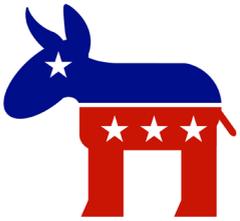


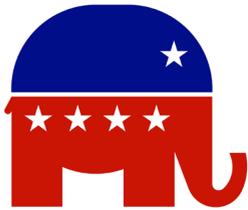
# THE WIRE

WEST POTOMAC HIGH SCHOOL



## DEMOCRAT

Sanders  
Clinton



## REPUBLICAN

Trump      Carson  
Cruz      Kasich  
Rubio      Bush

# It's Primary Time

Mock Primary Shows Voting Trends Among Young Voters at West Potomac

Mercy Street: Alexandria's  
Claim to Fame

PAGE 13

Potomac Oil Spill: What Is  
Dominion Electric Doing?

PAGE 15

Gender Equality Laws and  
Bathroom Use in FCPS

PAGE 19

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***The Wire*** is a publication whose aim is to inform, educate, and entertain the student body. An open forum for discussion, ***The Wire*** will not print any material that is libelous or obscene, or will invade any person's right to privacy. The ideas expressed in unsigned editorials reflect the opinions of the newspaper staff; however, letters to the Editor do not.

This issue's cover collage was created using Adobe InDesign. Political party graphics done by DONKEYHOTY/Flickr/Creative Commons. The images used for the Table of Contents, reviews, and articles were acquired using Google image search.

## Letter from the Editors: Nina Ranses & Duncan Hoag

Welcome to the March issue of *The Wire*! First, we'd like to thank our readers, patrons and everyone involved in the production and ongoing support of our student-run publication. In this issue, we cover a variety of subject matter ranging from our mock primary to the lives of first generation American students. We also learn about the history and little known secrets of our school and the inspiration behind the headline-making yearbook down the highway at Mount Vernon .

Without further ado, we hope you enjoy this spring edition of *The Wire*!

Thank You,  
*Wire* Patrons!

## Table of Contents

- 4 - March Horoscopes
- 5 - March Calendar & Beyonce "Foundation" Review
- 6-7 - West Potomac Primary
- 8 - The Disconnection Connection
- 9 - Op Ed: Why #BlackLivesMatter
- 10 - 11 - Student Stories
- 12 - Butting Heads: The Debate, Debate
- 13 - Mercy Street & *Zoolander 2* Review
- 14 - The Quander Road Story
- 15 - Potomac Oil Spill
- 16 - Mount Vernon High Yearbook Pregnancy Spread
- 17 - The String - #SAVEFCPS
- 18 - MUNsters in the Big City
- 19 - Gender Equality Prevails
- 20 - West Potomac Mysteries

# MARCH 2016

## STUDENT LIFE



04-05

### March Madness

First games for all spring sports, a Pep Rally and  
::gaspr:: SPRING BREAK!



## COVER

06-07

### West Po Primary

Which candidates would win a primary election if  
our 11th and 12th graders were the ones voting?



## OPINION

09

### White Washed Media

A look at the history of Black History Month and  
the on-going trend of white washing media that  
continues today.

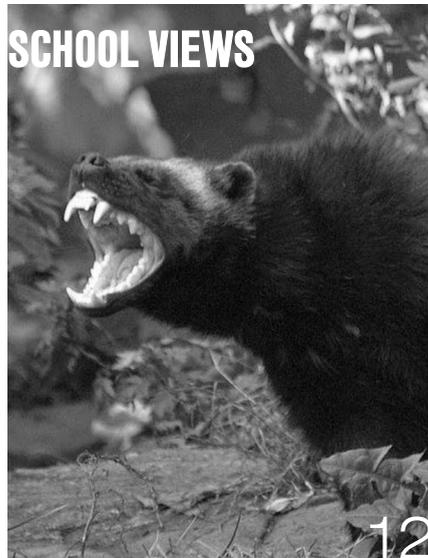
## FEATURE



10-11

### Two Worlds Combined

A preview of this year's yearbook and a look at the  
stories behind students who have immigrated here,  
or whose parents did.



## SCHOOL VIEWS

12

### The Debate, Debate

Shahtaj is back and going head-to-head with  
Amanda about the usefulness and legitimacy of  
the modern political debates.

## FEATURE



14-15

### More Than A Street Name

The Quander family is directly connected to West  
Potomac's rich school history, but who are they?  
And why is there a street names after them?

# March Horoscopes

## **PISCES**

Feb 19- March 20

Mercury, the planet of ideas, intellect, and communication, spends a lot of time in your sign this month. With the sun also in Pisces, this makes March the prime time to embrace your intuitive water side and connect with new people or start a project you've been thinking about for a while. With Venus entering your sign on the 11th, don't be surprised if your behaviors of open mindedness and initiative bring new romantic prospects too.

## **ARIES**

March 21- April 19

As the cardinal fire sign, you often spend time leading others and acting on impulse. This month, slow down and spend time reflecting on your weaknesses and relationships. A strong sense of self and introspection will come in handy March 23rd when Mercury enters your sign simultaneously with the lunar eclipse in Libra- your opposing sign- bringing sudden changes and possible confrontation.

## **TAURUS**

April 20- May 20

You're a fixed sign, Taurus, and known to not like change or compromise. However, this month it is important to be open and flexible. When the moon enters your sign March 11th, pay special attention to your feelings and mood. Something has been off lately, whether it is in your health, relationships, or focus, and this month it is important you confront any issues you've been having- even if that means making adjustments.

## **GEMINI**

May 21- June 21

For such a social sign, March will be relatively smooth and drama-free for you, Gemini. With Mars, the planet of effort and risk, tucked away in opposing sign Sagittarius for most of the month, you'll catch a break to unwind and enjoy the rewards of all your recent hard work. March will be a good time to try out new things and approaches while the stakes are low.

## **CANCER**

June 22- July 22

March will be full of reflection and realization for Cancer, as the solar eclipse in fellow water sign Pisces on the 8th will introduce new ways of thinking to your mind. Keep your eyes and ears open to other's actions this month. Being extra observational will help you see hidden truths and potential in some of your relationships.

## **LEO**

July 23- August 22

This month is going to be eventful for you, Leo, and some of these events will be quite intimidating. Try to ignore any self doubt or negative feelings by keeping yourself busy; if you stay focused this month you will be happy to find yourself succeeding in new areas beyond precedent. Expect the pay off to begin March 19th when the Sun trines your decan, bringing feelings of calmness and self satisfaction.

## **VIRGO**

August 23- Sept 22

The solar eclipse on March 8th will help close recent gaps in your relationships, as long as you are willing to do your part. Being honest with others this month is the foremost part in this. However, moderating the cynic side of your Virgo attitude will help make your truths more gentle, which could be the difference in your honesty opening and closing a door.

## **LIBRA**

Sept 23- October 22

As Mars sextiles your decan starting the 4th, March is going to be all about self-improvement and productivity for you, Libra. While the beginning of the month may bring unwelcome negativity blocking you from your goals, expect things to shift suddenly on March 23rd when the moon enters your sign and eclipses with opposing Aries.

## **SCORPIO**

Oct 23- Nov 21

For Scorpios, March will start off on a powerful note as fiery Mars begins this month in one of its ruling signs-you! While this is a recipe for trouble for the other signs, Mars' role in physical energy, ambition, and desire will be operating in your favor as the Moon enters your sign the 25th, sending you more good vibes. Try to get as much done during this period as possible.

## **SAGITTARIUS**

Nov 22- Dec 21

March will be a dynamic time for you, Sagittarius, especially with your ruling planet Mars entering on the 4th. New spurts of positive energy will have you feeling rejuvenated and assertive, but when Mercury squares communicative Mars from the 3rd to 6th you may have trouble watching your tongue. Embrace your new attitude but don't get carried away!

## **CAPRICORN**

Dec 22- Jan 19

This month will offer fresh interests and mindfulness if you remain open to opportunities and people. However, be careful not to get overwhelmed with new information by the end of the month. A triple threat of both the Sun and Mercury squaring your decan while the Sun conjuncts Mercury on the 21st will make you extra vulnerable to stress and tense communications.

