

Rising prices in the cafeteria enrage students



Chloe Meade
Staff Writer

Throughout Howard County, students are enraged about skyrocketing lunch prices and the recent decision to eliminate junk food in the cafeteria during the 2006-2007 school year.

All over the state of Maryland, school lunch prices have gone through the roof. Currently, the cost of a normal lunch is \$2.50, a 25% increase from last year's lunch price and the "Coaches Corner" lunch is \$3.25, an 18% increase. Students all over the county are taking measures to decrease the effect of lunch prices on their weekly spending money.

Students have been "brown bagging" it more often and bringing snacks from home as a result of the new, higher lunch prices. Last year, a Coaches Corner lunch was \$2.75 and a regular lunch was only \$2.00. "A lot of people aren't going to buy lunch anymore" says freshman Amanda Harrison.

Most of the changes having to do with lunch this year are directly related to the healthy eating policy approved by the Howard County

Board of Education this year.

Though this is the first time the new policy has been in effect, the matter has been debated by local PTA's because many school fundraisers involve selling food at school events like football games.

The policy bans some snacks too high in sugar and fat during the lunch periods and discourages teachers from using food as academic motivators.

"They're taking away all the fatty stuff that tastes good and leaving us with the fatty stuff that tastes bad," declares junior Ellen Hutton.

Despite the fact that during lunch snacks are limited, after the last lunch period the school can sell some foods and snacks that are not allowed to be sold during lunch such as sodas and candy from snack machines.

Also, as a part of the county's new policy, the beverages schools can sell at lunch are limited to only milk, water, flavored water, and juice containing at least 10% real

juice.

Even the cost of drinks in the cafeteria has gone up. "The cost of milk is way too high!" says freshman C. J. Evans. During the last school year, a pint of milk was 40 cents,

Howard County officials are quick to point fingers about the reason for the hikes in lunch prices and they are saying the price increase is linked to the price of oil and shipping, as well as the cost of insurance for cafeteria employees.

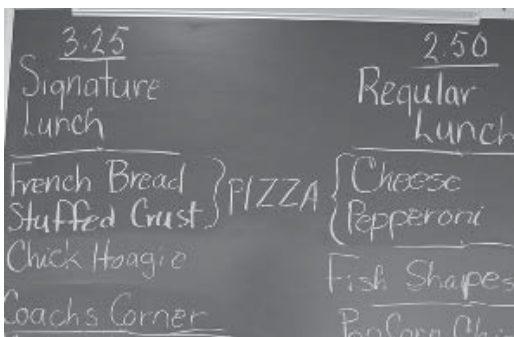
Yet in March, schools chief operating officer Raymond Brown was estimating a price increases only if students did not start buying the new healthier lunches.

"The price of fuel and just everything is going up," says lunch lady Barbara Patrick.

If the decrease of snack variety in the cafeteria causes the student's to stop buying snacks, then

the county could lose approximately \$1.8 million annually, according to Mary Klato, the administrator of the schools' Food and Nutrition Services.

Overall, though prices are high now, schools are looking at raising lunch prices by an additional 60 cents before the end of this school year.



Prices have risen 25% since last school year in the MRHS cafeteria.

and this year, it is 50 cents.

Some students find it ironic how the school has dramatically cut down the snacks they are selling and yet Marriotts Ridge recently added four new soda machines to sell to kids after school. This fact alone really makes students wonder if the school is really interested in students' health.

A planet no longer: Pluto is named a "dwarf planet"



Theresa Geckle
Guest Writer

In Prague, Czech Republic on August 24th, the International Astronomical Union (IAU) voted to approve a resolution which effectively changed Pluto's status from planet to "dwarf planet."

According to resolution 5A of the 26th General Assembly for the IAU, an object can only be considered a planet if "[it] is in orbit around the Sun, has sufficient mass for its self-gravity to overcome rigid body forces so that it assumes a hydrostatic equilibrium (nearly round) shape,

and has cleared the neighborhood around its orbit." Since Pluto has not cleared the neighborhood around its orbit, it has been placed in a new category of celestial bodies called dwarf planets.

Mr. Bob Siskind, the physics teacher at Marriotts Ridge, agrees with this decision.

"Pluto is more like a moon," he said. "There were four gaseous planets and four rocky planets that all formed together. [Pluto] got snagged later on, after the solar system had already formed."

Two other celestial bodies were also placed in the dwarf planet category: Ceres, an asteroid between Mars and Jupiter,

and Eris (formerly named 2003 UB₃₁₃, and nicknamed "Xena") a trans-Neptunian object that's approximately 9.64 billion miles away from the sun.

