

THE SCROLL

Volume XXII Issue III

Oakland Mills High School

January 30, 1996

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Blizzard of '96 puts a hold on life

By M. Flanzraich and M. Rodriguez
staff writers

On January 6th, the East Coast was bombarded by a massive snow storm. Almost two feet of snow fell, carpeting Columbia with a thick, white blanket. This caused many problems for Columbia residents, but it was also a well-enjoyed break from school for some students.

The Blizzard of '96 forced the shutdowns of local stores such as High's, 7-11, and even the Mall. Throughout the storm, Giant remained open; but, frantic shoppers found it difficult to find such necessities as eggs, milk, and bread. Although the Mall's closing brought disappointment to many people, some employees were overjoyed, "I didn't have to go to work on Sunday or Monday," said senior Adam Fream.

Another factor strongly affected by the snow was the federal government. Government workers could not get to their places of employment, making it impossible for the government to run properly; therefore, the offices had to be closed.

The tremendous amounts of snow caused Howard County schools to close for the entire week, as did most schools in the state. This made many young people happy despite the fact that the five days will be added at the end of the school year, not to mention the days off we will no longer have, such as President's Day.

Although students had a limited number of things they could possibly do many found ways to enjoy their snowy vacation by participating in a variety of snow-related activities. "We made snow forts and had snowball



wars," said sophomore Mark Turnbough. Others, such as sophomore Dawn Marsh, decided to brave the storm and leave their houses. "I walked to Taco Bell and All-You-Can-Eat Restaurants," Turnbough said.

Faculty and students who did not have fun in the snow found ways to get work done. "I wrote 17 tests, quizzes, and projects," said Mrs. Arlene Kutz, while sophomore Allison Roach decided to put effort towards helping others by volunteering at a hospital: "I helped organize people who called in with four-wheel drives." The most common thing that students found themselves doing was shoveling snow. As a result of the snow plows never showing up to some streets, students had extra work to do shoveling entire street: I had to shovel my whole street until four in the morning, and then the snow plow came and buried all the cars

again," said junior Liam Straton.

But there were students who were quite displeased with the snow. Rebecca Doob was upset because it altered the school's play performance, while other students were just sick of being stuck in the house. "I got cabin fever because I was in the house all day, and I didn't want to get sick by going outside. It wasn't fun," said senior Mandy Lamb.

Although almost everyone else had a great time during the snow break, not many are wishing for another one any time soon. This is because Howard County had decided that if there are any more snow days the schools will have to go to extended days. This will make all classes around 10 minutes longer; so, some classes will be up to 100 minutes long. The extra-long classes will deter most students from wishing for more snow in the future.

Oakland Mills lucks out in redistricting

By Lori Harvey
staff writer

A sigh of relief comes to the Mill with the news of the Board's Nov. 13th decision that OM will not be affected by the new redistricting plan for the 1996-97 school year.

Principal Marshall Peterson felt the lack of new housing developments and other major population changes in our neighborhood were some of the reasons Oakland Mills was saved from the countywide changes this year. He also said that there was simply no room at OM for students from other schools.

"I'm really glad that we are not going to be affected. I like this school. I wouldn't want to go through all the stress of changing to a new school," commented junior, Gina Newsome.

Redistricting in some form or another is done every year. The board of education annually adjusts boundary lines to accommodate

rapidly rising student enrollment and the opening of new schools.

However, this year it is being done on a much larger scale. Over 1,000 students will be transferred. Some students will be transferred from their current school to an already existing high school due to massive overcrowding. "Crowding must be eased," claimed Howard County School Board Chairwoman Susan Cook at a recent Board meeting. Also, the opening of the County's brand new technology magnet schools will cause many students to transfer.

The school system began trying to adjust boundary lines the week of October 29th, and the entire process of decision making will take place November through January.

Six of the County's eight existing high schools will be affected. Those hardest hit will be Howard, Genelg, Athoton, and Centennial. Over 800 freshmen and sophomores from Howard High in the fall, and close to

600 students from Genelg and Atholton will go to River Hill. Around 66 students currently attending Mount Hebron will now attend Centennial, and 35 students from Centennial will attend Wilde Lake.

As of this date, Hammond and Oakland Mills are not scheduled to be affected under the current plan for the 1996-97 school year. Rising freshmen, sophomores, and juniors, however, who choose to enroll in the tech. magnet program will attend one of the two magnet schools, River Hill, or Long Reach.

Every high school is expected to be affected by the year 2002. This means that it will eventually affect the place where current elementary and middle school students in the Owen Brown community will attend high school.

Negotiations are still in progress, but there is a chance that 33 students who live in MacGills Common and attend Hammond High will be redistricted to Oakland Mills. The final decision is to be announced January 25th.

The NFL returns to Charm City

By James Kolsky
Staff Writer

Over the past 12 years, football fans in the Baltimore area have been without a football team to root for since the Colts left Baltimore and moved to Indianapolis. After many long years of waiting, Baltimore will be the new home of the Browns, who currently play in Cleveland. Browns owner Art Modell said he will move the Browns to Baltimore in 1996.

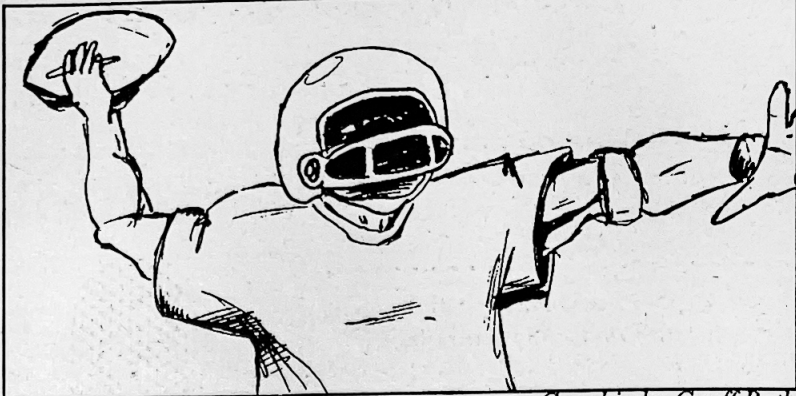
Most Baltimore area football fans are ecstatic about the Browns' move to Baltimore. But the fans who like the Baltimore Canadian Football League Stallions feel very different about the move. After only two years of existence, the Stallions have already gone to the championship game (the Grey Cup) of the CFL twice. Many of them are upset because the owner of the Stallions, Jim Speros, will probably move the Stallions to Houston.

Even though many fans like the Stallions, most of them would much rather have an NFL

team in Baltimore than a CFL team. Since most Baltimore area residents have grown up in the United States, they are more accustomed to watching the NFL games.

On the flip side of the coin, those fans who have given up on the NFL and have come to love the Stallions don't want the Browns to move to Baltimore. They think that Art Modell should take his business elsewhere.

It is a shame that the Stallions will most likely play football in another city next year. But wouldn't it be nice for the Stallions to stay



Graphic by Geoff Roth

in Baltimore with the Browns? Then many fans would be delighted to have both an NFL team and a Canadian Football League team. People often forget that if the Stallions move, their fans may have feelings of emptiness as Colts fans did 12 years ago.

Early school starting times work against students' natural schedules

By Josh Warner-Burke
Editorial Editor

Teachers complain that students are not attentive enough in class. Students complain that they are always tired. But now a new explanation has been offered; the nation's leading researchers in sleep disorders agree that biology plays a key role in why teenagers are so sleepy.

"We have these kids so sleep-deprived, it's almost as if they are drugged," said James B. Maas, a psychology professor at Cornell University and expert in sleep disorders. "Educators like myself are teaching walking zombies."

Instead of wanting to sleep from 11 p.m. to 7 a.m., teens are more naturally inclined to go to sleep as late as 2 a.m. and stay in bed until noon, researchers say.

In a study conducted by Dr. Richard Allen, from Johns Hopkins University, a group of teenagers with a starting time of 9:30 were shown to perform better academically than another group with a 7:30 starting time. "Kids in early-starting schools have accumulated a sleep loss," he said. "Kids get increasingly sleepy during the day, and . . . the mind is less amenable to learning."

In Howard County, elementary schools start as late as 9 a.m., most middle schools 8:00 a.m., and high schools 7:30 a.m. Doesn't

anyone think that these starting times are backwards?

High schoolers are the ones who more naturally stay up late and sleep in late, whereas elementary schoolers tend to go to bed early and get up early.

According to Dr. Mary A. Carskadon, a sleep-disorder expert at Brown University, "What is happening in [teenagers'] biology may be preventing them from and working against them going to bed earlier." Students have known this for a long time without scientific evidence to back it up. Teachers know that there is a problem of sleepiness in their students. Mrs. Paula Micka, OM French teacher, reported, "I had a first-period French 2 class last year, and we'd do calisthenics first thing, just to get them in gear."

So why do we have such an early starting time? Often the reason given is that it trains students for real life. This is sometimes true and sometimes not. The typical work day is still from 9 to 5, not from 7:30 to 2:00. Moreover, it is proven that by the time we are in the job market, we will need less sleep anyway. In high school, ". . . it's more difficult for adolescents to make enforced adjustments," according to Dr. Carskadon.

The solution to the problem of inattentiveness lies in reversing the order of the starting times of schools. The county could try the new schedule for a year and then evaluate its results. What could it hurt?

Gridlock in Congress

By Johanna Blakely
Editor-in-Chief

What was once American politics is now one very large and expensive joke. Now it's just the Republican party slinging mud at the Democrats in order to win votes in the next election, with neither party getting much done.

From the fiasco about the plane ride home from Rabin's funeral to giving the President the silent treatment during the budget debates, the men representing America as legislators have made the American political system look petty and childish. When they did not get their way in the battle over a balanced budget plan, they shut down the government, expecting the President to give in. When he proposed a budget that met their demands, it was approved by Republican committees, but not by congressional leaders, most likely because the president's proposed budget could be balanced without cutting many of the programs for the poor that congressional Republicans vehemently oppose.

The bickering in Congress has been so

unproductive that one must ask, what is the priority of our lawmakers today? Could it be that in fighting so hard for the Republican and Democratic ideals, Congress is pleasing no one? The popularity of both parties is plummeting. But the question must also be asked, is this bickering not what Congress is meant to do? Was the American two-party system not developed to balance out the interests of the people being represented?