## **AQUARIUS**

Jan 20- Feb 18

Lately you've been feeling rather stunted, Aquarius, and have been after short-term solutions that aren't helping. Luckily, the solar eclipse on the 8th will offer closure to recent feelings of anxiety and self doubt, and Mars sextiling your decan starting the 4th should give you a boost in confidence. Harvest these good feelings to renew yourself and kick start those new year's resolutions you've been lagging on.

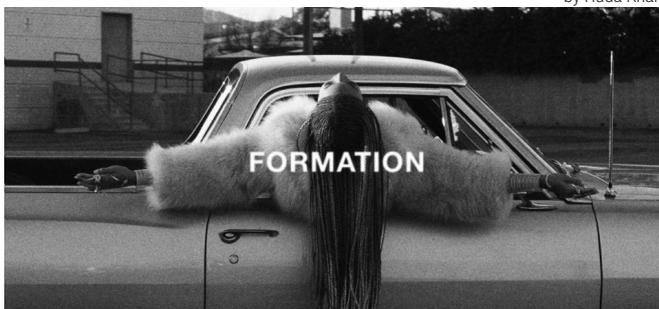
# What's Happening, March?

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				3:00 Mr. West Potomac Interest Meeting		
		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
	← WORLD LANGUAGES SPIRIT WEEK →					
				Papa John's All Night Grad fundraiser	World Languages Dance	
<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
	5:30: G V Soccer vs Falls Church 6:30: V Baseball vs TJ 7:30: B V Soccer vs Fall Church	5:30: B JV Lax vs Lee 6:00: G JV Lax vs Lee 7:15: G V Lax vs Lee 7:30: G V Lax vs Lee	5:30: B JV Soccer vs Lee	4:00: G Tennis vs West Springfield 6:30: B JV Baseball vs West Springfield March Madness Band Concert	PEP RALLY! & Senior vs Faculty Basketball Game	Indoor Drumline Competition
<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
←			SPRING BREAK			→
<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
						Upper Boat Crew Regatta in Occoquan, VA
← SPRING BREAK →				6:30: G JV Softball vs. T.C. Williams		
<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	* All sports games are the first of each team's season ONLY.	

## A New "Formation"

A look at Beyoncé's new album and her break out #BlackLivesMatter performance at the Super Bowl.

by Huda Khan



Pop singer Beyoncé Knowles released her song Formation a few hours prior to its designated release at the Super Bowl 50 Half-time Show on Feb 6, 2016. The video served as an impressive tribute to Black History Month as it was composed of images that heavily alluded to the black South during the intense times of segregation before the Civil Rights movement in the 60s.

The beat that was established at the very beginning of the song was steady and very easy to follow and it remained consistent throughout the course of the song. The lyrics of the song expressed Beyoncé's pride for her black heritage with phrases like "I like my baby hair with baby hair and afros" and "I like my negro nose with Jackson Five nostrils". Beyoncé seemed to have been undermining the hate comments made towards black people by the stiff standards of modern day society.

Beyoncé also paid homage to her very roots by embracing her heritage with lyrics "My

daddy Alabama, Momma Louisiana" and "You mix that negro with that Creole make a Texas bama."

These expressions exuded the confidence Beyoncé held in not just herself, but the foundations of her existence as well. While the lyrics focused almost exclusively on #BlackPride, the music video referenced the phases of difficulty that black people have been forced to endure. There were various cuts to the Black south as well as Mardi Gras and the disaster following Hurricane Katrina in 2005. By not having the video and the lyrics of the song match up completely, Beyoncé delivered two distinct yet equally important messages in a single release: #BlackLivesMatter and being proud of their black heritage. These elements gave "Formation" a very unique touch that has never been seen before.

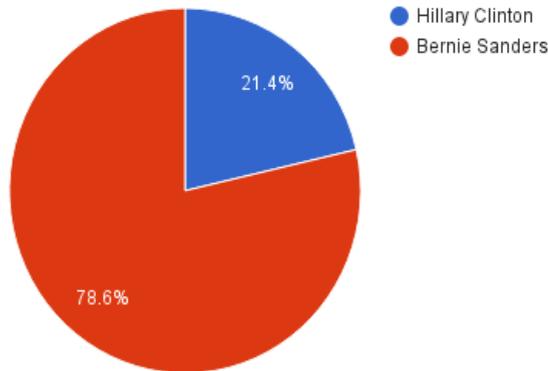
After going a full year without releasing any new material, Beyoncé outdid herself once again with the powerful beat "Formation".

# Sanders, Rubio Victors in Mock Primary

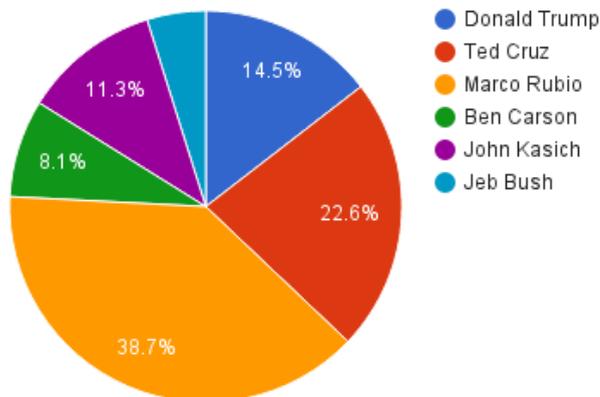
In landslide victory, West Potomac's first mock primary proves Sanders has the young voters' attention as he takes 58% of the total votes, Rubio wins GOP "nod"

**Hugh Moffit**  
*Online Editor*

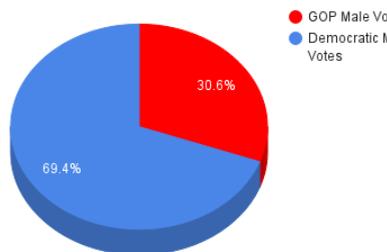
**Democratic Primary Results (Eligible Voters Only)**



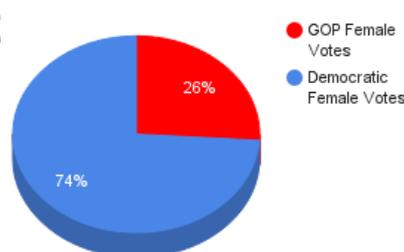
**GOP Primary Results (Eligible Voters Only)**



**Male Vote Breakdown By Party**



**Female Vote Breakdown by Party**

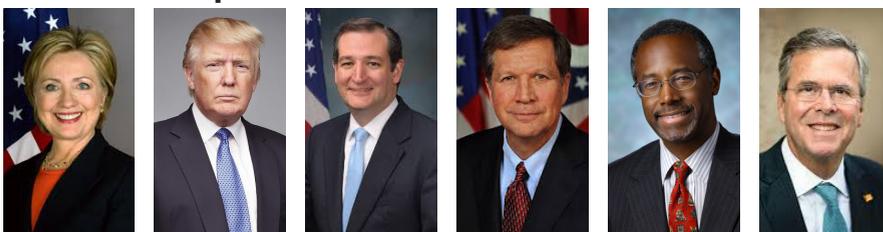


In the four years that have passed since Americans last elected a president, much has changed in the country's landscape. For the first time, millennials (Americans aged 18-34) will make up roughly the same amount of the electorate as baby boomers (ages 51-69). As a result, it is now especially imperative that presidential hopefuls appeal to young voters if they want to win in November.

For The Wire's February mock primary, we sent ballots to every 11th and 12th grade history class, receiving a total of nearly 400 valid responses. Students were instructed to vote for one candidate, and given the option to mark their gender and whether or not they were old enough to participate in the upcoming election.

A whopping 71.5% of respondents chose a Democratic candidate, compared to the only 28.5% who voted Republican. At 74%, females were slightly more likely to pick Democrats than males, who split roughly 69% for Democrats and 31% for Republicans. Both of these outcomes correspond with national youth trends and the local political atmosphere, so the party breakdown isn't particularly surprising.

