

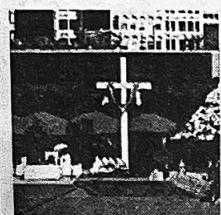
The Scroll

Oakland Mills High School

November 16, 1995

Volume XXII Issue II

Beneath the Headlines...



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Pope John Paul II visits Baltimore and conducts a mass at Oriole Park at Camden Yards.

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OM Football successfully defends its county title with a victory over Hammond.



The girls' cross-country team finishes its season with a second-place finish at the state championship meet.

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Million Man March exceeds expectations

By The Scroll Staff
Special Research Team

Despite controversy over its chief organizer, the Rev. Louis Ferrakhan, the Million Man March, held in the nation's capitol October 16th, was hailed a success by participants, media, and politicians.

"It was a very good gathering of black men of all types and ages," says OM senior Michael Ralph. "Many people were skeptical at first," Ralph continued, "but most were convinced afterwards that things had gone well." Ralph signed up for the march not necessarily because he was really "hooked on it," but because it would be a part of history, and he wanted to be there. However, Ralph, together with Justin Robbins and other OM African American males, said when they got to the march, "it was much more than they expected."

According to Ralph and Robbins, Ferrakhan, the organizer who received most of the negative publicity, "kept his cool that day." Ralph, who was unfamiliar with Ferrakhan, heard that he was a racist, but Ralph hastened to say that if Ferrakhan is a racist, he did not reveal it October 16th. Ralph, Robbins, and Carlos Mungo, who believe the march was not about Ferrakhan, disagree that Ferrakhan was out to "get the credit." The media, they readily charged, was largely responsible for Ferrakhan's bad publicity.

OM African American males who attended the march saw "togetherness," "unity," and "brothers accidentally bumping into each other and stepping on each other's feet and saying, 'excuse me brother'" as the essence of the October 16th march. Vice Principal Cornelius Freeman and math teacher LeVan Hutchinson, both of whom participated in the march, agree.

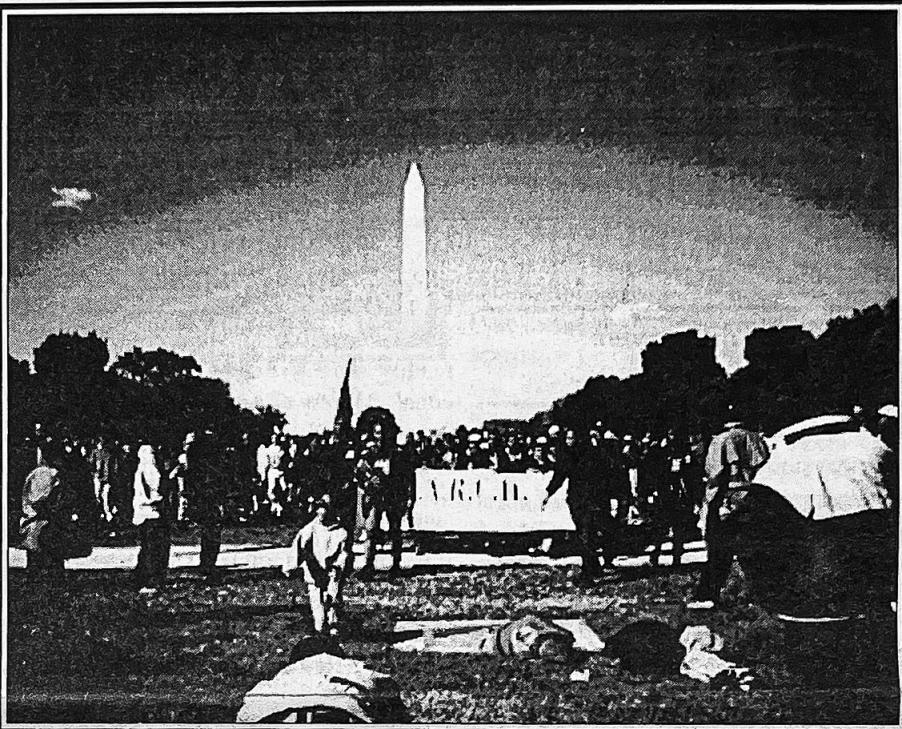


Photo courtesy of Alan Henry

Freeman added that as a result of the march, "there is more of an individual conscious awakening."

Reporters who covered the actual march, especially Channel 9 reporters who broadcasted for more than half the day, including Ferrakhan's two-hours-plus speech on black separatism, also concluded that the march was successful. Further, Channel 9 reporter Bruce Johnson talked to African Americans from a cross-section of the US and commented that America is quick to point out the number of African Americans incarcerated; but Johnson made clear that a large percentage of the 847,000 or so march participants were college graduates and make above-average incomes.

Many Americans, both whites and blacks alike (including US Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich), conceded that the march, at least in appearance, was a success. However, they say that long-term effects will depend on African American males' follow-up on the day's mandate for positive change.

Mr. Freeman is looking for evidence of "conscious awakening," while Mr. Hutchinson already feels "recommitted" and "a little more focused." Justin Robbins and Carlos Mungo said that they have already begun to make positive changes. However, junior Alan Henry believes that the strongest message of the day was, "You don't have to fear your own people, especially if you are united."

PLOOM begins a new year of advisory

By Miguel Rodriguez
Staff Writer

PLOOM (Peer Leaders of Oakland Mills), the group designed to teach refusal skills, is beginning its first year as part of the recently assembled Eastern Coalition Against Substance Abuse.

The OM Peer Leaders used to be an organization dedicated to teaching refusal skills and letting students in the freshmen class know that there are drug-free people out there. Now, a part of the Eastern Coalition Against Substance Abuse, PLOOM is more focused on stopping drugs at a young age than helping students cope with drugs.

Members of the team have better opinions about PLOOM now. "I think that this year's PLOOM is more productive because we're

trying to prevent the use of drugs not just in the high school but in the community," comments peer leader Amy Welsh. PLOOM is becoming more well known with the community through fliers and newsletters handed out at Eastern Coalition meetings.

Essentially, PLOOM selects various students who want to be peer leaders and teach them basic skills in things, such as drug abuse. Those students then, late in the school year, talk to the freshman class and educate them on topics such as drug abuse, peer pressure and other related problems. Members of this program thought it was beneficial. "I really feel that PLOOM did help prevent many freshmen from doing drugs," observes peer leader Karmyn Malone on last year's program.

PLOOM basically begins with a weekend training course. A student would have to be

approved in an interview to be nominated to attend this training course. Students learn to associate with others well, and they have a good time, too. "It was the best weekend of my life," comments peer leader Johanna Blakely who attended the weekend training course last year.

After the training course, PLOOM will participate in a freshman workshop after winter break. The freshman class is broken into groups consisting of eight or nine freshman, three PLOOM members, and an adult. These groups go into different rooms and engage in private discussion about many of the problems affecting society today.

Any freshman or sophomore who wishes to sign up for PLOOM for next year should talk to Mr. Siskind in room 807 or Ms. Ames in room 408.

November 16, 1995

Editorials

Drug problem escalates; what can we do?

By Erica Burr
Staff Writer

Drug and alcohol use is up among American youths. According to a report recently released by the Carnegie Foundation, one third of 8th graders use illicit drugs and fifteen percent have used "hard" alcohol or drugs in the past week. The foundation proposed three solutions to reduce drug use.

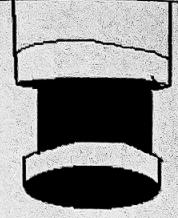
One of the proposed solutions is to shrink class sizes so that teachers can bond better with students. If students were to feel as if a teacher really cares about them and what happens to them, they would do better in school and not feel the need for illicit substances as strongly.

The only problem with shrinking class sizes is that schools would have to hire more teachers. With all the budget cuts, it's doubtful that the school board will hire new teachers soon.

The other proposed solution is for parents to stagger working hours so they can spend more prime time with their children. This could work if the parents are really into spending time with their children and enjoy helping them with their homework and asking questions about their lives and not just coming home and watching television with their children for a couple hours. If children feel loved and supported by their parents, they might be discouraged from using drugs and alcohol, or they might be inclined to discuss

problems with their parents before the problems get out of hand.

Parents also influence their children positively by supporting them at athletic events and other activities, and by encouraging supervised study groups and homework clubs. If parents feel inadequate to tutor their children, they can find capable community persons to organize study groups that meet on a regular basis. Parents also can spend time with their children to ensure that their homework is complete. Many times it is possible for both parents and children to work on independent home assignments, but in a common area. That way the child learns about the parent's work, and their parent gets an update on what the child is studying.



Weighted grades are just an excuse

By Dan Fingerman
Guest Writer

The foundation for the weighted grade editorial was that students who may perform well in an AP class may opt to enroll in a GT class to avoid jeopardizing the student's GPA. I agree that this happens, and I offer a reason why. Many students do not work to their potentials. They feel pressure to get good grades from their parents, friends, and selves, and they respond by placing themselves in situations easier than what they can handle instead of meeting the challenges of an AP course.

The ideal student learns for the sake of learning and to apply gained knowledge. The student described in last issue's editorial learns for the sake of a GPA. A high GPA is a worthy short-term goal, but ideal students realize that what they learn will serve them for the rest of their lives.