It all goes back to FDR's New Deal versus Hoover's rugged individualism. It is the continuing battle over whether the government should take care of the people, or if the people should take care of themselves. Now it seems that this battle will never be resolved.

Instead of the central government working together, it seems that there is an internal war going on. As long as the two parties are butting heads, the nation will stay at a standstill. Congress should be arguing over government issues in order to arrive at the best possible solution for the American people, but the tragedy is that almost everything except the solution is being sought.

OM-Hammond game explained

By Jeremy Magruder
Assistant Editorial Editor

When Coach Russo of Hammond High was injured during the Oakland Mills vs. Hammond game on November 4, the Oakland Mills fans were in ecstasy. However, these two incidents were not a cause and effect, as many letters from Hammond students and articles in newspapers such as the *Baltimore Sun* suggest.

Yes, the Oakland Mills fans did cheer, the band did play, and the football players did congratulate each other. They were not happy for the injury of Coach Russo, however, but for being declared County Champs after a long, hard season. Most Oakland Mills students in attendance had little, if any, idea what was going on. All they knew was that Hammond had forfeited and that they had won, which is enough to boost anyone's spirit and school pride.

Perhaps the truth would have been recognized if it were not Oakland Mills, but instead another high school, involved. Oakland Mills has had a lingering "ghetto school" reputation, despite the fact that it hasn't had the highest number of fights or suspensions in

Howard County for years. As a result, a show of happiness over victory was misinterpreted as gloating over an unfortunate injury.

In addition, the Hammond team refused to shake hands with the Oakland Mills team after the game. Had students been aware of the reason, this would have been quite understandable. But because they were not, a few students became, quite naturally, upset.

It is reasonable that some Hammond students would become upset at the injury and fail to see both sides of the story. This can explain letters that Oakland Mills received and some of the general sentiment at Hammond. But the *Baltimore Sun*, a professional newspaper carrying a twisted, one-sided article is both an insult to the *Sun's* journalistic integrity and Oakland Mills' pride. People throughout Maryland could get the wrong idea about Oakland Mills, enhancing the bad reputation that has stuck with us for years; it could even increase inter-school rivalry.

A tragic injury caused chaos and misunderstanding at the game for the County title. But OM fans were entirely naive about the tragic event that had caused the game to end early, and merely expressed elation over a victory that they had long hoped to win.

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Assistant Layout Editor:
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Overloaded teachers receive relief

Additional staffing is hired due to overcrowded classes

By M. McCreedy and A. Wright
staff writers

December 1st Principal Marshall Peterson announced to the OM faculty some of the best news since the reconvening of school late August. Based on OM's current enrollment, the school would receive additional staffing to relieve overcrowded classes. The amount of relief was uncertain.



What was definite, however, is that Peterson had empathetically decided that the first area to receive relief would be Mr. Don Shea's first-period American Government Review class, which had too many ability levels to function effectively.

Peterson's reaction to the notification of relief was ecstatic: "It's like Christmas morn-

ing and you ask why your parents got you that sweater." True to his word, December 6th Ken



Hovet, then a part-time social studies teacher with three classes, was converted to full-time, picking up the surplus from Shea's first-period class

and a third period US History Honors class which also gives relief to Mr. Shea. The second department to receive relief was English, especially for its overcrowded 9th grade and 11th grade classes. Mr. John Lowe's 9th grade regular classes, averaging 35 students, was the first to receive relief. Twelfth grade regular classes taught by Ms. Jacquie Urbas, who replaces Dr. Richard Miller as a full-time teacher of English, also received relief.

Kevin Shea, a long-time OM substitute who just last year was advised by some English

faculty to become certified in English, did just that and came on board December 13th as a full-time English teacher with two 9th grade regular classes, two 12th grade regular classes, and one section of Introduction to Drama. The Introduction to Drama class relieves Ms. Lisa



Katz, who picked up an Art I to relieve an overcrowded class that Mr. Joe Adams taught.

The science department also received additional

staffing. Oakland Mills alumnus Jennifer Atkins was hired as a part-time teacher. She will teach three classes including Bi-



ology and Earth Science. In addition to these changes, the math department hopes to receive relief with eight-tenths of a teacher to create one Functional Math class, one Algebra 1A class, one introduction to Geometry class, and one Algebra 2 class.

OM awards academic achievement

By L. Roberts and D. Elstein
staff writers

In a creative move late November 1995, the Awards Committee decided to expand the student recognition program by hosting an academic breakfast for students who earned a 3.5 GPA for the past four quarters. In addition to a free breakfast and a certificate, each student will receive an academic letter. One hundred and ten students qualify for the recognition.

Students are very enthusiastic about the recognition. "It's nice to be awarded for something other than sports," comments junior Rebecca Levine.

This recognition is a special effort to ensure that academic achievement worthy of recognition gets publicized.

Students who will be honored at the upcoming academic breakfast are Tanya Abrams, Abigail Anastasio, Kristen Arnold, Rollin Badal, Farhana Baig, Alison Bailey, Elizabeth Ball, Kevin Beck, Aaron Bodoh-Creed, Valerie Brammer, Stephanie Bryant, Jason Budden, Jeff Burgoon, Lindsay Cavanaugh, Rick Chang, Yong Cho, Evan Coren, Alison Deming, Amanda Downs, Madeleine Driscoll, Fidelis Dumlaio, Virginia Dye, David Elstein, Katja Ericson, Keri Farmer, Daniel Fingerman, Elizabeth Foglia, Mark Garofano, Matthew Gealy, Christopher Graves, David Gray,

Joshua Greene, Lynae Harris, Terri Hayman.

Also Andrew Hekimian, Angela Hill, Mala Hosmane, Brian Howard, Charis Huhta, Anne Hultgren, Annette Jackson, Jennifer Johnson, Hyun Kim, Stacy Kirschbaum, Rebecca Klein, Lauren Knott, James Kolsky, Talia Kowitt, Elizabeth Koza, Amanda Lamb, Anna Leshner, Rebecca Levine, Kathleen Linehan, Savuon Liv, Andrew Long, Caroline Low, Justine Lutterodt, Adam Lutz, Allison Maciorowski, Dean Menegay, Leslie Miller, Erin Morrow, Christine Murphy, Zachary Murray, Gina Newsome, Sarah Nguyen, Nicholas Olenski, Kari Olson, Michelle Osterberger, Joo Park, Joni Poch, Daniel Ragan.

In addition Michael Ralph, Taylor Ray, Elizabeth Renner, Megan Rickard, Alison Roach, Christina Rochester, Stephanie Romich, Gabrielle Rydstrom, Shuchi Saini, Elyse Sams, Noah Sandler, Ebony Silver, Heather Simons, Satyajit Sinha, Kathleen Sloan, Erin Slonaker, Bethany Smith, Shanti Smith, Brittany Stewart, Maria Suarez, John Sunderdick, Kristin Sunderdick, Heather Surendra, Jordan Thompson, Francesca Uccellini, Vincent Vannostrand, Katherine Vatalaro, Yang Wang, Joshua Warner-Burke, Rachel Whitmore, Kevin Williams, Carrie Wilmoth, Racel Wisniewski, Stephen Wissing, Stephanie Wu, Tzu Wu, Seol Yang, Laura Zimmerman, Stefan Zimmerman, Mark Zirkle.

Club Updates

By Steve Wissing
staff writer

As the halfway point of the school year approaches, many Oakland Mills after school clubs have gone through a number of changes. From new presidents to new activities, clubs are remaining active in the school and the community.

The French Club

This year, the **French Club** has gone through a number of changes, including splitting up into two new clubs and starting a new fund-raising effort.

The idea of splitting into two clubs was proposed by sponsor Mme Simon. She believes that two clubs will be more active in the school and community. The **French Club I** is for seniors; **French Club II** is for all others.

For fund-raising, the two clubs have what they call "Le Café Français" every month. They sell croissants, sodas, and pizza in the cafeteria annex after school; this is a regular sell out. Freshman Katie Abramovitz comments, "I really have a fun time doing the café and look forward to things we do in the future." **French Club** plans to donate some money to the Red Cross.

The International Club

Every month the **International club** celebrates a different culture, and January is Asian month. They are planning a trip to Lucky's China Inn in order to celebrate the Asian culture. They are also planning a Valentine's Day bake sale as a fund raiser next month. As part of their civic duties, they, along with the Spanish club, help to teach English to ESOL students.

SHOP (Students Helping Other People) also has been doing a lot this year. December 8-9, members went to a "blanket-making" lock-in hosted by Glenelg High School **SHOP**. The blankets were donated to a homeless shelter. OM **SHOP** members hosted a lock-in of their own, January 5-6. Junior Emily Brown, who attends many of the **SHOP** events, jokingly commented, "**SHOP** is fun. It can turn any game into a contact sport."

December 15, **SHOP** attended a countywide holiday party. **SHOP** members met at the Carriage House. The object of the party was not only to have fun, but also to give students something to do instead of doing drugs or getting into trouble. On January 15, **SHOP** members met to go indoor rockclimbing. This event was well-attended, as are most **SHOP** events.

The German Club

The **German Club** also has gone through a number of changes this year. Junior Joni Poch, a German III student, took over the job of president this year. With more advertising than last year, Poch was able to get more students to attend the meetings regularly. "Last year we only had six members but this year we have grown to fifteen," remarked Poch.

The **German Club**, sponsored by Mr. Bob Evarts, holds many fund-raising activities. They hold a couple of car washes a year and sell donuts every month. The club uses the money to buy books and learning materials for the German Department and to help pay the cost of trips to Blobs Park, a German restaurant where students can taste real German food and go dancing on the large dance floor. The **German Club** meets every Friday in Mr. Evarts' room.



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OM hosts Russian Track Team

By M. Flanzraich and M. Roderiguez
staff writers

Friday December 8th a track team from Russia, consisting of 16 girls and 3 boys, arrived in Maryland. They came to the United States to compete in the Pangea track meet which was held at the Baltimore Armory on December 15th.

After arriving to America the Russian student athletes met their American hosts, with who they stayed until Dec. 17th. Almost the hosts were Oakland Mills' track runners and teachers who volunteered. "I was interested in the difference between track in our country and theirs, especially the way they train," said junior host Lauren Drake.