## The Runners Up



However, out of all the candidates, there emerged a clear and dominant victor: Bernie Sanders. The Vermont socialist won blowout victories everywhere,



Rubio, on the other hand, had the most female votes, but did worse with males. Rubio's success is in accordance with his campaign theme of the "new American century," and more specifically, the new face of American conservatism. His age, hispanic background, and moderate positions make him a clear choice to expand the traditional GOP base.

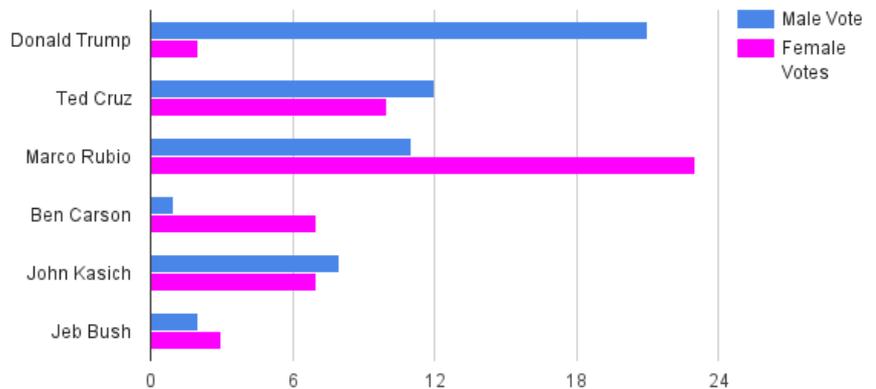
pulverizing rival Hillary Clinton by a 60-point margin within the Democratic party and claiming an impressive 58% of the entire vote count. A few pundits have speculated before about the size and energy of Sanders' young base, but even the most favorable estimates of his support nationwide fall tremendously short of his actual finish in our primary. His performance is doubly interesting when one considers West Potomac's proximity to our nation's capital--the literal nerve center of the political establishment that Bernie regularly rails against.

For ideologically-minded voters, it underscores the resonance of his anti-Wall Street message, and the underlying distrust many young Americans feel towards the political and financial power structures that they've grown up with. More resonant to high school students, however, is Bernie's promise of free college. To everyone not willing or able to question the feasibility of the proposal, it's appeal is obvious.

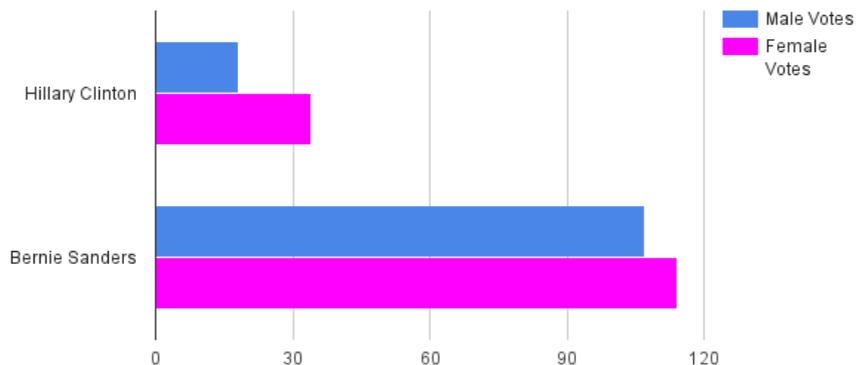
On the Republican side, Marco Rubio took first place, beating Donald Trump, who came in second, by eight points.

The two candidates had almost the opposite performance with each gender, though: Trump won the most male votes, but did poorly with females;

**GOP Vote Breakdown by Gender**



**Democrat Vote Breakdown by Gender**





# The Story of the Disconnect

Students arrive at their arts classes freezing, soaking wet, or covered in mud. But why?

**Wingel Caburiuan**  
*Reporter*

Whether it's freezing cold or scorching hot, wet or dry, windy or still, students with classes in Springbank don't need their phones to tell them the weather. But why isn't there a covered connector between Quander and Springbank similar to the one between Gunston and Quander? On a daily basis, students at West Potomac High School parade across campus in their own, carefully constructed path to get to and from isolated Springbank for their arts classes, no matter what the weather conditions are.

According to former history teacher, and current principal, Mr. Alex Case, the decision was made to make Groveton High School a three-building campus intentionally when Bryant Middle and Groveton High switched locations. Until the renovation in 2000, Quander and Gunston weren't connected either. Ultimately, there was only enough money to connect two of the three buildings.

"They originally thought it was a great idea to have separate buildings - until it rains or snows and [then] it's not so pleasant," Case said.

Students agree that it is quite a struggle walking between these two buildings, especially in the chilly winter months and the spring rains. Students often opt not to cart around gear that

may make the weather bearable.

"I find it hard because [I] have to go outside to go to Springbank, so it makes it challenging with the cold weather," sophomore Feven Kebede said. "And when it rains, [I] don't have an umbrella."

While a student might dislike walking outside, others are completely fine with the situation.

"It's not really that bad," said senior Andrea McDonald. However McDonald did guess at the reason Springbank is not connected. "[It's] because Springbank has the most expensive stuff in it, because when a fire happens, it wouldn't spread there."

Unfortunately, this is not the case. The true reason behind the decision is funding - or lack thereof - to connect all three buildings.

"I think it was money. Originally, none of the buildings were connected. They did the Quander and Gunston [connector] because those are the main academic buildings. I think if [the budget] had more money. . . that would be something to consider," Case said. "Although I think some of the art people like having it as a completely separate building. They like that unique identity."

Without a connection from Springbank to Quander, certain art students feels it's refreshing to go outside and feel mother nature.

"After having classes in Quander and Gunston all day, it feels great to go out and feel the breeze," said sophomore Christine Han who took Photography I. "Since Springbank is all arts, it's like taking a stroll through the outside weather while being happy to know that you're going to your favorite class."

Despite the weather concerns, a second connector to make West Potomac a one-building campus is not currently on the horizon.

"[It's] a very expensive project. It's something I would ask about, in the capital improvement program from the county. There's a talk about an addition to help us with overcrowding, so it's something I would ask for, but based on cost, I'm not sure we would get it," Case said.

Despite the inconvenience, students should plan to dress accordingly and carry proper gear to protect themselves from the cold, rain, and mud on their way from Quander to Springbank for the foreseeable future.



## Opinion: Yes, All Lives Matter

What do “Formation”, #BlackLivesMatter, and the recent Oscar nominations have in common? Hint: It’s Awareness.

**Matavin Williams**  
*Reporter*

In modern media, minorities are rarely seen on TV and that’s a problem. We’re teaching children that white is the norm when in reality, there is no racial norm. Last year minorities were seen 10 to 50 percent of their actual population percentage. Following the Oscar nominations this year, there was an outcry about there not being any black nominees. Can you blame them? From 2006 to 2015, less than 10 percent of the nominees were black.

In February, Beyoncé released a new song and music video called “Formation.” In the video, she shows images that reflect black culture and problems with police brutality. The following day, she gave a Super Bowl performance where her dancers were dressed as Black Panthers. The Black Panther Party was a group of black Americans who fought for self-defense for minority communities. They were renowned for using violence unlike other groups who fought for civil rights through passivism.



Former politician Rudy Giuliani had a problem with the performance because he felt Beyoncé was intentionally bashing the police. The music video was clearly a call to end police brutality, not an insult pointed at the American police force. It’s odd how Coldplay was able to bring up child hunger in India during their Super Bowl performance, but Beyoncé was criticised about shining light on her fellow black Americans and their struggle with police brutality.

Tomi Lahren, a news anchor, discussed the Black Panthers as terrorists on her CNN show “The Blaze,” but she doesn’t bring up how they organized dozens of community programs such as free breakfast for children and health clinics. They were formed because black americans were being oppressed by terrorism from racists who believed all blacks were below them.