Before the finalized Resolution 5A was passed, another resolution was drafted that did not include the provision that to be considered a planet must have "cleared the neighborhood around its orbit." That resolution would have labeled both Ceres and Eris as planets, in addition to Pluto and its moon Charon. Astronomers, such as Mike Brown, the astronomer who discovered Eris, estimated that even more celestial bodies could have become classified as planets if that resolution had passed.

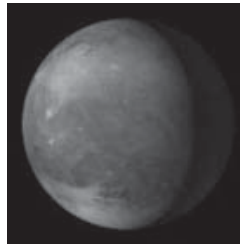
"The number of known objects

in the solar system which are likely to be round [and fulfill the other requirements for becoming a planet]

is 53," he states on his website, "with the number jumping to 80 when the objects from our survey are announced, and to more than 200 when the Kuiper belt is fully surveyed."

Despite the stir caused by Pluto's new status, Mr. Siskind thinks it makes an important point to both children and adults.

"[Astronomy] is a science that isn't written in stone, it's always changing."



Pluto's status officially changed on August 24th.

"[Astronomy] is a science that isn't written in stone, it's always changing."

Regulations enforced to keep student drivers safe



Maria Lee
Staff Writer

On Wednesday August 30th and the following Wednesday, September 5th, Marriotts Ridge held mandatory meetings for any students wishing to obtain a parking permit this school year. During the meeting, Mr. LeMon and Officer Thompson, the school's Student Resource Officer, explained the rules for obtaining a parking permit, as well as showing an hour long Power Point presentation of accidents that occurred in Howard County. Nearly 15% of the student body attended this meeting.

"It is a privilege to drive," says Mr. LeMon. According to the *Marriotts Ridge High School Driving and Parking Regulations*, "This privilege, if abused, can be revoked at any time."

Students are only permitted to

park in the lots designated for them. If they are caught parking along Woodford drive or at Mount View Middle School, students will be fined \$25. They also may not return to their cars in the middle of the day.

"If a student must go to his/her car during the school day, he/she must obtain permission from an administrator," says the *Driving*



The parking lot slowly fills up as students begin to drive to school.

and *Parking Regulations*.

Also, Mr. Lemon warns, "Don't ever give your parking permit to any other student." If a student is found to be sharing his or her parking

permit with another student, he or she runs the risk of losing parking privileges, and having to pay a fine.

"Good attendance and punctuality to school are stipulations to maintaining parking privileges," the *Parking Regulations* state. If a student is repeatedly late to school, or does not show up at all, the school will take note of this.

Punctuality still applies to students with parking permits. "We want you to be here on time," states Mr. LeMon. If a student is tardy too often, or does not maintain his/her grades, then his/her permit will be cancelled. "In addition, students must have a valid driver's license and maintain a clean driving record."

Students' vehicles are not exempt from Howard County's periodic drug sweeps. The county brings in drug sniffing dogs, and any vehicles deemed "suspicious are subject to search and seizure and the applicable provisions of the HCPSS Drug/Alcohol Policy and the criminal code of the state."

Finally, the parking permit must be displayed on the rearview mirror with the permit number facing the windshield at all times. It also must match the vehicle it was issued to.

The administration is staunch about the rules. If caught breaking them, students will have their permits revoked, and the mandatory \$20 permit fee will not be returned to them.

The question is: "Will these penalties encourage the students to drive safer?"

Says junior Katie Lackler, "Yes... [I will drive more safely]...my mom would take away my license."

Junior Kim Hurt replies, "It [the rules] will cause me to be aware of proper driving etiquette on school property."

Not all students are affected by the rules, however. Junior Robby Buettner replies, "I don't think [it will encourage students to driver safer]."

Last year, according to *Teens and Autos*, "nearly 30% of crash fatalities in Howard County were between the ages of 16 and 20." And, according to a press statement given by Governor Wayne Livesay, "We [Howard County] lost four drivers under the age of 21 between late June and the end of the year."

Because of these harrowing statistics, Marriotts Ridge is adamant in the prevention of accidents and the continued safety of the staff and students.

Terrell Owens sent to hospital after alleged suicide attempt



Samantha Helme
Staff Writer

Although the Dallas Cowboys' star receiver, Terrell Owens, claims that he was hospitalized late on the night of September 26 due to an allergic reaction to prescription pain medication, the Dallas Police Department reported that he had used the medicine to overdose in an alleged suicide attempt.

