

dog daze

Nineteen years ago, nervous students entered new halls surrounded by remnants of construction. Fresh paint and cement lingered in the air. Students entered the 2001-2002 school year with the same worry and anticipation. Dust swirled around the parking lot as buses and construction trucks made a new route around the building, and it became nearly impossible to walk past a window without peaking out to see how the new addition was coming along. Entrances and exits were switched around – causing confusion for students, parents, and teachers.

During a storm on the first weekend of school, lightning struck the air conditioning unit in the school – starting a fire. The students waited calmly around the building while administrators and fire rescue officials searched for signs of fire. When administrators and teachers appeared at the entrances with bullhorns, most students hoped for the announcement of a free day but then let out a sigh as they entered the hot and muggy building apprehensively. Bomb threats became a popular occurrence during the first few months of school, and students got used to the lock-downs and journeys to the track that took place almost weekly. It was difficult to feel safe knowing such dan-