A better media that represents all people and doesn’t get upset when people speak the truth could help us get to the equality so many strive for. In the world of social media, powerful hashtags have been created to let activist leave their digital marks, but one in particular has made a huge impact: #blacklivesmatter. A greater awareness of the issues surrounding police brutality has come from this hashtag. But, as always, for every action there is a reaction. In this case: #alllivesmatter.

The hashtag #alllivesmatter contradicts black people deserving equality. If all lives truly did matter then unarmed black people wouldn’t be five times more likely to be shot than an unarmed white person, and black people wouldn’t be seen as less desirable by society.

When someone says #blacklivesmatter they’re not implying that only black lives matter. They’re saying black lives matter as equally as other lives. It’s about inclusion, not kicking other people out. All lives will matter when black and other minority lives are as valuable as the lives of the majority.

Movements like #blacklivesmatter and songs like “Formation” aren’t made to bash white Americans, they’re made to bring a greater awareness to an issue; the issue that minorities are perceived as the bad in this world. I know I speak for most people who belong to a minority group when I say we want to live in peace and equality. Greater awareness can only help move us all toward that ultimate goal.

# WORLDS *collide* STORIES *of* INCORPORATING OLD & NEW

## Andrea Lugo Reporter

In a 2006 Op-Ed in *Newsweek* writer Jumpa Lahiri, the daughter of Indian immigrants, wrote, "Like many immigrant offspring I felt intense pressure to be two things, loyal to the old world and fluent in the new, approved of on either side of the hyphen."

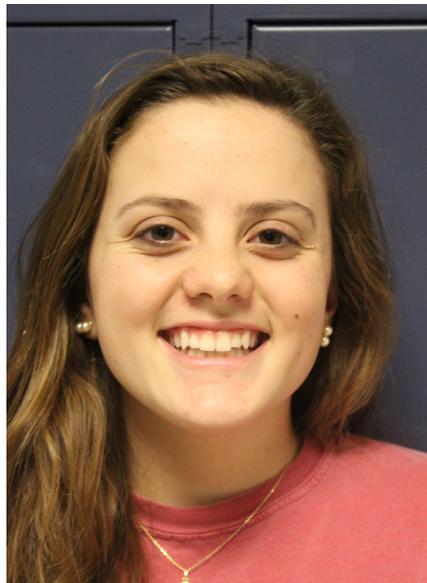
West Potomac is known for its incredible diversity, where student's and their parents come from all across the globe. Many are tasked with balancing American culture and the culture of their parents. This can prove to be quite a

disadvantage, because they are held to both American standards and the standards of their parent's culture, which often times clash. It's important to understand that everyone incorporates their parent's culture into their everyday life in varying ways, and different experiences and challenges are faced along the way.

However, something shared by most of these students is that because of their upbringing, they are able to connect with others who also have foreign parents, and they are more open to try new things. These students featured either immigrated here themselves or are the children of immigrants. All shared their unique experiences of merging two cultures.



"I [used] to get teased a lot when I was younger for my ethnicity and I felt isolated because of the way I was brought up," said sophomore Catherine Medrano, whose parents are from El Salvador. "Thankfully when I was older I began to appreciate my ethnicity and [learned] to love it again. There are tons of benefits to being bicultural. You experience the world in a very different way that shapes how you view people. It made me more accepting of people's differences and not to judge those who live their lives differently from others."



"First generation Americans face a double life. While they are home they have to conform to the norms of their parent's countries. The moment they step outside they have to conform to American standards. I want people to know that when you grow up with two cultures, you don't feel like you fit in society. You're too foreign for the U.S. and you're too American for your native country," said junior Pilar Jimenez, who moved the U.S. at age 9 from Uruguay.



"I think one of the most beneficial things I've gotten from my bicultural background is having a stronger work-ethic. I've learned to understand that my parents have worked hard since moving here to learn English and find jobs that have supported me and my two siblings. There's an appreciation I have for my parents in which I want to succeed because of them," said senior Jason Vargas, whose mom is from Mexico and dad is from Bolivia.



"My parents brought over lots of things from their life in Pakistan (pictures of family, religious pictures, old furniture, rugs) and furnished our homes with them. Because our house was basically little Pakistan, we were always aware of our culture and understood it," says sophomore Meryam Ali, who was 2 when she moved to the U.S. from Pakistan. "The hardest part was facing racism I guess because no one really understood South Asian culture. They only knew what they saw on CNN, and that wasn't even South Asia, it was the Middle East."



"I wish that people [would] understand that with foreign parents there really are different cultural norms and expectations," said junior Pia Fermin, who was born in the Philippines and moved to the U.S. at age 2. "I'm sure many Asians, and I suppose Hispanics, know that you do not ever, ever talk back to your parents disrespectfully. Saying something like 'I'm 18 you can't tell me what to do' will not be tolerated in these households."



"My parents have always [encouraged] me to know where I come from. They prepare traditional foods, which I love. They exposed me to Ethiopian food so that in the future, I'm not scared to eat it if I went back to Ethiopia. During Thanksgiving and Christmas I was exposed to both Ethiopian and American foods," said junior Rediet Fissaha, who moved to the U.S. at age 3 from Ethiopia.



I do follow our culture but not as close [as] my mother because I was born and raised here. I follow it by going to Russian Orthodox Church mainly," said freshman Nikita Stoffle, whose mom is from Latvia and dad is from the U.S.



"In a way, my mom still doesn't understand certain American cultures so I have to teach her them," said Junior Luke Lash, whose mom is from France and dad is from the U.S. "I have to balance between my more American cultured father and my French cultured mother, who like very different things."

This is a preview of a feature spread in *The Predator*, West Potomac's yearbook. To be featured, please contact Andrea Lugo at [andreajournalism2@gmail.com](mailto:andreajournalism2@gmail.com). To buy a yearbook, visit [jostensyearbooks.com](http://jostensyearbooks.com).

# The Debate, Debate

## Amanda Ghiloni

Televised debates are useless and should be abolished

Over time, the political process changes. In the early days of our nation, all campaigning happened during parties populated by the few people who could vote. As the right to vote expanded and technology changed, the means of campaigning had to change. From the first televised US presidential debates, they have been about nothing more than confidence and appearances. After the Kennedy-Nixon debates, those who had listened to them on the radio said that Nixon had won, whereas those who watched them on television said Kennedy had won, which is attributed to his good looks and his comfort with being televised in contrast to Nixon who had only been released from the hospital weeks earlier and refused to wear make up. However, when those debates took place, television was still the cutting edge piece of technology to have.

Now, despite being a household staple, fewer people view the debates. The highest rated US Presidential debate of all time was between Jimmy Carter and Ronald Reagan in 1980, with 80 million viewers. The highest rated US Presidential debate since was the first debate in 2012 which only got 67 million views. The debates during the primaries get remarkably less viewers, with the 2016 race peaking at 25 million viewers during the first GOP debate. The drop in viewers can be attributed to the availability of information about the candidates on the internet and the media coverage of the debates rendering viewing them pointless.

From the beginning it has been made clear the debates are not chiefly meant to be informative, rather a platform for campaigning. Were the debates meant to provide only information about the candidates and their views, there would not be a winner especially not one which is decided

by biased media sources. After the first democratic debate, Salon.com, Time and Facebook all ran polls that clearly showed Bernie Sanders as the victor. Focus groups on CNN and Fox supported this standpoint. However, major media sources such as the New York Times, Washington Post, Boston Globe, and Fox News all published articles declaring Clinton the winner. During the debates, candidates hone in on hot button issues that they believe will further their campaign and rally support, which is why 9/11 is a go to topic. This can provide insight into their views, but only on a few topics.

However, websites such as Ontheissues.com, Insidegov.com, and Fact-Check.org round up all the statements a candidate has said regarding an issue throughout their political career and organize and summarize what they believe concisely. As people turn away from television and towards the internet as a source of information, the debates will die out on their own and people will turn towards factual sites to help base their opinions during campaigns and make decisions about candidates. To survive as part of the political process, I believe the debates will have to move past television to a new form, rendering any effort made to change the format pointless, as change is already coming.