Medical personnel responding to the scene, witnessed Owens ingesting the last two pills in the bottle of forty. Owens' publicist, Kim Etheridge, told the rescue workers that he had only taken five pills since receiving the prescription on September 18, for a fractured hand.

The Dallas Police Department publicly reported that "during an interview of [Owens], [he] was asked if he had taken the remainder of the prescription, at which time [he] stated, "Yes"... This is a high-

profile person. We looked into it and we determined it is not a criminal offense. This a medical type of situation that occurred."

No more details were given because no law had been broken.

Contrary to the police report, Kim Etheridge fervently insists that Terrell was sent to the Baylor University Medical Center's emergency room because of "an allergic reaction to pain medicine he was taking for a broken hand."

Owens, who checked out of the hospital in the afternoon of Wednesday, September 27, also denied the suicide attempt in a press conference later that day, saying he had an allergic reaction after mixing hydrocodon with all-natural supplements.

"It was just an allergic reaction, it's very unfortunate for it to go

from an allergic reaction to a suicide attempt," Terrell reassured during the press conference that the rest of

responding and I know he is not feeling well, I used my judgment to call 911."



Terrell Owens claims that he was hospitalized for an allergic reaction to prescription pain medication.

the pills were in a drawer, and that was why the bottle was empty.

"This is a very strong human being," Etheridge said. "When I ask him a question and he is not

Owens commented about Etheridge's decision to dial 911, "I was non-responsive when she made that call, she made the call out of her judgment for my well-being."

Dallas cowboys coach Bill Parcells said in a separate press release that this is the second time Terrell had an adverse reaction to painkillers.

"I'm just upset," Etheridge said. "Had this been someone else, this may not have happened."

No matter what, Owens is sticking with his story, "The rumor of me taking thirty-five pills, I think is absurd. I don't think I would be here if I had taken thirty-five pills."

Are GT classes really more advanced?



Mitchell Fader
Guest Writer

Back in elementary school and middle school only the best of the best were accepted into GT classes, but now, with increased enrollment in AP classes and the ARL, some MRHS students feel as though the regular students are now in honors and the honors students are in GT. Have all of the standards for GT and honors moved down one level?

Thomas Conchie, a sophomore, answers, "GT classes aren't really GT anymore even though the work is harder. It's more of a work load than anything else." Many students who have been in higher level classes agree with this statement, but what about the kids who have not been moved up? Some students who are not in GT still think that it is too much work and do not get good enough grades to be promoted to GT. Juniors Matt Hartley and Matt Cornell, who are both in honors and regular classes agree, "We don't feel like putting in that much effort."

Even some kids who have been in GT, for most of their school years, think that it is still a challenge. Sophomore Andrew Mavronicolas

has this to say; "I think they [GT classes] are [harder], because they move at a faster pace, have tests of greater difficulty, and a heavier work load."

Do not forget about the students who are in a variation of course levels who can more easily compare the situation. "No, the challenge in the [GT] classes has disappeared, GT is like honors now," said Mitch Stahm, a junior. Have higher level classes become the standard now or do GT level classes still present a challenge to students?

But what about teachers who actually teach both regular and GT students? Mr. Sageman, chemistry teacher, sides with the idea that GT is a more advanced course. Although GT and regular students will learn the same information,

the advanced class will go more in depth with each topic in the same amount of time. Also, science-wise, all of the GT students are required to create a research project for the science fair. Mr. Sageman

child might not make it into a good college. "A lot of students are being pushed by their parents to move up to GT; and that's not always a good thing," says math teacher Ms. Barbieri. More and more waivers

are coming in each year allowing students to move up into a higher level class, against a teacher's recommendation.

Guidance counselors work with students everyday with just this topic. When MRHS guidance counselors Ms. Robinson and Ms. Evans were asked, they responded, "Anybody can do the work; they just need to apply themselves."

They both agreed that the classes are close in criteria but there is a definite need for more effort in the higher classes. Colleges have been raising their requirements to get accepted, which is increasing the amount of students wanting to acquire better transcripts to get into a college of their choice.



Ms. Rizzo's 11th grade English class works diligently, but is the course more rigorous than the honors and regular courses?

also says that from GT students he, and most other teachers, expect more effort and better quality work. Other teachers think that GT is still at a higher difficulty level, but there are definitely more students in the classes.

There is an urge coming from worried parents, who think that their

MRHS starts its first varsity season



Nicole Lacey
Staff Writer

As of August 15, 2006, seven Marriotts Ridge sports teams, including soccer, football, field hockey, and several others, have been preparing to compete on the varsity level. Although there is debate over whether they are ready to prove themselves as competitive teams in Howard County, MRHS seems optimistic about their chances.