Other OM hosts were just as enthusiastic as Drake, but there was a communication problem because the difference in English and Russian. Most of the Russians spoke little or no English while none of the Americans spoke fluent Russian. But, hosts found ways to overcome this problem. "We basically communicated using sign language," said junior host Melissa Hampshire. "When they first came, communication wasn't too hard because we were just using simple words to show them around the house and Columbia, but as the week progressed communication became much more difficult," said senior host Brie Warner who hosted two female athletes. Other hosts used Russian/English dictionaries, trying to pick up some of the language. With these methods the Russians were able to understand the Americans enough to enjoy their time in Maryland.

The Russians spent most of their time in track practice. Almost everyday the Russians prepared for the annual Pangea meet in which representatives from their country have participated in for several years. This level of training was not at all out of the ordinary for them, though. In Russia the 19 students attend a school specifically designed to train athletes. This special training gave the Russians a large advantage at the Pangea invitational where they won nearly every event, including the 800 meter relay and the 500 and 3000 run. "They seemed to be jogging in comparison to everyone else," said OM English department chair, Mrs. Virginia Curtis, of the Russians performance at the meet.

Even though the main purpose of the students' visit to America was to participate in the Pangea Meet, many day trips and activities were planned. The students and hosts visited the White House, the Air and Space Museum, the Smithsonian, the National Aquarium, the Russian Embassy, the National Cathedral, Potomac Mills mall and local attractions such as the Symphony of Lights and



Splashdown. "They really liked Symphony of Lights," said senior host Eric Prange.

Aside from day trips to tourist attractions, the Russians enjoyed doing things that regular Americans do everyday. "We played Nintendo a lot. They liked it because they are very competition oriented," said senior Mike Dusenbury who hosted Russian Semion Gudkutz. The Russians also enjoyed shopping. "For the first two days all they wanted to do was shop," commented Brie Warner. "They

were amazed by how many things we had to buy in one place, such as the shoes at the Sports Authority," said Mrs. Curtis.

At the end of the nine-day trip, the American hosts had a going away party for the Russians. The OM students and parents were sad to see their new friends leave after their short trip. Junior Lauren Drake said of their sad departure, "The Russians and some of the Hosts were crying at the party. We were all sad that they had to leave."

United States sends troops to Bosnia

By David Elstien
staff writer

President Bill Clinton during a prime time address from the Oval Office on November 27th announced that 20,000 U.S. troops, mostly stationed in Germany, will go to Bosnia for a peacekeeping mission. The decision was made in conjunction with a Balkan peace accord signed at Wright Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio.

Bosnia, which was once a republic of Yugoslavia, declared its independence and received international recognition in the spring of 1992. Since 1992, however, a civil war was fought, causing a quarter of a million deaths and many serious injuries.

The American soldiers, who will stay in Bosnia for a year, will do very little there besides keep peace. This was done to reassure the American public and to receive the support of Congress. Even though President Clinton is Commander in Chief of the armed forces and can send troops at any time, he wants support from Congress who does not want to be pulled in the three and one half year

old civil war. Some even fear that this might lead into another Vietnam War.

"America—and America alone—can and should make the difference," Clinton pointed out, but he said that the U.S. cannot police the world and stop warfare everywhere.

Clinton failed to answer some important questions from Republican leaders of Congress, but he received praise for his effective speech from key Senators. "[Clinton made] a first step in the right direction [but] he still has a way to go," according to Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole (R-Kansas). One of these questions was whether this is going to be limited to military tasks or will it become a "nation-building" exercise.

In early December, 1,400 U.S. troops along with North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) officers set up headquarters in Bosnia and Croatia. Communication and other necessities for a full-scale peacekeeping organization were set up.

The soldiers will create "secure conditions" for elections, assist and coordinate United Nations (UN) and other humanitarian organizations and will assist in monitoring the cleaning of minefields and obstacles. The soldiers

though "will not attempt to collect and control weapons."

There is something called a "silver bullet" in the peace accord which gives the U.S. and other peacekeepers the right to respond even to a perceived threat. That means that they don't have to wait to be attacked.

Congress passed a \$243 billion defense spending bill that was \$7 billion more than Clinton's plan. He signed it with the Republicans promising to spend part of that for Bosnia.

This is not the first time the United States has been involved in Bosnia. Besides supporting NATO "aggressive" airstrikes, an American jet fighter captain is regarded as a hero. Captain Scott O'Grady was shot down over northwestern Bosnia and survived in the enemy's territory. Even though U.S. intelligence knew about surface-to-air missile systems in the area, they did not pass that information to O'Grady's commander.

Senator Dole asked the Senate to support President Clinton's decision to send troops to Bosnia. He wanted to minimize the risks to the Americans and to leave "in a timely and honorable fashion." Other Republican members of Congress, though, oppose Clinton's

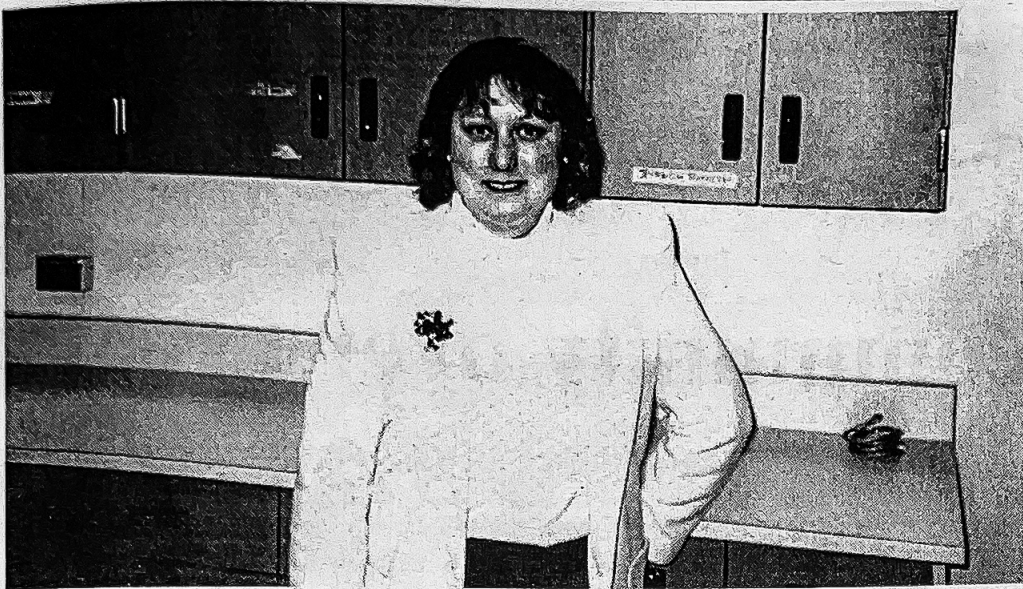
idea. The Senate has decided not to back Clinton's decision. However, it does support the troops. Dole said, "I don't agree with it. [The troops] look to us for support."

The American public is fearful about sending troops and about half of the people polled by ABC disapprove of Clinton's handling of Bosnia.

The soldiers involved are all those who volunteered and know the risks involved. That is unlike the Vietnam War where soldiers were drafted.

The first casualty was that of a Maryland man. Spec. Martin Josh Begosh of Rockville was driving his Humvee posting road signs down a narrow road where he road over a land mine which nearly killed him. He luckily survived. None of the troops who were traveling with Begosh noticed the Bosnian soldiers frantically waving and shouting for the convoy to stop. The land mines is one thing Clinton feared in sending the troops. The troops have been taught to be careful, but it is almost impossible to see the mines as they are covered with a half of a foot of snow.

To date, one American has died of a heart attack.



Ms. Fletcher moves to central office

By Rebecca Doob
Staff Writer

The 95-96 school year, which has already proven a year of advancement and progress, is soon to undergo yet another change. Ms. Dorothy Fletcher, the well-loved special-education teacher, will leave Oakland Mills for the Central Office this January.

Fletcher, who previously worked at Centennial and Atholton developing special-education programs, has been a part of Oakland Mills' staff for nearly four years. During this time, she has brought effective changes. Level V students now share the halls with students of every level of learning ability at OM, as well as some classes. With these successes to her credit, Ms. Fletcher now coordinates countywide efforts to instill special-ed programs in schools.

Her move to Central Office carries with it very challenging duties. At her new post, Ms. Fletcher will work on solving the problems created by the opening of the magnet school

for the 96-97 school year, as well as work to enrich the learning experience of those who attend the magnet school. Ms. Fletcher adds, "I'll miss the Mill and the kids, but I feel that this is very important."

The school's opening will mark the closure of Votech, which has served as Howard County's vocational school for over 20 years. Many students who would have attended Votech may choose to attend the magnet school, but some may not be qualified due to low grades or need of special-education services not offered by the school. For these students, Ms. Fletcher is working to create an alternative program. She also will develop mentor and apprenticeship programs for students taking vocational training, which she plans to pattern after the European programs of the same nature. Hopefully, the programs will give vocationally trained students business experience and bridge students receiving special-education into the work force.

Ms. Fletcher, with a smile on her face, puts her feelings about the move into words, "I feel like the pioneers in a way, blazing new trails..."

Music Review

By Jeremy Magruder
Staff Writer

Alice in Chains, Alice in Chains' new, self-titled album was released into stores November 21st, clearing up the anticipation from waiting for its arrival. After the first two songs, "Grind," and "Heaven Beside You," were released to radio stations many fans became eager to get their hands on this piece. After the video for *Grind* came out, even more fans waited in anticipation for the expected release. After all this anticipation, Alice in Chains lived up to their expectations. The new album is filled with the dark, angry brilliance that Alice in Chains had during *Dirt* and *Facelift*, their previous two albums, but lost during their even more recent EP, *Jar of Flies*. Overall, this album is worth at least listening to, if not buying, as the music grows on you as you listen to it again and again.