## Shahtaj Ali

The debates serve a purpose, but need to be changed

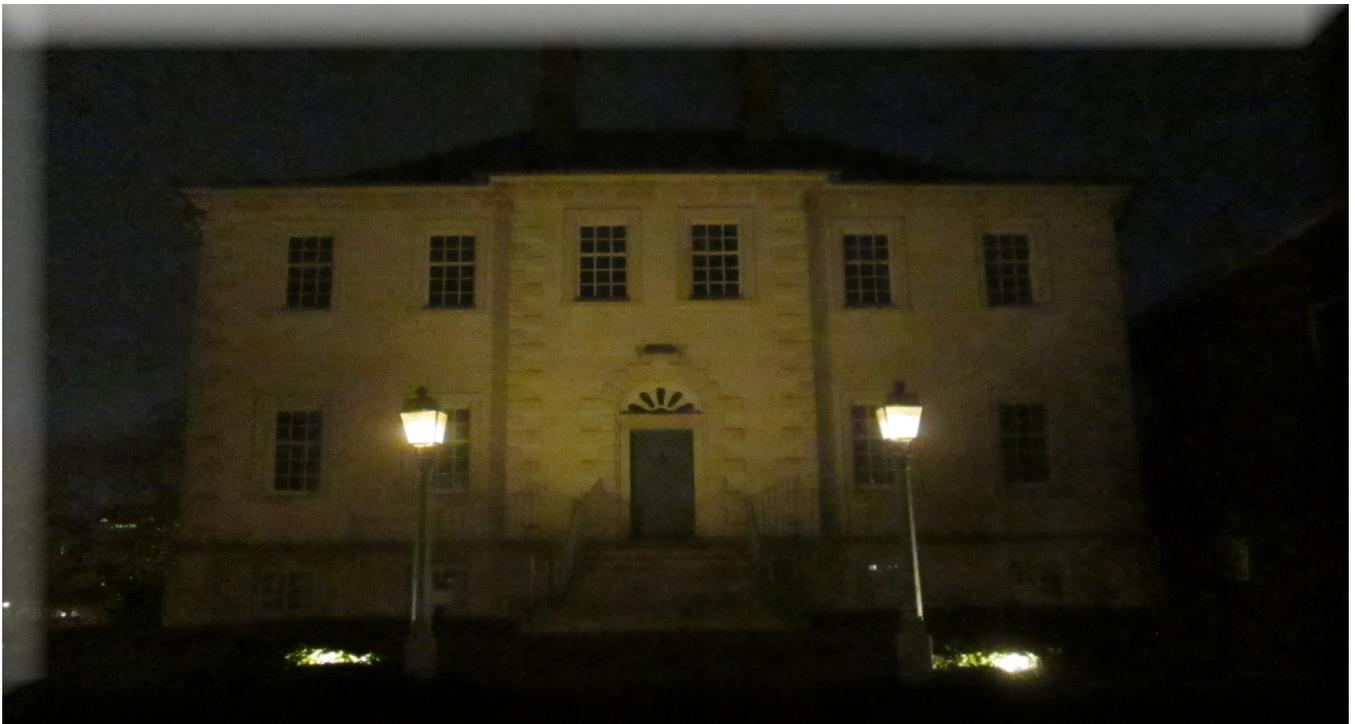
Debates have been a cornerstone of American politics since the Election of 1824. This election was held at a time when the U.S. was expanding, and it's voters rights were as well. Since then, the primary debates have served as an important part of the American political process because they're the introduction. All candidates on the stage are the same ideologically, the viewers must choose which one they believe to be the best leader. This is why the debates still hold importance. Despite recent advancements in technology which allows the average voter to research the candidate through different online sources, the debates offer one thing those sources don't. A situation where voters can compare the candidates side by side, as they argue in favor of their policies.

Unfortunately, the current structure of these debates doesn't allow Americans to learn about the candidate who might become the leader of the free world. Our debates must change, as the current format doesn't benefit the participants or the viewer. The first GOP debate of this year, there were 16 candidates on the stage. These 16 would have four hours to speak or debate, not counting for the commercial breaks, introductions, moderators directing traffic, and asking questions. TIME reported cumulatively in the first four debates the candidate with the longest speaking time was GOP candidate Donald Trump, at 52 minutes and 24 seconds. That's was the highest speaking time of any candidate, after 10 hours of debate. The first democratic debate had five candidates on stage. With less candidates than the crowded GOP debate and a running time of two hours, Hillary Clinton clocked in at a speaking time of 30 minutes and Lincoln Chafee only speaking for 9 minutes. The problem isn't the amount of candidates, it's how the debates how run.

These debates introduce the candidates to American audiences, and they should be used to level the playing field. Certain candidates shouldn't receive a higher speaking time because they've been loudly controversial or because they're perceived to be famous. The first democratic debate had two former governors, one former and one current senator, and a former secretary of state. Every candidate there had a long standing and established career in public service. They all had the right to speak at the debate and vie for the Democratic nomination. But the moderators directed their questions and time to more popular candidates, skewing the debate. This has a large impact on how the race turned out, with a lower speaking time comes a higher likelihood to drop out.

I'm not saying that low speaking times are the only reason behind candidates suspending their campaigns. But there is a significant correlation between the two. Though Americans now have hundreds of resources at their fingertips to learn about the candidate's stance on policies, the debates remain an established part of the campaign.

Debate reform is needed to provide American audiences the greatest insight on the politicians running. The networks who air the debates need to stop pushing for ratings boosting drama, they need to stop letting moderators ask questions because it will cause a frenzy in the media. Candidates themselves have picked up on the unfiltered absurdity that's allowed, with GOP candidate Marco Rubio at one point interrupting a fight saying, "I hate to interrupt this episode of Court TV". Every part of the primary debate process at this point represents the exact opposite of what should be a fair and equal race.



## PBS Brings Historic Alexandria to Life in New Hit Show

Jonathan Milam

Reporter

Mercy Street is a new PBS historical drama based around the Mansion House Hotel which was commandeered into a military hospital during the Civil War. The show itself follows the stories of Mary Phinney and Emma Green as they deal with the aftermath of the war coming from opposing side in order to help heal both the physical wounds as well as the emotional ones. The hospital serves as representation of the reconstruction era as various ideologies

about Slavery, women's rights, and the future of medicine collide while dealing with the horrific byproduct of war.

The show is filmed on location in Old Towne, Alexandria. This Historic site serves as a tourism area located on North Fairfax street near the torpedo factory.

The original Hotel was owned by the Green family who supported the Confederacy until they received a letter from the Union telling them to vacate the premise. This was the start of the House's career as a military hospital as both Union and Confederate soldiers were admitted. This mix of soldiers serves as a key point in the show as it offers a strong represen-

tation of the reconstruction era as the country also mends it's wounds.

The aging apartment building that served as the impromptu hospital was eventually torn down while the Carlyle House was acquired by the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority in 1970. The NVRPA offers several tours each week while more tourists are visiting due to Mercy Street's popularity. The Carlyle House now serves as a popular wedding venue near the water in Old Town Alexandria.

## Lights, Camera, Blue Steel!

Zoolander 2 delivers comedy, mystery, and nostalgia

By Mia Slone



"Zoolander 2" delivers what fans will be after: plentiful celebrity cameos and equal quantities of lunatic plotting.

15 greatly anticipated years later, Derek Zoolander (Ben Stiller) and Hansel (Owen Wilson) make their triumphant return into the fashion world. They carried on their much loved, big hearted, silly characters better than any fan could have hoped.

In this latest installment,

Derek and Hansel are called into the industry once again after a string of murdered celebrities use their last breath to take 'Blue Steel' selfies, which mimic Derek's famous catwalk pose. This leads the two old fashion icons back into the hands of evil fashion designer, villain Mugatu (Will Ferrell).

This star-studded film includes countless celebrity cameos with stars like Ariana Grande, Justin Bieber, Joe Jonas

and Katy Perry. The movie also features Penelope Cruz, who plays a detective from the fashion police and Kristen Wiig, who gives a great performance with a face full of botox as a fashion magnate.