"I think not having seniors doesn't have as much an impact as the general athletic ability of the class, and this year I think we will be very successful," says Annie Himesoth, a sophomore on the girl's varsity soccer team. "Now that we've beaten Centennial, we have proven to a lot of people that we can take anybody on, and we are not psyched out by their size."

Some sports, however, will have a more difficult time than soccer. Seniors have a slight experience advantage in sports such as volleyball, soccer, and field hockey, but with sports like football and basketball, those seniors have a more obvious size advantage. "Seniors at other schools have had one more year of weight training than us, but we will win by outworking our opponent," says Junior, Ian Henline, a varsity football player.

"In some sports, we will not have the depth, experience, and physical strength that other schools have, but we know our student-athletes will always do their best and fight to the end in each and every contest," says Mr. Saunderson, principal of MRHS. "I think that all of our teams will perform well, if not always in the won-loss column. We are a very proud of the competitive spirit,

teamwork, and sportsmanship exhibited by our student-athletes."

Students believe that in the upcoming games there will be



The MRHS varsity volleyball team started off a strong season by beating Long Reach High School.

many challenges to face, like sophomore, Paul Killian, who says, "It is going to be a tough year with little varsity experience and no seniors, plus there are going to be a lot of good teams in Howard

County this year, so hopefully we can pull off a few upsets."

Although this is the first year on the varsity level for many teams, some sports such as cross country and golf are going on their second varsity year. Shana Rusonis, a junior on cross country, is very excited for the season. "It is good for us because we are in the IA division which is all small schools, and we get to compete at the same level as last year, and the team has improved a lot since last year."

Varsity volleyball has shown signs of a promising season, starting off with a solid win. "Beating Long Reach was a really good start to our first season as a varsity team, and hopefully there will be more wins in the future," says Caroline Willsey, who is on varsity volleyball.

I Say/You Say: If you were principal for a day, what would you do?



“I would make the teachers work and do projects until their hands fall off.”
- Laura Chilcoat, freshman



“I would make the people in the administration my servants and I would try to get some spirit wear for free.”
- Susan Li, freshman



“I would eliminate all classes and have a huge talent show.”
- Alexa Kinigopoulos, sophomore



“I would have one giant track meet for the whole school.”
- Mr. Bohlayer

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The new student-run government



Sarah Olson
News Editor

In May of 2006, Marriotts Ridge held its first ever election for class officers, which outlined an organizational structure including class presidents, vice presidents, and other positions within the SGA and class council. Students participating in the SGA and class council, the student body, and the administrators are already seeing positive results due to the more coordinated and competent SGA.

"It will be better this year because everyone will know who the leaders are, and who's supposed to get things done. There will be a core group knowing what they're supposed to do, which will be more effective," says Kelsey Woods, a sophomore and the Class of '09 president, adding, "It will be more organized, [and] it will flow better."

The administration agrees with this opinion. Mr. LeMon says, "The more you get students involved, the more accurate representation there

will be. It is important for everyone involved to work together to keep it more organized."

Even the student body has noticed a difference from last year. Juliana

they won't waste as much time."

After the Back to School dance, students had many positive things to say about the planning that went into it, which was taken care of

expressing the general opinion of the student body.

"The officers planned it and ran the entire show," says Ms. Grey, sponsor of the Class of 2008. "The kids had a meeting with an agenda, and the whole thing was a joint effort between the class council officers: John Cruz, Dana Barnes, Danny Incontrera, Shana Rusonis, Lydia Tucker, and Naomi Kromer."

Though our SGA is proving effective so far, the system is different than that used by other high schools in Howard County.

"At Hebron, there was no vice president or other roles, just a representative for each class," says Lydia Tucker, the '08 class president, who attended Mt. Hebron for her freshmen year. She

continues, "Here, it is like there is a mini-SGA for each class."



Some of the newly elected officers include: Shana Rusonis (left), junior class council vice president; Kelsey Woods (center), freshmen class council president; and Eric Stishan, SGA historian.

Milot, a junior, says, "It'll be more structured and efficient because

by the class council. "It was a lot cooler," says Audra Swearingen,

Excitement mounts for Homecoming



Molly Conley
Staff Writer

Marriotts Ridge students are overjoyed for this year's Homecoming Dance being held October 7, 2006 in the gym.