I flatly disagree that a student's hard work is recognized by no one but his or her parents. Each year, the Guidance staff calculates seniors' class ranks. High school GPAs and class ranks earn places on college rosters and scholarship monies. Selective colleges carefully examine students' course loads before admitting them; these colleges account for each course's difficulty when considering whether the student has achieved maximum potential

in high school. Colleges that are not highly selective will accept a 3.5 student just as readily as a 3.8 student if all other factors are equal. Moreover, an elevated 4.5 or even 5.0 in a weighted system lacks the cogency of a round 4.0 in a regular system. The inflated system becomes paltry.

If students share the number-one ranking, it becomes meaningless. In a weighted system, many students can share the number-one spot without having earned straight A's. Even without weighted grades, Oakland Mills has this problem: nine students in the class of 1996 share the number-one spot. If this figure represents a trend, then Howard County will graduate 72 number-one students. Seventy-two does not equal one. The number-one rank should be reserved for the one student who accomplishes more than any other. This problem would be aggravated with weighted grades.

I am enrolled in five AP classes. Thus, I am a likely proponent of weighted grades, but I do not support them because they promote laziness in potentially high-achieving students. Weighted grades allow normally motivated students to put less effort into their studies than what is required to receive an A in a course and still boast a 4.0. If Howard County wants its academically talented students to truly excel, it must not institute weighted grades.

Million Man March

By Elwood Green
Staff Writer

The Million Man March had a purpose. Its purpose was to call for a day of atonement for black men, a day of taking care of responsibilities. From the moment I stepped off the Metro onto the Capitol grounds, I could tell that there were many people there who wanted to make a change.

Throughout the day, one by one, speakers walked up to the podium, each delivering a powerful message. From the famous poet Maya Angelou to the Rev. Jesse Jackson to the march's chairman, Dr. Ben Chavis. Each speech encouraged black men to take responsibility in their communities.

One of the specific messages of the March was the responsibility to vote. This march also showed me that black men can be trusted. The biggest example was when the speakers asked for donations from the marchers. Each person passed different amounts of money from

person to person until it reached the collection baskets, untampered.

So the message of the March got through to many people even though the media previously built it as a hate march led by Minister Louis Farrakhan.

During the ride home everyone was talking about the March, but there was one conversation that stuck out. It was an older man sitting next to a young boy asking him what he thought about the March. Then the man asked the boy what he wanted to be when he grew up. The boy replied, "I want to be a teacher." All through the conversation the man kept telling the boy to stay strong and keep pursuing his dream.

That just proved that the March served its purpose, whether through an old man to a young boy or through people passing out different flyers for black men to take back to their communities.

I was asked, if there is a march next year, would I attend. The response is yes, I definitely would.

Columbians forget the dream

By Steve Petro
Guest Writer

One recently disturbing issue is the battle over low-income housing in Columbia's newest village, River Hill. This issue is unsettling because the opponents of lower income housing have lost sight of what Columbia should be. They have given away the hope that Columbia could be a model of diversity and tolerance of all people, primarily to further their own greed.

James Rouse founded Columbia in the late 1960s with a vision that all kinds of people, with all sorts of different backgrounds, could live together and in the process learn a great deal from one another. The planned community was billed as "the Next America." While Columbia may not be the "ideal" community, in many ways it is a success. There is a higher percentage of affluent minorities, interracial dating and marriage are prevalent, and there are fewer cases of prejudice than in other townships. However, a growing dissent against the provisions that make Columbia what it is, especially in the newer villages, is present.

River Hill, Columbia's final village, is

nearly completed. Already there has been much debate between current residents and community planners over proposed low-income housing. The residents claim that apartments and townhouses will diminish property values, bring a new wave of crime into the area, and lower the quality of public school education. This thinking negates the ideals of Columbia and replaces them with their own self-interest.

In comparison to other cities, Columbian crime is small-scale. The schools in older villages remain the envy of most of the state. The claim that low-income housing will ruin property values is primarily self-centered and should not be a valid argument. Yet, this selfishness is the basis for their argument. It is appalling that they would cast away Mr. Rouse's dream for this reason only.

The controversy concerning the planning of River Hill will likely rage on. Most likely, residents will win the fight to keep away low-income housing. It is unfortunate, however, that as Columbia reaches its final stage of development, people have lost sight of Columbia's original vision, a vision that allows a diversity of people to live together in harmony.

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9410 Kilimanjaro Road
Columbia, MD 21045
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Lazarus Foundation aids middle school students

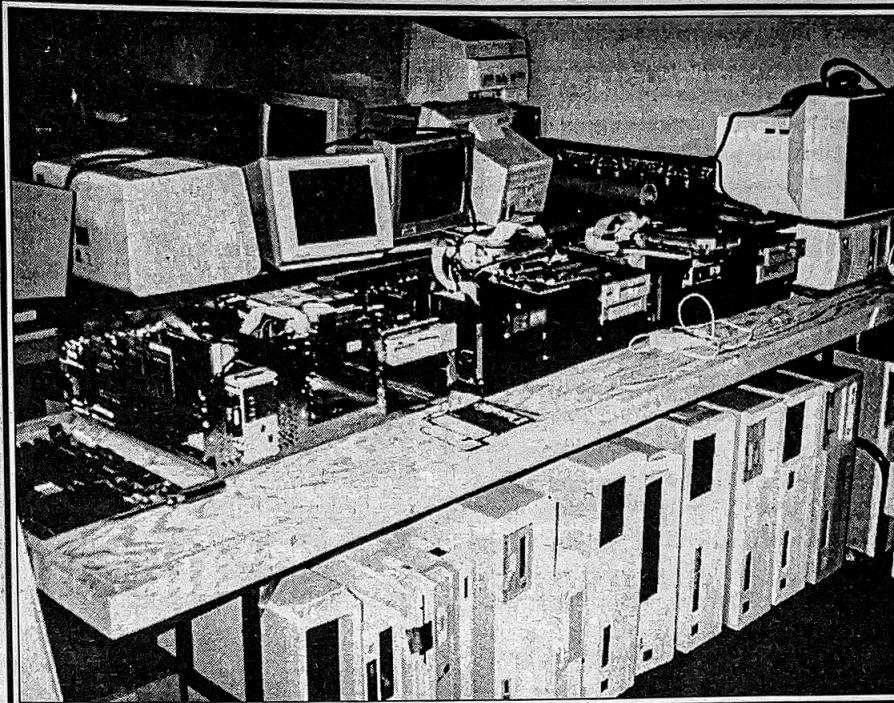
By Adam Lutz
Staff Writer

The Lazarus Foundation was formed about two years ago by a central Maryland computer users group. The biblical character Lazarus, who was resurrected from the dead, is used by the Lazarus Foundation as a metaphor for the "resurrection" of used computers. It has slowly branched out to such other areas as Connecticut, the District of Columbia, California, and now, with the support of Dr. Charles Ecker and Dr. Michael Hickey, Oakland Mills High School.

Each Tuesday and Thursday afternoon a small, dedicated group of students and teachers collaborate and use their knowledge and love for computers to repair used computers.

Early in the school year Aron Rosenberg, Dave Matthews, Ross Piasecki, Mike Olson, Mr. William Craig, and Mr. Robert Siskind embarked on their mission to repair 32 used computers and printers, which will be donated to two middle school students from each county middle school. Each of these computers consists of a 286 IBM compatible processor, a 20 megabyte hard drive, a 3.5 floppy disk drive, a keyboard, and a printer. The majority of components to these computers are donated from NASA, who is constantly upgrading their computer systems, or the Lazarus Foundation. Microsoft Works and DOS 6.0, along with a \$2000 grant were also donated by Microsoft.

The team works well together and shares common goals. The goals of the Oakland Mills branch of the Lazarus Foundation are to learn hardware, to have students involved in volunteer work, and to help students come together. The student members of the group concur that, "It's a great opportunity." Rosenberg elaborated, "I think it's great that I can use my talents and help other people at the same time."



Computers sit in the Lazarus headquarters waiting to be repaired.

According to sophomore Aron Rosenberg, "[Each of these computers] takes about one hour [to repair] if everything goes well." Rosenberg continues, "In a worst case scenario it can take days." Luckily, they have not had too much trouble with the repair process.

After the group finishes repairing the computers and thoroughly checks them, the computers will be sent out to 16 county middle schools. Each middle school principal will select two students to receive the newly refurbished computers. Mr. Craig and Mr. Siskind sent a letter to each middle school asking that the principal form a committee consisting of teachers, guidance counselors, and the principal. They recommend that this committee collectively decide which students ultimately get the computers. Mr. Craig and Mr. Siskind also

recommend that the students write an essay on why they need a 286 computer.

Once the computers are donated, which has been projected to be sometime before Thanksgiving, the Oakland Mills students involved in this project will hold a clinic for the middle school computer recipients to teach them how to use DOS 6.0 and Microsoft Works. Technical support, via phone, will be provided throughout the year by the OM students.

Anyone interested in helping with the Lazarus Foundation should contact Mr. Craig or Mr. Siskind. The group meets every Tuesday and Thursday in room 807, Mr. Siskind's room, directly after school. "We can always use more volunteers," Mr. Craig enthusiastically commented. Computer fluency is not necessary to help the Lazarus Foundation.