Not to ruin the movie, but it's safe to say that thanks to Derek and Hansel, the catwalk will be safe for all fashionistas to strut. Now 'Relax' and go enjoy the movie!



## Not Just A Street Name

The Rich History Behind America's Oldest, Documented African American Family

**Daniel Rayder**  
*Reporter*

The year is 1662, the setting is a path just outside of the small village of Kankanboom in what is now Ghana. A 12-year-old boy is selling palm wine to passerby on the side of the road. Although he may not know it yet, his life is about to change forever. The boy is about to be captured by slave traders, herded onto a boat, and brought to America to be sold as a slave to the highest bidder. The boy's name is Egyar Edoum Amkwandoh, and he is the earliest documented member of what is believed to be the oldest African American family in the United States, the Quander family.

Quander, or Quando, is the Americanized version of the surname Amkwandoh, which is a traditional name in the Akan language of the African Gold Coast. To whites in America, Amkwandoh sounded like the phrase "I am Quando," which later morphed into what we know as Quander. Today, there are a few main branches of the Quander family. There are those who come from the Maryland side of the Potomac River, and those who hail from the Virginia side. There are also many Quanders living in Pennsylvania, mostly near Philadelphia. Apart from these groups, there are also Quanders spread across the entire country.

Although the Quanders are primarily recognized as being the oldest black family in America, many of them have played important roles in history and in the struggle for African Americans' equal rights.

For example, Nancy Quander, a slave girl, worked on George Washington's Mount Vernon plantation. When she was 13 years old, Washington personally freed her and gifted her land, and from there she started the Virginia branch of the Quander family.

Even while the colonies were still under British rule, the Quanders helped advance the rights of free blacks through the colonial justice system. In 1721, the freedwoman Margaret Quando's two daughters were tricked into slavery through a shady legal contract. She took the case to court, and in a landmark decision, Mrs. Quando was victorious over the white slave owner. She was able to win back the freedom of her children, and in the process she showed the colony that free blacks would not be intimidated by whites.

In 1731, Henry Quando, a free black farmer, also made history not only by being victorious in a court case against a white man, but by winning as the defendant. Although not much is known about the actual lawsuit and ensuing trial, colonial records from Maryland show that the suit against Quando was unsuccessful, and that he was awarded 360 pounds of tobacco for his trouble. 10 years later Quando returned to the courts in a lawsuit trial, but as the plaintiff this time. Yet again Quando shocked the colony by defeating yet another white man in court. Although Quando passed away not long after the second case, his legacy in the Maryland justice system lived on.

Moreover, the triumphs of the Quander family were not only restricted to the courtroom. In 1912, Nellie Quander was elected as the president of the Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority at the historically black college Howard University. During her tenure as president, Nellie Quander

convinced the sorority to incorporate, making it a national nonprofit organization. To commemorate her service to the college, the university named a \$125,000 scholarship after her in 1984, which is given annually to juniors and seniors. Nellie's sister, Susie Quander, was the assistant to Carter G. Woodson, who founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History. Mr. Woodson later went on to create Negro History Week, which turned into the Black History Month that we celebrate each year.

In the most recent chapter of Quander history, over 100 members of the extended family met in Mount Vernon for their 85th reunion in 2010. The event was organized by Rohulamin Quander, the president of the Quander Historical Society. The three day celebration included activities such as a seafood cookout with fish caught entirely by Quander fishermen, a gathering at the Mount Vernon estate, and Sunday morning church as a family. It was a great opportunity for all the Quanders to reconnect with each other and recount their rich family history, all while having a good time.



Although not many students know this, the Quander family was very involved in the founding of the high school on Quander Road that we all know so well, and the story dates back to over 150 years ago. In the years leading up to the Civil War, Charles Henry Quander, a free black from Maryland, decided to start his life anew in northern Virginia. However, when he arrived in Alexandria, he was captured and sold into slavery on the Hayfield plantation, which was at the time owned by a Mr. Dennis Johnston. When the Emancipation Proclamation was issued in 1863, effectively freeing all slaves in states that were in open rebellion, Mr. Johnston "forgot" to inform his servants that they were no longer obligated to obey him. Because of this trickery, Quander and the other slaves on the plantation continued to serve Johnston for another four years. Although it is unknown exactly how Quander found out about his freedom, he eventually did, and he took it upon himself to confront Mr.

Johnston. Realizing the jig was up, Mr. Johnston admitted that he had lied to his laborers and, in what was perhaps an act of repentance, he decided to compensate each slave for all of their years of work. So Charles Henry Quander was once again a free man, and now he also had a good deal of spending money.

Using the money that he earned from working on the Hayfield plantation, Charles Henry Quander bought 88 acres of land in Springbank Farms area. Mr. Quander then divided the land up for his children, who in turn split it for their children. Although some of Charles Henry's descendants sold their shares of the land, the property as a whole was kept mostly intact until 1959. It was then that the local Fairfax County government notified James Quander, the chief proprietor of the land, that if he did not sell 17 out of his 20 acres of land to them, they would condemn it instead. After the coerced transaction was complete, the county used the land to build two schools on Quander Road, one of which was Bryant Intermediate School.

When overpopulation began to afflict Groveton High School, located at nearby Popkins Lane, the county decided to switch the schools. Bryant Intermediate School became the new Groveton High School, and the old Groveton High School became Bryant Alternative School. After Fort

Hunt High School, the other major high school in the area, burned down, its student base was absorbed into Groveton, and thus West Potomac High School was created.

Today, the legacy of the Quander family can still be found in and around West Potomac. The library serves as host to a captivating exhibit filled with Quander artifacts, including family photographs and personal items. Near the senior parking lot lies the only burial site on any Fairfax County public school ground, a grave for Ezell William Hines Jr, the infant son of Alcinda Amanda Quander. On Quander Road, there are still over half a dozen residences owned by

members of the Quander family, including a couple just outside of the school. The Quanders have lived and thrived in our area for over 300 years, and their family has helped shape our lives in ways that us students often overlook. So the next time you stop by the library, check out the Quander exhibit, you may be surprised by what you find.



January 24th, 2016, a substation of the Dominion oil company leaked 13,500 gallons of mineral oil (used for gasoline) into the Potomac River.

It was discovered by a photographer February 4th.

Dominion Virginia Power said late Friday February 12, that the oil that fouled a Northern Virginia waterfowl sanctuary and the Potomac River early this month came from its Crystal City substation.

The Potomac River spans 402 miles and is the major watershed for over 5 million people. The oil spill harmed over 30 animals in wildlife preservations based on the river such as (but not only) Dykes Marsh and Roaches Run Wildfowl Sanctuary.

Since the spill, the Coast Guard has reported that there is no new oil coming into the river. As this is an awful incident for the community, officers and workers alike pulled together to cleanse the river

Lt. David Ruhlig (who works in the office of boat services, operations section chief with the Coast Guard, and working on the oil spill since February 4th) said, "Responders have been on scene since daybreak and noticed the sheens have mostly dissipated except for a few pockets, which are protected from the elements." (WUSA9)

As of now the oil has likely dissipated completely from the river for the sheen of oil was very thin.

Lt. David Ruhlig also said "Although the sheen

covered such a large span of water, the amount was so small it has been difficult to collect any." (WUSA9)

Park goer Julian Robinson said, "It's a shame knowing Community Rivers can fall victim to oil companies at this level (community level)."

Dominion stated that they would oversee complete clean up.

"As we have stated from the very beginning when we were made aware of the oil sheen, we would have no hesitancy in accepting responsibility should testing link our January 24 transformer spill to the sheen," the company's statement added. "We will move with all due haste to work with the agencies to ensure the remaining cleanup work is done." (quote from Washington Post)



# Complete Coverage

**Nina Raneses**  
*Editor-In-Chief*

In 1988, the Supreme Court case decision for *Hazelwood v. Kuhlmeier* permanently altered the perception of public school student publications in the eyes of law. Hazelwood East High School's student newspaper the *Spectrum* had two articles concerning divorce and teen pregnancy removed from their paper at their principal's discretion. While the student journalists sued, claiming their First Amendment rights had been violated, they received the exact opposite of what they had hoped for.