Last year, due to the fact that it was Marriotts Ridge's first year as a high school, it was impossible to hold a Homecoming, so the Fall Ball was held instead. For the most part, the Fall Ball was the same as Homecoming and enjoyed by many. "I was upset about all the flashlights they had [to shine on inappropriate dancers] but in general I thought it [the fall ball] was pretty good," relays junior Ela Locke.

Now, it is possible to hold a Homecoming and new changes are being instilled. "I think this year will be better because it will be held in the gym and not the commons," says junior Lindsay Cohen.

Like last year, Homecoming will be a semi-formal event. According to junior Cara Antico, "You should wear a dress... dark colors...wear anything that

looks good on you."

While the girls should wear dresses, junior Eric Kircher thinks boys should wear "Shirts and ties... there's no secret to good fashion... slacks, dress shirts, and ties."

After all of those middle school dances, Homecoming gives freshmen a great high school opportunity. "It's [Homecoming and spirit week] a lot of fun because the whole school is involved and you get to show your spirit," exclaims freshman Erin Rusonis.

Throughout the week of Homecoming, there are many pre-dance events such as spirit week. "Spirit week is a great way to get pumped for Homecoming," exclaims junior Juliana Milot. Spirit weeks consist of the student body

are Science Fiction, sophomores are Animation, and juniors are Action. The last day of spirit week before the dance, students leave class early to go to the football stadium for a pep rally. "During a pep rally each class participates in different competitions and a lot of sports

teams get recognized," explains Cohen.

Between the chaos of spirit week, a pep rally, and preparing for the dance, there is still one other school event to attend. At 1:30 pm, on October 7, 2006, before the dance, there is a home football game against Atholton High School. Going to the football game before the dance is a great idea, "That is what homecoming is all about," boasts sophomore Chris West.

Figuring out where to eat before the dance is another important problem to be solved. According to junior Julia Townsend, some good places to eat include, "Olive Garden, because they have good food...[or] you can make reservations at the Crab Shanty."

If eating out doesn't sound like a great idea, getting a bunch of friends together for a meal at home can also be fun. "It is cheaper and you don't have to pay a thing," says junior Claire Mack.

Participating in Homecoming and the events leading up to it is very essential. "I think it's an important part of our high school experience," says freshman Allison Kahan.



Marriotts Ridge students cheer enthusiastically in the stands of last year's MRHS Homecoming game.

How do these flicks measure up?



Sam Katz
Photo Editor

While the weather outside is getting cold, warm up with one of our featured flicks. Football fans and non-football fans alike are cheering for Gridiron Gang. The powerful story is about a man with dreams to improve the lives of others. The movie Accepted follows the adventures of Senior Bartlby Gaines who lives the nightmare of being turned down by every college he applies to.

Gridiron Gang

Teens that stab, murder, highjack, and sell drugs end up in Camp Kilpatrick, where Phil Joanou, played by the Rock, takes over. *Gridiron Gang*, a true story about a courageous coach and his team, warms the heart of all who see the movie. While a guard in prison, Phil decides to help the inmates out and start a football team. His theory is that it will teach the players discipline, commitment and self confidence. At first, as with any team, they are



Can the Rock make a comeback in Hollywood with this inspirational film?

unfocused and unwilling to give 100 percent, however this shortly changes once they play the first game of the season. The Mustangs, as they call themselves, get it together to go onto the finals. With action and humorous moments, the viewers start to bond with they players and the coach. Box office sales sore at 9.6 million dollars since the opening on September, 15. This movie receives an A+.

Accepted

Welcome to South Harmon Institute of Technology, located right by its sister school Harmon. Or that's what Bartlby Gaines, played by Justin Long, would have liked you to think. When this teen didn't get into his 1st, 2nd, 3rd pick in college, or any of the colleges he applied to, he gave up. Until he got this great idea to open his own college until he got into a real school.



Justin Long, as Bartlby Gaines, teams up with Blake Lively in this teen comedy.

This plan backfired when 300 odd students showed up at the school expecting the college experience. "B" and his gang quickly went into action. Follow this teen on his crazy adventures and brilliant plans in the comical movie, *Accepted*. With box office sales of 1.87 million this move came way under expectations. This movie receives a C- for jumpy scenes and acceptable quality.

