

# The Tattler



## 80TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION

Vol. LXXXIII No. 6

Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School

Monday, May 21, 2007



### IN THIS SPECIAL EDITION YOU CAN FIND...

#### Section A

##### THE TATTLER

A substantial portion of the information contained within this edition was obtained directly from the archives of *The Tattler*. Therefore, it is natural to begin the journey into Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School's past by looking at the history of the paper that has reported on it for so long.

#### Section B

##### SCHOOL

Take a look into the past of Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School, its building, and its teachers. Life at school is first and foremost about academics. See how students of the past have studied and interacted with the school as an institution. A history of the historic facilities has been included as well.

#### Section C

##### STUDENT LIFE AND COMMUNITY

A school is defined not only by its traditions, history, policies, and teachers, but also by those who attend its classes: the students. Follow along as *The Tattler* examines student life in the past and present, both at school, and in the surrounding Bethesda community. See what has changed and what has remained the same over the history of Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School.

#### Section D

##### SPORTS

Athletics play an important role both as extracurricular activities and as builders of school spirit. Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School has a long tradition of athletic excellence that continues into today's era. Feel the Baron pride as *The Tattler* brings you eighty years of sports coverage in one sitting.

The juxtaposition of the historic front facade of A Building (above) and the modern glass-filled side of B Building (below) represents the mixing of old and new at Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School. *Photos by Emily Buckley.*



# A Special Message from the Editor

As The Tattler concludes its eightieth school year of publication, it is fitting to take a look back at the events that have not only defined Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School's newspaper, but that have shaped the school itself.

This 80th Anniversary Edition of The Tattler offers a glimpse into B-CC's past. With regard to the subjects chosen to remark upon, the editors and staff have tried to be as expansive in scope as possible. This edition should give students a well-rounded picture of life through the ages at B-CC. However, as with any venture of this magnitude, it is impossible to cover all topics, clubs, and events of the past and present, and omissions certainly do not indicate any judgment of worth.

As the editors of The Tattler wrote in the 50th Anniversary Edition, B-CC has a "tradition of excellence" in all areas of student life, whether it be academic, extracurricular, or athletic. This spirit or tradition of excellence that began in 1926 on Wilson Lane lives on in today's student body.

Everyday, there are examples of "the ideal student," as described by The Tattler in its first edition: "The ideal student believes in his school and always does his best, and tries his best, by his attitude and conduct, to constantly improve it." And of course, "If he possibly can, he subscribes to the school paper."

Barons certainly do not lack the school pride described above as being a quality of the ideal student.

Even more importantly, B-CC students are constantly striving to do their best and improve their school. It is this quality of Bethesdonians, as The Tattler called B-CC students, that defines the Baron tradition of excellence. And it is through this dedication to integrity, school, and distinction that B-CC will continue to move upwards towards The Tattler's ninetyth anniversary and beyond.



On first day of school, Barons examine several chalk boards to see where to go. This ritual has repeated, although in different forms, since B-CC's founding in 1926. Today's students have computer print-outs instead of chalk writing to read. *Photo courtesy of The Tattler.*

Alexander Levy  
Editor-in-Chief  
Class of 2007

# Acknowledgements

The Tattler would like to thank the following people and organizations for their support throughout the year, and in the production of The 80th Anniversary Edition.

First, without the help of teacher advisor Jon Virden, producing The Tattler would be an impossible task. His wisdom and guidance are an inspiration.

Second, the generosity of the B-CC com-

munity helps make The Tattler financially possible. The Tattler would like to express its profound appreciation for the community businesses who choose to advertise through it and the Parent Teacher Student Association for its generous contributions. Furthermore, The Tattler would like to thank the B-CC administration and Principal Sean Bulson for helping make this special extended 80th

Anniversary Edition possible.

Third, the production of The Tattler would not happen without the assistance and support of Silver Communications, the printer. Specifically, the dedication and effort put forth by The Tattler's account manager, Alex Pak, has gone a long way in ensuring that everything runs smoothly.