NHS inducts 55 new members

By A. Wright
Faculty Advisor

In a formal ceremony November 15th, the OMHS chapter of the National Honor Society, under the scrutinized advisory of Ms. Janet Herman and Ms. Barbara Jewett, inducted 55 new members, primarily juniors, into its chapter.

The ceremony, which was witnessed by at least half of the student body at the discretion of first-period teachers, emphasized scholarship, leadership, and character, and culminated with service, the NHS's highest quality.

Each inductee has at least a cumulative GPA of 3.25 and 14 quality points gained from classroom leadership, exceptional participation in extracurricular activities, as well as community service.

For most inductees, the admission process was tedious; but notification of their acceptance was a joyful relief. Michelle Osterberger commented that she is "... excited to be associated with a group of people who have the same beliefs..." that she does, while Andrew Bartlett, who was "very relieved" after he "got

in," commented on his uneasiness, even up to the moment of notification. "The students notifying us passed my classroom first to make us nervous; it worked too." Junior Justine Lutterodt reflected, "It's good to be reminded that you don't work hard for nothing."

And the inductees have much more hard work to perform. To keep membership in the Honor Society, each student must maintain a 3.25 GPA, complete two major service projects (four-to-five hours in length) and three minor projects.

In addition to Osterberger, Bartlett, and Lutterodt, inductees included Neeti Agrawal, Cirrus Alpert, Obenewa Amponsah, Aaron Creed, Tammy Burroughs, Lindsay Cavanaugh, Rick Chang, Kelly Collins, Alison Deming, Amanda Downs, Madeline Driscoll, Fidelis Dumla, Michael Dusenbury, Pamela Eisner, Jeremy Eng, Katja Ericson, Elizabeth Foglia, Brian Frizzelle, Matt Gealy, Julie Glisan.

Also, Lynae Harris, Alan Henry, Mala Hosmane, Bryanna Jenkins, Linda Kao, Stacy Kirschbaum, Brett Lanier, Rebecca Levine, Kathleen Linehan, Sarah Magruder, Joseph

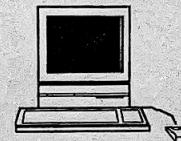
Nassau, Chris Naylor, Gina Newsome, Sarah Nguyen, Kari Olsen, Caryn Orndorff, Kristen Pierce, Joni Poch, Sommers Richards.

Further, Stephanie Romich, Jared Rothman, Elyse Sams, Heather Simons, Dana Smith, Javier Smith, Shanti Smith, Dawn Strait, Yang Wang, Amy Welsh, Mindy Wiltshire, Stephen Wissing, and Stephanie Wu.

English teacher Arlene Kutz and science teacher Penny Wolkow were inducted into the National Honor Society as honorary members.

Giant Apples for the Students Plus

Freshmen
\$49,153



Sophomores
\$51,502

School Total: \$145,676

**OM clubs
prepare for an
exciting year**

By Adam Lutz
Staff Writer

Once again the leaves have turned from green to vibrant oranges and reds. The temperature has dropped. Students know what this means: exciting activities for Oakland Mills clubs. The Asian Club, French Club, SHOP, and other clubs all have several activities carefully planned. This fall season should prove to be beneficial to all of the clubs at the Mill.

The Asian Club, sponsored by Mrs. Klinger, is kicking off the fall season with a constellation of events. One event, an open gym night, featured volleyball and basketball games in the OM gym from 7pm-9pm on November 3. The potluck dinner will feature an eclectic amount of dishes from all of the Asian Club members. A donut sale and car wash are scheduled for members of the Asian Club.

The SHOP (Students Helping Other People) club is sponsoring a substance free concert on November 17, 1995. Iapetus, Stuka, Son of Spam, Koan Fusion, and Krebstar are scheduled to play. Jordan Knott, sophomore commented, with a grin, about the upcoming concert, "I am looking forward to the SHOP concert because Krebstar is the loudest band in Columbia." Tickets to the concert are \$5. Any proceeds made from the concert will benefit future drug free SHOP activities.

The French club is also getting in on the action along with the other clubs. Students in the French club transformed the cafeteria annex into the "Cafe Francias," where students can relax and have a bite to eat. This year a new menu item was added: pizza. The next cafe francais will be held on December 2. Mrs. Simon welcomes anyone interested in having a bite to eat or just relaxing. Proceeds from this "fun-fundraiser" will go to the foreign language department and towards award plaques, posters, and French movies. Other events are also scheduled for the French club, which consists of 20 students. The students are going to raise money for the Red Cross and they "hope do activities with senior citizens," Mrs. Simon commented about the club's hope for the future. Anyone interested in joining French club is welcome. "The only requirement is that they speak French, or just sit quietly," Mrs. Simon says jokingly. She continues, "People tend to learn a language better in a social atmosphere."

Also, the International Club made up of students interested in learning about other cultures throughout the world is currently planning its December trip to New York City. The club is sponsored by Mrs. Schneider and meets Wednesdays afterschool in room 304.



Seniors

\$23,290

(as of 11-14)

Israeli Prime Minister assassinated

By Alan Henry
Guest Writer

Today, a grieving nation and a mournful world slowly return to the paths of peace, in the footsteps of Israel's fallen Harbinger of peace, Yitzhak Rabin.

On November 3rd, a peace rally, held in Tel Aviv, featured the Prime Minister, his aides, and a cheerful Tel Aviv crowd singing "Song of Peace," written especially for the event. The smiling, singing Prime Minister expressed his hope for tomorrow in song in what would be the last few minutes of his life.

Shortly after the rally, a young Israeli Jew, Yigal Amir, a 25-year-old law student, fired shots at the passing Prime Minister, hitting him in the back and instantly killing him. At that moment, for thousands of people, the world stood still.

Immediately thereafter, word spread across the world, stunning billions as news of Rabin's assassination was broadcast. Israel's leader for universal peace had been slain. Amir, who claimed he acted with God that night and refused to show any remorse, took full responsibility, claiming that there is no "peace process" only a "process of war."

On the sixth of November, an unbelievable number of world leaders assembled in Jerusalem; and a huge contingent from the Israeli military met on Mount Hazel over the Holy City.

President Clinton was one of the leaders

who eulogized his friend to the weeping masses: "As we all know, as Abraham, in loyalty to God, was about to kill his son, God spared Yitzhak. Now God tests our faith even more terribly, for he has taken our Yitzhak."

Leaders from about 50 countries, six of them Arab nations, congregated at the funeral services, where a mourning family was consoled, one by one, by every delegate and soldier present. Only PLO leader Yassar Arafat kept his distance from the memorial services, fearing that his presence may upset Israeli leaders, and only gave his personal eulogy on CNN.

At the end of the service, Rabin, his coffin draped with the brilliant blue and white flag of Israel, the Star of David solid on the top, facing the sky, was given his final resting place among the trees in Mount Heral Cemetery, which overlooks Jerusalem, the city where Rabin was born in 1922.

While the world weeps, students and teachers at Oakland Mills have similar feelings. "I've visited Israel twice and the threat of extremists was always outside of the state. The concept of Israel's teachings goes against anything like this. The tragedy reaches the heart and soul. The right wing extremists are the same all over the world," said English teacher Jane Shephard. Junior Kristen Pierce commented, "It is such a shame that he did so much to promote peace, yet he was murdered."

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin is survived by his wife Leah, his son Yuval, and his granddaughter Noa Ben Artzi.

Four OM students named National Achievement Program Semifinalists

By Lori Harvey
Staff Writer

In early September, four of OM's top seniors, Stephanie Bryant, Keri Farmer, Brian Howard, and Thembi Scott, were named 1995 Semi-Finalists in the National Achievement Program for Outstanding Negro Students. This means that their scores on the 1994 PSAT/NMSQT were among the highest in the nation.

A mere 4,500 out of the nearly 100,000 students who requested consideration for the Merit program when they took the test last year made the cut and were named commended students. This means that they are congratulated for doing well on the test and will be

brought to the attention of the college of their choice this fall by the NMSC (National Merit Scholarship Commission). However, they will not continue in the competition for scholarships.

An elite 1,500 students survived the second round of cuts and actually obtained semi-finalist status; Stephanie, Keri, Brian, and Thembi were among them. Keri earned a total score of 132, equivalent to a 1320 on the SAT. Brian had a final score of 131, which converts to a 1310 on the SAT; and Thembi achieved an overall score of 130, which converts to a 1300 on the SAT.

Depending on their grades and their performance on the SAT, they could become finalists in February and become eligible to win up to \$2,000 in scholarships.

Junior ring breakfast resurrected for the class of '97

By David Elstein
and LeeAnn Roberts
Staff Writers

Juniors at OMHS had an exciting morning October 26th. They were able to miss first period in order to acquire their class rings, while at the same time enjoy a free breakfast.

Juniors attending the breakfast—120 total—were pleased overall with the informal gathering. "I was glad to see our class receive their rings. Everyone seemed to be very

happy," commented junior class president Yang Wang.

Principal Marshall Peterson and junior Amanda Downs presented the rings after overcoming the difficulty of determining which ring was whose, for the printer for the ring company, Balfour, only printed the first half of some students' names.

