles with Jamie Foxx and Quincy Jones. John Mayer sounded sexier than ever in his low-key performance of "Daughters." Usher busted some moves with an army of dancers in a hand-raising performance of "Caught Up."

However, the mistake of the night is a tie between possibly the corniest duet I have ever seen featuring J.Lo and Marc Anthony and the sloppy version of "Across the Universe" (originally by the Beatles) sung by some of the current music industry's superstars. First of all, I am embarrassed for such greats as Bono, Stevie Wonder, Steven Tyler, Brian Wilson, Billie Joe Armstrong, and Norah Jones

for singing such a crappy song in the name of tsunami relief. It was a nice idea, but probably not as moving as the producers had hoped. As Mathew Gilbert of the *Boston Globe* said of the performance, "'Saturday Night Live' comics could be heard licking their lips in excitement."

This comment probably also applies to Jennifer Lopez and Marc Anthony's performance of "Escapement." The long hyped-up duet fell flat on its face when Jennifer had some vocal troubles, and the couple was placed in the horribly cheesy boudoir bedroom set. Was anyone else wondering why Jennifer Lopez started brushing her hair in front of the mirror in the middle of the song? I wanted to gag.

Although Kanye West's performance of "Jesus Walks" in the faux church scene might have been interpreted as just as contrived as the duet, I thought a mix of Kanye's energy and the sheer greatness of that song made his performance pretty damn good. So, although this year at the Grammy's did not have any performances on the Eminem-Elton John or Prince-Beyonce scale, the night was quite amusing.

by Carly Schleider '06

I like music a lot. I also like criticizing things a lot. So when I decided to watch the 47<sup>th</sup> an-

than a freak show. And however wrong it is to take pleasure from another's pain, when it comes to these lip-synching, Courvoisier-guzzling "artists," I couldn't care less.

Oh, J. Lo. You act. You design clothing. You open "high-end" restaurants that are of the same quality as TGI Fridays. (The only difference being that yours charge more for presentation because everything's garnished with capers.) But why, oh why do you sing? I think this is a question that has been plaguing society ever since you came out with "If You Had My Love." The implications of those lyrics alone, that I could hypothetically have your love, made me shudder. And, after hearing your nasal vocals constantly blaring on Top 40 radio, I would think that your greatest

disgusting duet with your gremlin husband.

As I watched the dramatized drek, watched as the dexterous Mr. Anthony brushed through your flowing extensions and sang at the same time, I wondered if I'd make it to the commercial break without having an epileptic fit. Then, as if things weren't bad enough, you decided to open your mouth. I've said it once, and I'll say it again: you can't sing. Jenny, I seriously considered running to the bathroom and jabbing my ears with cotton swabs until they bled.

Now I'm not saying this to attack you; I'm saying this because I'm genuinely concerned for your well-being. If you honestly want to be taken seriously, drop the singing, and go back to your original forte: acting. I mean, if it's half as good as "Gigli," it's bound to be a smash hit. So stop being stubborn, and give the microphone a rest. Please?

It's unfortunate that I have to end my ranting here. But with so many things wrong with Jennifer Lopez, how can I even begin taking other things into consideration? Just for the novelty of it, here are some of the other musicians I had it in for: Maroon5, Los Lonely Boys, Velvet Revolver, Usher and Lisa Marie Presley. I guess what it all boils down to is that most of God's creatures just aren't as perfect as me. And I resent that.



photo courtesy Top-40Charts.com

nual Grammy Awards, I knew I'd be in for a good time. Now, I can't tell a lie; I liked what I saw, but it had nothing to do with music. Unless your definition of music is Celine Dion singing about everlasting passion—and I fear for you if it is—the Grammys are little more

physical asset is your nose.

Which brings me to my next point—maybe you'd be better off as a Hanes Her Way model? Because really, other than a rump, what are you? This fact alone, that you are well endowed, should not grant you the Grammy air-time to belt out a

## With *Mercenaries*, have fun blowing up North Korea

by Quinten Rosborough '08

You've probably seen the commercials: "Blow the living crap out of it... Blow the living crap out of it some more." That's the slogan for the new video game *Mercenaries: Playground of Destruction*, a third person shooter/adventure game from Pandemic studios. And that is basically what you do in *Mercenaries*—blow stuff up.