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# The Tattler

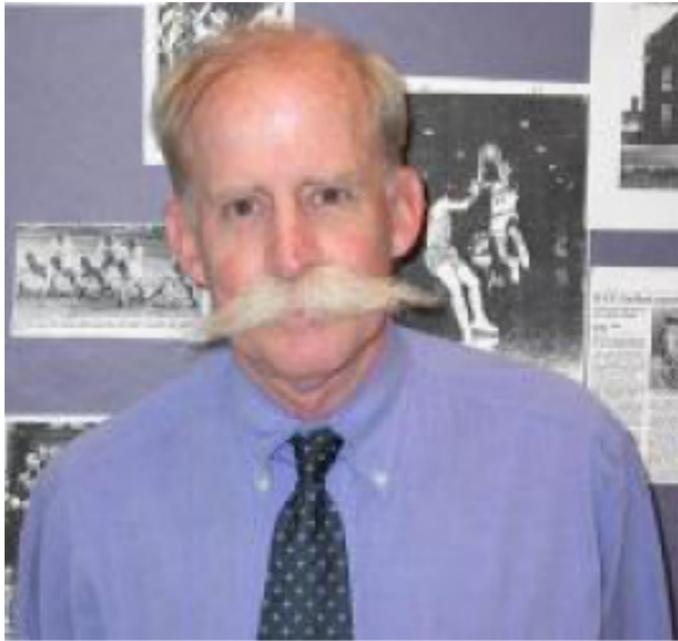
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- Eileen and Michael Adelman
- Carole Brand
- The Joseph Family
- Charles Levy and Yvonne Zoomers
- The Pernick Family
- JoAnn and Howard Symons

# A Special Thanks

The Tattler would like to extend a special thanks to **Andrew Rubin** for his hardwork and dedication as the Project Manager for the 80th Anniversary Edition. **Rubin** has been coordinating research, writing, and editing, and has been preparing for publication for almost two years, since Tattler advisor Jon Virden conceived of the idea.

# Mr. Virden: The Man Behind the Moustache



Virden sports his unique moustache. *Photo courtesy of B-CC High School.*

By Erika Mink

He couldn't win the beard growing contest, but if there were a moustache growing contest, Mr. Virden's victory would be assured. In 1989, after his daughter said she had never seen him without a moustache, Virden decided to shave it all off. But since then he has had his moustache in one form or another. Many students know Mr. Virden as the English teacher with the funny moustache. But there is much more to him behind this image.

Virden was born in Oklahoma, but moved to Maryland where his father was stationed. Growing up in the area, he attended B-CC and graduated with the class of 1957. As a student he was very low key. When he went to school at B-CC, the school was a lot bigger, but was also a lot less diverse. After attending B-CC for all four years of high school, Virden went to the University of Maryland. During his last year of college, he decided that he wanted to become a teacher. Until he became a teacher, Virden was a proofreader for the *Montgomery Sentinel*. After a year of proofreading newspapers, he decided it was "too boring" and moved on to teaching at Whitman High School. There he taught grades ten

through twelve a variety of English classes. After teaching at Whitman for fifteen years, Virden returned to B-CC in 1982 where he continued to teach an assortment of classes. Virden is currently teaching twelfth grade AP English Literature and Journalism 1 and 2. Though he has been teaching for over forty years, he still likes his job and above all, "enjoys the people [he] works with." Getting the chance to work with high school students is especially interesting for Virden because he can watch students develop throughout their high school careers and he feels, "it keeps a certain interest about [him] and keeps [him] young."

Throughout his teaching career Virden has witnessed several interesting events. The teacher strike in 1968 and the shooting of John F. Kennedy came as enormous shocks for him. Even though the teacher strike did not affect much of the nation, as a teacher at Whitman it came as a big surprise for Virden. He also recalls the shooting of John F. Kennedy as being the worst memory as a teacher. "An announcement was made during my 4th period class and everyone was just stunned and didn't know what to say or do," said Virden. Since, he has been a teacher for a very

long time, he has had the privilege of teaching current teachers at B-CC and the parents of many students. Virden has also had the chance to work at two very different rival schools. Because they are both high schools in Bethesda, B-CC and Whitman seem like they would be interchangeable. But, teaching at the two schools was very different for Virden, and he says, "comparing the two is like comparing apples and oranges. They are two very different schools." And for now he happy teaching at B-CC.

B-CC has changed a lot since Mr. Virden was in high school. He has witnessed several changes, particularly in the student body. He explains, "When I was in high school, B-CC was an all white school. Now, the student body is a lot more diverse." B-CC's academics have also changed. More rigorous programs such as AP and IB have been added, and he feels "academics have also come up considerably."