Tradition says juniors are supposed to have as many students turn the ring as there are years in the last two digits of their graduation

The Pope visits Baltimore

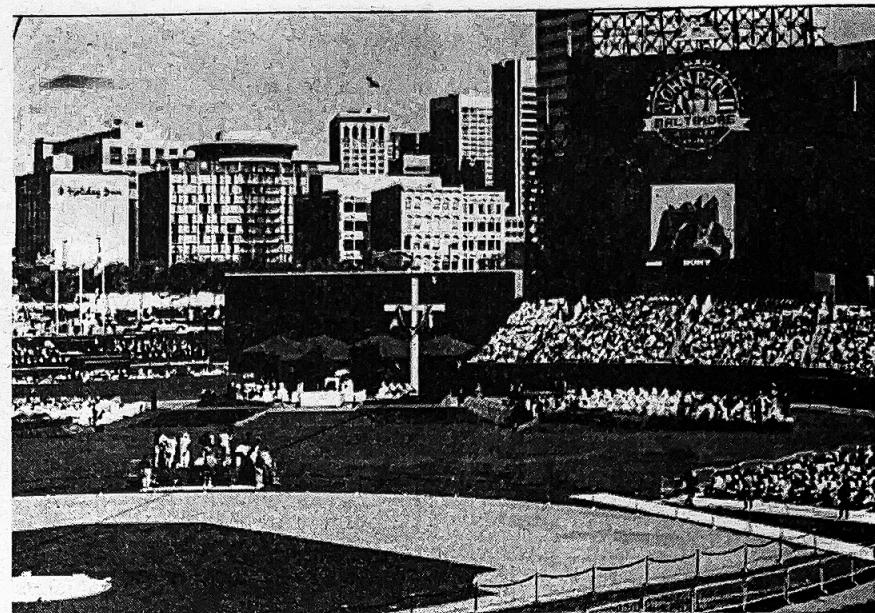


Photo courtesy of Adam Lutz

By Steve Wissing
Staff Writer

On October 8th, one year after it was originally canceled, Pope John Paul II made his historic journey to Baltimore, where he held a mass and toured several religious sites around the Baltimore area.

This was the Pope's last stop on his five-day tour to America. He came to Baltimore because it is the birthplace of American Catholicism. During his trip to America, John Paul stopped in Newark, New Jersey, held mass in Central Park, and addressed the United Nations.

The highlight of the Pope's tour of Baltimore was the open air mass held at Oriole Park at Camden Yards. More than 57,000 people from all ages, races, and religions, including people from Oakland Mills High were in attendance. The crowd was able to see the Pope's plane land at BWI airport on the Jumbotron screen in the stadium. When it did, a huge cheer emerged from Camden Yards into the streets of Baltimore. This was the first time a sitting Pope has ever visited Maryland.

The Pope arrived by motorcade to Camden Yards a little after 11 am. With Boyz II Men singing in the middle of the field, John Paul circled the warning track in his bulletproof Popemobile. Most of the fans were waiting for more than two hours because, for security reasons, nobody was allowed in the stadium after 9 am.

When the Pope walked over to the altar

and sat down, Cardinal Keeler addressed the Pope and welcomed him on behalf of the citizens of Maryland. His final words to the Pope matched what the crowd had been saying all day, "Pope John Paul II, we love you."

Some staff members from OMHS had the opportunity to attend the mass. Kathy Avery, a long-time instructional assistant, was lucky enough to get tickets through her church at no cost to see this historic event. Mrs. Avery was very excited to go. "It was a gorgeous day. Seeing all the people come together was wonderful," she said.

This wasn't the first time Mrs. Avery has seen the Pope. She saw him when he was in Washington, DC in 1979. "We had much better seats this time. In 1979 I could not see John Paul very well," she commented. She thought that the two-hour wait for the arrival of the Pope went by fast because of the activities taking place on the field. About the two-hour mass, she remarked, "It just didn't seem like two hours."

Judy Pasquintonio, also an instructional assistant, went to the mass with Mrs. Avery. Their seats were close enough to see the Pope up-close as he circled the stadium. Mrs. Pasquintonio said, "When the Pope entered the stadium, I felt something that I never felt before." This was her first time seeing the Pope, and seeing the Pope conduct mass was a very important moment for Pasquintonio. When asked about her feelings concerning the Pope, she said, "I really respect that man."

Students turn the ring toward their pinky finger without touching the stone, except for the last turn, which is in the opposite direction, by someone special to them, most likely a sibling or a close friend.

The breakfast, which included three pancakes, sausage patties, syrup, butter, and orange juice, was donated by McDonalds and served by 10 OM sophomores.

Because the juniors were given a ring breakfast this year, the class of '98 is looking

forward to ordering rings the spring of '96 and receiving them at the 1996 fall ring breakfast. "I hope it won't get cut as it did for the class of '96 last year," said sophomore Bethany Smith.

The class of '96 had no breakfast last year; the four-period schedule wouldn't permit students to miss first period because the class met only two-three times a week. This year, with first period meeting daily, the ring breakfast was possible.

OM's production of Steel Magnolias to open in January



Possible cast members for *Steel Magnolias* pose for the camera.

By Becca Doob and Liam Stratton
Staff Writers

On January 12th and 13th, six female members of the OM drama department will take the stage for the Oakland Mills production of

Robert Harling's *Steel Magnolias*.

The second play of the 95-96 school year, *Steel Magnolias* is already generating interest among the school's drama enthusiasts.

The play centers around the lives of six women in a small town in Louisiana. They are

drawn together in a beauty shop getting hair coiffed, nails done and advice from Truvy, the shop owner. As Truvy and her assistant Anelle beautify, the lives and characters of the women unfold.

Ouiser, an eccentric millionaire, shows her witty, cynical personality, foiled by the soft spoken calm of Clairee, her closest friend.

The self-involvement of the salon is countered by the philanthropic ways of M'Lynn, whose daughter Shelby also frequents the beauty shop. As a diabetic, Shelby has been told by her doctor that pregnancy would be very dangerous, perhaps even fatal for her. It is at the salon that Shelby reveals her secret - she is pregnant, having gone against the warnings of her doctor.

In the first act the women face this and other challenges as Shelby goes through the rigors of pregnancy; the second act centers on the struggles of the women to come to terms with tragedy and face the truth of human mortality.

The all-women cast is unique for the OM stage, and gives OM's female actors a chance

to steal the spotlight. Many students have already realized the great opportunity ahead of them, and are awaiting the audition with great anticipation.

Danielle Reed, a senior and veteran of the OM stage, feels, "*Steel Magnolias* is a good opportunity for all the female actors at OM." Katie Combs, also a senior and accomplished actor, is similarly pleased by the choice of plays, "I am very excited to be auditioning for a play that offers such a variety of women's roles. It's just awesome." Melanie Boley, a junior and Magnolia-hopeful, agrees that, "It will be very interesting to see an all-female cast at OM."

Jenny Christiansen, a junior and member of the *Brighton Beach Memoirs* cast, looks ahead to the opening of *Steel Magnolias* as she commented, "...I can't wait to see the outcome."

In addition to the unique choice of an all-female play, Ms. Holly Pasciullo has chosen to take on the challenge of producing four productions this year instead of the standard three.

New drug rehab program opens in Howard County

By Rebekah Bowser
Staff Writer

New drug rehabilitation programs have been springing up all over Maryland, including Howard County. The goal is to effectively steer students away from drugs, especially alcohol, by educating them first.

The Drug Diversion Program is for teenagers who have a first offense drinking citation and do not have a problem with illegal substances. Instead of going to juvenile court, the program steps in and takes the case. The hope is that the offender will be educated through the program and not abuse drugs again. Parents are notified and are required to come along with their child to a two-hour

seminar.

Upon arriving, the offenders are given a folder with various papers and in every folder there are the phone numbers of Donna Wilson, Youth Service Coordinator and of a DARE police officer. The papers are informational sheets on the effects of alcohol on the brain, behavioral signs of an adolescent who may be abusing drugs/alcohol and a blood alcohol chart. There is also a sheet with treatment centers for those who would like to get further help.

The seminar consists of talks from police officers and youth services; also, all participants must explain the reason why they are there. Most are required to come because they have been charged with "constructive possession" of property. This relates to a situa-

tion where a person is around alcohol and is not necessarily under the influence but may be at any time. The perpetrators are shown real pictures of Howard County victims of drunk driving and a video called *The End Result*, produced by MADD. Both the video and the photos are requested by the parents to show the effects of drinking and driving.

After the seminar the participants must, within 30 days, write an essay of 500 words on the harmful effects of alcohol. They also must complete eight hours of community service and come back for a Alcohol and Drug Assessment interview.

"The essay is meant to educate the kids on the effects of alcohol; it is not to be mean," says Donna Wilson, Youth Service Coordinator.

High Risk Adolescent Trauma Prevention

Program is a more intense program. Each wrongdoer is referred to the program by either the Office of Substance Abuse, Juvenile Services Administration, or the court. "For me the program didn't really work; it was sad and all but stuff happens," comments a OM senior male. A junior female declares, "It was the most disgusting experience of my life, I will never forget it!"

In this program students must take a three-hour tour of shock trauma, watch one of the three videos, and before completing the tour they must fill out a questionnaire. Then, after three, six, and twelve months they will be asked to complete them again.

Both of these programs cooperate with the Howard County Police in hope of decreasing the number of teenagers abusing drugs.