The Supreme Court decided that student publications not established as forums of student expression are not granted the same First Amendment protection as independently run student newspapers or publications that have been established as forums of student expression.

The past few decades have seen many triumphs and losses for the First Amendment rights of student journalists, and seeing that *Hazelwood v. Kuhlmeier* still affects school publications even today, similar cases present themselves wherever high schools report on controversial topics.

As most high school yearbook editors can attest to, some of the most stressful nights of the year can be deadline days. Mount Vernon High School junior Anderson Bonilla is certainly no exception. As editor-in-chief of the Mount Vernon yearbook, the *Surveyor*, Bonilla oversees his staff's work and sometimes stays up to late hours on a deadline day to finish spreads. However, nothing could prepare him or his staff for what would become of their work in progress, "Where We Really Live," the theme of their 2015-16 yearbook.

Their now controversial yearbook spread has subjected them to the headlines of national and international news outlets, after word got out over winter break when their principal protested the inclusion of photos showing a junior at the school who is a teen mom, arguing that documenting this part of her life would become a regrettable decision down the line.

Hannah Talbert, 17, had not only approved of the use of the photos of her pregnant stomach and other photos throughout her pregnancy, but is a big supporter of the idea, telling the *Washington Post* that regretting her yearbook spread would be like regretting having her son.

Mount Vernon's *The Surveyor* Staff, 2015-16

The controversy surrounding the teen pregnancy photos stems from the yearbook staff's decision to focus on the real life perspective of their school, which they have appropriately titled "Where We Really Live."

"['Where We Really Live'] comes from what Mount Vernon is," said Bonilla. "Everyone is so used to having Mount Vernon painted as this ghetto school with no good sports teams and whole bunch of other stuff. So the theme was to show them that we are so much more than that and that we are real kids with real issues going on."

Real issues, explained Bonilla, are the changes he wants to see and therefore is making to his high school yearbook. On top of Talbert's spread documenting her pregnancy, the *Surveyor's* work in progress also includes spreads dealing with grief, the lives of LGBT students, the lives of immigrant students and religion.

"In 20 years when I open my yearbook I don't wanna just read about homecoming and football," he added. "I wanna read about what was actually happening in my life during that time so I can remember all the good things that came from those memories."

After meeting with his principal to discuss the spread in question, Bonilla felt that the inclusion of the photos of Talbert would not be allowed. While she didn't submit a written decision on the photos, Bonilla and his staff feel that they do not have the full consent from their principal to keep them.

"I've only met with her [principal] once after all of this and that was because she had security pull me from my English class to give me new regulations on how our yearbook can be published," he said.

While Hazelwood gives those in authority the

permission censor student publications on topics like teen pregnancy, district policy in Fairfax County gives students the right to freedom of expression as long as the material are not "profane, obscene, slanderous, libelous, or violent, using disruptive tactics, or advocating violation of the law or school regulations," via Article III of Regulation 2612.7. Students are also allowed to submit a written appeal on a decision.

In a way, students are able to experience firsthand the laws and ethics of journalism that they learn about in class. Seeing that cases such as *Hazelwood v. Kuhlmeier* and *Tinker v. Des Moines* play such a crucial role in the photojournalism curriculum, the real world experience they gain is extremely beneficial.

"In my opinion, one of the best ways to learn about being a citizen in the United States is to actually work through a situation like this in the real world," said the *Surveyor* yearbook advisor Sam Hedenberg. "My students are doing a great job with that, and I hope they have gained some valuable life experience from the situation that will be helpful to them in the future."

While Bonilla and the *Surveyor* staff are hoping for the best, one thing for sure is that the significance of "Where We Really Live" will have a long-lasting impact on the Mount Vernon community for years and years to come.

"The yearbook as an industry has evolved," said Hedenberg. "It tells more stories now, not just about the homecoming queen and the captain of the football team but the loners, the kids who don't play sports or participate in clubs but who are artists or work two jobs to help their mom pay rent. Or, you know, students who have children. To me, that mission of telling the "real" story serves a much larger purpose than most people really understand."

The collage features several key elements:
 

- Top Left:** A photo of a woman holding a baby, with a caption: "baby rule #3: Parents and parents to wait. What are you giving about? Being a teen parent." Below it: "Eva Ayala, 12".
- Top Right:** A photo of two women, with a caption: "baby rule #2: What is in Tymella's baby bag?". Below it: "Tymella Archer, 11".
- Middle Left:** A photo of a woman, with a caption: "baby rule #1: the big B".
- Middle Right:** A photo of a woman holding a baby, with a caption: "baby rule #2: What is in Tymella's baby bag?". Below it: "Tymella Archer, 11".
- Bottom Left:** A "get real" article snippet: "How does teenage pregnancy make you feel?".
- Bottom Center:** A "get real" article snippet: "11 get pregnant, and you get real".
- Bottom Right:** A "get real" article snippet: "The great white...".

# The String

The Wire's new satirical\* column

\*satire: the use of irony, sarcasm, ridicule, or the like, in exposing, denouncing, or deriding vice, folly, etc.



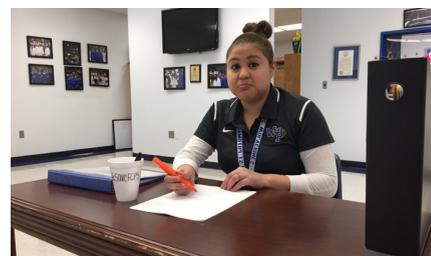
**Grant Benick**  
*The String* Writer



Office was a target in a several hour long heist that left the office bare. "The [budget] plan was expected but I never thought it would have come to this," said a West Potomac representative.

Gone were the dual desks and fancy amenities. In their place, a lone desk with a waiting secretary situated in the middle of the room with nothing but a binder, an orange highlighter, a scrap sheet of paper to doodle on, and a styrofoam cup with the hashtag #SaveFCPS.

recently approved a \$2.67 billion dollar no cut budget for schools during the 2016-2017 school year even though schools face a \$70 million dollar deficit and need to make cuts to possible classes and extracurriculars. The budget has outraged many as it targets more schools and classrooms taking away much needed supplies, including the faculty and staff. Furniture started disappearing as soon as the budget was approved. It is expected that \$1.12 billion of the budget is going towards sending the staff to different exotic locations of their choosing. This is only the beginning of a much change that will continue to progress as the next school year is rapidly approaching.



West Potomac — The infamous FCPS budget cut strikes again as West Potomac's Main

The renowned school seemed to be doing more to help improve its situation but Fairfax County

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# Small MUNsters, Big City

**Claudia Santa Anna**

*Copy-Editor*

If it's Wednesday right after school, then there's probably a Model U.N. meeting going on in room 410. Though it's only been a year since club presidents and seniors Logan Petkosek and Olivia Ireland founded the Model United Nations (more commonly referred to as MUN) club at West Potomac, the team has grown significantly since.

"At the beginning of last school year, Olivia and I were just figuring out what Model U.N. was all about ourselves!" Petkosek recalled. "We did a lot of research then held our interest meeting. Last year, we attended three conferences and held two [internal conferences at West Potomac]."

This year, however, the Model U.N. team has attended four conferences so far, including NAIMUNLIII (or the Fifty-Third North American Invitational Model United Nations conference), hosted by Georgetown University. NAIMUN is known for being the largest conference in North America.

"NAIMUNLIII was a big milestone for our Model U.N. team," said Petkosek. "[Held in Washington, D.C.], this is a conference people from all around the world attend, and our growing team was there. This was our very first conference [attended] hosted by a college and will hopefully usher in great things for the team going forward."

NAIMUNLIII, which was held over President's Day weekend, was attended by over 3000 delegates, or attendees,



The Model U.N. team after a long day of NAIMUN.

from as far away as China and The Netherlands. Senior Jonathan Flowers, who represented Malawi in a double delegation, which is two different people representing a country together, with senior Michelle St. John, was one of the 10 West Potomac students to attend the conference.