If he is not handing out an essay to his AP English Literature class or discussing editorials with his journalism classes, Mr. Virden likes running, reading, and watching movies. Some of his favorite movies include "The English Patient" and "The Fugitive." Some of the books



Virden casually poses for a photograph. *Photo courtesy of The Tattler.*

he enjoys reading are *Lord Jim* and *Return of the Native*. Another one of his hobbies is sailing. He owns several sailboats and enjoys

sailing on the weekends in Annapolis. Mr. Virden has taught at B-CC for a very long time and looks forward to the years to come.



Virden joins members of the administration and class of 1954 alumni in front of B-CC's new sign, a gift from the 1954 class. *Photo courtesy of the B-CC Foundation.*

# Editorials and Opinions of The Tattler

By Leah Wolf

In the years The Tattler has been in existence, the world has changed a great deal, as have many facets of society. From the government to the SGA, and foreign relations to local rivalries, The Tattler has given the world an idea of the general sentiment of the Bethesda-Chevy Chase student body as to various current affairs within the school, community, country, and world. Throughout the history of The Tattler, the editorials have alternated between issues related to the school and issues that affect the greater population.

In the late 1920's, when The Tattler was started, it focused mainly on subjects within the school. One recurring theme during this time and the early 1930's was that of the appearance of the school. At a time when B-CC was new to the community, the editors of The Tattler urged the student body to have pride in their school and to work to keep it neat. During this time, there were also a number of editorials about the emerg-

ing Tattler. A 1929 editorial exposed the struggle of The Tattler staff as they tried to find a niche in the school, saying that with all the criticism they came across, the staff resolved to "tend to [their] own business." In 1930, The Tattler began publishing "The Forum," a letter to the editor section, and soon after announced that editorials would reflect the opinion of the entire school. Today, editorials represent solely the opinions of The Tattler staff. In 1936, The Tattler published the results of their first poll of the student body, which showed that the majority favored Roosevelt over Landon.

In the tumultuous world of the 1940's, The Tattler staff focused mainly on problems within the school. Aside from a 1939 editorial promoting isolationism, The Tattler mainly focused on crippling problems within the school, such as the rapidly decreasing senior privileges and gum underneath desks. As the decade continued, editorials became slightly more nationally focused, and ac-

ording to a student poll, Dewey was the two to one favorite in the 1948 election.

In the 1950's, The Tattler continued its trend of national focus. For example, one editorial promoted suffrage for eighteen-year-olds, saying that if they can fight, they can vote. And, like the rest of the country, The Tattler spoke out against communism in a few editorials as the Cold War was in full swing. However, The Tattler still did remain attentive to issues in the school, revisiting matters such as the threat posed by a messy cafeteria.

Unlike previous decades, the editorials of the 1960's showed strong opinions in all manner of subjects, from entertainment to government to trends to school policy. Following a letter to the editor attacking the non-separated nature of church and state at Bethesda-Chevy Chase, The Tattler took a stand, saying that all cultures and ideas should be accepted at B-CC. Reflecting a sentiment felt all around the country, students at B-CC pushed for more freedoms.



The Tattler is a public forum for student discussion about current school and political issues. The student staff of The Tattler makes content decisions in consultation with the teacher advisor, Jon Virden. *Graphic courtesy of Minion-software.com.*

This included criticizing the administrator's policies on dress code regulations, which were seen as all too strict and confining. As the feeling on campus became more liberal, The Tattler announced that it would like to serve as a forum for student opinion. However, a 1967 editorial did state disapproval about rising drug abuse at B-CC. During the 1960's, The Tattler also did its best to evoke school spirit, encouraging students to support B-CC against their biggest rival, Blair.

In the early 1970's, students at B-CC were active in movements such as anti-war, which editorials in The Tattler supported. However, as the 1970's went on, students became increasingly apathetic. The Tattler was alarmed by this development and urged students to take a stand on the happenings in their society and community.

In the 1980's, the editorials of The Tattler once again were largely a mix of national and community issues. One editorial discussed Reagan's presidency, saying that it was a success, as was shown by

a favorable poll of the student body. In the middle of the decade, following an accident with a nuclear reactor at the Naval Medical Center, The Tattler ran a couple of editorials opposing the use of nuclear energy. Race was also a focal point in the 1980's, in light of a hate crime in Atlanta and hostility felt by Iranians after the hostage conflict. The Tattler also expressed doubt over the closing of the Bethesda-Chevy Chase area middle school, Leland.

