

Focus, 7-8
Tune in to find out who **Laura Zitnik** will choose on **"The Bachelorette"** this Spring on **ABC!**



THE EMPIRE

EAST POTOMAC HIGH SCHOOL

Volume 24, Issue #8
6500 Quander Road
Alexandria, VA 22307

Thursday, April 2, 2009

HAMMONDS CAUGHT

TWIN BROTHERS SUSPENDED, CONVICTED

Scandal Unfolds: New Evidence Found

MARIYA "ON TOP OF THE UNIVERSE" ILYAS
EVIL TOTALITARIAN

The recent scandal of the Hammond brothers' arrest has led the school administration to suspect them of possessing the Calculus exams beforehand. "We have reason to believe that they either have answer keys or the actual exams," said Jim Hair, school's security officer.

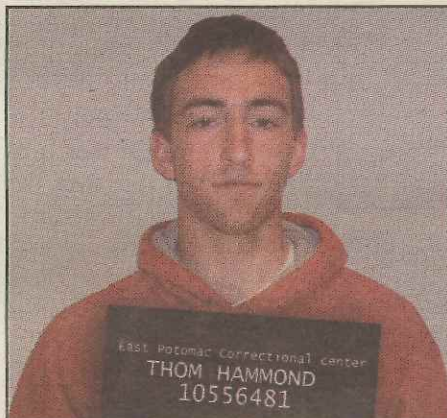
On March 22, Hair searched the twins' backpacks. To his surprise, he found a copy of the school master key in Thom's pencil pouch. "We're not sure how it got there, but we're going to find out," said Hair.

It was discovered that the key belonged to chief janitor, Jacob Henry. Official records show that Henry got a replacement for his missing key on September 12, 2008, just a week into the school year.

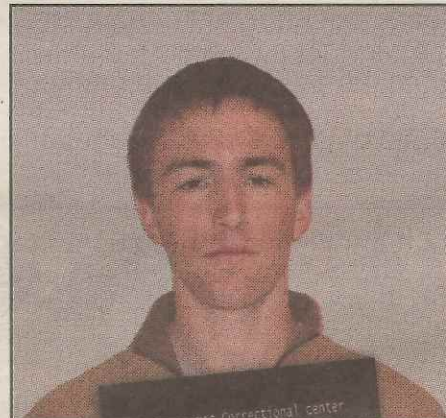
On March 23, Henry told the press that he recalled talking to the Hammond brothers on September 12. According to Henry, Ben notified him of a large water spill in the Connector hallway. "I hurried there in hopes of cleaning the hallway before the bell rang and students were out," said Henry. "I didn't want anyone to get hurt."

Henry had forgotten his key ring hanging on the janitor closet's door.

Photos by Mariya Ilyas



Thom Hammond



Ben Hammond

Caught Cheating in Calculus BC

MARIYA "ON TOP OF THE UNIVERSE" ILYAS
EVIL TOTALITARIAN

Two of the senior class's top students were caught cheating on a Calculus BC test.

Seniors and twin brothers, Thom and Ben Hammond, are both straight-A students at our school and are reported for being hard workers both inside and outside of the classroom. No one expected them to do anything unethical, especially academically.

On March 10, Calculus BC teacher, Allison Satterwhite, caught the two exchanging answers. "I saw Thom looking over Ben's paper," she said. "I was completely shocked and utterly disappointed!"

After catching the twin brothers, Satterwhite immediately sent them to the administration. The Hammonds received zeroes on the test, and faced disciplinary action. The two are

being suspended from school for an entire week.

Thom denied looking at his brother's paper. "I didn't do it," he shouted while walking away.

The Hammonds argued that the exam, which tested the students' knowledge of integration methods, Riemann sums, and advanced optimization problems, was entirely an unfair assessment. Ben, who felt confident and prepared for the exam, said "That test was very outrageous!"

"She cannot test us on material we have not mastered," added Thom.

According to progress reports, the Hammonds have scored 100-percents on every test since the beginning of the year.

Found Guilty, Convicted

MARIYA "ON TOP OF THE UNIVERSE" ILYAS
EVIL TOTALITARIAN

On March 27, the Hammond brothers publicly admitted that they had both planned the scheme together. With the master key, Thom was able to sneak into Satterwhite's classroom after track practice and steal the entire year's tests with answer keys. "It was our only way to survive the difficult course," defended Ben.

According to Hair, both were suspended from school for two weeks for "academic dishonesty." However, the theft of the school master key is a federal crime, and both brothers were convicted of the misdemeanor. On March 27, they were taken by the police and stayed in jail overnight. Their mug shots were taken and publicized in a press release later that day.

They were released on a bail of \$16,589.99 on March 29.

In addition, the brothers who were once at the top of their class jeopardized their educational future with this scandal. University of Virginia, their first choice school, revoked its acceptance letters. "We do not accept that kind of behavior," said Janet Rutledge, Dean of UVA.

Freshmen Student Food Fight Takes It Over the Top, Causes Chaos

GWEN "G-FISH" FISHEL
THE SEMICOLON

Juniors Mathew Cunningham and Meredith Ryan started a food fight in the cafeteria, causing some students to go hungry and others to go crazy. The food fight lasted all four lunch periods and took the administration two hours to get the students under control.

On March 23, 2009, students entered A lunch in their regular routine. However, what began as a normal lunch period turned into utter chaos in a matter of minutes. Ryan was already angry with Cunningham when she sat down at the same table. This was mostly because he accidentally tore her MCL, which made her miss two weeks of lacrosse practice.

However, the issue escalated quickly,

and Ryan picked up the spaghetti from her tray, and threw it at Cunningham. Furious, Cunningham splashed his Coca-Cola at Ryan. According to an innocent bystander, junior Charlotte Hickok, the entire population in the cafeteria went completely silent, and then sheer pandemonium broke out. "All of the sudden, people were just throwing food. Others were on the table. It was like a nastier version of the presidential debates," said Hickok.

The fight continued for two hours. During this time, students entered and exited to join in the "fun." Freshman Jacob Alexander helped to lead a raid amongst students against the cafeteria ladies, and stole food from the stock room to help prolong the fight. Alexander said, "The fight was so awesome, and I just had to make it continue. Plus, I didn't want to go to math class."

Students went crazy, and the cafeteria began to look like a scene out of the movie, *Mean Girls* – students on the tables, acting like animals. Sophomore Madeline Evans began to jump around on the table and according to junior Taylor Pierce, who stopped from throwing her Doritos to watch her, said, "she looked like a monkey, doing a rain dance."

Peculiarly, Cunningham and Ryan ditched out shortly after the fight began. They shook hands and made an agreement, and then hugged it out. "It was really both of our faults. We realized that things had gotten out of control, so we 'rolled,'" said Ryan.

While security officers tried to stop the fight, they were largely unsuccessful, mostly because of the number of students

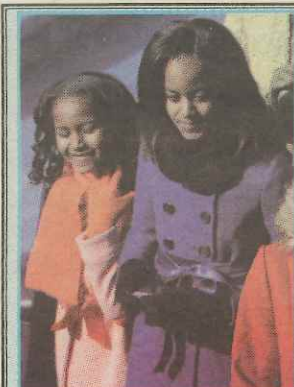


Photo by Gwen Fishel

Freshmen Tommy Friederich and Joe Marinelli beat up Josh Belanger in a food fight.

involved. Junior Maddie Dahl said, "they tried really hard to get everyone, but their

See Food Fight, page 5



Obama Girls Order
Pulley Center Cookies

News
Page -5



Cat Meat
Found in Caf-
eteria Food

News,
Page 26



Kevin Bacon
Makes Guest
Appearance
to Footloose

Style,
Page 450

RAVES and Rants

A **RAVE** for college rejections.

A **rant** for college acceptances.

A **RAVE** for the Titanic sinking.

A **rant** for Thomas Edison for inventing the light bulb. Thanks to him, we now have electricity bills.

A **RAVE** for communist Venezuela.

A **RAVE** for rants.

A **rant** for diet soda.

A **RAVE** for dead cats.

A **rant** for annoying kids.

A **RAVE** for us winning the Mexican War.

A **rant** for the school's lack of toilet paper.

A double **RAVE** for *The Empire*.

A **rant** for girls that crack their joints.

HEY SENIORS: GET OVER IT!

Dear Editor,

I am a teacher at our school who, quite honestly, is sick of the whole college deal. I teach seniors, and around this time, all they talk about is where they got in and where they got rejected from; we can never get anything done. Ironically, this is preventing them from learning, and therefore hurting their future because they are not learning the material they need for college. To solve this problem, I have a proposal. West Potomac needs to throw out the college application process entirely. This will solve a lot of problems and will actually help prepare students for college.

-A Concerned Teacher

CORRECTIONS

- We accidently mentioned Victoria Narine as part of our staff. She is nothing but a lonely student.
- Unfortunately, Mady Miller was listed as an Assistant Style Editor the entire year. She is actually the staff maid.
- Do not be confused by Michaela "THIIIGHT" Accardi's nickname, she is not.
- We gave Mariya Ilyas too much power on staff and now she has become a world tyrant. We sincerely regret it and are scared for our lives. Save us!