Movie and Music Review

By Tim Pumplin and A. Wright
Staff Writers

Nathaniel Hawthorne's 19th-century belated masterpiece, *The Scarlet Letter*, set in puritan New England, promised to be a refreshing knockout for moviegoers, for its aim apparently was to take a "tale of human frailty and sorrow" and converted it to a delightful romance.

But when the movie hit the DC area box offices, it lasted a mere three weeks, passing to its temporary demise as a "sleep movie."

The movie is a free adaptation of the novel. In fact, the movie is not a tragedy but a comedy, wherein Hester and Dimmesdale escape to the Carolinas and rear Pearl there, unlike the isolated Hester from the novel who suffers alone on the outskirts of Boston.

It includes Indian battles and witch trials,



coupled by free-thinking Moore, in contrast to the Hester Prynne of the novel, who is-- at least in public-- "tied" by puritanical codes. Readers who empathize with Hester's severe isolation and outward suffering in the novel will probably appreciate Moore's humor. However, if you have not seen the movie, you may have to wait until it reaches the video stores; for it has left most area theaters November 10th, and its return is uncertain.

But one thing is definite: students should not depend on the movie as a substitute for reading the novel, though the movie may be an effective lesson in contrast.

By David Elstien
Staff Writer

It should be no surprise that Mariah Carey has come out with another great album. *Daydream* has a little bit of everything on it. Arguably the best slow song is "One Sweet Day" which Boyz II Men sing along side Mariah, while "Fantasy" is a great up-tempo song. The only major flaw with the album is the absence of the popular "Fantasy" remix with Ol' Dirty Bastard. Overall this is a great album; 1/4 of a million people bought it in its first week of release. The rating systems have changed this year from * to letters, and Mariah gets an A.

Another great album is Janet Jackson's *Design of a Decade 1986/1996*. The album contains 14 of her greatest hits and two brand new songs, "Runaway" and "Twenty Forecast," with a total of 75 minutes of music. The



only thing wrong with the album is there's only one song from her last album *janet.*, "That's the Way Love Goes." The album, though, has memorable hits like "Escapade," "Black Cat," and "Control" from *Rhythm Nation 1814* and *Control*. This is a very good album, rated an A-.

A third album is Green Day's new one, *Insomniac*. It should be no surprise that all the songs last a short two minutes and sound the same, which make Green Day so good. It should be called *Dookie Part II*. The best songs on the album are 'Geek Stink Breath' and 'Armatage Shanks', even though they all sound the same. Overall, the album gets a B-.

Eastern

Eastern Coalition comes to the Mill

By Douglas Freiland
Staff Writer

The Eastern Coalition Against Substance Abuse, founded by Ms. Lynda Mitic, one of OM's assistant principals, is primarily a parent support group. It includes the Student Support Team and an Alcoholics Anonymous group. Modeled after the Maryland Western Coalition, the Eastern Coalition was discussed in May 1995 and formed this past July.

The Eastern Coalition is a combined effort with Oakland Mills High School, Oakland Mills Middle School, Owen Brown Middle School, and business communities from Oakland Mills, Owen Brown, and Long Reach to attack the serious problems that drugs and alcohol have created. Combining the resources of school personnel from each school along with parent and community assistance, the Coalition hopes to develop a unified front to fight the drug epidemic in this community.

One of the problems caused by drug and alcohol abuse is kids getting hooked on drugs and alcohol as early as seventh grade. As a result of drug and alcohol use, grades go down, health deteriorates, and students lose friends. The community also suffers, for crime rate increases as the need for money to buy drugs increases.

Student Support Team is working well

By James Kolsky
Staff Writer

The Student Support Team, originally called the Student Assistance Program (SAP), was created five years ago to deal with students who have attendance problems, academic failure, drug problems, or any other problem detected in a student. SST also screens students to see if they have any learning disabilities.

The Student Support Team committee meets twice a month to deal with any new issue. The committee will accept a referral on any student who has a problem that needs to be solved. To gather information on a student, the Student Support Team gives questionnaires to teachers. From these questionnaires, the Student Support Team learns how the student acts in class. However, everything talked about during a meeting is always confidential.

Every high school and middle school in Howard County has a Student Support Team. Eventually the Eastern Coalition hopes to have a Student Support Team in each elementary school in Howard County.

To help students with any major problem, the Student Support Team administrates a five-step process: Screen a student for learning disabilities, in-take a student, evaluate a

The Coalition's purpose is to provide information about drugs and alcohol to parents and community members. The Eastern Coalition has its own publication called The Information Network, a newsletter featuring different themes each issue.

The structure of Eastern Coalition consists of four major subcommittees: the Community Education Committee, the Legislative Committee, the Parent Support Network, and the School Climate Committee.

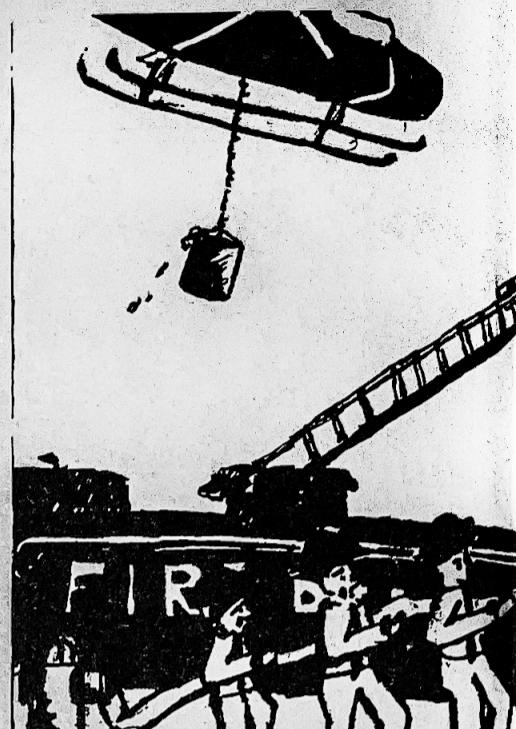
The Community Education Committee, chaired by Kathy Benner, researches information related to the issue of substance abuse. It also produces and distributes the newsletter. The Legislative Committee, chaired by Barbara Schmeckpeper, researches current laws and local Board of Education policies that pertain to substance abuse and minors.

Nancy Mitchell and Del Stanfield run the Parent Support Network, a forum which was designed to help parents meet with other parents to discuss problems facing their teens and to exchange ideas. The Network plans to start information workshops such as Parents Anonymous to assist parents in learning techniques involving discipline and boundary-setting for their children. Professionals in the field of parental psychology will attend the workshops to guide the parents. The fourth committee—the School Climate Committee—

was created to reinforce a school environment that will not tolerate the use of drugs and alcohol. Kathy Avery and Emma Ames, an instructional assistant and a math teacher respectively, chair the S.C.C.

Overall, the Eastern Coalition has a very bright future. The impact of the efforts of each committee could potentially be felt county-wide. Ms. Mitic proudly says, "It can and will make a difference in the lives of students and in the life of our community."

The Eastern Coalition welcomes anyone, parents and students, who has a concern about drug or alcohol use to attend their meetings the fourth Monday of each month at Oakland Mills High School. Contact Ms. Mitic, Assistant Principal, at 410-313-6945 for time and specific place.



Parents, teachers, and students meet to solve the problem

By Melissa Flanzraich
Staff Writer

The Eastern Coalition has met several times since the beginning of this school year, including general meetings and many small meetings among subgroups.

On September 28th, the first general meeting was held. Its purpose was to bring together the parents, teachers from both feeder middle schools, and students, to discuss the drug problem among teens with the OM staff. "There was a big turn out....almost every PLOOM member was there," said senior Rebecca Bowser. Student attendance was a large part of the first meeting. The students were separated into a group to brainstorm ideas and projects. Another purpose of the first general meeting was to let everyone attending know the basic overview of what the Coalition is trying to do for the students and the community.

The second general meeting was held October 10th, not just students and teachers but for the entire community to increase awareness. This meeting was held for the entire com-

munity not just students and teachers. Many invitations were delivered by PLOOM members to local businesses and individuals who live around the school. "We wanted them to become aware of what is happening in their community," explained Ms. Pasquantonio. Along with community members, there were many guest speakers, including Delegate Frank Turner, who discussed his proposed youth curfew. Other speakers included officers from the Drug Enforcement Agency units who talked about efforts of the Howard County Police to fight teenage drug use. Also in attendance was a reporter from the *Washington Post*; however, he has not written an article about the meeting.

The four subgroups, which are school based, legislative, publicity, and parents, all meet separately on a regular basis. Starting at the end of November, the groups will meet once a month on the fourth Monday.

The parents committee, chaired by Ms. Pasquantonio, is the group that helps parents learn how to teach their children not to get started on drugs. The parents committee held a meeting October 25th to help parents with setting boundaries for their children.



Coalition



New programs cited

By Chris Sadler
Staff Writer

The Eastern Coalition's first step in getting the students involved was to establish close ties with both SHOP and PLOOM. With the two clubs, they hope to send a message to the students and the community. "We are trying to get the students to understand that not everyone is using drugs," said Mr. Robert Siskind, an Oakland Mills physics teacher and a member of the Eastern Coalition. Together, PLOOM and SHOP participants and advisors have come up with three solid program ideas.