In its eighty year history, Tattler editorials have covered a full range of topics and have developed into an important outlet for student opinion. In many ways, editorials and opinion pieces have come full circle; in 2006, the opinion pieces of *The Tattler* seem once again to be focused on the problems faced within the school. The Tattler staff of the 1960's may have written about racial issues and drug problems, but the present day staff prefers to keep the focus on school and student issues. Hence, the student body is well informed about public displays of affection.

## Questions, Comments, Letters to the Editor?

They may be mailed to:

Bethesda-Chevy Chase H.S.  
4301 East-West Highway  
Bethesda, Maryland 20814

Or e-mailed to:

bcctattler@hotmail.com

*Students may also submit questions, comments, or letters to Mr. Virden's room in A308 or give them directly to any member of the Tattler staff.*

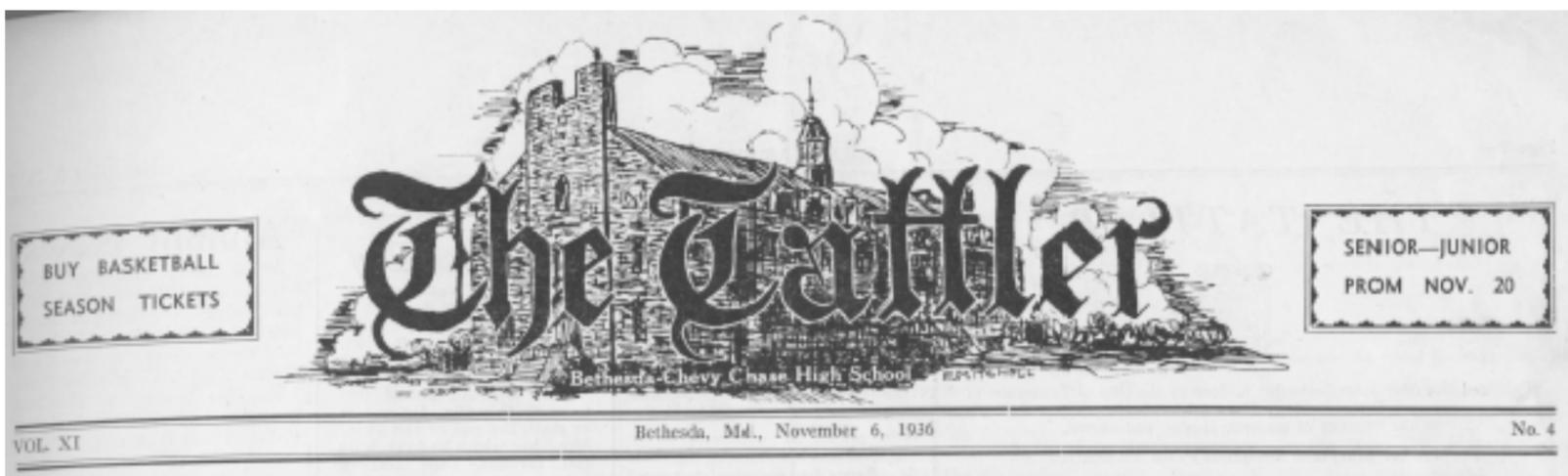
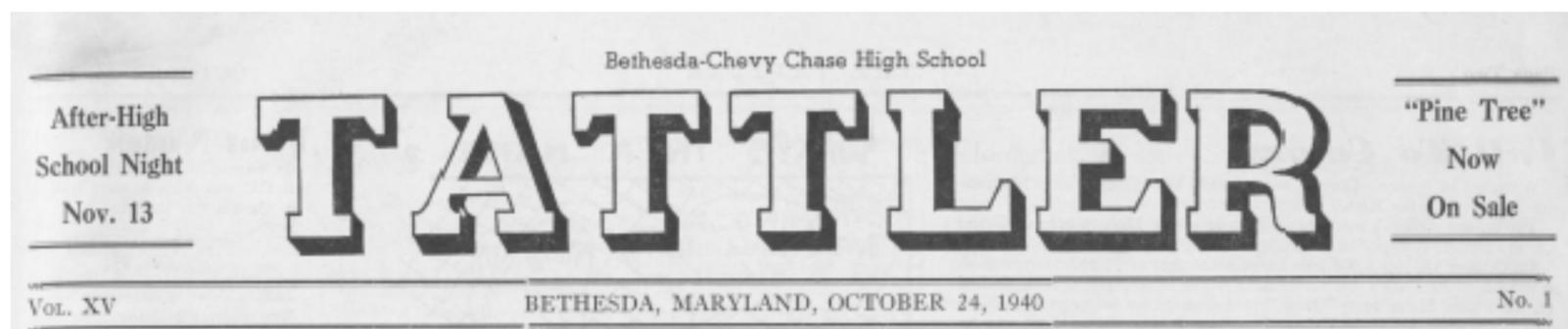
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# Tattler Flags Change Over Time