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GREY: Emily Smith, Gretchen Walzl.

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PROUD OF MY SCHOOL

Hi Editor (Ms. Ilyas),

I read your paper often. I really like. I love your column on TJ kids. I think I agree with you. I don't like TJ either. They think they smart. It not fair they get more of the money then us. They no know how to have fun, they study, study all the time. I wish there parent tell them to go outside sometime. I like this school a lot. I really proud to go here. West Potomac is really good and give me everything for education. I really thankful.

-Freshman, Kim Lee

WE STILL SEGREGATED?

Ay Yo Editor,

I came to visit yo school last week, and wuz disappointed 2 see segremagation. Dawg man! Forget them minority kids; I was more \$uprised to see my people sitting 20 miles away from them whites! Yo, what up with that? I thought we went through that trouble in them 1960's, didn't we? We been a equal nation, com'on now. Here, I'll even a copy of the Gettysburg Address for yo peeps. My mans, Abe Lincoln, wrote that thang in hope of integrating his peoples yo'll, and I come up in this school to see this? Mans, I'm madd. Get yo thang together!

All yours women,

-Pimpin' Jackson Hay

REJECTED FROM EMPIRE

Dear Applicant,

Thank you for applying to the Empire University. We regret to inform you that you were not selected for admission to our college. With the record number of applications we received, the decision making process was not an easy one. We hope that you will understand.

While we understand you will not be receiving world-class education from our institution, we wish you the best of luck in your future educational endeavors wherever you decide to pursue them.

Warm Wishes,

Mariya Ilyas & Grace Powell

Deans of Admissions

If you have an opinion on a school-related issue, keep it to yourself because we don't wanna hear about it.

THE EMPIRE STAFF

West Potomac High School
6500 Quander Road
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Thursday, April 2, 2009
Volume #24 Issue 8

EVIL TOTALITARIANS

Mariya "On Top of the Universe" Ilyas

Grace "Sooo Done" Powell

BIG MOUTH

Lucas "Santeria" Alexander

Alex "soo indi3~" Fabrizio

POLLSTER

Rachel "Book" Martin

Erin "I Love High School" Parker

Tidae "Tomorrow" Johnson

THE DO NOTHINGS

Michaela "THIIIGHT" Accardi

Emily "Milkshake" Smith

"WHY AM I THE SPORTS EDITOR?"

Bryan "It's Britney" Jacobs

THE C++ NERD

Asma "Athsma" Ahmad

THE DOLLAR-RULE NAZI

Stephen "Tie Die" Howell

VOGUE

Victoria "Starbucks" Narine

LABORERS

Catherine "I Score Goals" Bradley

Karla "Miss Attitude" Cruz

Peter "Wanna Hang Out?" Coffey

Megan "Newb" Haley

Rachel "Not the One From Friends" Martin

Jessica "Obama" Taylor

ANDERSON COOPER 359's

Michaela "THIIIGHT" Accardi

Stephen "Tie Die" Howell

TEEN VOGUE

Emily "Side Kick" Griffin

Madyson "Is anyone hungry?" Miller

DADDY WARBUCKS

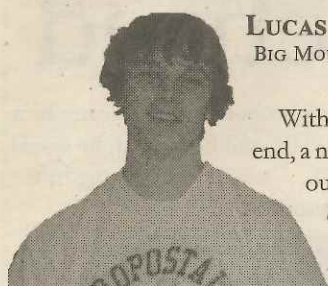
Zach "ZAAAAAACH" Feinstein

JUST THERE TO BE THERE

Laura "Bachlorette" Zitnik

The Empire is a publication whose aim is to distract, misinform, and attack the student body. *The Empire* will print any material that is libelous or obscene, or that 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. *The Empire* is an open forum for discussion which is printed by Silver Communications.

Student Spreads Lice Epidemic



LUCAS "SANTERIA" ALEXANDER
BIG MOUTH

With flu season coming to an end, a new problem has arisen that our school's students have to deal with: a lice epidemic that is permeating our classrooms and hallways.

Lice are wingless insects that prey on the scalps of other animals, especially humans, feasting on their skin and blood. Nearly 1,200 cases have been reported in the past month after a rigorous investigation by the Northern Virginia Police Department. They also came across some very intriguing and important information that could lead to a huge scandal. Junior Maxwell Robert Muir is suspected to be the culprit of the crime.

It was reported that Muir had been buying and distributing hats contaminated with lice to students across the school. He got these hats from infamous thrift stores, and then knowingly sold them, knowing that it was illegal. Therefore, Muir may face up to 1,200 counts of attempted murder.

Muir started by buying countless amounts of hats from every thrift store he could bike to, until he finally found one with lice. He went on to infect all of the hats and gave them out to his friends when they wanted asked to borrow them. The friends gave them to other friends, and it just became a vicious cycle of lice spreading.

Muir is being accused of plotting this whole scheme with a couple of other students who frequently shop at thrift stores themselves. Officials said that the stores themselves may be in on it, seeking to release a new line of lice-caused-by-thrift-store-hats resistant shampoo. Recent figures, from the sales numbers from "Head and Shoulders" 2008 income summary, show that with the increased rate of thrift store shoppers, the criminals involved would have become immediate billionaires.

Muir has repeatedly denounced the claims and he continues to proclaim his innocence, sometimes in a manner so blazon that it has become very suspicious as to whether or not he is covering up something. In a recent conversation Muir had, that was overheard by our source in the hallways, he said "SHUT UP THAT IS NOT TRUE." This is clearly a little over the top.

Muir has also refused to take a DNA test to one of the hats to prove his innocence. Luckily, police confiscated a hat from a student who had gotten lice, as well as one of Muir's disgusting track outfits. They plan to run DNA tests on them this week to see if they match, and if they do, Muir faces extreme punishment.

However, presented with the evidence, it is pretty obvious he is guilty.

lalexander@wpwire.com

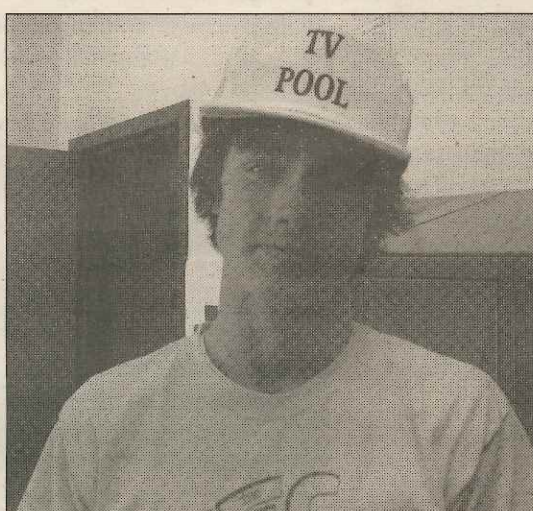
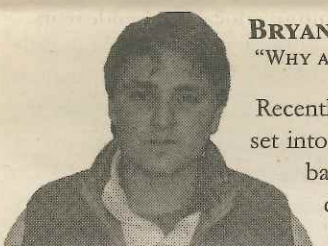


Photo by Lucas Alexander

Above, junior Max Muir is seen wearing one of his infamous hats, with lice clearly visible in his hair.

School to Implement Punishment



BRYAN "IT'S BRITNEY" JACOBS
"WHY AM I THE SPORTS EDITOR?" EDITOR

Recently, the administration has set into motion a new regulation banning all student texting during school hours, and breaking this rule would result in losing all ten fingers.

Though the topic is a hot one and often debated, it has come to be accepted by a few parents, the administration, and the county School Board as an official problem. Most, if not all, school officials felt that the texting problem needed to be officially addressed and cut out completely during all school hours. The new regulation has been added to Rule 19.0 Section 4.8 in the *Students Rights and Responsibilities* handbook and took effect on March 6, 2009, outlining the rules of texting in a school environment. The new rule will remain in effect for the remainder of our school's existence. For the most part, students were outraged with the new regulation. Yet, there has been a decrease in the overall amount of cell phones taken, according to reports from security. Aside from these benefits, the regulation has come under constant fire from students across the county and public rallies have been held in order to revoke the new regulation. A student from our school has taken matters into her

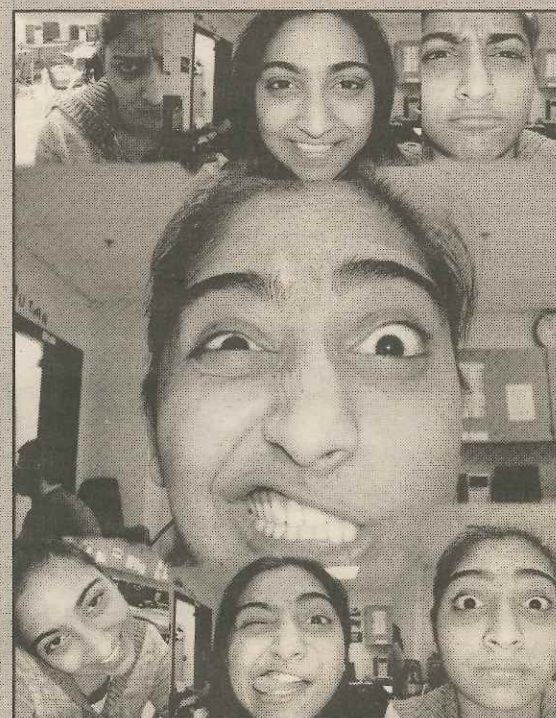
own hands. Although her actions have been called radical by most school administrators, she believes she is fighting for a cause that is worthwhile.