When the world discovers that North Korea possesses nuclear weapons, you, the mercenary, are chosen to enter North Korea and dismantle the dictatorship, one leader at a time. The "Allied Nations" has classified the top 52 most wanted men of North Korea in the form of a deck of cards. With the help of four other countries, you are to take them down one by one. In order to capture these criminals, you must get information on them from the other countries' factions. They don't just hand over information; you must do something for

them in return.

The game begins at the "Allied Nations" headquarters, and after a brief tutorial mission, you begin your free roam of North Korea. You are allowed to do anything you want: take jobs from other factions, roam around, or just look for members of the "Deck of 52." This is what makes this game so great, the freedom to do whatever you like. All of the missions involve this free-form idea. You may complete the mission in any way you would like, and there are an infinite number of ways to finish missions. For example, if you need to get into a North Korean base and destroy it you can a) steal a North Korean supply truck, fill it with soldiers, and sneak into the base, b) walk in, kill the guards, and blow it up from the inside, or c) coordinate an air strike and blow the entire area into shreds. The open-end-

ness of the missions leads to a great sense of accomplishment once one of the missions is finished, and also makes you want to do even more.



photo courtesy Pandemic Studios

A big up-side to this game is that everything in the environment is destructible, which also leads to many different strategies when completing missions. Also, when combined with the

same physics engine as *Halo 2* and *Half-Life 2*, the destruction is realistic, and oftentimes comical. There is a huge variety of vehicles in the game and each kind can be driven by you. This is one of the most entertaining aspects of the game.

When you steal a car, tank, or helicopter, the camera cuts to a different angle, *Halo*-style, and you watch as your mercenary "borrows" the ride. Some of the best animations occur while stealing tanks. Depending on the tank, your mercenary will shimmy up the turret, or walk across it as though it were a balance beam and then proceed to drop a grenade right into the driver's seat.

The thing I find most enjoyable while playing *Mercenaries* is just driving around and blowing stuff up for no reason. There are many important things that you can find while joyriding around the environment. Random battles can break out anywhere, and if you help, you

can be given a cash reward. With the addition of a Black Market, you will never be in need of ammo, a vehicle, or an air strike. All you need to do is place a smoke signal and the item you need is sent right in. This is a very valuable strategy when you are in the middle of a tough battle and really need help.

This game is basically *Grand Theft Auto* in a Teen-rated package, which for some gamers is cool, but to most is easily identifiable as a rip-off. And most of the story could have been written from just watching the news. This game is very unoriginal, and most people will be comparing its aspects to many different video games. Also, the lack of prominent music and a multiplayer feature will turn off many gamers. I think that if the developers had spent a little more time on this game, it could have been compared to some of the huge games that have dropped in the past few months. But now, it's at most just a good buy and best as a rental.

## Season momentum falters in final against Mt. Carmel

by Colin Campbell '05

"Going into the C conference playoffs, the Boys Varsity Basketball team had tremendous momentum," stated Coach Josh Wolf. The Bruins entered the tournament on an eight-game streak, which included big wins over schools such as Baltimore Lutheran, and, in the final two weeks of the regular season, Arlington Baptist, Saint Peter and Paul, Our Lady of Mount Carmel, and, on program night, Glenelg Country.

"Over the eight games," added Wolf, "the intensity and pressure grew. We [matched] that intensity for a long time before falling."

That fall came in the championship game against defending conference champion Mount Carmel. Park boasted a 19-point victory over Baltimore Lutheran in the semi-final match on February 17. Wolf remembered packed stands: "The fans have been great all season. They packed the stands for a lot of our games and fired our guys up." Zach White '06, who had an incredible second half of the season, agreed. "It really made playing at home something spe-

cial. It was awesome to see the support."

The finals, held at Villa Julie College, were incredible. The game went back and forth for the full 32 minutes, with each team making runs in front of the packed crowd. The first quarter ended with the Cougars leading 16-8, but White helped the Bruins, scoring nine of his 11 points in the second quarter, and bringing them within one point at the half (23-22).

Park continued to dominate into the third quarter, aided by two three-pointers by Paul Weitz '05, who had 10 points in the game. But Mount Carmel was able to edge out the victory in the fourth quarter thanks to 10-for-12 shooting from the free throw line as well as crucial steals.

"Zach White really stepped up his play in the last three weeks of the season," mentioned Wolf. White averaged 15 points in the last six games of the season—upping his average from 10 points through the first 16 games. "It was great to see Zach step it up and drive to the basket. He was really able to make things happen on his own out there."