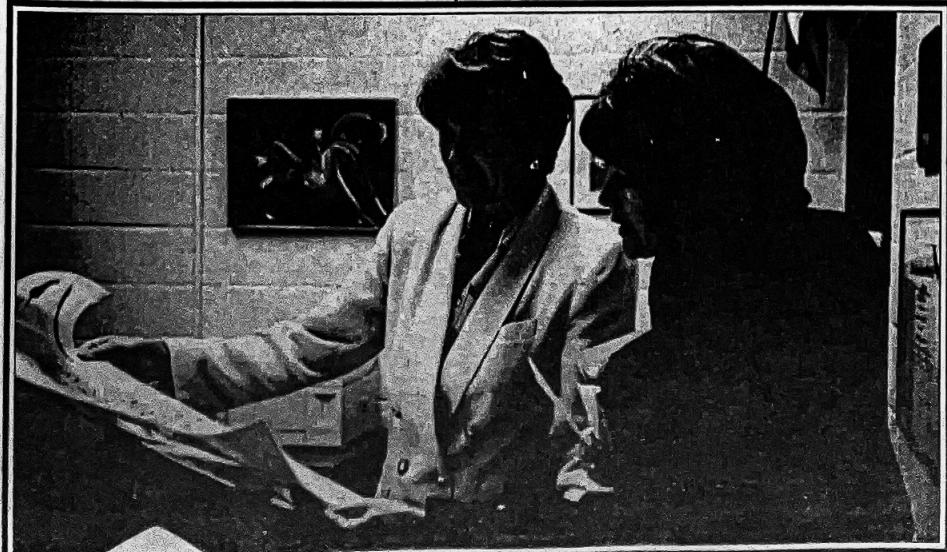
One idea is to hang a banner outside the guidance office on the blank wall. The banner will say for instance, "I choose not to use." Under the banner, students will decorate and sign the bricks. Hopefully, the wall will convince other students to sign it and make the commitment not to use drugs. The first students to sign the wall will be the SHOP and PLOOM members.

Another idea is hosting a spring event, such as a field day or a health fair, to educate students, staff members, and the community

about substance abuse. The substance abuse fair will give booths to anyone willing to help educate the visitors about substance abuse. Students will go to the fair with their English classes and visit the booths, which advertise drug prevention and the negative consequences of drug use.

A third program idea is a graduation celebration to prevent the graduating students from getting drunk or high at graduation parties. The drug-free graduation party has many possibilities. One idea is to have a party on a boat traveling down the Chesapeake Bay. Another is to have an all-night party. These events will provide a positive ending to the student's senior year while getting the point across that students do not need drugs to have fun.

The Western Coalition, the model for the Eastern Coalition, also has some good programs. They plan to center their programs around middle schoolers in an attempt at early prevention. The first program is to start a mentorship program where high schoolers teach eighth graders about drugs. The other program is making a calendar for the parents, which gives advice to parents, and listings of all the major school activities.



PLOOM leads OM back on track

By Miguel Rodriguez
Staff Writer

PLOOM (Peer Leaders of Oakland Mills), the group designed to teach refusal skills, is beginning its first year as part of the recently assembled Eastern Coalition Against Substance Abuse.

The OM Peer Leaders used to be an organization dedicated to teaching refusal skills and letting students in the freshmen class know that there are drug-free students out there. Now, a part of the Eastern Coalition Against Substance Abuse, PLOOM is more focused on stopping drugs at a young age than helping students cope with drugs.

Members of the team have better opinions about PLOOM now. "I think that this year's PLOOM is more productive because we're trying to prevent the use of drugs not just in the high school but in the community," comments peer leader Amy Welch. PLOOM is becoming more well known with the community through fliers and newsletters handed out at Eastern Coalition meetings.

Essentially, PLOOM selects various students who want to be peer leaders and teach them basic skills in things, such as drug abuse. Those students then, late in the school year,

talk to the freshman class and educate freshmen on topics such as drug abuse, peer pressure and other related problems.

Members of this program thought it was beneficial. "I really feel that PLOOM did help prevent many freshmen from doing drugs," observes peer leader Karmyn Malone on last year's program.

PLOOM basically begins with a weekend training course. A student has to be approved in an interview to be nominated to attend this training course. Students learn to associate with others well, and they have a good time, too. "It was the best weekend of my life," commented peer leader Johanna Blakely who attended the weekend training course last year along with Karmyn.

After numerous training sessions and meetings, PLOOM members prepare for the freshman workshop. The workshop consists of the freshman class divided into groups of eight or nine each. Each group gets three PLOOM members and an adult. The adult is either a teacher or a parent volunteer. The group all go into different rooms where they express their feelings, discuss refusal skills, and talk about other problems affecting society. The main goal of PLOOM is teaching these students refusal skills and getting them to adopt a positive attitude towards solving their problems.

Alcoholics Anonymous

By Liam Stratton
Staff Writer

Every Thursday from 2:30 to 3:30 a group of Alcoholics Anonymous meets in the Phelps Luck neighborhood center. The only difference between this meeting of AA and other AA meeting is that it is centered around teenage alcoholics and addicts. The meeting is not necessarily for students of OMHS but for all young people.

The meeting runs as does any other meeting of alcoholics anonymous only the participants are younger. As in the prologue that is read before every meeting, "alcoholics anonymous is a fellowship of men and women who share their experience...."

The meeting place is a room lined comfortably with couches and chairs. Coffee and cake are free. When a meeting begins the prologue is read and a prayer is said. Then people go on to share their own experience with alcohol and/or drugs.

Everyone uses only their first names and everything is taken in strict confidentiality. As a plaque in the front of the room proclaims, "What you see hear, who you see here, what you hear here, let it stay here."

The goal of the members is to complete the twelve steps the first of which is to admit that you are powerless over alcohol which you state when you introduce yourself. As a member

begins to complete the steps they are easy but as they go along they get more difficult and take longer to complete. The goal of alcoholics anonymous is to keep its members coming back and staying sober.

Alcoholics Anonymous is not affiliated with any organization, including schools. Actually it is frowned upon when the school forces students who have been caught for drug or alcohol infractions to attend the meetings. "People who are forced to come to these meetings are not going to get the message being conveyed."

The program was actually begun in the school but then its sponsor, Mr. Bob Siskind, felt that attendance would be boosted if the program was moved out of the school. It also needed to be moved because if the meeting went on in the school then it could be seen as affiliation with the school.

It is an open meeting which means that anyone who wishes to attend may. If you feel that you have a problem with drugs or alcohol and you desire to get help than talk to Mr. Siskind or attend a meeting.

Both Mr. Craig and Mrs. Avery agree with statistics that AA is effective with one out of every five persons who attend follow-up sessions on a long-term basis.

"If you go back to your old friends, you just go back to old habits," Mr. Siskind firmly believes. And remember, "Don't try to do it alone."



Mr. Siskind not only ran the blood drive, but he also gave a pint of blood for the 38th time.

Monday, November 13th, many nervous-looking faces, from first-time donors to last year's repeaters, crowded into the OMHS gym and waited to donate a pint of blood to the American Red Cross.

"I realize the benefits of giving blood, but I am still nervous," said senior John Sunderdick. However, "Once it's over, you realize that it's no big deal," said Mr. Siskind, who organized the blood drive for his 13th year and also gave blood for his 38th time.

The main purpose for having the blood

drive at high schools is to get students involved early, as 75-80% of first-time donors become life-time donors. Overall, most students believed that it was a very positive experience. One donor, senior Eric Hildenbrand, said, "I'm glad that I could help people out."

This year's turnout was good, as 115 students signed up to give blood. Some students were so enthusiastic about giving that when they were turned away for various reasons, they were utterly disappointed.

OM Step Squad demands attention and respect

By Jeann Beaman
Staff Writer

During halftime at many Varsity basketball games, sounds of rhythm and dance are heard with Oakland Mills crowds cheering in the background. These are the sounds of the Step Squad, composed of 15 Oakland Mills females.

The Scorpion Step Squad, formerly sponsored by math teacher Ms. Paulette Cheeks and now sponsored by Media Assistant Ms. Claudia Bright, is thoroughly enjoyed by students and faculty alike.

Captain Sjockea Tatum organized the group last year, their top priority being to perform at Varsity basketball halftimes. Additional assistance for the group is given by co-captain Nakia Stewart, assistant co-captain Nikia Comber, and treasurer Elyse Sams. Under their leadership, the group performs well.

To the common observer the Step Squad seems to perform with natural talent, but they

did not become good overnight. Like any other team, the Step Squad is committed and practices hard. The members practice one hour and 15 minutes, three times a week. This group also allows the members to get together and socialize as well as work.

But despite their great performances, one of their complaints is the lack of support from the school. They are not recognized as a club or sport. Senior Vandria Walters, a member of the Step Squad, exclaims, "We were supported last year, but now we are considered not legal!" The group also complains that it has nowhere to practice. "We have to practice in the tennis courts, even when it's cold!" says Vandria. Member Tiffany Walker believes, "If all the other teams have a designated place to practice, then we should too."

But despite these obstacles, the Step Squad feels that it makes a positive contribution to the school. "Most students like us," Vandria comments.

The Squad practices Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays immediately after school.

Homecoming 1995



By Erica Burr
Staff Writer

Homecoming got off to a good start with seniors winning spirit week and the Scorpions winning the Homecoming game against Atholton. The dance also was a success with just under 800 students attending.