Junior Lizzy Lunday has been a main opponent to the new rule and has organized protests. She has received support from parents, whose children have lost fingers under the new regulation. Also, she has built a support system from a myriad of students and teachers. She can be seen during the demonstrations yelling and screaming for the human rights of students, followed by students who hold signs that state "Fingers have feelings too" and "You can take my fingers, but not my dignity".

Just after delivering a fiery speech against the new regulation passed by the school board she stated, "My friends and I are absolutely against the new regulation, because it primarily violates our human rights. Also, we text constantly during school and it does not affect grades or disrupt school time. My protests are largely attended by students who have lost fingers, just regular students, and even teachers who want the message to be heard. I just pray this doesn't spread to Loudon or Prince George County." The recent regulations are bound to cause even more local and national controversy. Recently a local child, who has lost all of his fingers, is taking this new regulation to the United States Supreme Court in order to overturn the new rule.

bjacobs@wpwire.com

HANGING OUT WITH THE HEAD HONCHO



Photos by Mariya Ilyas

MARIYA "ON TOP OF THE UNIVERSE" ILYAS
EVIL TOTALITARIAN

Props to Thomas Edison for inventing the light bulb, a breakthrough invention that changed the world and made a significant stride in the technological advancement of the human race. But we cannot *all* be Edison, right? Let us face it. The hundreds of cheesy inventions that are out there today are nothing but pathetic.

Exhibit A: paper reinforcements. You know, the circular, sticker thing-o-majigies you put on loose leaf paper when it tears out. An experienced user myself, I can honestly attest to this invention's stupidity. First to note is that the reinforcements themselves are made out of paper. So, if the original loose leaf paper ripped, then expect it to rip again with reinforcements on. What is the point of reinforcements, you ask? Good question. There is none. End of discussion.

Exhibit B: the Snuggie. (For those of you who have no idea what a "Snuggie" is, it is a blanket in the form of a long coat.) In addition to looking like a ridiculous fool, you are giving false hopes to the poor inventor by purchasing it and thus implying that the silly thing is actually useful, when, in reality, it is not. Let us all come out and speak the truth and be honest human beings because our dire world situation cannot afford any more lies.

Blankets, defined as large, rectangular pieces of fine fleece, were invented to keep people warm at night. Similarly, coats were invented to keep people warm while in movement. The idea of combining these two, completely separate inventions is not only unoriginal, but also ludicrous. The advertising name of "Snuggie" may have been marketed well, but it certainly did not fool smart customers — like myself — to spend money on such a useless thing.

By the way, if you have already purchased a Snuggie (what were you thinking?!), then I suggest you start making posters to advertise your next garage sale. At least, that way you can make a couple bucks.

Lastly, Exhibit C: erasable pens. Um, no, not hot at all. You do not look "cool" and you do not look "vish." Many of you know exactly where I'm going with this invention. A pen is not meant to be erased — geez Louise! Use a freakin' pencil if you are prone to constantly making mistakes. (By the way, if by this time, you cannot write in pen, that is a shame.) People, the point of pens is to make things official and permanent. And if one can erase, say signatures, that is just like cheating, and we all know cheating is bad. So, please do yourself a huge favor: grab some white paper, an ink pen that does *not* erase, and practice, practice, practice! Please do not offend the pencil, it deserves better.

The point of this column is not to offend any of the inventors out there. (By all means, please keep your juices flowing!) In actuality, this column is a call for hope — and sanity — in future inventions. I wrote this with the hopes of reminding everyone that money is not necessity for life, and that ridiculous inventions, such as the ones mentioned above, are not at all necessary.

With that said, I would like to give a shout-out to the "best and brightest" students to come and save the day, as I am sure their light bulbs go off every minute.

milyas@wpwire.com

EAST POTOMAC HIGH 3RD QUARTER REPORT CARD	
BATHROOM CLEANLINESS	A+
SCHOOL FOOD	A
PRESIDENT OBAMA	A
UGGS	F
OVERALL SCHOOL GRADE	D

Physics Teacher, Rezendes Is Retired

RACHEL "NOT THE ONE FROM FRIENDS" MARTIN
LABORER

Everyone who has had physics teacher Stephen Rezendes knows that he likes to complain. However, it turns out that he likes his job more than he wants anyone to know. Rezendes retired from teaching at our school five years ago. However, he continues to come to school regularly. "After he retired, I thought he'd be spending more time on himself, hobbies, or taking classes," said Principal Rima Vesilind, looking perplexed. "However, the year after he resigned, he continued to visit the school almost every day. Eventually we had to give him a classroom and some students, so he would leave the other physics teachers alone." Originally, Rezendes would wander the school, entering science classrooms, and occasionally taking over lessons if he did not believe the teacher was explaining the concepts correctly. "I'm just glad they gave him a few classes," said physics teacher Garrett Hubbard. "He used to barge into my room and argue

about whether light had mass or not. Very distracting."

His students were surprised to learn that Rezendes has kept on teaching, because he has a strong dislike for grading and dealing with parents. He also greatly resents being disrupted, while doing such tasks. "You made me forget what I was doing," said Rezendes, calling after a student walking away from his desk after having a question answered.

The parents of several students were less than pleased to find that their children's physics teacher was no longer indeed working at this school. "How are we supposed to know if he's even authorized to teach if he no longer works here?" asked Ellen Floyd, mother of junior Lauren Floyd. "I'm surprised the School Board allows this." However, Vesilind assures parents that their students are receiving a quality education from Rezendes. "While I understand this is an unusual situation, Mr. Rezendes is fully qualified to teach physics. He would not be teaching here if he were not."

To some degree, the fact that Mr. Rezendes does not indeed work at this school may explain some of his quirks. For instance, some students have noticed his rather lenient approach to accepting late work. Perhaps he feels less pressured to give stringent deadlines because of the fact that he is indeed retired. Whenever he commences a lesson, he generally begins with the phrase, "I'm actually going to teach you all something," despite the fact that this happens nearly every day. Perhaps he too is surprised at his decision to teach adolescents a subject as abstract as physics for no pay. "They don't pay me enough. They don't pay me anything. I actually just like it here," said Rezendes when asked about how he feels about his choice to continue teaching.

So why exactly did Rezendes choose to continue working? "I love to teach. It's the best job I've ever had," said Rezendes. "And eleventh grade really is the best age to teach at. They aren't immature, like freshman, but they still come to class, unlike seniors." Rezendes did look forward to his retirement when he

decided to stop working, not realizing how bored he would be, and how much he would miss his job. "It sure beats being in the Navy," said Rezendes, laughing.

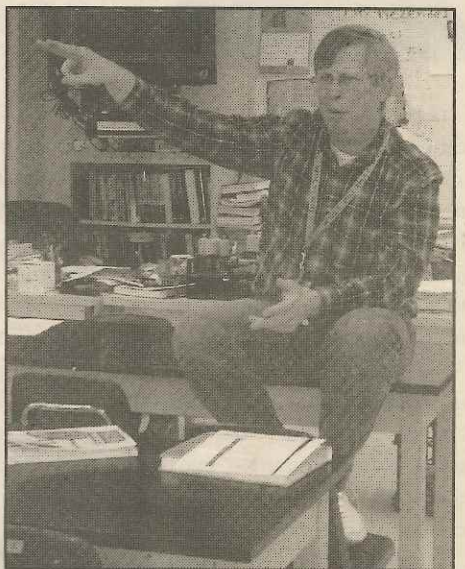


Photo by Michaela Accardi

Stephen Rezendes teaches his class about the theory of relativity although he remains unpaid.

School Switches Mascot Hugh Jackman: our school's new poster boy

JESSICA "OBAMA" TAYLOR
LABORER

Many students and staff members at our school have probably joked about being "wolverines" before, but what would they say if they heard our school was really switching our mascot from the wolverine animal to the X-Man Wolverine?

Yes. It is official. In promotion of the newest X-Men film, *X-Men Origins: Wolverine*, 20th Century Fox (the distributor of the X-Men franchise) has proposed deals with high schools throughout the country whose mascots are wolverines to officially change from the animal to the fictional superhero. Along with high schools from Washington State to the Bronx, our school has agreed to the switch.