This was an important move because it came as teams were making defensive changes to double-team the ever-consistent Alex Brooks '06. Brooks, who was averaging just less than 14 points a game going into the conference tournament, was the major presence inside, both putting up points and clearing the boards.

"The sting of the championship loss is profound," added Wolf, "but it wears off. It is only four days after the game, and I am hopeful for next season."

The Boys Varsity Basketball team will stay in the C-conference next season; however, Mount Carmel will move up to the B-division. That, coupled with eight returning players from this year's varsity squad, should give the Bruins another shot at the ultimate prize. "For now, we are left with no other choice but to be content with our result. We had the talent for a championship, but in the end we fell short," stated Phil Porter '05.

Wolf explained, "I am in no way disappointed. Nobody on the team let me down. I set a high bar for these guys in the



photo by B. Weinstein '06

A. Brooks '06 goes strong to the hole against Lutheran.

beginning of the season and the team found a way to get over that." The team will miss its four senior contributors, Porter,

Weitz, David Berman, and Brad Rifkin. With eight returning players, next season should be just as good of a ride.

## Hilaire wins 55m in Colgate races; founds Girls Track and Field team

by Anders Hulleberg '07

Walking by her in the halls, sitting next to her in French, or playing a Mozart minuet with her in the Upper School String Ensemble, you would not guess Elan Hilaire '08 had won first place in the 55 meter race in the High School Division of The Colgate Women's Games, making her one of the fastest high-school-aged females in the nation. If you catch her mid-workout on the Kelly Field track, or better yet in an actual race, it will quickly become apparent that the freshman is fast, really fast.

Just how fast? This fast: To date, Hilaire holds one of the 10 fastest times of any female high school athlete in the nation for this indoor track season in every event from 55-400 meters. Her personal best of 7.04 seconds in the 55 meters is currently the sixth fastest time run by a high school female in the nation (and the fastest run in Maryland); in the 200, she holds the fourth fastest time (and the fastest in Maryland) at 24.64 seconds; in the 300, her time of 39.24 seconds is the fourth fastest in the nation; and in the 400, she currently holds the third fastest time run in the nation (and,

again, the fastest time in Maryland) at 54.06 seconds.

So exactly who is this girl, and how is that you have not heard of her before? Hilaire can

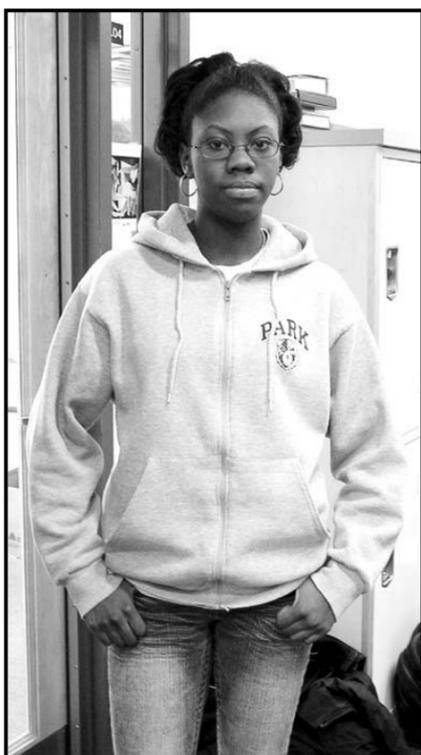


photo by S. McCoy '06

Hilaire is more than a track star.

answer that one herself. Explains the freshman, "you probably would not guess that I run track upon meeting me; even some of my friends have only a vague understanding of the role track plays in my life." Hilaire achieves such anonymi-

ty by having a full, well-rounded life off of the rubber oval. She loves to travel (this season alone, Hilaire has traveled everywhere from New York to Idaho to run in high caliber meets against some of the best competition in the nation), plays the violin, and holds a keen interest in French.

Maintaining her interests in areas outside of track was a key factor when it came time for the Sudbrook Magnet Middle School graduate to apply for high school. Hilaire ended up choosing Park because of its "strong academics, which really caught my parents' attention. Park was also the most stress-free choice for me in that there is no track team; as a result, I can do my own thing, worry about my own success, rather than that of an entire team. That is a real luxury that I would have been less likely to find at some other schools."

Ironically though, rather than leaving the track team environment behind her, Hilaire simply brought it with her: Spurred by Hilaire's talents and enthusiasm for track and field, Park's first ever girls track and field team will begin competition this spring.