The exclusive World of Warcraft



Sarah Massuda
Staff Writer

The world of online gaming has come to an all-time high, as millions of people of all genders and ages all over the world play games such as the *World of Warcraft*, eliminating themselves from reality. Massive Multiplayer Online Role Playing Game (MMORPG), such as *World of Warcraft*, *Guild Wars* and *Everquest*, have taken the world by storm, taking over today's youth and even getting to older generations. These games are no longer just for computer nerds. Everyday people, men and women, play these computer fantasy games with ease and enjoyment. Mary McDowell, a sophomore at MRHS, used to play *Guild Wars* constantly. "I used to go play *Guild Wars* instead of doing my homework. It wasn't until I saw my grades drop did I stop," McDowell avers. "All games are addicting; you just have to learn to control it."

These games, however, are more than addicting. People are becoming obsessed. Some claim they can play these games all day

and night. One student at MRHS, who wishes to remain nameless, boasts, "I can easily play [*World of Warcraft*] 50 hours a week." That's roughly the same amount of time as a full time job. But for "Thantaras," a hardcore *WoW* player at WoWMessageBoard.com, 50 hours is a piece of cake. "...I probably can spend 80 hours a week playing *WoW* without even trying," he claims. Then again, he also claims he has a girlfriend.

One player, who goes by the alias "Tibor", posted his acknowledgement about how extreme his craze with *WoW* became, "My GF moved in few months ago and realized I was a closet gamer. All those months she was concerned that I may have been cheating, when in reality I was racing a Shaman named Tibor to lvl60...she had no idea that I would lock myself in a dark room... and click the left mouse button until I cramped my arm."

While these obsessions may seem innocent enough, at times even comical, serious consequences have evolved. Take the tragic case

that occurred in late June in Korea, when a three-month-old baby girl suffocated to death when she was left alone for hours while her parents went off to an internet café and played *WoW*.



World of Warcraft is completely unknown by some, but for others, it's an addiction causing them to stare at their computers for over 50 hours a week.

What is it about these online games that cause people to forget their lives and get lost in virtual worlds? Patrick Talcott, another MRHS sophomore, answers, "The ability to play as someone that can do things that you can't do, but in

a social environment, appeals to people."

But what happens when one cannot distinguish the difference between the real world and the fantasy world of the online games? It happened to twenty-one-year-old Shawn Woolley in Wisconsin when he developed a dangerous addiction to *Everquest* and eventually shot himself when he was betrayed by an online friend who stole all his virtual money and skills.

MMORPGs are being played by more and more players around the world. They offer a world filled with good and evil, wizards and demons and above all magical powers. They are played at all hours of the day and night, by those who only play a few hours a week for entertainment people and by those who have lost all interest in reality. However, as inviting as these games are, it is clear that they can be abused.

Fresh rookies for the NFL



Steven Haller
Sports Editor

After an exciting college football season last year, the players that made it happen are now in the NFL and will be important factors in helping their teams reach new levels during the 2006 season.

The three main rookies to look for are Reggie Bush, Vince Young, and Matt Leinart. While Young lead the Longhorns to a championship victory, Bush won the Heisman trophy. Bush and his teammate, Leinart, were on the losing end of the championship last year but, given the previous year's championship, Leinart was definitely a proven player of caliber. All three were drafted in the NFL in the first round of the last off-season draft.

Playing time will not be a factor for Reggie Bush on the New Orleans Saints. This second overall draft pick will combine with teammate Dylmus (Deuce) McAllister. It was believed that Bush would be the first overall draft pick to the Houston Texans, but they took defensive end, Mario Williams because the Texans had to improve their defense and they already have a decent Running

Back (RB): Wali Lundy, 6th round, 170th overall pick in last year's draft. Unlike quarterbacks (QB), RB's are substituted in and out of the game frequently. McAllister will be considered the starter on paper, but he and Bush have both received decent playing time. So far McAllister has twenty-four more carries than Bush's 54 carries for 170 yards and 1 touchdown, with 79 carries for 380 yards and 4 touchdowns. This



Matt Leinart drops back for a pass during the Arizona Cardinals' pre-season where he completed 29 of 47 total passes for 314 total yards.

tag-team will definitely be capable of giving the opposing defense a run for their money. There are different consensus on how well Bush will play.

"The NFL is a whole new set-up from college. Bush will probably do okay, but going up against star defenses that are far more talented than what he is

used to, you shouldn't expect him to get the exceedingly high stats he achieved last year in college," says Junior, Ben Goodwin.

Freshman, Brook Apple says, "The Saints were not a good team. With Bush running on the team, blowing through the defensive line won't be a problem."