School officials have cited the budget cuts as the ultimate reason for agreeing to the offer from Fox. Principal Rima Vesilind said, "With the money we're making from this

partnership with the *X-Men* franchise, we'll be able to continue paying for the English department [which FCPS was considering cutting since we all speak English.]" Many other school officials are citing needed money due to budget cuts as the ultimate reason that they approved of the change, but no one has been willing to release the exact figure that 20th Century Fox is paying us for the mascot switch.

Students' responses to the change have been mixed. Some students view the change as humorous. However, a portion of the student body is outraged. These students have begun organizing protests and boycotts of sporting events, in order to voice their displeasure.

"It's not fair!" said senior Alexander Valentino, a tri-athlete who plans to attend Michigan University in the fall, "our school has very little history separate from Groveton and Fort Hunt. The wolverine skin from Michigan University was given to our school, when we first formed and has always been a point of pride and a part of our tradition. It's the reason we are the wolverines and should not be changed."

Most students not opposed to the change are rather apathetic; however, counter protests supporting the switch have been organized by students in the English department. "We desperately need new computers for our department," explained senior drama student Robert Ginsberg. "If this mascot deal can help us pay for it, I'm all for it!"

Though the change might be shrouded in controversy, there is no doubt that it has helped Fox's goal of peeking interest in the latest installment of *X-Men*, which is set to hit theaters on May 1, 2009.

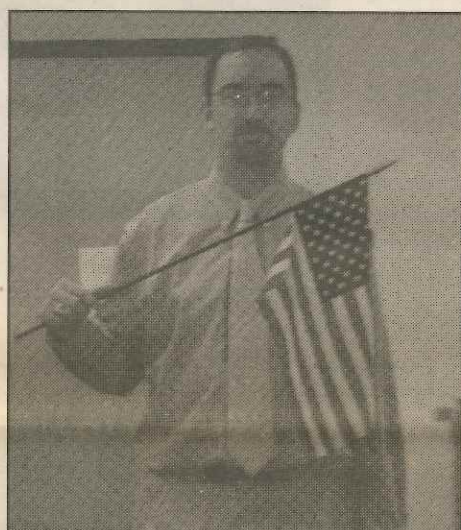


Photo by Emily Griffin

Salvatore Olivo gives his final goodbye to his Advanced Placement (AP) students as he is personally escorted out of class by members of the Immigration and Naturalization Services (INS).

MEGAN "NEWB" HALEY
LABORER

On March 23, resident history teacher Salvatore Olivo was deported for alleged "criminal activity." Police did not release the charges as it was discovered, through the investigation, that Olivo was not in fact a United States citizen.

In the early 1970s, the Olivo family was running from persecution and fled to the US along with their young son Sal. The Olivos managed to get VISAs to enter the country, but never pursued proper citizenship. While the years went on, the Olivos flew under immigration radar, until now.

As a child, Sal was taught the most important rule of the family: never break the law, for any reason. If people were to find out that they were not actually citizens, the entire family would be deported. Of course, at 7, Sal did not understand what this meant, only that he had to do as he was

Olivo Gets Deported

told and stay out of the way when it came to cops.

Fake IDs and lying became a way of life for Olivo, so when it came time to get a job, Olivo did not earn a degree. Instead, he obtained a faux-teaching degree and got a job teaching his passion, history.

Because of his carelessness, Olivo not only got himself deported, but every member of his family that was not born within the 'States.' This included three generations of Olivos, including extended family. Over 25 people were deported to Italy, where they will face further persecution for their crimes.

The United States Immigration and Naturalization Services (INS) have reportedly cracked down on immigration due to the Olivo scandal. Thousands of illegal aliens across America are being deported to their home countries, even after living in the 'States' for some as long as 50 years.

Countless members of Olivo's classes are dealing with the loss of their teacher more than halfway through the year. They are mixed in their reactions to the recent incidents. "I can't believe he was illegal, all that time, this doesn't bode well for my AP exam in May," said junior Laina Schneider. "I don't really care that he's gone, I mean a teacher is a teacher, you don't need a personal connection to learn," said junior Peter Stebbins.

Regardless of how the students feel, Olivo is gone and they will be receiving an interim substitute to finish the year. Jeff Feinstein has agreed to help Olivo's AP students in any way possible, so that they too will be prepared to take the AP examination this May.



Photo by Handout/KRT

In promotion of a new film, our school's mascot is now officially being changed to the fictional superhero, Wolverine.

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Budget Cuts Planners

TIDAE "TOMORROW" JOHNSON
PAPARAZZI

"I saw it; hand over your cell phone!" This is one line that some students are far too familiar with, yet not for much longer. With the search for new ways to save money, the superintendent plans to use students' cell phone to save Fairfax County Public schools about 500,000 dollars worth of paper.

Four Fairfax County Public Schools, including ours, are looking into cutting out the daily planner. Fairfax County Budget Council estimated that FCPS spends about half a million dollars on paper alone, just for the planners. By allowing students to use their cell phones as daily agendas, we can use the money used for that on textbooks and other students needs.

Chairman and Lead Policy Maker of Fairfax County Policy Making Committee, Seth Jobbs, held a press conference on March 13, 2009, where he stated that "[the committee] are looking at the good and bad of

this ground breaking policy. We know not everyone is going to be pleased but we will try our best to make it fair and realistic as possible." The first copy of the new policy stated that every Fairfax County student sign a form, saying that they are only allowed to have their phones in the beginning and the end of each class. It goes on stating that is mandatory that teachers give each student time to add homework and other assignments in their phone. Fairfax County Public Schools are working on guidelines, so that each student and staff member has a clear understanding. Could it be too good to be true? Less than 72 hours ago, the conference was held and already there are doubts. "I don't see this working," junior Hunter Kincannon said, with a huge grin and arms folded. "And if it does work, it probably only last for a month or two."

Students and teachers feels the same way. Eleventh grade English teacher Alicia Silverstone said, "This is another way to cause chaos, among teachers and students. In the ideal world, this plan seems golden. Sadly, we don't live there; it will just be anther way to distract the students."

The pros and the cons were both addressed to the superintendent, by the Fairfax Policy Makers and the Budget Council. An open house county meeting is open to all and all ideas, thoughts, and opinions on this matter are welcome. A series of six meetings will occur over a period of three months. The first will be held April 1, 2009, at South County Elementary at 6:00pm.

For more information, go to www.FairfaxCountyInfo.com



Photo by Bryan Jacobs

Librarian Andrea Meeks found a priceless artifact in our school's library.

Artifact Found

GRACE "SOOO DONE" POWELL
EVIL TOTALITARIAN

The *History Channel* will be conducting a segment on our school about a recent discovery in the library. The object is rumored to be an authentic George Washington painting—worth millions.

Librarian Andrea Meeks keeps records of nearly anything related to our school. So, when English teacher Paul Russell asked her to locate one of his old yearbooks, she was more than willing. "We really keep exhaustive records here at West Potomac, so I knew it would be no problem to pull up Paul's book." What she thought would only take minutes, evolved into a three hour scouring of the library. "Well, I got to looking into the closet and began to find many interesting things, things I had forgotten about." Meeks located student time capsules from the 1960s, blueprints for placing the rock on school grounds, and a sock among other things.

"By the time I reached the old yearbooks, I had enough stuff to fill the National History Museum!" Meeks found Russell's yearbook and then decided to clean out the rest of the closet. "I wanted to freshen it up a bit and add a few things to my database...in the process of dusting down the walls, I saw something that looked like decay," said Meeks. Meeks began touching the wall to inspect the damage when a shadow passed over her eyes. "It looked just like a bird flapped its wings or something. I was a bit startled." Meeks looked down to see that a paper had slid past her eyes, she picked it up and read.

Historian Juahanne Johnson has been studying historic artifacts at the National History Institution for over fifteen years now. After a disappointing excavation in the Jinggang mountains, Johnson decided to begin making retirement plans. Yet, a recent call changed everything. "I get this phone call and when I heard what they had to say, I immediately hung up the phone thinking it was just a scam." Johnson said the calls persisted day after day until he decided to hear it out. "So I say to them, 'You are telling me some school in Virginia is carrying the *last* document ever rumored to be written by George Washington?' Johnson laughed, "I said, you've got to be kidding me." But, they were not.

Meeks contacted several different history forums in regards to her discovery. However, she did not explicitly tell anyone about her discovery. "This type of thing happens all the time, I didn't want people to think I was just making this up." Johnson conceded to fly to Virginia to check out Meeks' discovery. "We are very certain that this discovery is indeed authentic." The process for validating this discovery is strenuous and will be a six month to a year process. Meeks is hopeful. "This is just amazing, I cannot describe how bizarre it all is," she continued. "I am just honored to be able to be a part of something like this."

Food Fight Continues

Continued from page 1

efforts were useless. Honestly, I think that it was really fun. I would probably like to do it again."