For spirit week, sophomores came in at a close second to seniors, with the freshmen coming in third while the juniors placed fourth. Junior Andrew Lieberman commented, "I've never seen so much spirit."

The stands were full of students, parents and friends Saturday, October 7th, anxiously awaiting the start of the game, then cheering loudly for every play and throwing streamers when the Scorpions scored its first touchdown. This spirit was maintained throughout the game. When the referee blew his whistle to

signal the end of the game, everyone stood up and cheered because the final score was OM Scorpions 28, Atholton Raiders 6.

Over half the school attended the homecoming dance later that night. Sophomore Leslie Miller believed the "Homecoming dance was fun, but the DJ slacked." Freshman Thomas Browne felt, "Homecoming was bombin', but they should have ended with a slow jam."

At about quarter after 10:00, the Homecoming Court was announced. The Freshmen prince and princess were Jacob Jennifer and Heidle Hausenauer. P.T. Topeka and Leslie Miller were the sophomore prince and princess. The juniors prince and princess were Amanda Downs and Brian Frizzelle. Sean Harbough and Whitney Sale were the Senior Class prince and princess. The Homecoming King and Queen were Brian Howard and Brownzyne Hunt.



Photos courtesy of Yearbook and Rachel Wisniewski

Football wins county title

By S. Adamson and S. Warner

Sports Editors

As the Oakland Mills Varsity football team walked off the stadium field after their second unexpected loss of the season, they felt as low as they thought was possible.

"We shouldn't have lost," was all senior captain, quarterback/defensive back, Irving Conwell could say about the games.

Although these two early season, out of county losses to Linganore and Thomas Johnson devasted the morale of second-year coach Ken Hovet's team, the games forced them to focus on the in-county season to consummate their playoff hopes.

After their second loss of the season to Thomas Johnson, a flawless in-county record was necessary to return to the playoffs for their second consecutive year. Going seven consecutive games without losing proved to be a difficult task when the schedule includes the competition of top teams such as Wilde Lake and Hammond.

Wilde Lake first tested the Scorpions at River Hill. In a match that was slated to be "the county championship game" by Wilde Lake coaches, Wilde Lake scared Oakland Mills by garnering an edge by halftime. Senior receiver Antiwan Jones had a touchdown *called back because of a holding call*, and senior punter/defensive back Paul Brown had a punt blocked close to his own end zone. These two events created a 14 point swing, and at halftime, the Scorpions hopes of winning the

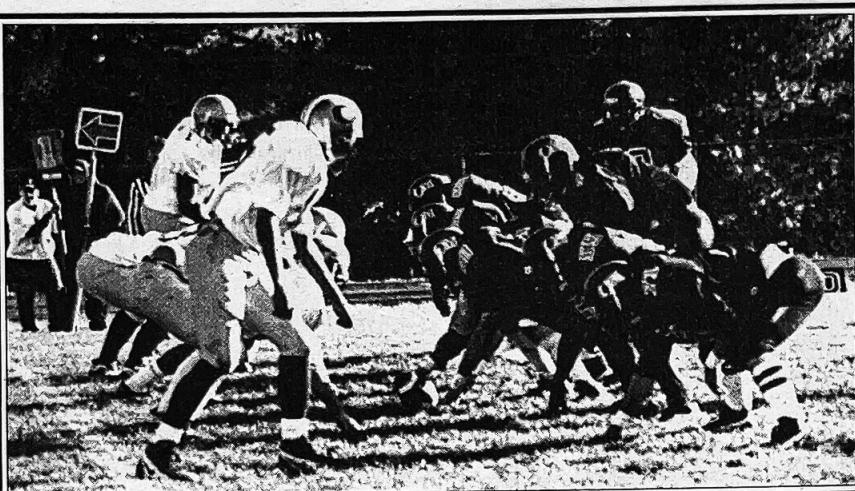


photo courtesy of yearbook

county championship and returning to the regional playoffs were in jeopardy. With the second half came a reversal in Oakland Mills play. The final score was 29-14, as Oakland Mills preserved their undefeated in-county record.

On Saturday, November 4, Oakland Mills faced its other in-county test in Hammond. In the second quarter, senior Antiwan Jones caught the only touchdown of the game for the Scorpions. "The game was won by the defense," stated junior Jeff Dawson. They held the Bears to only one touchdown which came at the end of the fourth quarter. Hammond, in a thrilling moment, failed to convert the extra point, and the game remained 7-6. This gave the Scorpions the win and a spot in the regional playoffs.

Possible playoff opponents include Linganore, Wilde Lake, Hammond, or Fort Hill, who beat them last year 30-18. "If all the seniors feel like me, they will play their hardest because every game could be their last," commented Conwell about the importance of playoff games. If everyone does feel like Conwell, the squad should have a fair shot at playoffs.

"At the beginning [of the season] we had no motivation, but we have all the talent," said Conwell in reference to the turnaround that occurred after the team's two early losses and chances of winning the State Championship.

The Scorpions have focused on their goal: it will be difficult to stop them from winning the playoffs.

more Kristen Sunderdick (21st place).

The OM girls also had outstanding races at the county and regional meet where they came in second and first places overall.

The boys' cross-country team did not fare as well as the girls as they finished with a disappointing seventh place in a division that was dominated by western Maryland teams. Leading the team was Steve Petro with a fourth place finish. Also running for the Scorpions were seniors Keith Jackson (40th place), Kevin Williams (42nd place) Dean Menegay (47th place), Mike Herdson (53rd place), Joe Schoeny (62nd place), and Chris Oxford (81st place).

Overall this season was a disappointment as the team had their worst finishes at counties (fifth), regionals (second), and the states (seventh) in over a decade, which goes to show just how strong OM's cross-country program has been over the past decade.

However, spotlight for this year's team is the senior standout, Steve Petro. During this season Petro had 9 consecutive first-place finishes against some of the best runners in the state. Petro's season is not over yet, as he still has at least two more races at the Junior Nationals in Boston and the Footlocker North Regionals in New York. If he finishes in the top eight at New York, he would qualify for the national meet in San Diego, where he would run against the top 32 runners in the nation.

Boys' soccer falls short of success

By Ellwood Green and S. Warner
Staff Writers

This season was not filled with glory for the Oakland Mills Boys' soccer team. Last year they won the state championship, and they were looking to make it to the finals again this year. However, their season took a couple of wrong turns and led them down the wrong road.

After a less-than-perfect season, the Scorpions made an early exit from the playoffs. After drawing a first round bye, The Scorpions faced Great Mills, whom they demolished 5-1. But their journey ended there, in their second playoff game the Scorpions fell to Wilde Lake, whom they beat in the regular season, 4-1.

"It was very disappointing," were the only words coach Don Shea, 1994 *Baltimore Sun* coach of the year, had to say about the entire season.

After starting the season 7-1, with wins over teams such as county rival Howard, MIAA champions Gilman, and Loyola, the playoff win would be the only other win for the duration of their season.

The downhill slide started for the boys when they lost to Mount Hebron, and their bad luck continued when they lost to Centennial. Following the Centennial loss, the Scorpions fell to Hammond in a flukish game.

Many individuals on the team put in outstanding efforts that were seen throughout the season. The starting goalie, senior John Sunderdick, had an exceptional season. Last year's First Team All-county seniors Simon Bwalya and Zuri Barns also added much to the team. Junior striker Jason Gotis contributed with several winning goals. Senior starters Daniel Stotenborough, Spencer Adamson, Paul Sanin, Luke Tourtlotte, Mark Zirkle, and Joey Mitchell helped carry the Scorpions along.

Schedules

Boys' Basketball

Tue., Dec. 5 - vs. Thomas Johnson 6:30

Fri., Dec. 8 - at Aberdeen 6:45

Fri., Dec. 15 - vs. South Carroll 6:30

Tue., Dec. 19 - at Loyola 5:30

Thu., Dec. 21 - vs. Linganore 6:30

Tue., Wed., Dec. 26, 27 - at T.J. Tournament

Wed., Jan. 3 - at Hammond 5:00

Fri., Jan. 5 - at Wilde Lake 7:00

Wed., Jan. 10 - vs. Atholton 5:00

Fri., Jan. 12 - vs. Howard 7:00

Tue., Jan. 16 - vs. Glenelg 5:00

Thu., Jan. 18 - at Centennial 7:00

Fri., Jan. 26 - vs. Mt. Hebron 7:00

Wed., Jan. 31 - vs. Hammond 5:00

Fri., Feb. 2 - vs. Wilde Lake 7:00

Tue., Feb. 6 - at Atholton 5:00

Thu., Feb. 8 - at Howard 5:00

Tue., Feb. 13 - at Glenelg 5:00

Thu., Feb. 15 - vs. Centennial 5:00

Tue., Feb. 20 - at Mt. Hebron 5:00

Boys' and Girls' Indoor Track

(All Meets at Fifth Regiment Armory)

Wed., Dec. 13 - B Meet 4:00

Thur., Dec. 14 - Pangaea Meet TBA

Thur., Dec. 21 - Top Flight Meet 4:00

Mon., Jan. 8 - Top Flight Meet 4:00

Thur., Jan. 11 - B Team Championships 4:00

Thur., Jan. 18 - Howard County Championships 4:00

Sat., Jan. 20 - National Guard Meet TBA

Mon., Jan. 30 - Howard County Relays 4:00

Invitational. While injured runners Dawn Strait and Erin Morrow were able to make it back for the counties, regions, and states, the biggest surprise of the year was freshman Sarah Condon, who went from not even being on the varsity top seven in the beginning of the season to being the top OM finisher at the state meet with a tenth-place finish. Also running strong were seniors Rachel Nelson (16th place), Liz Ball (47th place), Erin Morrow (56th), juniors Lauren Drake (19th place), Dawn Strait (25th place), and sopho-

more Kristen Sunderdick (21st place).