Mortal Kombat, the original motion picture soundtrack is a good mix of different styles of music. It contains some techno, some

industrial, and some death metal. The techno and industrial songs are really good, being diverse, with a good beat, but, as is normal for a lot of death metal, the death metal gets repetitious. Some of the better techno songs include "Control" by Traci Lords, and "Techno Syndrome 7" mix," by the Immortals. Among the good industrial is the piece "Juke Joint Jezebel (Giorgio Morano Metropolis re-mix)," by KMFDM. While these alone are good enough reason to buy the album, whether for party music or just for good entertainment, many other songs are good; this album deserves a place on music racks.

Freedom of Choice by Devo is definitely one of the better things to come out of the 80s. With inventive stylings and humorous lyrics, this album is truly a classic. Songs such as "Whip it" and "Girl U Want" were at one time hits, but other songs on this album like "Ton O Luv" and "Planet Earth" are very good also. This album is by far one of the better examples of the New Wave style, and is one that you can never grow tired of - always a good sign.

Windows

When I was young I longed to fly with the fairies that danced through my dreams, and to touch the rain that fell from their hair, and to hold the stars I saw in their eyes.

But then I grew and they left me for dead.

When my eyes were blue, they saw rainbows as slides and stepping stones to a distant world in a separate plane from time where beauty lived on a cloud in a stupor of leisure and the only thing sweeter than the air was the ability of all things to wait.

But when I needed a cloud to dance on; my cynical eyes had long since pierced them to mist.

When I was a child, I believed that peace was nothing more than a simple decision that was up to me to make for a world that didn't understand its bliss.

But when I needed something simple to believe in I knew better than to understand.

When I was small, I waited patiently and confidently for the day I'd be able to soar in and out of the trees and fly as high as I wanted and to let the wind carry me where it choose.

But when I needed to know that freedom the most, time had already tied weights to my ankles.

Funny how the world is backwards that way, like a solar-powered candle.

-Maria Suarez



Jennifer MacBeth, a math teacher here at the Mill, gave birth to her first child November 2nd at 4:24 AM. Her name is Meghan Jane MacBeth, weighing 6 pounds, 4 ounces, and measuring 19 and one half inches. According to Ms. MacBeth, she is, "The most beautiful baby in the world." Everyone, including husband Chris and both sets of grand-

parents, are "thrilled." When asked if Meghan is a good baby, MacBeth quickly responded, "She was bad when she was six weeks old, but she is a really good baby now."

MacBeth will resume her full-time duties at the Mill in February; Mr. John Brown currently substitutes for Mrs. MacBeth.

OM takes advantage

OM celebrates the holidays diversely

By Erica Burr
Staff Writer

Almost all Americans celebrate during the month of December, whether they are Christian, Islamic, Jewish, or of another faith. And as expected, there is much diversity in the celebration. In a survey conducted by the *Scroll* staff, there were many recurring traditions that most students shared.

One tradition that ignited the holiday atmosphere was students volunteering their services within the Columbia area. Freshman Kevin Misowitz decided a homeless shelter was the way to go. "This was my first time volunteering at a shelter," says Kevin. "It was nice helping out people less fortunate and it made me feel good about myself." Sophomore Rebecca Klein spent her time being a candy striper at Howard County Hospital, while junior Melanie Boley volunteered at Grassroots Homeless Shelter.

Several students also traveled during the winter break. Some visited friends and relatives while others took to the ski slopes. Freshman Chad Stanton spent Christmas with his mom in Los Angeles, California, including a three-day ski trip with his mom in the Rockies.

Sophomore Aron Rosenberg also had a very adventurous holiday. "I had a good time over winter break. First I went skiing at whitetail; then I went to New Hampshire and climbed Mount Washington." Seniors Valerie Bramer and Rachel Nelson were with Aron in New Hampshire.

Sophomore Alison Roach traveled to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to visit a friend from camp while sophomore Kristin Sunderdick, who observes the Christian holiday, spent her break baking cookies with her family, then delivering the cookie to neighbors and friends. Freshman Holly Buck celebrates Yule. "I personally celebrate Yule, which is a traditional holiday for my religion." Yule is celebrated around the same time as Christmas.

Senior Terri Hayman traveled to Miami, Florida to attend a soccer tournament. "We had a lot of fun, we were playing with the best teams in the nation, and although we played well against them, we did not win." Terri observes both the Christian and Jewish holidays, and also spent time with her family over winter break.

Another big holiday tradition is exchanging gifts with friends, family and classmates. One of the most popular gifts to give and receive from friends were CD's. Sophomore Chris Holt said, "I received four CD's for Christmas. I love getting CD's as gifts because they are nice, simple and small."

Some serve community over break

By Adam Lutz
Staff Writer

This past holiday season brought cold weather, celebration, cheer, time off school, and volunteer work by many dedicated and caring OM students. A considerable number of Oakland Mills' clubs and students were uplifted by the holiday spirit and helped out needy people.

SHOP (Students Helping Other People) did an array of activities. One activity, which is also being performed in many churches, was the Adopt a Family program. Members of SHOP donated money and food to help out a needy Columbia family. The money raised went towards providing a holiday meal and gifts for the family.

Members of SHOP also worked with Bee Gady, who has been helping out needy people for many years, to drive food and hand out food to needy people on Christmas Eve. This food consisted of a turkey and other typical holiday foods. About 20 SHOP members attended this charity function in Baltimore. SHOP President Eric Hildenbrand commented, "It always makes me feel good to help out people who are less fortunate than I am."

SHOP also sponsored a Toys for Tots pro-

gram, in which toys were collected and donated to needy children.

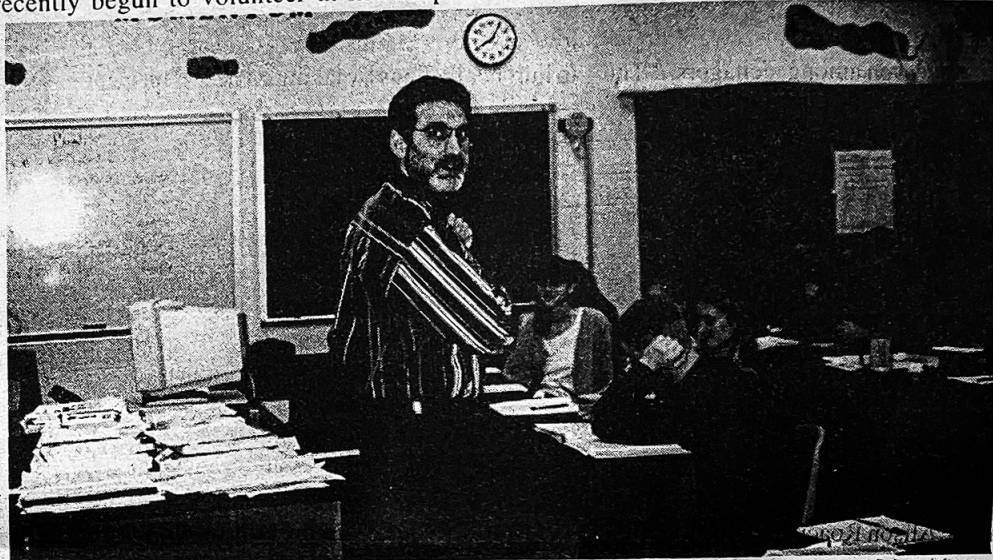
Mr. Robert Siskind, OM science department; and Mr. Robert Hodge, mechanical drawing teacher, both sponsored canned food, toy, and clothing drives for the holidays.

Sophomore Kristen Sunderdick felt that helping needy people is "necessary." Sophomore Rebecca Klein was excited about the opportunity to help out at a soup kitchen over the 1995-1996 winter holiday break. She has recently begun to volunteer at the hospital

every Saturday. Other students helping at soup kitchens included Melanie Boley, Chris Vonrinteln, and Caroline Low.

Alison Roach, who is currently volunteering at a hospital, conjectured, "Around the holidays people spend more time with their families and friends and feel more fortunate for what they have; consequently, they want to help more."

Jenny Innes added an important point, "Needy people also need to be remembered when it is not the holiday season as well."



Mr. Siskind helped to sponsor a canned food, toy and clothing drives over winter break.

Teachers and students find ways to spend free time

By Douglas Freialand
Staff Writer

After all the gift giving and relative visiting were done this holiday season, OM students had to find other activities to occupy their time.

Many students may not have had anything planned for the break, but they did things on the spur of the moment. Very often students counted on friends to come up with ideas for things to fill the hours.

However, a number of students made plans before the break. For example, winter base-

ball clinics started during the holiday break. Mr. Tim O'Brien, a social studies instructor, gave up some of his time to work with kids on their baseball skills at a local clinic. Sports such as wrestling held practices during the break, so some students found themselves making an extra effort to stay in shape after eating all that food at holiday parties.

A large number of students hold jobs and were expected to work during the holidays. When asked about working during the holidays, Bryan Cole simply said, "I would rather be doing something else." Some may have searched for occasional jobs such as babysitting or yard work to earn a little extra

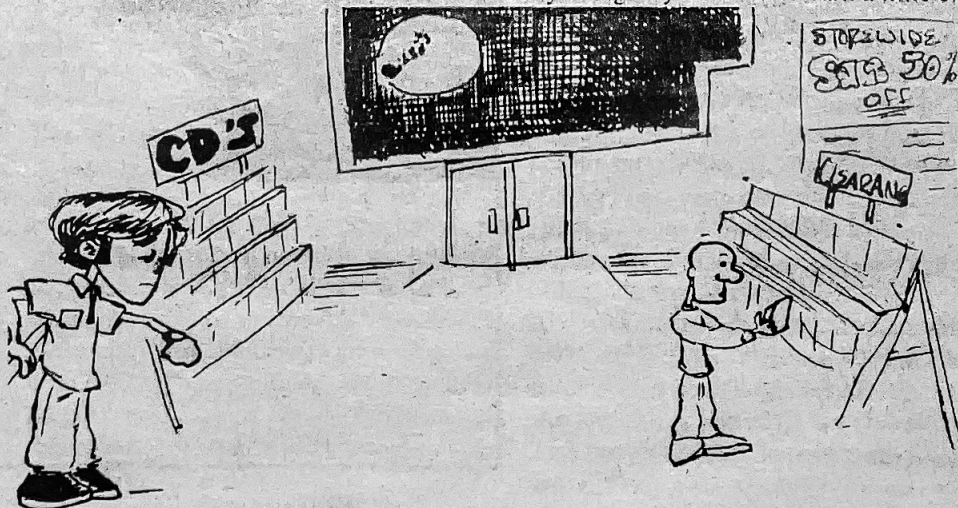
money.