After two hours, the fight desisted, when the food finally ran out. Students then began to take their seats and eat the food around them, as if nothing had happened. However, security guards almost immediately started taking names, but no one was paying attention. Many students were identified, nevertheless, and among them was Student Government Association President John Rice.

All students involved will be placed in detention afterschool in the Cafeteria every Wednesday for the next month. Cunningham and Ryan were not punished, but rather praised for leaving when things got out of control.

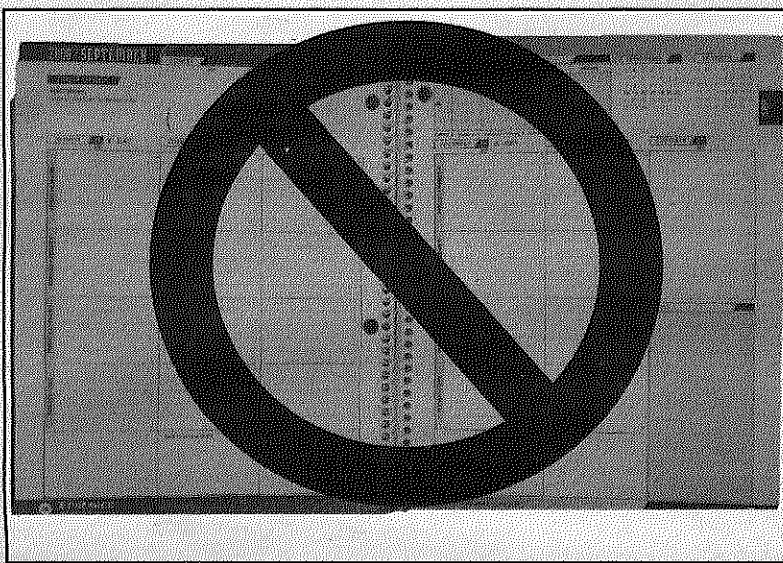


Photo by Michaela Accardi

This flyer can be found throughout the school, displaying the county's recent budget cuts involving planners previously given out for free.

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The Bachelor

note from the bachelorette

After several seasons of whirl-wind love affairs, spectacular dates, broken hearts, and too many engagement rings to even count, I have been elected to appear on ABC's hit series *The Bachelor/The Bachelorette*! I am lucky to be meeting several eligible men (from your very own beloved East Potomac). Who will I pick? Watch this spring to find out!

love,
Laura Zitnik



**Aaron
Helmick**

sign: Leo

perfect date: My perfect date would be an expensive dinner in my favorite little Parisian restaurant. Then, we would discuss our favorite novels over frothy cappuccinos.

perfect mate: My dream girl is tall, thin, and blonde. She listens to bands

like the Pixies and Cake, and is never on time. We would read the *Washington Post* together every morning, and discuss current events. She should not be intimidated by my wealth and luxurious lifestyle.

Laura

sign: Aries

perfect date: A fl champagne and caviar. The

perfect mate: Ev

I'm really going to have to

Hair should be reddish, blo

he should be somewhat lit

mar (to help me grade Eng

ette



*Bobby
Rigby*

sign: Gemini
perfect date: Go to Bob & Edith's Diner, and then go to a monster truck show.
perfect mate: Intelligent, funny, kind, knows how to cut down trees, isn't afraid of antique tools.



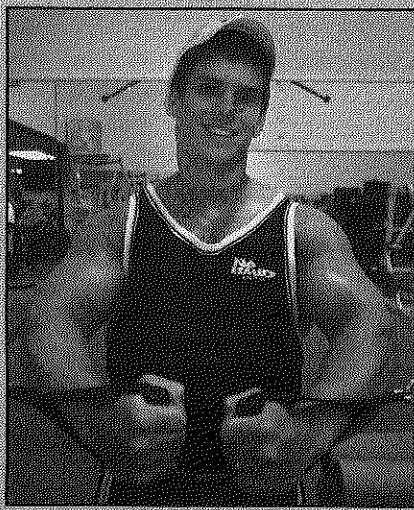
*Chris
Kamar*

sign: Libra
perfect date: You know what they say, 'The best way to a man's heart is through his stomach!' Definitely dinner and dessert to share. Then I'd say go for drinks afterwards. Although doing something unorthodox that you wouldn't normally think of would be fun too. I don't know. I'm pretty easy to please.
perfect mate: I'm definitely looking for someone with momentum, someone who can keep me on my feet and change the routine up a bit. I mean, I do go to bed at 8:00 every night and my life has become nothing but a routine, so momentum would be nice. Otherwise, I'm really not that picky. All that's required of her is to be a brunette, younger than me, and shorter than me. Oh yeah, and she has to cook well too. :-D.

to Europe on a private plane with
not too much to ask, right?
one always says "sense of humor," but
with huge biceps and looks to die for.
sh, blackish, brownish -- or bald. Also,
e and have a basic knowledge of gram-
papers).

Coffey Talk

Keeping
You
Informed.



PETER "WANNA HANG OUT?" COFFEY
LABORER

Every sport season, athletes are made to sit through boring lectures about the dangerous effects of steroids. However, recent studies show that steroids are beneficial to teenagers. That is right: Dr Lisa F. Al-Bashir a graduate of Harvard Medical School, John Hopkins University, Oxford, and Columbia University proved last month the benefits of steroids and how they promote a long and healthy life. Al-Bashir has been studying steroids for the past 20 years in her castle in Scotland. She did many tests to prove that steroids are good for people, including injecting all her family members with steroids. Her family members are Chuck Liddell, Rampage and Brock Lesnar who are all now famous UFC fighters. "Thanks to steroids I'm in the best heath of my life. Before, I weighed 500 pounds and it was all fat, but now I'm fit and the girls go crazy for me" said Liddell. Not only do steroids make you healthy, they can add years to your life. Up to 20 or more years in fact. When they were testing steroids on dogs the dogs not only went on to compete in competitive horse racing but lived to be 30- and that is not in dog years but in human years!

"I'm so glad the truth is out about steroids" said Al-Bashir. Al-Bashir is now up for many awards for her work including the Nobel Peace Prize. However, Al-Bashir not only studies the effects of steroids, but experiences them first hand. Al-Bashir has been on steroids twice a day for the past six months, and is not able to bench press her Ford F-150. Although steroids still come with some side effects itchy watery eyes, intense muscle growth and cotton mouth. But, these side effects can be easily treated. Al-Bashir is currently touring the nation and going to high schools handing out samples of steroids to athletes. "I hope to extend the life of all athletes and their performances in their sports. It's such a rewarding feeling to watch someone who weighs 120 pounds bench press 400 pounds. I can look at them and say 'I did that!'" Al-Bashir will be coming to our school on April 7, to hand out steroids to all athletes who want them. "I'm very excited to take steroids. I've always wanted to be strong and good at sports" said junior Coleman Coder. Steroids are making every athlete's dreams possible now. No matter what their size is, they have a chance to play professional sports.

There are some people who still have doubts about steroids like junior David Burns "I have been taking steroids for two years now and have seen no improvement in my athletic performance," said Burns. When news of Burns's athletic ability not improving reached Al-Bashir, she did some investigating. What she found is Burns was being given Altoids instead of steroids. Al-Bashir quickly fixed his problem by supplying Burns with free steroids for the next year.

This new research is going to change sports and peoples lives for ever because now everyone has the opportunity to play professional sports.

Sad Farewells to Gymnastics, Warm Welcome to Rugby Team

ZACH "ZAAAAAACH" FEINSTEIN
DADDY WARBUCKS

With the devastating budget cuts finally having an effect on our school, the school board has now decided to make a change in our sports department.

Girls gymnastics, which has been largely forgotten by most of students, is now going to be cut by the school board due to financial constraints.

In place for gymnastics, a new and internationally popular sport will be introduced: rugby.

Rugby is a very popular and rough sport in Europe, South Africa, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, parts of South America, and Fiji. Rugby is similar with our American football and also Canadian football.

Rugby is a very physical sport but unlike football, rugby players do not wear much padding or protection from the other players. The typical uniform for a rugby player is a long sleeved collared t-shirt, shorts, and cleats.

Ever since the school board announced their decision to cancel gymnastics, the decision has been met with good and bad responses from everyone in the school community.

Although the athletes on the gymnastic team did not respond to *The Empire's* questions via email, the gymnastics coach Pete Novgrad responded by saying, "While we respect the decision of the school board, my team and I will continue our love of gymnastics outside of the school for the rest of our lives."

Many students at our school have praised the decision of the School Board because this new sport offers new opportunities to more students than gymnastics did.

Because of rugby's similarity to American football and the physical strength it requires to play it, many students are open to trying it out.

Many football players have even expressed interest in playing because it will keep them in good physical shape and will prepare them for football season in the fall.

One student, junior Colin McComville, said, "I can't wait to try out for rugby because it will keep me in shape for football season."

While some students were made about gymnastics being cut, with such a loss comes a new beginning.

That new beginning is rugby for our school's athletic department. It will be a while before rugby receives the accolades that the gymnastics team has, but it will offer a greater opportunity for students at our school to be involved with sports.