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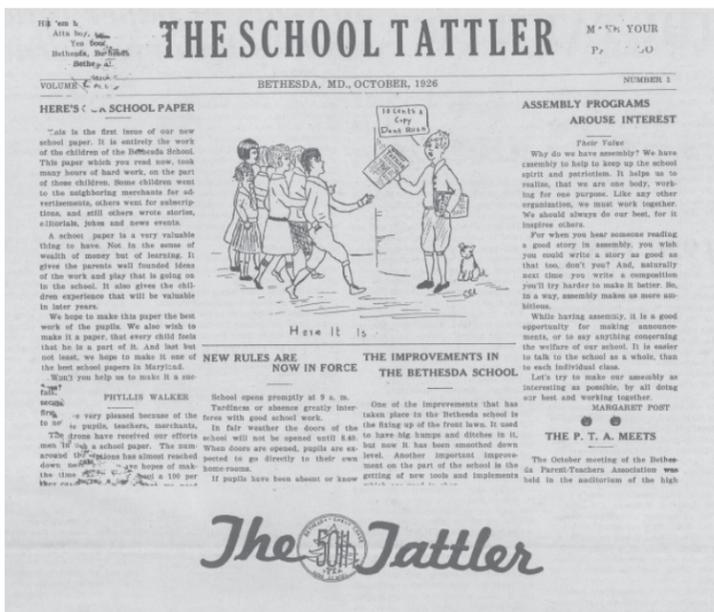
Jim Hage, Washington Post staff writer, has prepped B-CC and other area students for nearly ten years.

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The chaos and activity of The Tattler newsroom in the past. Although smaller, The Tattler's current office can often be equally as hectic. Photo courtesy of The Tattler.



Above is the first page of the first edition of The Tattler. Started in 1926, The Tattler is Montgomery County's oldest continuously running student newspaper. Photo courtesy of The Tattler.



Jon Virden, The Tattler's charismatic and dedicated teacher advisor. Virden's appearance is defined by his distinguished moustache. Virden also teaches English and journalism at B-CC. Photo courtesy of The Washington Post.



A commemorative sticker from the 50th Anniversary Edition, published during the 1975-1976 school year. Notice the distinctive pine tree emblem on the left side of the sticker. Photo courtesy of The Tattler.



# EXAM REVIEW CLASSES

BASED ON MCPS CURRICULUM

*Maximum class size: 8 students*  
*Classes held in Potomac Village and at*  
*North Bethesda Middle School*

	1	2	3	4
	Saturday/Sunday June 2/3 10:00-1:00 pm	Saturday/Sunday June 2/3 2:00-5:00 pm	Saturday/Sunday June 9/10 10:00-1:00 pm	Saturday/Sunday June 9/10 2:00-5:00 pm
ALGEBRA 1			ALGEBRA 1	
GEOMETRY		GEOMETRY		GEOMETRY
GEOM HONS	GEOM HONS		GEOM HONS	
ALGEBRA 2	ALGEBRA 2		ALGEBRA 2	ALGEBRA 2
ALG 2 HONS	ALG 2 HONS		ALG 2 HONS	
PRE-CALC		PRE-CALC		PRE-CALC
PRE-CALC HONS		PRE-CALC HONS		PRE-CALC HONS
M & E			M & E	
M & E HONS				M & E HONS
BIOLOGY		BIOLOGY		BIOLOGY
BIO HONS	BIO HONS		BIO HONS	
CHEMISTRY				CHEMISTRY
CHEM HONS	CHEM HONS	CHEM HONS	CHEM HONS	
PHYSICS			PHYSICS	
PHYS HONS	PHYS HONS			PHYS HONS
NSL	NSL		NSL	AP NSL
US HIST HONS		US HIST HONS		US HIST HONS
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