QB Vince Young was drafted to the Tennessee Titans from the Texas Longhorns this past off-season. After the loss of QB, Steve McNair, to the

Baltimore Ravens the starting QB was to be Billy Volek with Young at back-up. However, Kerry Collins, a free agent who was with the Raiders, signed a deal with the Titans. After careful consideration from coach, Jeff Fisher, and General Manager, Floyd Reese, it was determined that Collins will be the starting QB for the Titans for game one against the Jets. Coach Fisher has already named Young the number two guy on the depth chart, and laid out a plan for getting him a series or two of playing time in every game. With these turn of events, Volek has been moved from starter to the number three spot in only a week's time, but was not traded. Young did play in the first two games and completed 10 out of 13 passes for 133 yards with 1 touchdown and 1 interception.

Collins started in both of the two games and did much worse, completing 17 of 38 passes for 223 yards with 1 touchdown and 6 interceptions. The general consent seems to be that Young will become successful quickly.

"Vince Young is good at what he does and he will definitely get some playing time in the regular season starting around week seven. He won't let the fans down in Tennessee," says junior, Greg Mitchell.

"Vince is a good player and has the ability to run with the ball if he is pressured," says Brook Apple, freshman.

There was never an issue with the Arizona Cardinals on how Matt Leinart was to fit in on the roster. Nine year veteran, Kurt Warner, will start with Leinart on the second string. Leinart had a good preseason where he completed 29 of 47 passes for 314 yards and two touchdowns with no interceptions. He has definitely proved himself worthy of the NFL. The relative opinion seems to be that the only chance that Leinart will play this year is if Warner gets hurt.

"Leinart won't do anything with Kurt Warner starting ahead of him. Besides that, the Cards will do well with Fitzgerald and Edwards receiving and a good offensive line to create holes for the Edge at running back. They could definitely make the playoffs as a wild card," says



Reggie Bush was supposed to be the First Pick, but turned out to be second after Mario Williams.

Anthony Woodcock, sophomore and Marriotts Ridge soccer player.

"Leinart is an overpriced pretty-boy. He won't start unless Warner gets hurt, considering Warner has good experience and a Super Bowl ring," says Greg Mitchell, junior.

Field Hockey: Now playing Varsity and JV



Janet Woo
Guest Writer

The new school year has started and many people are anxious to see how Marriotts Ridge's sport teams will compete against other schools. Even though this school is the newest in the county, many schools have underestimated the mustangs and gone home with a loss. Varsity field hockey, coached by Ms. Gado, and JV field hockey, coached by Ms. Roadside, have been practicing and preparing for the upcoming match on October 3rd.

Esther Lee, an 11th grader on the

varsity team states, "I think we're really good and I'm proud of how hard we're working."

Coach Gado adds, "The effort that the girls have put in the past couple of weeks and the determination that they have to improve and be successful is outstanding." The current record for varsity is 1-7. The record for JV is 0-2.

The varsity team is still young and some new players have little experience but Coach Gado is assured that with their hard practicing and continuous team unity, they can accomplish anything. Each player brings a positive and optimistic attitude to the field and continuously motivates each other

to strive farther.

Emily Tauber, a 10th grade Captain on the varsity team says, "Being a second year school and a first year varsity program has its challenges. We're starting with many inexperienced players, so the first two years will be the time to build the foundations for the future field hockey program. It will be a challenge, but one that I look forward to."

Team activities are important to the JV team.

Lauren Bennett, a 10th Grader on the JV team states, "The first week we weren't really a team but we are now. After the pasta party, we became close."

Stephanie Morrow, another 10th grader on the JV team says, "Mrs. Rhodeside is... a very nice woman and is dedicated to making our team stronger. I know we are looking forward to seeing how the season turns out."

Coach Gado is not discouraged about not having seniors on the team, "I am encouraging the girls to find the spark inside them that motivates them because that is something I cannot coach them. I can teach them the skills and where they should be on the field, but when it comes to being intense and being ready to come out and give it their all, they are all individuals with different motivators."

Varsity football kicks off first season



John Cruz
Staff Writer

As the cleats were laced, the hot dogs grilled, and the yard markers laid down in the end zones, the aroma of varsity football was in the air for the first time at Marriotts Ridge on September 8, 2006. The team has been given an opportunity where they have a lot to gain and nothing to lose!

After a long break, there's finally something good to talk about, and this year at Marriotts Ridge, life could not get any more exciting as the school's first varsity teams step foot on the field. This year will be especially exciting to see how the football team steps up

to its competitors in its inaugural season. As they try to prove to the rest of the county, that they belong. With a 1-4 record thus far, the team is working hard to push their record back towards a .500 season.

As a team there is a lot for them to work on. "[Hopefully] we can play competitive this year no matter

who we're playing against," says Marc Horn, Junior linebacker and offensive lineman.