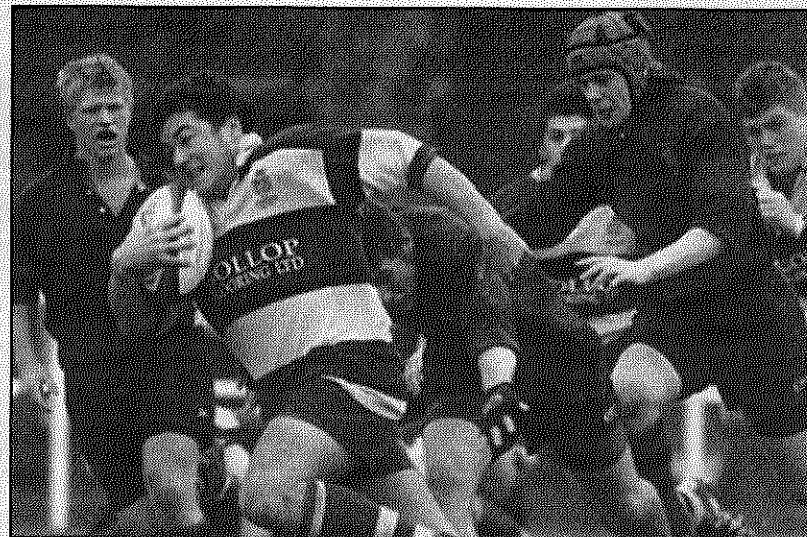


Photo Courtesy of Gonzaga
The boy's prep school, Gonzaga, has already made rugby the official school sport since 2005.

Girls Lacrosse DOES NOT MATTER

MICHAELA "THIGHT" ACCARDI
ANDERSON COOPER 359

Nationals! Yes, it is true the boy's lacrosse team is heading off to Nationals after ending the 2009 regular season undefeated. It cannot really come as a surprise to anyone. The team has had great success over the past three seasons, winning regionals and advancing to the state semi-final game all three years. This is an amazing feat, considering the lacrosse team is not always recognized as a very prestigious sport.

The team finished the regular season, only allowing 15 goals all season and having won all of their games by double digits. When it came time for the district tournament, Coach Carmack knew they already had it won and decided to play the junior varsity team instead. The boys won each game with ease and junior varsity captains Lucas Alexander, Zach Jongema, Mason Kraut, and Riley Randall were named Most Valuable Player collectively of the tournament.

Regionals proved to be the toughest task for the team, who faced Edison in the semi-final game and managed to pull out a 15-7 win, after being ahead by only four goals for most of the game. The regional championship game was scheduled for Saturday, March 21, against Mount Vernon, but after having lost 17-3 at the beginning of the season Mount

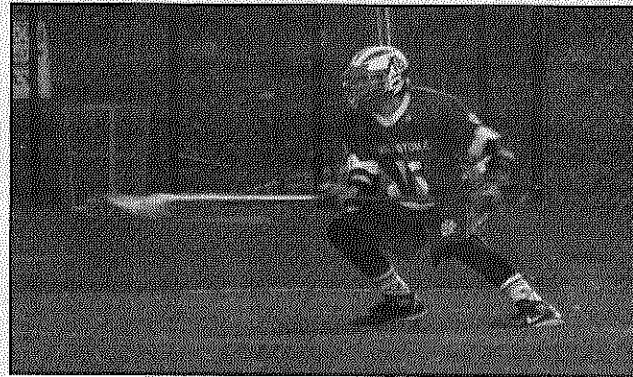


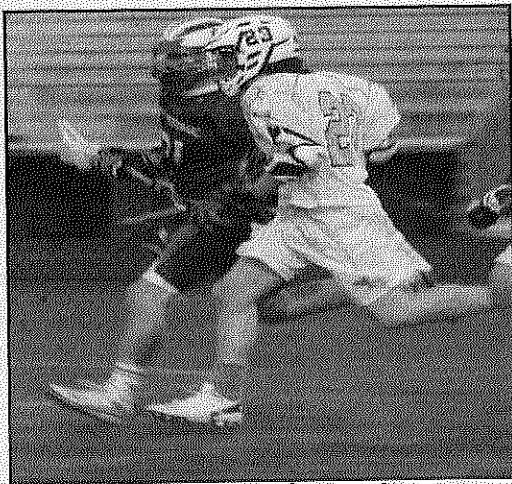
Photo Courtesy of KRT
Junior Matt Campbell is prepared to receive the ball while he holds his mighty stick.

Vernon decided to forfeit the game giving West Potomac an automatic win and crowning them regional champions.

Although they were the big favorite to win states, after losing in the state semi-final game the past three seasons, Carmack did not want to take any chances. He started to have two-a-days, with one practice in the morning from five o'clock to seven o'clock and one after school starting at four and ending at seven. The team rolled through states and won convincingly in the state finals winning 22-4.

The team leaves on Thursday afternoon for Baltimore, Maryland, and will have an all day practice on Friday in preparation for the game. They seem ready to go and senior Steven Paul said, "We've been preparing for this all year we're ready to play and win." This attitude is shared by Paul's teammates and coaches who seem to be ready to go and ready to play. Carmack feels the team is ready and he is excited just to be able to have his team play in the game. "I have been waiting for this moment since I began coaching. It's something that everyone wants to achieve and we are finally getting our chance."

The school has chartered six buses that will leave Saturday morning and head up to Baltimore for the big game. The team is hoping for a big turnout to cheer the team on to victory.



Courtesy of Britney Spears
A Wolverine runs down the field to catch a ball thrown down 20 yards.

The Truth Behind Wacky Wednesdays What are the Teachers Really Doing?

MADYSON "IS ANYONE HUNGRY?" MILLER
TEEN VOGUE

On "Wacky Wednesdays," all of the teachers at our school must come to work at seven in the morning, but what do they do for that extra hour? They are supposedly attending meetings or sitting in their classrooms and grading papers. However, it seems that some teachers are getting a little distracted. Fortunately, they were caught in the act.....

LOUNGING

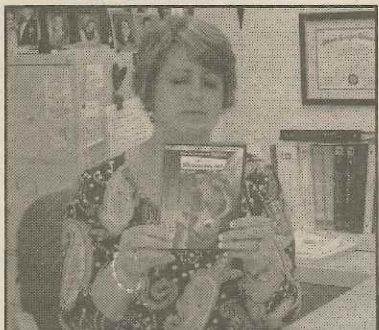


Photo By Emily Griffin

English teacher, Kathryn McCullohs reads the back of the *Monsters Inc.* DVD case, instead of reading classic English literature. McCullohs admits she often reads the enjoyable movie summaries on DVD cases.

SLEEPING

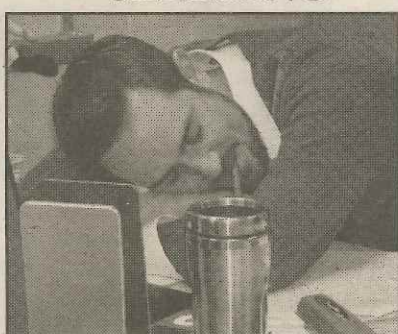


Photo By Emily Griffin

It looked like Colin O'Grady stayed up late last night reviewing material for his classes tomorrow. However, does that give him the "okay" to catch up on his missed sleep at school? Many of his students think not.

COLORING:

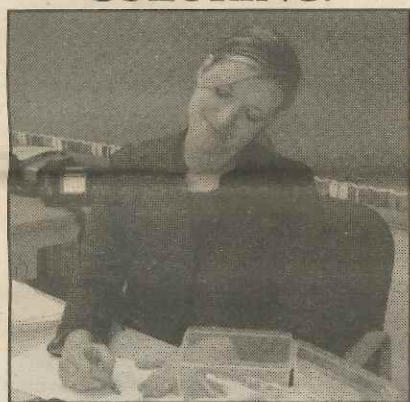


Photo By Emily Griffin

Coloring and drawing seems to be a popular stress reliever among teachers. Kimberly Summers enjoys drawing horses and castles. She is also perfecting the color-in-the-lines skill.

HIDE AND SEEK:



Photo By Emily Griffin

Kathryn Nelson and Gary Hoag like to re-live their elementary years by playing the beloved *Hide and go Seek*. This is also a good way to hide colleagues during Flex meetings!

TEXTING:

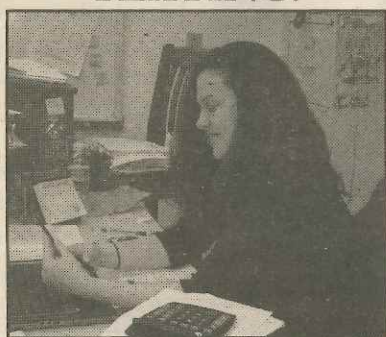


Photo By Emily Griffin

Everyone knows the no texting rule during class. However some teachers, like Christina Romanelli, sneak a few texts in during the day. Hey Ms. Romanelli: Y dnt u txt us sum tyme? lol! :)

DANCE PARTIES:



Photo By Emily Griffin

David Houston is spotted! Houston takes a break from grading papers to boogy woogy! Apparently he was singing, "Do the hustle" at the time.