Rest assured that students were anxious to try out their new gifts and that plenty of hours were wasted watching television and playing video games. "I had a lot of fun playing my new *Play Station* games," said David Mason. Students also wanted to show off their new clothes, and went to the mall with friends just to hang out.

For the more adventurous students, there were many other activities in and around the Columbia area. For example, the annual Symphony of Lights at Merriweather Post Pavilion has been a highlight of the season for many years. The twelve-dollar admission fee benefited the Howard County Hospital. There also were craft fairs, song fests, and holiday related activities at most of the village centers around Columbia.

Ms. Chris Marsiglia, math teacher, had OM computer and computer software program at heart. She spent part of her time collecting Giant tapes from friends, and returned from the break with \$20,000 worth of Giant receipts.

For the students who wanted to do something more meaningful with their time, there were places such as Community of Hope, So Others Might Eat, churches, homeless shelters, and soup kitchens that need help. Several OM students volunteered but did not want their names mentioned.



ge of Winter Break

OM students share gifts with family and friends

By Chris Sadler and Rebekah Bowser
Staff Writers

The holiday season is a time for being with loved ones, relaxing and celebrating. The sharing of gifts has become a major way of expressing personal feelings and celebrating the holiday season.

Of all the gifts students received, CDs were at the top of the list. Sophomore James Kolsky, senior Whitney Sale, and other Oakland Mills students got CDs as gifts.

Gift certificates and cash also were popular this holiday season among teenagers. "The

cool thing about gift certificates," says junior Rebecca Doob, "is that you can buy what you want." Sophomore Adam Lutz and senior Lauren McCray are two of the many OM students to receive cash and gift certificates.

Many students also got clothes as presents. Those students needed clothes, and the holidays were a good time to receive them. Sophomore Doug Freiland said, "I like getting clothes for Christmas because I can get expensive clothes and not have to pay for them myself." Senior Brie Warner tells another story. "My grandmother got me this ugly yellow sweater," claims Brie, "but I don't want to hurt her feelings by taking it back." But went

on to say that eventually she'll take it back.

Many students also asked for electronic equipment. Seniors Julia Altschular and Rebekah Bowser were among the many that got CD players for their cars. Extravagant gifts such as computers, stereos, and other musical equipment were received along with limited gifts such as electric shavers, walkmans, and toasters. Seniors Steven Lord and Jared Rothman got video games this holiday season, and senior Mark Zirkle received both a TV and a VCR. Further, students gave a variety of different gifts. CDs were not just the gift most frequently received; they were also the gift most frequently given, because they are easy to get, fairly cheap, and the gift most frequently requested.

Many students also bought gifts for others on impulse. "If I see something at a store that reminds me of someone, I will buy it for them," said sophomore Kristen Arnold. "I remember buying my friend a really cool double CD," states Rebekah Bowser, "and he gave me a homemade fruit basket!"

Other students went out and found what other specifically asked for. Although this can sometimes be difficult, it makes whomever is receiving the gifts happy. Sophomore Andy Lee said, "I find the gifts people ask for because it will make them happy."

Some students gave creative gifts this holiday season. Junior Emily Brown said, "I gave out freaky frogs and brochures to the legendary place called 'Woodtown.'"

Students use time off to travel

By Terra Dunsmore
Staff Writer

During the holidays, many Oakland Mills students traveled around the country, and even around the world.

Sophomore Alison Roach traveled to Philadelphia to see a friend from summer camp. There she was unable to visit any historical sights because of the government shutdown, but she "had a lot of fun" anyway. Freshman Kevin Misowitz traveled to Pennsylvania to go skiing for two days with his family. "It was fun... it was better than I expected," he said. Sophomore Erin Baffa also went skiing for two days at Whitetail, in Pennsylvania. "I'd never been skiing before, so I had a lot of fun." Sophomore Michele Risser went skiing in Maine for two weeks with her family. "I love to ski, and I missed a week of school; so it was great," Michele reflected.

Several Students from Oakland Mills also traveled to New York. Sara Berndt traveled to Rochester, New York to "go shopping, sleep... and to visit family." Freshman Samantha McLennon went to Long Island, New York. There, she fed the homeless at a shelter and stayed at a relatives' house. Sophomore Allen Scott traveled to Buffalo, New York to visit

his family. He had "a lot of fun," but "it snowed every day," Allen commented.

Freshman Brad Rickard went to Kitty Hawk, North Carolina to "receive presents and spend time with my family." He said, "It was special because my uncle and cousins came from Korea." Sophomore Aaron Rosenberg went on a two-day hiking trip to the top of Mount Washington with seniors Valerie Brammer and Rachel Nelson. "It was cold... there was snow and ice on top... We got blown over from the winds," was Aaron's reflection of the trip.

Some Oakland Mills students also attended conventions. Sophomore Robin Siskind attended a regional for her youth group in Ocean City, along with two other OM sophomores Rachel Ferari and Rebecca Klein. There they danced to a DJ and just "had a lot of fun." Junior Elyse Sams attended a national inspiration youth convention with her church.

OM's faculty also traveled. Mrs. Diane Ferary traveled to the Grand Canyon, Scottsdale, and Sedona, in Arizona. She was unable to travel to the bottom of the Canyon, but she was able to "tour the area." Health teacher Mrs. Alice Frazier traveled to Los Angeles to spend the holidays with her son, who is an anchorperson for an LA television station.



Senior Brie Warner eagerly awaits a present from her parents.

The perils of shopping

By Liam Straton
Staff Writer

Any evening in November or December you can go to almost any mall or shopping center and see people hunched maniacally over their steering wheels, driving almost on the heels of weary shoppers, trying to get a parking space.

The madness inside the mall is much greater. People walk briskly to and fro, searching for the perfect gift for that special someone on their list. People bump into each other, saying "excuse me" and going on their way. Commenting on the madness of the Columbia mall, senior Rebekah Bowser said, "It's too full of crazy shoppers trying to get presents at any cost."

Many merchants also get into the holiday madness. Sometimes it seems like there are more staff workers in a store than customers. But for many merchants this year, the shopping madness backfired. "I've already had to cut hours. I'm hoping people will quit!" exclaimed Steve Bouchall, one of the managers at Service Merchandise in Columbia. In fact, retail sales in the entire Baltimore-Washington area declined during the holiday season.

The biggest place for holiday shopping in Columbia appears to be the Columbia Mall. With a wide variety of shops, it also wields a wide variety of shoppers. For those who like to shop, the Mall is the place to be; but some

shoppers feel just the opposite, "I hate shopping, it's too hectic," complained senior Miguel Rodriguez.

Not everybody goes to the mainstream shopping centers though. Some other popular favorites are thrift stores and catalogs. These often boast more unusual products with a smaller price tag. Gifts also are more personal from these establishments. "Don't shop at name brand places, thrift stores are best because there's less hassle," warned junior April Andrews.

Still there are some people who go out of their way to get weird and unusual gifts for their friends and family. The best way to do this is to order from a catalog or shop in a store that specializes in novelties. "I'm getting everything from drinking birds to stress balls that look like killer tomatoes," explained junior Tim Pumplin.

This is always a good way to avoid the mayhem of the malls and the holiday rush. The only problem is that you can't always get what you want.

Another way is to watch the holiday sales, especially for the week that major department stores, such as the Hecht Co., offer special discount coupons in addition to the usual 25% sales prices. Mr. A. Wright, *Scroll* advisor who has eight sisters and several nieces and nephews to shop for, said, "This is definitely the best way to get top quality at the best price."

Other shoppers beat the rush by getting their shopping done in advance.



Seniors Rachel Nelson and Valerie Brammer took advantage of the time off to go backpacking in New Hampshire.

It's Academic beats out the competition

By Tim Pumplin
Staff Writer

November 6th, a group of Oakland Mills students and staff, comprised of JV cheerleaders, OM band members, and spectators traveled to WJZ-13 TV studios in Baltimore, where the initial taping of the It's Academic meet for the '95-'96 season was held.

The contestants were chosen by the advisors and other members of the Oakland Mills It's Academic team. Oakland Mills competed against the teams of Parkville High School and Glenelg High School; the Scorps scored first in the game and consistently throughout the game. In answer section two, Oakland Mills was the only school to answer all eight questions correctly, consequently winning easily

with a score of 630 points. Parkville scored 430 points while Glenelg scored a pathetic 315 points.

Oakland Mills undoubtedly had the most spirit of the three schools attending the match. There were many more Oakland Mills students in the stands to cheer on their school's contestants: Seniors Dave Grey and Kevin Williams, and Junior Matt Gealy. The airing of the November 6th taping was December 16th.

The win over Parkville and Glenelg was a great morale-booster for the Oakland Mills It's Academic team. After losing last year in the second round, many of the members questioned their ability to compete. But this win and a second-placing in the Georgetown University day "Grasshopper Classic," held November 31st, have helped the team meet its goal of ranking as high as possible in the state



of Maryland. The team has been working towards this goal by practicing twice a week, as well as participating in other related events, such as the "Grasshopper Classic."

On December 6th, 12 members of the team took part in the 25th annual Knowledge Master Open at OMHS. The competition is held

at all participating schools, with the use of a computer instead of a live question master. Students gain points for both speed and accuracy.

The next meet is scheduled for February 10th. The team is sponsored by Ms. Barbara Jewett and Mrs. Penny Wolkow.

Ms. Pasciullo Billed for Merrily

By A. Wright
Faculty Advisor

Holly Pasciullo, Oakland Mills' drama instructor, starred as one of five principal characters in Stephen Sondheim and George Furth's *Merrily We Roll Along* at Baltimore's Vagabond Theater November 10 through December 17, 1995. The Vagabond's production, based on the original play by George Kaufman and Moss Hart, is an upbeat musical with over a dozen songs and variations, told backward in time from 1976-1957. The musical focuses on the ambitions and close relationships of three friends (Frank, Charley, and Mary) as they struggle for and eventually achieve success as composers and drama critics.