With most of the team making goals of staying competitive and not backing down to the

bigger teams in the county, it seems as Freshmen Armani Dixon, starting outside linebacker, has already met his primary goal for this year, by becoming the first freshmen to ever

play on the MRHS varsity football team.

"Compared to JV, Varsity is played at a higher tempo and with a harder game style. I'm having trouble getting past linemen because of their size compared to me," explains Dixon.

There are struggles for their offensive line due to the fact that they are undersized against most teams in the county. Some of the powerhouse's in the county this year, like Long Reach and River hill outweigh MRHS by an almost unfair amount. According to the school's website, Long Reach's linemen, for example, have an average height of 6' 1" and have an average weight of over 300 lbs.

As a receiving core, it seems like the team have a problem with making the catch at the key moment. Plus turnovers have seemed to be key in the team's two losses. With a ratio of three touchdown passes to seven interceptions, junior quarterback Kevin Seker sees this problem as a point that needs attention and improvement.

"Individually I need to be more accurate and being able to read

defenses. As a team, we need to pick up the intensity level," reflects Seker.

On September 8, 2006 over 2200 people packed into the stadium to observe first hand the first varsity football game at Marriotts Ridge. Although the game did not end with the Mustangs on top; Mt. Hebron won 57-20, there is hope for few players to shine. Even after throwing his first pass straight to a Mt. Hebron defensive back, Kevin Seker was able to brush it aside and threw the ball with confidence in the remainder of the game. He was 30 for 57, threw for two touchdowns and also rushed for a touchdown himself.

"It was exhilarating, an unexplainable experience to be the first to win a varsity football game for this school," exclaims Kevin Seker.

Now coming off of their first win, a 16-13 victory over Oakland Mills on September 22, of the year, it seems the team is on a high as their confidence has been boosted.

"It was nice to finally get a win after being blown out the first two games," states Marc Horn.



Quarterback Kevin Seker looks to the endzone for a wide receiver to score big.

Power-house soccer teams dominate



Colleen Quinlan
Guest Writer

The 2006 Fall sports season marks Marriotts Ridge's first foray into varsity sports, and two up-and-coming teams are boys' and girls' varsity soccer. On September 6, girls' soccer, coached by Ms. Grey with the assistance of Ms. Gaieski, won its game against previous county champs, the Centennial Eagles.

The girls' varsity team is optimistic this year. Laura Drude, a sophomore, says, "my goal this year is to have a winning season." The Mustangs are pumped for the games against stronger teams. Glenelg, River Hill, and Mt. Hebron are all top teams to beat this year. Sophomore Catherine Chamberlain says, "I would love to beat River Hill!"

But without any seniors on the team, the Mustangs will have to show that they can hang with the big dogs, even after defeating

Centennial. As Junior Mary Kate Morani says, "it's not the size of the dog in the fight, but the size of the fight in the dog."

The win against Centennial was considered a huge upset, since it is the Mustangs' first year as a varsity team. Coach Grey, however, was not surprised. "It's an uphill battle, but my girls are ready to fight," she commented after the game.

Early in the first half, a free kick deflected off the Eagles' keeper and Morani soundly finished it off, earning the Mustangs a 1-0 lead. Marriotts Ridge's defense was lead by Junior Christina Demarco, who effectively shut down the Eagle's offense until an ankle injury took her out of the game. Since that victory, the team has gone 3-4 and they currently stand at 4-4.

Boys' soccer, as with the girls, may have a difficult season, but Coach Flynn is confident that his players can win. "The size and age advantage is significant, as is the issue of having no varsity experience," states Flynn. "It is important for us to limit this advantage through effort

and playing to our strengths." The boys excel at one-on-one attacks and team defensive cooperation.

While both Coach Grey and Coach Flynn are tackling similar problems, Coach Flynn has a different philosophy. Rather than looking forward to any particular games, he is "honestly taking one game at a time, focusing only on the next game." By taking the season as a whole, no game is hyped up, and every game is important.

Junior Dan Grady agrees. "Our

goal is to stay competitive in the county this year."



Sweeper Christina Dimarco cuts to her left as she dribbles the ball down the field towards the other team's goal to score.

The boys' started their season with a bang, beating Long Reach 3-2. Phil Martinelli accomplished a hat-trick in the win, but the game was still close at the end, when a Long Reach scoring opportunity threatened to snag a tie, when a superb effort by the Mustangs' defense sealed the win.

Since then, the boys' have gone 1-6-1 and currently stand at 2-6-1.