Student Band Makes it Big

MICHAELA "TIIIIIGHT" ACCARDI
ANDERSON COOPER 359

Juniors Maddie Dahl, Alex Fabrizio, Gwen Fishel, Charlotte Hickok, Lizzy Lunday, and Emily Smith have made it big-- in the music industry that is.

However, unlike most bands popularized today by record deals, the unnamed band has no songs, no one-hit-wonders, and few fans (aside from close friends). Recently featured on MTV's *Cribs*, the band's humble abode in Alexandria, Virginia, was exposed. Their recording studio is found in their home. Unfortunately, the only clips found on record were the sounds of Fishel's laugh and a speech of physics teacher Stephen Rezendes.

When asked about the band, Lunday replied "Well, I'm really excited we scored a record deal, but I have to admit that

it is a unique situation considering the lack of musical substance to our group. I guess we give off a hell of a first impression." The band formed on one fateful night while watching Coachella, and according to Fabrizio, "We are a very organic band and we just let things happen."

As a result of their recent fame, much revenue has come in after a load of public appearances and press conferences. The band plans to use this money to update their style and continue to expand their popularity, and increase the

number of their fans. With the result of their hopefully extreme fame and the approval of the student body, the band may play at this year's prom. Additionally, this will help with the junior class's lack of funds to pay for such a large prom band, as they are willing to play for no charge other than the price of their prom tickets.

The band plans to release their first CD in June, 2009 which will be untitled as well, unless the band comes up with a name between now and then. A normal practice session consists of Fishel and Dahl strumming the guitar, Smith, Fabrizio, and Hickok eating snacks, and Lunday playing with Fishel's cat, Marshmallow. Fabrizio argues that they "do play music!" and plan to have recorded

PLEASE PLACE
BAND PHOTO
HERE!!

A student band makes it into the music industry with a record deal and plans to release their first cd this June.

songs that by this time next year will be played regularly in the cars of teens nationwide. The band would also like to encourage fans to follow their practice of regularly eating cookie dough in spare time.

Although singing may not be the bands forte, Fishel would like to remind fans that they do in fact dance...A LOT. Look forward to seeing the bands tour dates publicly announced and buying tickets to see their talented and exquisite dance moves. With any luck, students will also hear music as well.

School Gives away Confiscated iPods

EMILY "SIDE KICK" GRIFFIN
TEEN VOGUE

Ever wonder what security does with the iPods that they confiscated in September?

The security at our school has officially stated that they plan to give all confiscated iPods to the needy children in Washington D.C. They came up with this idea when sophomore Alexander Tyson said, "iPods are useless to our school. Security should then give away the confiscated iPods to children who desperately need them."

Tyson came up with this mastermind plan, while he was attempting to talk with his friends in class. They were listening to their iPods so intently that they could not hear him.

He had become much accustomed to this situation that he felt the need to tell someone with authority at our school to make it stop.

To vent his frustration, he went to Security Specialist Bill Haire and suggested that they should give confiscated iPods to the needy children in Washington DC. Haire was so intrigued by his idea that he immediately put the plan into motion.

Haire was in support of this idea because he knew that students would not bring their iPods into school if they knew they will never get them back. Sophomore Charolette Strudgeon said that she thinks that "this is a terrible idea. iPods should be taken away for a punishment not to help boost the schools reputation of being more giving."

By giving iPods to the needy children, it will give West Potomac a more charitable reputation than the other competing schools in our area. "This also builds character for the students, by making them think of others who may be less

fortunate before they think of themselves," said Haire.

One of the major flaws to this program is that the students do not get reimbursed after their iPod is given to the needy children. Strudgeon said, "It is unethical and unfair. Stealing from students to make the charity more efficient is just plain wrong."

According to the *Students Rights and Responsibilities*, stealing is not allowed in a Fairfax County Public School. Anyway, a lot of my friends' parents have been complaining about this, you cannot just give away an experience piece of technology like it is worth nothing."

Haire rebutted, "The needy children have hardly anything to start with and students should not be bringing their iPods to school in the first place."

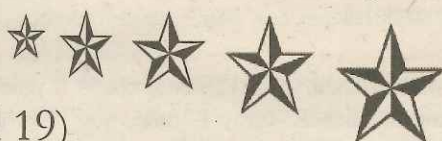


Photo By DLO/ Mct Handout

Shown above are some of the many confiscated iPods that will be sent to the needy children in Washington, D.C.

Look For Your Destiny

EMILY "MILKSHAKE" SMITH
THE DO NOTHINGS



Aries (March 21- April 19)

Life: Just hang in there, it could not possibly get any worse, could it?
Romance: Everyone has a soul mate. Oh, wait, you seem to be on the list of exceptions.
You should invest in a nice goldfish.

Taurus (April 20- May 20)

Life: Remember when you broke that mirror a few years ago, but brushed off the superstition? Well, get ready to regret your flippancy, as your seven years of bad luck starts tomorrow.
Romance: Did you not read the above sentence? There will be no romance for the next seven years. Why do the cosmos have to spell everything out for you?

Gemini (May 21- June 21)

Life: The bluebird of happiness will fly into your life this month—right into the glass window and up into birdie heaven.
Romance: Start searching dating sites for the blind, because that is the only way wedding bells will ring in your future.

Cancer (June 22- July 22)

Life: Your life is like a bag of really old cookies—you will be lucky if you can find one without mold on it.
Romance: Start by lowering your expectations a little at a time, and you will eventually find somebody to love.

Leo (July 23- August 22)

Life: Your life will be utterly blissful... or at least as long as it lasts.
Romance: As mentioned above, Cupid's arrow will strike you at an unfortunately short range, ending your short but sweet life.

Virgo (August 23- September 22)

Life: Your life is like a fairy tale. Unfortunately, you are the witch who tries to eat Hansel and Gretel. The stars hope you enjoy warm climates!
Romance: The love notes you have been slipping into her locker were a sweet idea, but you got the wrong locker. The weird guy in your third period class will soon be complaining of sexual harassment.

Libra (September 23- October 22)

Life: Looking for your brain, you will skip down the Yellow Brick Road—and right into the insane asylum.
Romance: Your mother will sit you down next week, and tell you that your current romance is actually your long lost cousin. However, love overcomes all.

Scorpio (October 23- November 21)

Life: Life is a stage, and you are the main star. The theatre is empty and someone accidentally turned the lights off on their way out.
Romance: They say that love cannot be bought, but you proved them wrong last Saturday. However, treatment for love will cost around \$100 at the clinic.

Sagittarius (November 22- December 21)

Life: You will achieve your 15 seconds of fame when your cat suffocates you in your sleep. 'Nighty night!'
Romance: Remember that movie quote: "You complete me?" Well, give up on hearing that in real life.

Capricorn (December 22- January 19)

Life: The stars have aligned to create a pop quiz in math class yesterday. Hey, news travels slowly through outer space!
Romance: Stop drooling over your history teacher. No, really. He is running out of paper towels.

Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

Life: You will be remembered in the history books as the man who tested the myth by yelling "Macbeth" in a theatre, and was then promptly trampled by angry theatre kids.
Romance: You will finally hear three special words from your lost interest next week. However, those three words will be "Stop stalking me!"

Pisces (February 19- March 20)

Life: The stars point to another Saturday night with mom and dad. It sure seems like those stars always point in the same direction.
Romance: The stars have been coddling you for the last few years, but it is time you heard the full truth: There is no romance in your life. Yeah, we know, the truth hurts.

Octo-Mom Sets Her Sights on FCPS

EMILY "SIDE KICK" GRIFFIN
TEEN VOGUE

Everyone has heard of the infamous Octo-Mom, but the question on everyone's lips is: "Where she is going to send her kids to school?"

At a private hearing held on March 20, in California, Nadya Suleman, or the Octo-Mom, released that she plans to move to Fairfax County into the West Potomac community. The Octo-Mom is a Californian mom who has 14 kids and had her last eight kids as octuplets from fertility treatments. She mentioned at the hearing that she is aiming for Jack Dale's job as superintendent because she has had more close contact with students than Dale has ever been able to have. She also wants her children to receive the best education possible from one of the finest school systems in the nation and to be in the safe and secluded environment that FCPS will present for her kids. She plans to enroll her children at our, when they are old enough to attend high school.

In more news, our school's principal, Rima Vesilind, stated that she will not retire this year, but will wait until Suleman's kids are finished with school. "I can't wait until the kids come to our school. It will be interesting to see how they learn and what activities they might be involved. Their

participation might boost the popularity of the clubs or teams they will join," said Vesilind. She continued by saying that "I am very supportive of Suleman's decision to have her kids enrolled in our FCPS schools and give kudos to Suleman for choosing the West Potomac community." She also hinted that the publicity surrounding the children would be a benefit to our school.

