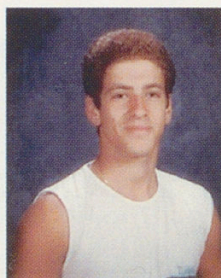


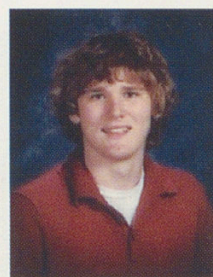
"The mission in Iraq isn't going well, in my opinion. But since we're there, the U.S. has the responsibility to see it through."

> **Jon Ellingham, 12**



"The efforts to make a more democratic and free Iraq are failing. The focus is too much on the big picture-rather than on the basic level-civil stability."

> **Guy Wiener, 12**



"I think that President Bush has done a great job so far, and the people of Iraq now have a brighter future no matter how soon the turnover will be."

> **Ben Taylor, 12**

Spring

Current events

Springing into new things...

By: **Nikki Wissing**

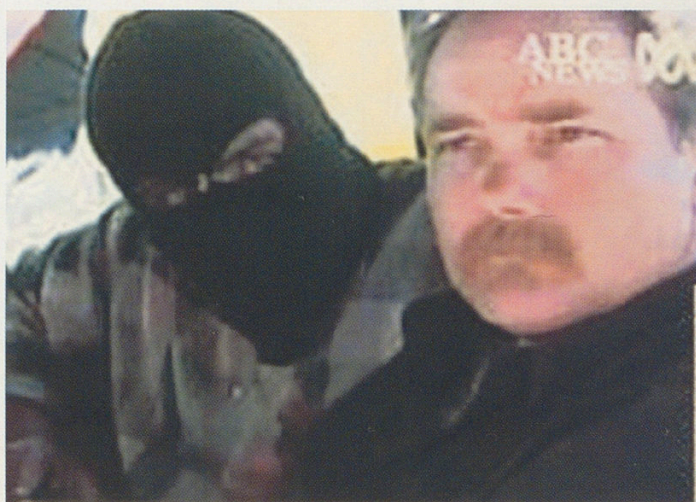
SPRING OFFICIALLY BEGAN MARCH 21 at one o'clock in the morning.

Here at home, drivers kept an eye out for the police because they became a lot more strict about teenagers

speeding and gave harsher punishments for those that do choose to speed. "Click it or Ticket" was also heard all over the radio and posted on interstate electronic billboards, warning people to wear their seat belts, or pay a ticket.



HOSTAGES IN IRAQ. Several Americans, three Japanese, two Arab aid workers, and eight Russians had been among those abducted. One of the Americans being **Pfc. Matt Maupin**, of Batavia, who was abducted near Baghdad when a U.S. convoy was attacked on April 9. The gunmen said that they were keeping him for the exchange of the prisoners captured by the occupation forces. In order to set the Japanese free, the Mujahedeen Brigades demanded Japan pull troops out of Iraq. There are also three Czech journalists and two Germans stationed in Iraq, but unaccounted for. However, there has been several releases. Seven Chinese, one Briton, and seven South Korean missionaries



were freed after being held by abductors for days. American contractor working in Iraq, **Thomas Hamill** was taken hostage when his convoy was attacked. On May 5, Hamill managed to escape from the Iraqi insurgents holding him during an ambush. April 14, a tape was received from Osama Bin Laden offering a truce to European nations if they pulled their troops out of Muslim countries. In the tape, Bin Laden also took the blame for the terrorist acts in Spain claiming that other terrorist acts will be pursued in countries supporting the United States' war on terrorism.