Pasciullo played Gussie Carnegie, a sassy, successful Broadway star who uses her influence to manipulate composers such as Frank to write the kinds of musicals that will pro-

mote her career. Her second motive is to get the man she wants, even at the cost of breaking up a marriage. She goes through four husbands, with little regret over the loss of any one of them.

Looking contemporary in a tight royal green velvet suit with the skirt above the knees and a low crew-neck, soft badge blouse, Holly Pasciullo, who is innately quick witted, upbeat, and dazzling, was a natural for the part.

Pasciullo, who is an alto with a soprano range, sang, together with the other 13 cast members, the title song in the opening scene. Then, she dazzles on and off the stage, interacting with one of her husbands or associates about a personal matter or a new production, or cleverly trying to get rid of one husband to pick up another. Her sarcasm and mannerisms disrupt the mirth of her associates but create natural entertainment for the audience.

Though she sings practically all the songs with the cast, two tunes are exclusively hers:

"Growing Up" (done twice) in which she jazzily punctuates each phrase to accent the chorus-like message she wants to give Frank—at the time—one of her perspective husbands. That message is, life is knowing what you want; and Frank had better get his act together; and he does: Frank marries Gussie, though they separate earlier because the play is told backwards.

Gussie's most spectacular solo is a few bars

of "Good Thing Going," sung in a dazzling rich red cape and gown, as the dramatic opening of Act II.

Though the audience would like to have heard more of Pasciullo's singing, what she was not assigned to sing, she compensated for it in acting.

Pasciullo was the fourth of five main characters; but her performance equaled that of the other four.

The Winter Concert is delayed, but successful

By Jean Beaman
Staff Writer

December 20, 1995, beautiful sounds of musical instruments and singing were to be heard in the OM auditorium. However, there was snow. So the Winter Concert was held December 21, 1995.

After many weeks of strenuous practice, Madrigals, Wind Ensemble, Concert Band, Jazz Choir, Beautyshop, and Orchestra were ready to perform.

But just before the concert, the performers were in a state of nervousness and excitement. They had faith, however, that they would perform well. Caroline Low, a second-year Madrigals sophomore said, "We practice hard and should do well." Junior and band student Scott Moore agreed. "The band and the wind ensemble should play well."

Finally at 7:30 pm, the curtain was drawn. The orchestra took their seats and began to play the violin, cello, bass, clarinet, bassoon, French horn, tuba, trombone, trumpet, bass, harp, and saxophone. Their first selection was "La Primavera," led by Laurie Meeder and Concertmaster Senior Shomo Sinha. Next came "Hungarian Dance No. 5," a lively and well-performed tune. Their final selection was "Santa at the Symphony," a melody incorporating various Christmas songs, which impressed students and parents.

Next came the Concert Choir, led by Ms.

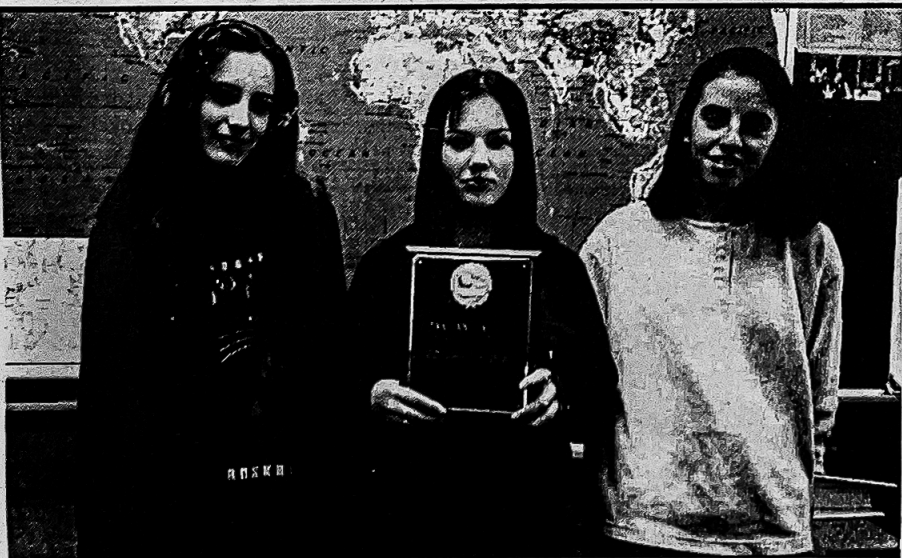
Cynthia Stevens. They began with "Blow the Candles Out," a wonderfully preformed song. Then came "Psallite," a combination of German and Latin Christmas song. Finally they sang "Rachmaninoff," a Russian Ave Maria that sounded different from Ave Maria.

The choir then retired except for the Jazz Choir who preformed next. They sang "True Colors," which was previously preformed at the NHS Inductions. The soloists were Mary Cooley, Gayle Gillespie, and Shante Adams, who are all sopranos. The jazz choir then preformed "Carol of the Bells," a popular Christmas song with soloists Shante Adams and Mandy Lamb.

Beautyshop sang next with "When I Fall in Love." Senior Mandy Lamb had a solo, with Shante Adams, Cirrus Alpert, Gayle Gillespie, Ginny Dye, and Carolyn Schultz singing backup.

The concert band, led by Mr. Dan Richmond, preformed next playing the flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, trombone, baritone, and tuba. The band started with a familiar tune, "Chanukah, O Chanukah." Then they played "Caprice" and finished with "Winter Wonderland."

Finally came the Wind Ensemble, playing "Christmas Festival," "Greensleeves," and "Sleigh Ride," which wonderfully displayed the holiday spirit. The Winter Concert proved to be a great success, which was evident in the applause.



The annual Oakland Mills High School Geography Bee was once again a tremendous success as this year's bee showcased some of the most knowledgeable World History students in its history. After the last question was answered correctly, Laura Matthews was announced as this year's winner.

The bee went without any major controver-

sies or snags as have been in years past, and its organizers deemed it an undisputable success.

Runner-up Holly Buck and the eventual champion, Matthews, duelled for the first-prize with an extended rally of correct answer after correct answer as the subject matter ranged from World Capitals to types of terrain.

OM offers many ways to assist in studies

by Melissa Flanzraich and Miguel Roderiguez
For students who may not do well academically, there are many help clubs and tutorial programs offered at OM.

One program is National Honor Society Tutors, composed of juniors and seniors with GPA's above 3.25.

BSAP (Black Student Achievement Program) is another help club which targets helping, improving, and motivating African American students to excel academically.

Individual departments or courses also have their own help clubs. These clubs are more focused on a particular subject, and are the most helpful to some students, especially

students who have problems with comprehension.

Some teachers also offer help groups for students who may be struggling in their classes. In these groups, teachers give more attention to individual students and try to improve their confidence.

Then this year a tutorial under the Ninth Grade Initiative Program was initiated; however, it is temporarily discontinued.

These programs all started with a common goal—to help students in need of assistance to improve their grades. "Academic Help Clubs are a tremendous way for students having trouble in a class or course to get the help they need," said Principal Marshall Peterson.

BSAP Academic Assistance

By A. Wright and Staff

Maxine Beale, the OM BSAP academic monitor, works with several groups of students. There is one group of about 20 students with overall averages of D's and E's in academic subjects. There is another group of students who have GPA's under 2.0; and a third group, consisting of seniors, who are in jeopardy of not graduating.

The objective for the first group is to provide academic support, to enable students to pass academic courses. The objective for the second group of students is to raise their GPA's to at least a 2.0. The objective for the third group is to provide academic remediation to enable students to meet academic graduation requirements.

Beale assists with referrals, parent conferencing, and makes referrals to curtail suspension. This year Beale has also referred several students to Mr. LaMonte Goode and Mr. LeVan Hutchinson for counseling. "Students and staff members are very supportive," said Beale.

National Honor Society

by Liam Straton and Terra Dunsmore

The National Honor Society (NHS), in addition to inducting students with high levels of academic achievements and extracurricular activities, also tutors students who apply for help.

The program is set up so that any students in need of help can apply by filling out a tutor slip in the guidance office.

Senior Lauren Knott, who chairs the NHS tutoring program, then matches NHS tutors who are "best qualified" in the subject area

with the student she feels would most benefit from the help.

It is the responsibility of the tutor, once notified, to contact the students to be tutored. "The problem is that there is a significant number of students who sign up for tutoring and then don't respond when they are called," said Knott.

Once students are inducted into NHS, they are expected to tutor if called upon. There are some subjects that are requested more than others, such as geometry and Spanish.

NHS tutoring does a great deal of good for those students who really wish to succeed in not only school but in other aspects of life. "Tutoring through NHS helps many students. The students who need the help receive the help they need and the tutors learn to teach," said Knott.

Individual Teachers help students

by T. Pumplin and S. Wissing

Direct help from teachers is another way to bridge the academic gap. Tutoring with the teacher that the students has for the subject is much less confusing than learning with other groups with a different teaching style.

French teacher Betty Simon gives tutoring help whenever it is needed, but "not many people take advantage of it," Simon said. "However, students do come generally before exams. Panic is the major incentive [to get help]."

Social Studies teacher Tim O'Brien always

offers help, but his offers are rarely accepted. "One major thing that Oakland Mills needs," he said, "is a mandatory study course. Colleges have it for their freshmen, so we should have it for ours."

Physics teacher Bob Siskind also is committed to helping his students. His so-called "Physics Club" (a term coined by a distraught student) is the saving grace of sophomores, juniors, and seniors. He encourages students to come by for help, even if they're not having serious problems in Physics. He tutors students as much as possible, and is only absent when absolutely necessary.



tutorial programs don't have a large student turnout.

According to Mr. LeVan Hutchinson, who runs the math tutorial program, Math has had a low turnout because he has not made many recent announcements about an ongoing tutorial math program for all levels of math.

Other subject areas, though, are run by the specific subject. According to French teacher Mrs. Betty Simon, "It's much better than going to one group."

Foreign language, science, and social studies have one teacher tutor for each subject. In science for example, one teacher tutors for biology, another for chemistry, and so forth. The same is true for foreign language and social studies.

English, though, is the only subject with no department tutorial program. Each teacher runs his or her own tutorial.

Basically the whole problem with OM's tutorial programs, however, is that students are not reminded enough about the school's tutorial programs, despite the fact that teachers want to see more students attend tutorials. They want the students to take the initiative.