The OM girls also had outstanding races at the county and regional meet where they came in second and first places overall.

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Overall this season was a disappointment as the team had their worst finishes at counties (fifth), regionals (second), and the states (seventh) in over a decade, which goes to show just how strong OM's cross-country program has been over the past decade.

However, spotlight for this year's team is the senior standout, Steve Petro. During this season Petro had 9 consecutive first-place finishes against some of the best runners in the state. Petro's season is not over yet, as he still has at least two more races at the Junior Nationals in Boston and the Footlocker North Regionals in New York. If he finishes in the top eight at New York, he would qualify for the national meet in San Diego, where he would run against the top 32 runners in the nation.



Open playoff system alters teams' season's outcome

By Sabrina Warner
Sports Editor

Your team had a horrible season, the star player was out with mono for two weeks, it rained during the most important game of the season, and everyone had a bad game when you played your biggest rivals. It happens sometimes. Teams get unlucky; and although they may be a dominate team, they don't make playoffs because they don't have the best record in their region.

After a new rule passed last year for many sports teams, this doesn't happen any more. Under the new "open-tournament" policy every team makes it to the playoffs regardless of their regular season record.

A few weeks before the playoffs, there is a drawing to see who each team will be matched up with for the first round and where they will play. The teams are divided into four regions: north, south, east, and west. The winners from each division move on to the state semi-finals, and then on to the state finals.

Last year, field hockey, volleyball, soccer, lacrosse, and basketball implemented this format. This year baseball is joining that list.

There are many advantages and disadvantages to this tournament style. For football, the only sport, which hasn't implemented the new program, this style would never work. Football teams are only allowed to play 10 games a season, and can have only one game a week. In the open-tournament format you have two games a week until the state final



photo courtesy of yearbook.

game, and there are 5 games in the playoffs alone, which would leave football with only 5 games during the regular season. As coach Sam Singleton stated, "It works well for other teams but it would never work for us."

Many of the other coaches find it to be a blessing for their teams. "It frees up your schedule so you can play talent," stated head baseball coach Tim O'Brien. Teams don't have to be worried about getting the best record; they can work on improving by playing harder teams. "to be the best you have to play the best," added coach O'Brien. "It gives teams a chance to develop throughout the season," added Steve Matters, head coach of the Oakland Mills women's varsity soccer team.

O'Brien pointed out that in the old

tournament style, there was a much bigger emphasis to be better earlier; if you messed up in the beginning there was nothing you could do about it. After the first three games the football team was 1-2. "Our backs were against the wall," commented Coach Singleton, the football team's assistant coach. The open tournament eliminates situations like that from occurring.

"The open-tournament is fair. Everyone is subject to the same thing," Matters commented. The new format tries to encourage the participatory atmosphere that high school sports are for. Overall it has been an advantage to many teams who normally might not be able to advance to playoffs, even when they are the better team.

Cheating in Sports? Against the Rules

By Spencer Adamson
Sports Editor

"All is fair in love and war." There's nothing that the American public loves more than sports, except perhaps war. However, war is the one idiom that is commonly analogous with sports. All is fair in love and war and sports, I guess.

There are some defining moral questions of sports since pitchers began using sandpaper and batters started corking bats. Is an athlete not the best he can be if he doesn't do everything he can to win? Is a foul only a foul if the referee blows the whistle?

Often a sad commentary, professional sports have been proven to reflect American society time and time again. Fights in the National Basketball Association and National Football League have grown from almost nil decades ago to an almost ridiculous frequency now. Violence in our streets increased concurrently and with a similarly staggering rate. In this time, as big businesses hire dozens of lawyers to skirt around the governments anti-trust laws, and insider trading is at an all-time high, is it any wonder that some high school soccer players spit on each other to gain a mental edge when the referee turns away?

And while this infraction warrants a red card and ejection from the game in soccer and is clearly against the rules, the prevalent question remains: Is it fair? Both teams have an equal opportunity to break the rules, so cheating is not bias. It is a skill that can be practiced like shooting, passing, dribbling, or skating.

The only two things that can stop blatant disregard for the rules are a code of honor among all athletes everywhere and absolute, undisputable, perfect officiating. Neither of these will ever happen. Winning is too important to the world's athletes to stop doing everything they can to win, and perfect officiating has proven itself to be impossible.

Schedules

Varsity Wrestling

Tue., Dec. 5 - at Lackey 5:00
Fri., Sat., Dec. 8, 9 - at Chopticon Tournament TBA
Mon., Dec. 11 - vs. Wilde Lake 4:00
Thu., Dec. 14 - vs. North County, Chesapeake 4:00
Fri., Sat., Dec. 29, 30 at Damascus Tournament TBA

Girls' Varsity Basketball

(Schedule through January 31)
Tue., Dec. 5 - at Arundel 7:00
Tue., Dec. 12 - vs. Liberty 5:30
Thu., Dec. 14 - at Edgewood 5:00
Tue., Dec. 19 - vs. North Harford 7:00
Thu., Dec. 21 - at Linganore 7:30
Wed., Thu., Dec. 27, 28 - at Meade Tournament TBA
Tue., Jan. 2 - at Thomas Johnson 7:30
Wed., Jan. 3 - vs. Hammond 5:00
Fri., Jan. 5 - vs. Wilde Lake 7:00
Wed., Jan. 10 - at Atholton 5:00
Fri., Jan. 12 - at Howard 7:00
Tue., Jan. 16 - at Glenelg 5:00
Thu., Jan. 18 - vs. Centennial 7:00
Fri., Jan. 26 - at Mt. Hebron 7:00
Wed., Jan. 31 - at Hammond 5:00

How the scorpion came to be

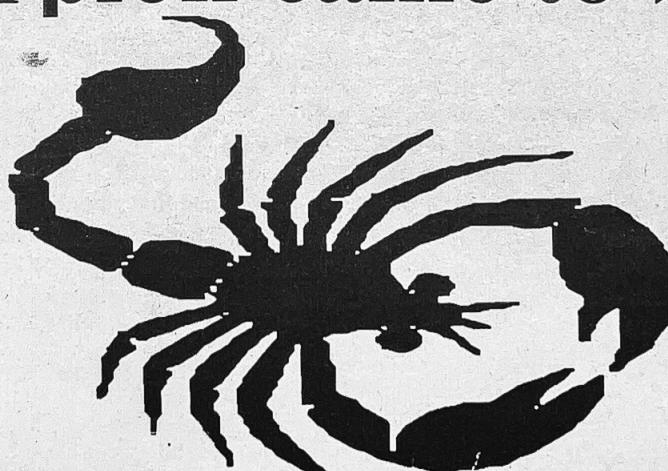
By Jean Beaman
Staff Reporter

During many of the sports games at Oakland Mills, a bright orange colored giant Scorpion dances around Oakland Mills cheerleaders, crowds of O.M.'s faculty, staff, students, and parents who scream from the stands. The Scorpion, as well as our school colors are embossed all throughout our hallways. The Scorpion and the school colors, orange and black, have been at Oakland Mills since the first day it opened its doors.

The essence of a school is in their school mascot and colors. Even though our beloved Scorpion and orange and black are so important to us, we never stop to think where they came from. Who do today's Oakland Mills students have to thank for the thoughts of our mascot and colors?

When Oakland Mills opened its doors in 1972, Howard and Wilde Lake had previously opened and already had their mascots. Our current Vice Principal, and founding Vice Principal of Wilde Lake, Rosalie Bowen commented, "New schools usually survey the kids coming and let them choose the mascot and colors from a list of possible choices." Our mascot and colors were chosen in a similar way.

William Donohue, the first principal of Oakland Mills, said that the mascot and colors were chosen by our first student body.



The School's mascot, the Scorpion, has become synonymous with Oakland Mills High School since its conception in 1972. No other students in the County take as much pride in their mascot and flamboyantly display their orange and black school colors.

They voted on the mascot from a list of possible choices, including a panda and scorpion. While these ideas were proposed by the students, the orange and black colors were thought of and decided by Mr. Donahue.

Students who wear the mascot are Andrew Bartlett and Avram Polinski. Kina Hodges was chosen first, but the mascot did not fit.

By Spencer Adamson
Sports Editor

Our colors and mascot have served as our school's rallying point for 22 years now, and will continue to as Oakland Mills changes with each new freshman class. The originality of

the scorpion as a mascot sets Oakland Mills apart from the Eagles, the Lions, and the Bears of the County, just as Oakland Mills students have set themselves apart from the rest of the County's schools in many ways. Athletically, as the Oakland Mills football team proved with its dominance of all county competition, and academically, as illustrated by an all-time record number of National Merit Scholar Commended Students this past year, the Eagles, Lions, Bears, Raiders, Gladiators, Vikings, and Wildcats are lagging behind the mighty, mighty Scorpions. The competition knows that to catch up, they're going to have to watch out for that tail.

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