"[One of the] best things about [NAIMUN was] the interesting information you learn while researching your country and your topic, and interfacing with people your age from all over the world," said Flowers. "The whole conference was really a microcosm of diversity. I met people from Tennessee, the U.K., Germany, and even China."

Committee sizes were huge, with around 300 people at attendance in the largest general assembly, or the gathering of all member and observer states of the U.N. to discuss a specific topic.

"My NAIMUN committee, [the Special Political and Decolonization Committee, or SPECPOL], was pretty chaotic," said junior Liam Holgate. Holgate represented Niger along with freshmen Juliette Flowers in a double delegation. "There was about 115 countries represented

and probably 200 kids representing."

However, NAIMUN was not all about the committees. Along with the traditional Model UN committees and activities, the conference featured "Hilltop Madness," which showcased Georgetown University's International dance teams, a delegate dance, and special guest speakers such as president of the American Foreign Service Association, Barbara Stephenson.

"Hilltop Madness was definitely one of my favorite parts of NAIMUN," said Petkosek. "All the performances were unique styles from different cultures. It really embodied the international spirit of the Model UN conference."

For some, though, their favorite thing about the conference was the location.

"The best part of NAIMUN was the setting," said Holgate. "We attended a conference right in the heart of the most powerful city in the world. While walking to the Hilton, we would pass 10 embassies in two blocks. It gave the conference a more important feel, like we actually were the people who could change the world. Maybe we are, who knows."



**Duncan Hoag**  
**Reporter**

House Bill 781 - which would've barred transgender students from using bathrooms that don't match their "anatomical sex", as well as fined them for knowingly violating the bill's provisions - was struck down in the Virginia General Assembly. It failed to pass in the House General Laws committee with a final tally of 8 voting in favor of the bill and 13 voting against it. The issue of school bathroom use as it relates to transgender rights has proven to be an especially divisive issue, with the FCPS school board recently voting in favor of extending discrimination protections to transgender students and staff as an update to FCPS's current anti-discrimination policy.

Del. Mark L. Cole (R), the representative who originally introduced the bill, stated on his website ([www.marklcole.com](http://www.marklcole.com)) that the bill was a sensible piece of legislation that would avoid uncomfortable situations.

"This [bill] is common sense. When a woman enters a facility that is designated for women, she has a reasonable expectation of privacy that she will not have to expose herself to a male nor be exposed to a male (and vice versa for

facilities designated male)."

However, Brandon Day, communications coordinator for Equality Virginia (EV), an organization dedicated to statewide, non-partisan education, outreach, and advocacy [and] seeking equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender Virginians (LGBT), disagreed with Cole's assessment.

"The patrons and supporters of HB 781 claimed that the bill was brought forth out of safety concerns, that a person using the restroom could be put in a compromising position if someone of the 'wrong sex' was using the restroom as well," he said.

Day elaborated further, saying that transgender people are not identifying with the incorrect sex and should therefore be allowed to use the restroom of their preference.

"The issue is that transgender or gender-expansive individuals are not claiming to be 'the wrong sex,' it is simply that their gender identity may or may not be the same as their biological sex, sex at birth, or genitalia."

The bill's jurisdiction would have extended to every school in Virginia, including West Potomac.

Senior Kaitlyn Crosby, a member of the West Potomac Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA), said that the bill represented an attempt to instill a fear of LGBT+ issues in society.

"I think what this bill attempted to do was to yet again tarnish the name of the LGBT+ community and cause fear in the public," she said. "The bathroom bill has been an issue in not just Virginia, but in many other states across the country. It is constantly playing on people's fears on something that is likely never to happen in restrooms or other facilities."

Nonetheless, Day was confident in the progress made by Equality Virginia and other LGBT+ rights organizations. He reflected upon the likelihood of similar bills being proposed by both Virginia lawmakers and politicians from across the U.S.

"While this is somewhat of a hot topic, currently with all of the national attention and similar bills introduced before around the country, we believe that bills like this will stop cropping up when hearts and minds are changed in both the General Assembly and in our community. The only way to do that is to increase transgender advocacy and visibility by giving transgender individuals the opportunity to speak up for themselves."

Day also spoke about where the entire LGBT+ movement will progress from where it is now.

"Discrimination and hatred aren't valued by anyone, as a majority of Virginians have indicated, so we believe that full, lived and legal equality for all in Virginia is a very realistic and achievable goal."

# SECRETS & STORIES

You walk the halls of West Potomac everyday, you see the same things over and over again, same walls, same floors. But how well do you really know West Potomac? The history of the land our high school is built on goes back to the days of George Washington. Washington had a family of slaves called the Quander family. When he died, he gave the slaves the land

that the school is built on. The Quander family owned the land and farmed on it. The land became known as "Spring Bank". Eventually, the Quander family sold a part of the land so a school could be built. This school was Bryant Middle School, which then became Groveton High School in 1976 when the buildings switched.

There is an urban legend that there are tunnels throughout the structure of the school that reach to the other side of Quander road. These tunnels could have been used as part of the Underground Railroad, helping slaves escape to the North during the Civil War. Is this legend really true? By Bela Starinchak and Jenni Wheaton



This door, found in a wall in the school, is an entrance to a tunnel under a staircase.



The otherside of the door. The floor of the tunnel is dirt and there is no lighting.

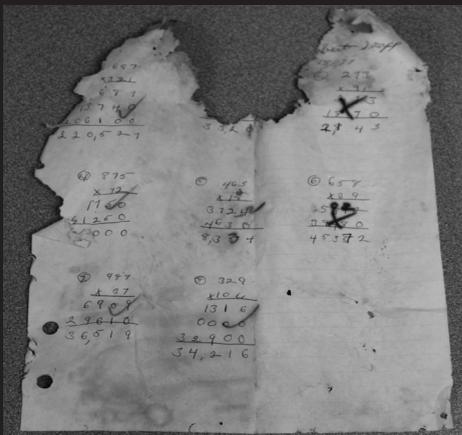


The second entrance, a trap door. It was locked and has not been opened since renovations, so we could not get inside.

It turns out that there are, in fact, tunnels under the school. Though the location of these tunnels cannot be disclosed, *The Wire* was able to go into them and take pictures. One of the tunnels is not really a tunnel anymore. It ends, probably due to renovations to the building.

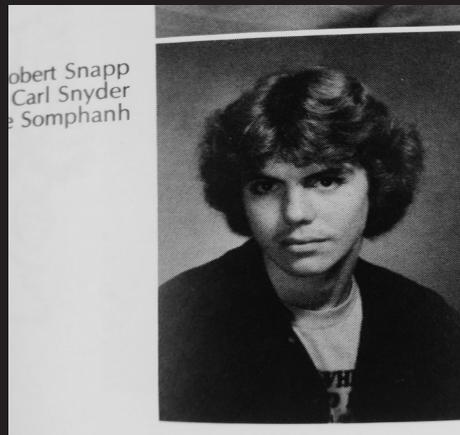
However, it is tall enough for someone to stand under. The entrance to the tunnel is a small cubby that requires crawling inside. The floor is all dirt with old cinder blocks piled in a corner. The walls have pipes on them, and cobwebs hang from the ceiling. It could be an area for maintenance workers such

as plumbers or electricians to get to the pipes and wires, but it appears that no one has been in there for many years.



As the tunnels in the school were explored, evidence was found that suggested that someone, perhaps a former student, had been in them at some time.

There was a hall pass, dated back to 1978 found in the first tunnel, along with math homework and an



old juice can. On the math homework was a name, Robert Snapp. He was in the Gunston High School yearbook as a freshman in '78 and '79. After that, he was not in the yearbooks anymore, suggesting that he may have moved.



So, what do you think? Are there actually tunnels under the school or is this all still an urban legend? Tell us in a poll on the website ([thewpwire.org](http://thewpwire.org))! There are also various pictures from around the school featured.