Departments give extra help

by D. Elstein and E. Greene

Some department heads run tutorial programs for students who need help. However, the only department program that tutors for every subject is math. Even so most of the

Freshmen get help from tutorial program

by M. Flanzraich, K. Hayes, A. Lutz, M. McCready, and D. Freiland

In November the Ninth Grade Tutorial Program began a two-month trial tutorial for OM students. It was every Monday through Thursday after school until winter break. Then it was canceled because of a lack of participation.

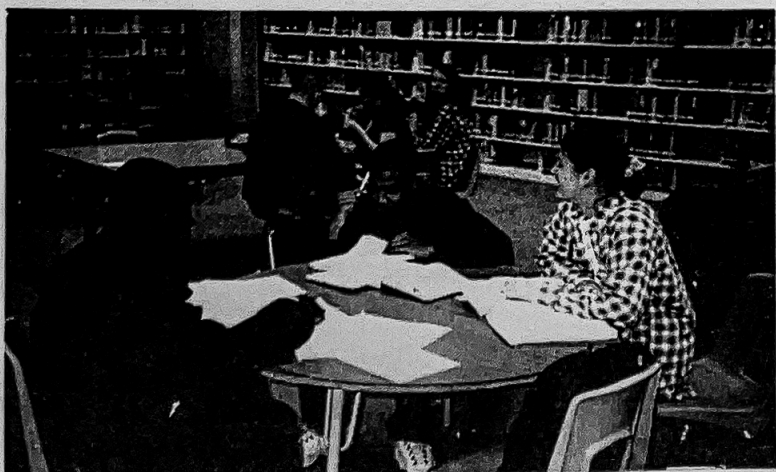
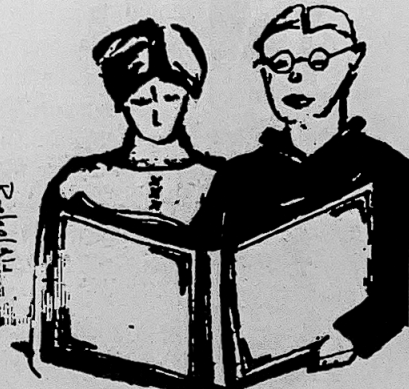
This program offered a group study hall to all students who thought they could use help. The program was originally created primarily to help ninth graders because they have the highest failure rate countywide. Teachers wanted to make sure ninth graders could easily adjust to high school and do well in their classes. But, sophomores, juniors, and seniors were welcomed to attend.

Through the program a student could receive help in any subjects from teachers, Na-

tional Honor Society, and Math Team members. All students who thought they needed extra help could attend. Teachers and coaches recommended several students; unfortunately, however, most students decided not to take their teachers' advice and did not attend.

This became the deciding factor to terminate the program. Even though the idea behind the Ninth Grade Tutorial Program was a good one, lack of interest among students was apparent.

But, since the Ninth Grade Tutorial Program was a trial stage, there are ways that it can be changed and reinstated, if there is interest among students. Students who think they would be interested in participating, should talk to Ms. Brenda McCauley or Mrs. Carol Haggard in the social studies department.



Boys' Basketball looks to repeat former success

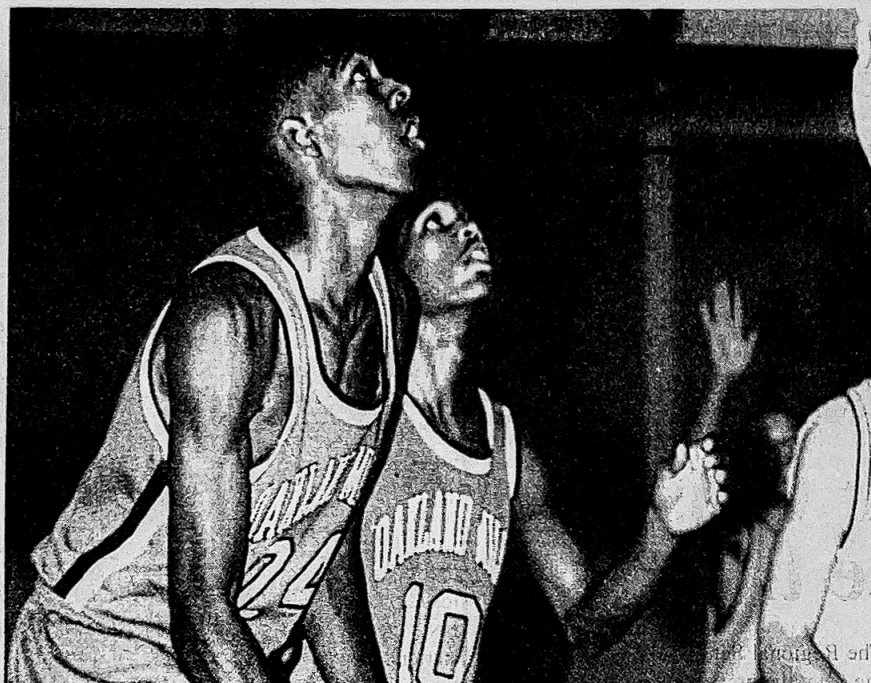
By Ellwood Greene
staff writer

Last year the boys varsity basketball team had one of its best seasons ever by finishing with a 22-4 record and making it to the 2A state championship game only to fall short to nationally ranked high school basketball power Dunbar. The Scorpions were beaten badly, but look to make it back to the finals this year.

This year the team will have three returning players. They are junior point guard Quan Davis, senior captain Irving Conwell, and junior Fardan Carter. After losing five players to graduation last year the team has restocked its depth with five seniors and four juniors. The five seniors who hope to lead the team are Iya Hemphill, Mike Brown, Jake Coleman, T.J. Rondon, and K.C. Canada along with juniors, Joe Haymes, Brett Lanier, and Duane Harding.

Despite the team's loss of much talent to graduation, junior Joe Haymes said, "We have a lot of individual talent; but if we put it all together, then we will be good." Head coach Dave Appleby agrees: "We're fairly talented, but overall were inexperienced."

This season Irving Conwell, a *Street And Smith's* preseason All-American, looks to



handle much of the scoring. Last year's *Baltimore Sun* Player-of-the-year is going to have to be even more productive this year to fill the void left by Oakland Mills' all-time leading scorer Mike Hill. Meanwhile, Fardan Carter and K.C. Canada hope to help shoulder some

of the scoring load.

In-county competition this year should come from the original Howard County basketball powerhouses. Atholton will test Oakland Mills with returning starters and all-county team members Tyrone Allmond and

Nat Watkins. Glenelg, who will be out to avenge a stunning defeat in last year's regional final game, will come at the Scorpions with first team all-county soccer player Tony Marchegiano, at point guard; and Nick Barnes, a 6-5 freshman in the paint. Wilde Lake will also probably pose a threat to Oakland Mills' return to the state final.

The 95-96 season did not begin well for the Scorpions. In their first game the team was beaten soundly by Thomas Johnson, a team ranked highly in the state, led by junior sensation Terrence Morris. Oakland Mills second game resulted in a heart breaking last second loss to Aberdeen, a very balanced team.

However, the Scorpions appeared to be back on track heading into their in-county schedule by slipping past South Carroll in the third game of the season. The Scorpions also posted a blowout victory over Lingonore to finish off the out-of-county schedule and even their record at 2-2. The team opened its in county schedule with a win over Hammond. The Scorpions were led to victory by senior Irving Conwell and junior Fardan Carter improving their record to 3-2. In the Scorpions' second county contest, they defeated Wilde Lake. Led by Irving Conwell and a great effort from the Scorpion reserves, they moved their record to 2-0 in county and 4-2 overall.

Marked improvement is Girls' Basketball's goal

By Sabrina Warner
Co-Sports Editor

After a less than perfect 4-18 season last year, the 1996 Oakland Mills Women's basketball team is looking for a much more successful season this year. Although their Lead forward, 6'3" Lauren McHargue graduated last year, this year "We have basketball players and not just athletes," commented head coach Teresa Waters. With the hard work done by players off-season, there has been a lot of improvement in the team over the last year and there should be much improvement in this season's record.

The team is filled with super basketball players who, "can contribute both offensively and defensively," according to Coach Teresa

Waters. The star players to watch out for this season are seniors Virginia Dye and Terri Hayman, juniors Kena Hodges and Nyiesha Ford, and sophomore Jamie Beale. Other top players include senior Sommers Richards; juniors Stephanie Romich and Kourtney Dawson; sophomores Jennifer Johnson, Adrienne Butler, and Jessica Osten. Both Kena Hodges and Jamie Beale are college level players and are already being watched by different schools. Although both Hodges and Beale have two years before they have to choose a school, a successful Oakland Mills basketball program will definitely widen their options.

With an out-of-county schedule which includes Arundel, the number one ranked team in the Baltimore-Washington area, it will be a hard season for the team. Their in-county schedule won't give them any time to slack either. "This year everyone in the County is equal; hopefully we'll be able to pull off a few upsets and surprise some people," said senior co-captain Virginia Dye.

With a current record of 2-6 beating such opponents as South River and Liberty, the season is already looking better than last year's season. Although their record shows vast improvement from last year, this is another team that will benefit from the new open-tournament format. "The open format will benefit us a great deal because our record doesn't show all the true talent we possess," said senior co-captain Terri Hayman. Hayman had surgery on her Anterior Crucial Ligament over the summer and is now back better than ever. Along with her other captains Summers Richards, Kena Hodges, and Dye, these girls will lead the team to a successful season.



A scuffle in the point denies the opponent a chance to score. Defense is one asset that Coach Teresa Waters is very proud of. Photo courtesy of Yearbook.

Oakland Mills students dominate recreational basketball league

By Spencer Adamson
Co-Sports Editor

The Columbia Basketball Association (CBA) has been the premier recreational basketball league in Howard County since organized basketball arrived in the county. The league is traditionally dominated by Oakland Mills athletes.

Current members of the varsity team who have played in the CBA include Irving

Lanier, and Joe Haymes. Other Oakland Mills players who have had prolific careers in the Columbia Basketball Association are Kevin Rondon, Luke Tourtlotte, Spencer Adamson, Ellwood Green, John Sunderdick, and Eric Barnes.