## Fresh-Soph closes 5-9

by Ben Weinstein '06

The Fresh-Soph Basketball Team completed another difficult, valiant year in the grueling B-conference. The Bruins needed to win their last few games to clinch the final playoff spot, but were unable to beat McDonough, St. Paul's or John Carroll.

Though the John Carroll was close, John Carroll came out with a 51-42 win. When Park challenged first place St. Paul's, the undefeated St. Paul's team kept its perfect record with a 40-33 victory.

Fresh-Soph finished the season with a convincing victory over Beth T'filoh, scoring a sea-

son high 61 points. Beth T'filoh had narrowly defeated Fresh-Soph earlier in the year 31-29. Coach Roger Seidenman explained, "As a team we decided that we needed to beat Beth T'filoh, to finish out the season with a sound victory."

The team's final in-conference record was 5-9. Size was an issue all season, and although the team significantly improved its rebounding, it lacked a real inside threat. Seidenman was enthusiastic. "Going 4-3 to finish the season, after starting 1-6 is something to be proud of...Our goal all season was to get better, and we certainly improved in all parts of the game."

## Soccer ends season 8-3

by Brad Mendelson '06

The Girls Varsity Soccer's great season in the IAAM A-Conference ended much like the previous three, with a loss in the semi-finals. The loss was particularly frustrating for the team's seniors, Emily Chapper, and captains Sara Welinsky, Allison Zerhusen, and Rebecca Oring. Several members described the beginning of the season as one which lacked cohesion, but throughout the girls really came together and played as one.

Meghan McMahon '07 and Zerhusen led in goals, and were named Conference All-Stars. Julia Schwartz '07 made a huge sacrifice for the team by becoming goalie without any prior experience. Zerhusen said, "She really stepped up for our team. Considering she had no goalie experience, she played really well." Schwartz had help from her fellow sophomores Liz Levitan, Molly O'Keefe, and Liz Gauvey-Kearn, who anchored a strong defense.

In the quarter-final match-up, the squad faced St. John's at Prospect Hall. The game was hard fought, but the Lady Bruins prevailed and won 5-2. This set up a semi-final match against the Friends powerhouse. The girls knew it would be tough. The final score of the game was 8-3, and ended the season.

# Boys JV whips AACCS for third championship

by Brad Mendelson '06

The Boys JV Basketball team entered uncharted waters when it won its championship game against AACCS, and with it brought Park its third straight MIAA C-Conference title. The Bruins, who were undefeated in-conference all season, were challenged throughout the play-offs but fought hard and came out with the championship.

The Bruins came into their February 16 semi-final game against fourth-seeded Chapelgate riding high. The squad had easily obtained the one seed, and was rather relaxed for the game. Having beaten Chapelgate by over 40 points in each of the previous meetings, Park knew it was going to win. Unfortunately, no one told the Yellow Jackets, who came out ready to give the Bruins a run for their money. As captain Eric Baylin '06 told his team prior to the game, "Guys, it's playoff time, these guys have nothing to lose, and [they] are going to come out stronger than we could ever imagine." Baylin couldn't have been more right.

The Yellow Jackets played a



photo courtesy M. Baylin

**T. Boone '07 shoots a 3-pointer over AACCS defender.**

ferocious defense, shooting well, and everyone in the gym knew this would be a game. The Bruins appeared to be caught a little off guard by Chapelgate, and had a few turnovers towards the beginning of the game, but played tough basketball, and led by four points going into halftime.

Coming out of the halftime break, it was clear the Bruins were ready to put away the inferior Yellow Jackets. Though Chapelgate was not ready to give up, Park buckled down on defense, found more of its offense, and slowly began to pull away in the game. Eventually, the Bruins finished on top, and

put the semi-finals behind them with a 16-point victory.

Baylin acknowledged that his team didn't live up to its potential. "A mediocre performance was enough to put them away."

The championship game February 18 against AACCS didn't disappoint as a back and forth battle unfolded in front of a packed gym. Park came out firing, and jumped out to an early six point lead, but, as would be a theme for the game, AACCS soon came back and took the lead from the Bruins.

Park was down towards the end of the first quarter when freshman sensation Nick Papon hit a full-court three-pointer to put the Bruins ahead. In the second quarter, however, the AACCS Eagles penetrated the Bruins defense easily, and with a lot of second chances due to offensive rebounds, AACCS took a four point lead into halftime.

In Head Coach Dave Tracey's halftime speech, he remained calm. He told the Bruins that the game was far from over and that Park hadn't played close to its best basketball yet. The team came out and proved Coach Tracey right. With a

clutch three-pointer by Trey Boone '07, and some difficult lay-ups from Captain Ezra Rosenberg '06, the Bruins regained the lead heading into the fourth quarter.

The game was still far from over. AACCS, in front of tons of their own fans who had made the trip, once again found the holes in the Park defense and used them for easy points. AACCS made the next run of the game, and even extended its lead to nine points by the middle of the third quarter.

The Bruins remained poised, and once again it was the play of Papon and Rosenberg which took over the game. Both of the two players would convert a couple of lay-ups to bring the Bruins back within two, and once Papon knocked down a three-pointer, the Bruins would regain a lead they would never relinquish. As Coach Tracey put it, "We re-grouped and mounted a flawless assault hammering away at their lead." Finishing out the game with a five-point victory, this squad firmly established Park JV Basketball as a dynasty unlike any other this school has ever seen.

## JV Girls finish in first

by Wes Jamison '05

For the JV Girls Basketball team, this year has been a refreshing beginning to a likely dominant future. This was the team's first season in the C-conference, and it was managed by a new coach, Kirk Fairfield. Fairfield led his team to first place in conference, with an 11-2 record. Said sophomore Madelyn Clark, "I hope we have the same coach, and that we are as successful next year."

Fairfield has had a strong effect on the team. After the girls' last game, the coach made individualized note cards for each player with things to work on. This team is very appreciative of its new coach. "We all really improved a lot," said Clark.

The Lady Bruins closed out the season with a win streak which secured first place. The run included beating Garrison Forrest, whom they had previously lost to. The game was

close until late in the game when the Bruins pulled away to win by double digits.

This team surprised even some of its own players. Marie Langhorn '07 said, "When I came to this school people were like 'no one is impressed with Park's athletics,' and I am in my second year here and we [placed first in conference]."

Currently, there is no tournament to conclude the season and the team that ends the regular season in first place is the champion. Some of the girls would appreciate the chance to have a more definitive end to their season, one where they could prove their dominance with a more authoritative win.

The team is likely to reign high in the conference next year. With a lot of young talent on Varsity and no Fresh-Soph team, there will be a lot of returning players, and there will be no reason for the team to finish the season in a different fashion.

## Superb season falls short, 45-41

by Ezra Rosenberg '06

Boasting a 12-4 conference record, the Girls Varsity Basketball team entered the IAAM C-Conference playoffs as the second overall seed. This assured the team of two home games in the playoffs, one against Oldfields and one against Lutheran.

The Bruins met seven seed Oldfields on Tuesday, February 15 for the first game of the playoffs. Park maintained a lead throughout the game, but Oldfields kept close. Despite abnormally poor shooting, the Bruins came out victorious. The team pulled off a 42-38 win to advance to the semi-finals, which were played on Thursday, February 17.

There, Park faced third seed Baltimore Lutheran. During the regular season, the two teams



photo by B. Weinstein '06

**S. Gold '06 prepares to stroke one from the line during the semi-final game.**

had battled in two lopsided matches.

In the season opener, played at Park, Lutheran won 35-17. Later in the season, the outcome was reversed in Park's favor, 39-28, at the Saints home.

The semi-final game played out quite differently than history would have predicted. Lutheran opened up a comfortable 10 point lead during the first half and went into half time leading by nine. Coach Kevin Coll attributed the first half to "big game jitters. We came out nervous in front of the large number of fans all here for our semi-final."

In the second half, the Lady Bruins got back on their feet.

They burst out of their slump to draw within one point midway through the third quarter. The remainder of the game was closely contested. On every possession, the chant of "Defense" could be heard throughout the gym from both schools' entourage of fans.

Park fell behind with about two minutes to go in the contest. The Bruins fought back for the remainder of the game but could not gain the lead. The final score was 45-41. The loss prevented the Bruins from making it to their first championship game in the IAAM C-Conference.

After the game, Coll expressed his admiration for his players. "We left it all on the court. They couldn't have played better; the team did everything I asked of them." Co-Captain Sarah Gold '06 had similar feelings about the team's performance and its season. "We had a great season. Everyone enjoyed playing together. Next year we will have a great team but we are going to miss our seniors".

On the whole, the team's first season playing in the C-conference was a success. The girls established themselves at the top of the league and played well in the playoffs. Look for a championship run from this team next year.

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