Principal Marshall Peterson is a fan of the CBA, and has a son who plays in it. A portion of the CBA's games are played in the Oakland Mills High School gymnasium Saturday evenings, beginning at 4:45 p.m.

Ice Hockey skates toward success

By Jennifer Nagle
staff writer

After much success in the past, the Oakland Mills Hockey team started off what is expected to be a very successful season December 5th with a four-to-three win against Wilde Lake. The team will look to Captain Matt Rawley along with alternate captains Kathy Hurley, Jeff Burgoon, and Barry Parker, its all-star players, to lead the team through another successful season.

According to sophomore Josh Greene, the only teams that the Scorpions might have trouble defeating are "Howard, Frederick, and maybe Atholton." When asked why these teams might pose serious threats Greene responded, "They've got a lot of kids who play on club teams and on high caliber levels outside of school."

The fact that the team has not gone below .500 in their past eight seasons apparently has given the Scorpions confidence. When asked for a prediction for this season, Greene responded, "We're going to do pretty well... I don't think that we'll have a problem."

Despite the fact that eight of last year's players graduated with the class of '95, leaving behind a very young team, the Scorpions still expect, as sophomore Harrison Budd said, "for the team to perform at our top level and do as best we can."

Last year the team finished the season 7-2-1. The losses came to hockey powerhouse Landon and county rival Atholton.

Oakland Mills will look especially to seniors Matt Rawley, Barry Parker, and Ronnie Olson, all goal scorers in the win against Wilde Lake, to help the team meet or even beat last year's record.



The 1995 2A Girls' State Champions celebrate after their victory over Hereford in the State Finals.

Girls' Soccer wins its sixth state title

By Spencer Adamson
Co-Sports Editor

The 1995 Varsity Girls' Soccer team will be the most recent addition to the gymnasium's wall of champions. Coach Steve Matters, in his third season, has had his sights set on winning the state championship ever since last year's state final loss to Fallston.

Oakland Mills sparked in the playoffs, beating in-county rivals Wilde Lake and Hammond on the way to their sixth state title in the history of the school. When coupled with the boys' record eight state titles, Oakland Mills has produced 14 state championships since 1973, making it the most prolific soccer program of any size in the state.

The opening of the girls' season was no precursor of their later success. After an opening record of 1-5-1, the prevailing attitude of the team was hopelessness. A team practice was canceled after one of the Scorpions' losses, and a team meeting was held to raise moral. "We went to Centennial Park, ate, listened to music, played volleyball, and sat around in a circle and told jokes," said senior captain Sabrina Warner.

So the Scorpions forged into the playoffs with an overall record of four wins, seven losses, and two ties with no rank in either of the major metropolitan newspapers; and a stellar attitude. Their first playoff games were not tests. Oakland Mills combined for 17 goals in their first two games while shutting out their opponents City and Great Mills.

The Regional Semifinals were a drastic change from the previous rounds. In-county rival Wilde Lake shared Oakland Mills' goal of winning a state championship. As the game drew to a close, Sophomore Stopper Noelle Brown scored Oakland Mills' second goal and put Oakland Mills ahead for the win. "It was one of our best games of the year," Senior Midfielder Rachel Wisniewski reflected. The win was not only a ticket to the Regional Finals, but also redemption for the one goal midseason loss to Wilde Lake.

Hammond was the opponent du-jour in the Regional finals. On a cold fall night under the lights at Howard High School, the Scorpions prevailed in a defensive battle. Brown came through once again and came up with the lone goal to advance the Scorpions into State competition.

Neither North Hartford nor Hereford could overcome the Oakland Mills squad in the State playoffs, and 1995 will forever be go down as a State Championship year for the girls' soccer program.

The members of the 1995 Girls' Varsity State Championship team are freshmen Kate Anderson, Lan Gardner, Lezette Pearsall, and Syrita Simpkins; sophomores Kristen Arnold, Noelle Brown, Adrienne Butler, Andrea Donovan, Jennifer Johnson, and Leslie Miller; juniors Amanda Downs, Madeleine Driscoll, Nyeshia Ford, Michelle Osterberger, Stephanie Romich, and Shanti Smith; and seniors Virginia Dye, Terri Hayman, Angela Hill, Christine Murphy, Katie Vatalaro, Sabrina Warner, and Rachel Wisniewski.

Indoor Track focuses on state title

By LeeAnn Roberts
staff writer

Using confidence and attitude, the Oakland Mills indoor track team will once again try to take the state championship.

Leading the boys distance events is Steve Petro. All-metro for the past two years and 2A-1A returning state champion at the 3200 meter run, Petro is expected to have another great season. "We'll take states this year," he predicts.

Leading sprinters are Brendan Kelly, Mike Dusenberry, T.J. Smith, Mike Herdson, and

Preston Allen. Also, defending state champion in the hurdles, Kyle Walker, and shot putters Brian Howard, Kevin Rondon, and Andy Long will assist the team to victory.

The girls distance is led by Lauren Drake. Leading middle distance events are Rachel Nelson, Kristin Sunderdick, and Sarah Condon. Sprinting events are led by Elyse Sams, Amber Day, and Danielle Butler.

"[We] will once again be put up as state champions on my wall of fame," Coach Sam Singleton predicts. If he is correct, the picture of this year's indoor track team will be one of many that hang in the gymnasium.

Hard work will lead Wrestling to success

By Rebekah Bowser and
Megan Rickard
Staff Writers

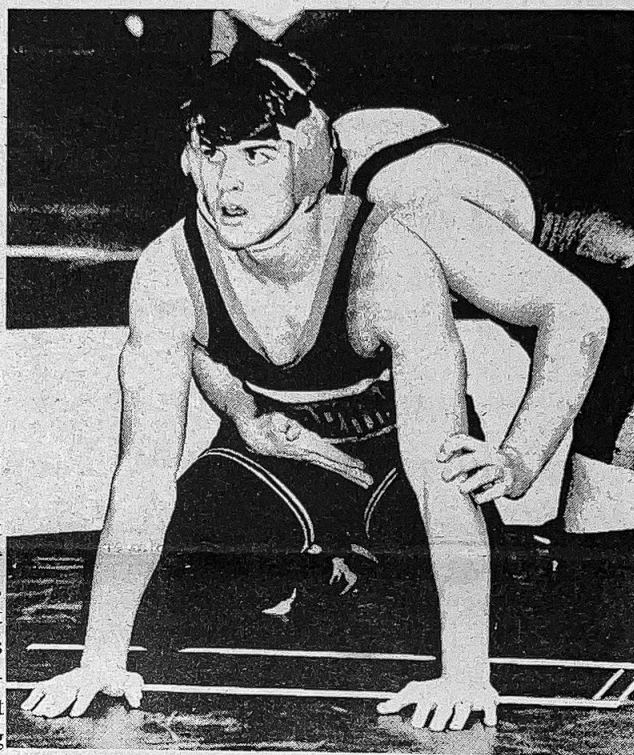
The Oakland Mills Wrestling team started practice November 15th, determined to work hard and defend both County titles. The team's record (7-0 in county dual meets) will be a tough act to match, but Head Coach Brian Chadwick is optimistic. He believes that with a lot of hard work and the leadership of senior-co-captains Justin Robbins, Colin Meeks, and Kurt Ricketts this year's season will be a success.

Although the team has lost seven of last years starters, there are still quality wrestlers to take their places. Returning senior Justin Robbins, wrestling at 130 lbs., was third in county and fourth in regions last year. Senior Colin Meeks, wrestling at 171 lbs., was fourth in-county last year, sharing the title with

Ricketts, wrestling at 152 lbs. Seniors Chris Hall and Sean Harbaugh also will be wrestlers to look for this season.

Other strong wrestlers include Chris Naylor, wrestling at 119 lbs., who was County Champion and third in regions last year and junior John Nguyen, wrestling at 135 lbs., who was county runner-up. Bryan Frizzelle and Glen LaForce also will bring power to the team. Sophomores include Erik Berlin, wrestling at 112 lbs., and Kevin Sutton, wrestling at 125 lbs. Freshman Jeremy Poe, Junior League Standout, also should be watched.

Hard out-of-county teams include Lackey,



Senior co-Captain Colin Meeks prepares to face his opponent. Photo courtesy of Yearbook.

Francis Scott Key and Aberdeen. In-county the OM wrestling teams hardest opponents are Howard Hammond and Centennial. "This season will be the test of the teams character," says Coach Chadwick. "It will be very similar to last year, with most dual meets going down to the final bout and ending with a very exciting county tournament."

Ski Club trip rescheduled

By Sabrina Warner
Co-Sports Editor

After months of planning and anticipation for the January 12th departure of the annual Oakland Mills Ski club trip to Killington, it was canceled due to an unusual two feet of snow. When the phone calls went around announcing the cancellation, everyone was bitter. Paul Sanin, a senior member of the ski club commented, "I was very disappointed when I found out that one of the highlights of my senior year was going to be canceled." After hearing the depressing news, many students immediately started planning their own ski trips. Many of the students took day trips to area ski slopes such as Whitetail, Roundtop and Liberty. Other students, however couldn't afford to go because all their money was tied up in the Killington trip.

Now, after a lot of talking, convincing and rearranging, the trip has been rescheduled. The current date for the new Killington trip is February 9th-11th. Mr. Cliff Knox, an instructional assistant at OM, will take over for

Mr. Mike Anikis' and be the new sponsor for the trip. "I was just as upset as the kids when I heard the news. I wanted to go to Killington just as bad, so I decided that I should take the students," commented Knox. A new addition to the Oakland Mills faculty, English teacher Kevin Shea will also Chaperone the trip.

But now there is a new problem. Many of the students who were going on the original trip can no longer go because of prior plans made for the same weekend. Senior John Sunderdick is one ski club member in this predicament. He commented, "I have a baseball camp that weekend, college coaches are going to be there; I can't afford to miss it for anything, not even the ski trip." Other students have had other expenditures and can no longer afford the trip. They are looking for replacements to take their place and repay them the 250 dollars that the trip costs. But considering the large number of underclassmen that were turned down for the first trip due to the overcrowding, it probably won't be a big problem to find replacements.

So, in the tradition of the Oakland Mills Ski Club, this year's trip is once again on.

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(W) (410) 760-6077

(F) (410) 760-7609