Junior Laura Cunningham said that "It is a great idea to have the kids enroll into the FCPS system. Also, the kids will know a lot about working with people because they are in such a big family. In other words, their social skills have to be superb since they are in such a big family." However, there are other students who think that letting the kids enroll in FCPS is a horrible idea.

While sophomore Ashton Starr believes that "our school system is already an over-crowded and an over-pressured school system. He said, "Adding publicity to our school would just create a chaotic atmosphere and be very distracting for many of the students here. And because their mom had so many children, it may give other students the idea that having that many kids is okay and that people will give them free stuff."

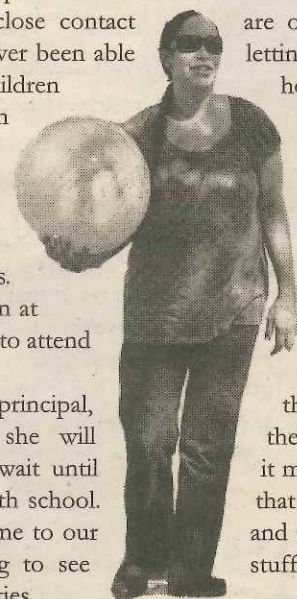


Photo Courtesy of MCT Handout

No More Shaving for Girls

ZACH "ZAAAAAAACH!" FEINSTEIN
DADDY WARBUCKS

For most women in Europe today, shaving has always been an afterthought. Unlike their transcontinental neighbors, most European women prefer not to shave, not just their legs, but also their armpits too. The most famous singer known for her armpit hair, not her singing abilities, is Nena, the singer whose popular song "99 Luftballons" became well-known in the 1980s. With the rise of international travel and fashion magazines, the once disgusting option for American girls has now become an extremely popular and accepted decision by many American women, not just at our school, but also throughout the country.

Women who choose not to shave their legs do so for many reasons. The feeling of being free from the pain they have to go through daily because of their dreaded razors is one reason. Another reason for some is to "stick it" to the male dominated society that they live in every day. Other women just do it because they are too lazy, or do not have enough time to shave every single day; this task is very tedious. Whatever the reason for their decisions, women are now beginning to embrace the idea of a furrier and warmer life without the shackles of their disposable razors.

Many notable women across the country and at our school are openly promoting this new trend to the next generation of American women. First Lady Michelle Obama, at a recent conference for military families, exposed to the press her unshaven

legs with pride, although no arm pit hair was spotted. When asked about the new trend, she said, "I love it!" Like many other women across the country, many female students at our school are now taking up this new fashion fad. One student, senior Jill White, has openly embraced her love of not shaving by openly showing her beautiful unshaven legs to everyone she meets. When asked why she is taking up the new trend, White said, "I'm not shaving because I want to feel free and shaving for me is always a drag. I always get cut up."

While many women at our school are openly embracing not shaving, some male students are opposed of this new trend. Throughout the school, many have voiced their displeasure at young women going from beautifully shaven goddesses to big hairy beasts. One student in particular, senior Neil Burke, expressed his displeasure and said, "We don't need women's legs to look like the Black Forest in Germany. Then again, Black Forest cake is pretty good, what with the intense chocolate so maybe it isn't so bad. Yeah, I guess it's alright."

This new trend has become a very controversial topic among both the sexes at our school. Despite the controversy over women shaving or not shaving, one student senior Mary McKnight said, "We do it to be comfortable." Even though this new trend among women may seem disgusting to many men, women seem comfortable with it and do not plan on shaving in the near future.

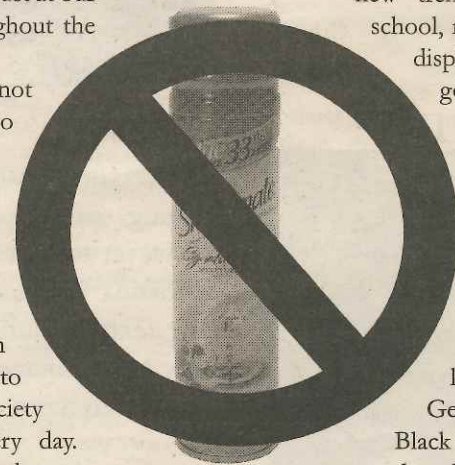
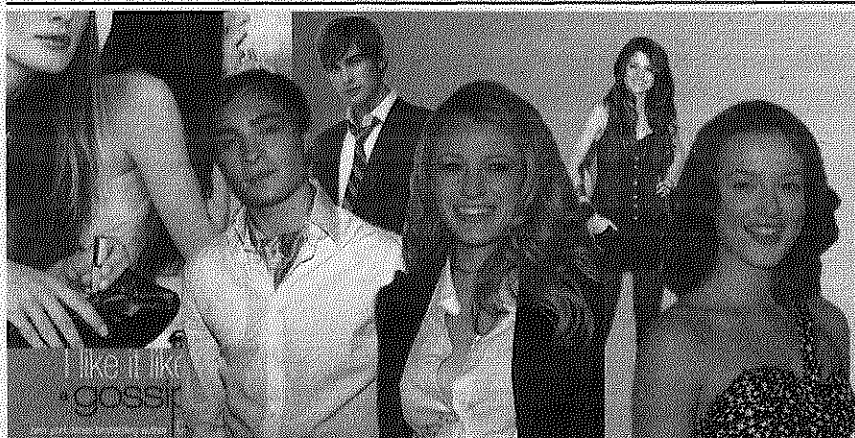


Photo By Thu Hoang Ly

Many girls have openly endorsed the "no shaving" trend.



Shocking Discovery of 'Gossip Girl' Blogger

BRYAN "IT'S BRITNEY" JACOBS
"WHY AM I THE SPORTS EDITOR?" EDITOR

The controversial scandal of students' private lives being presented to the public eye, by the infamous 'Gossip Girl', is going through some renovations. Since the blogger of the highly viewed website has been discovered by officials, we now can sweep the incident under the rug.

Finally, there is closure to the mysterious blog "West Potomac Gossip Girl" that gripped the interest of all of our school's students and staff from November to mid-December. The Gossip Girl blog, which caused scandal and controversy for all grade levels in our school, was taken first into the hands of school security. However, this was far too complex for the limited level of intelligence of the security force at our school.

The site was then alerted to the cyber-crimes unit of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). The cyber-crime labs throughout the entire nation worked overtime for two

months, eventually tracking the IP address, and traced the heinous crimes of libel and slander straight to the computer of Gossip Girl... government teacher Mr. Alex Case. In a recent press conference, the head of the FBI, Robert Swan Mueller III, stated that "The Gossip Girl blog was hard to find and it was even harder track down the culprit. There were many twists in the road which led to great difficulty, but at the end we succeeded."

This success could not have come at a better time. At a time of great displeasure with the nation's economic depression, the nagging rumors that spread under this website only made matters worse for most students who could not deal with money problems as well as social humiliation. However, many students were very surprised with the finding by the FBI that linked the West Potomac Gossip Girl blog to Case. Fellow Wolverine, junior Alex Fabrizio, screamed in distress during her regular lunch "pit-stop" to the chic restaurant Panera. "Ok, let's be real, and Gossip Girl was so vish (vicious) but it just wasn't that indie. Only the first blog and the third one had anything of substance to give to the student body. After those two blogs was when a lot of my friends and I stopped reading the otherwise amazing website. It reminded me a

lot of *Perez Hilton.com* because a lot of the people who were posted on the blog are the equivalent to celebrities at West Potomac.....well for the most part," said Fabrizio. Senior Ellen Pederson also agreed, "Honestly, whoever made that blog is a genius and really funny and creative, Mr. Case is now my new favorite teacher."

The overall reaction to the find is complete awe and deep divisions lie between people who supported the blog's creative endeavors and others who claim that the blog was nothing but bogus. A supporter of the blog, sophomore Lauren Wilmot, stated, "I was surprised to hear that the FBI was called into this one. I was thinking more along the lines of Law and Order with the constant 'BA BUMS' in between each scene in the quest to find the notorious Gossip Girl." In contrast, a denouncer and person written about on the Gossip Girl blog, senior Katie Roddey, said, "Well, Mr. Case is my leadership teacher and he always preaches about the morals yet it seems he is doing quite the opposite, I forgive him though because he is just such a good person." Although the topic of the West Potomac Gossip Girl could be turned into a semester class at a prestigious university, for now it is *closed*.

They No Music



ALEX "SOO INDIE~" FABRIZIO &
GWEN "G-FISH" FISHEL
CREATIVE GENIUS & THE SEMICOLON

We love to supply the best music, but sometimes we have to give other people a chance to have their 15 minutes of fame. Do not fret! We will still be providing our usual clever and witty commentary.

Matt Campbell's Timeless Classics
"Long Cool Woman (in a Black Dress)" by The Hollies

Time has told that this song will never lose its luster.

"Sultans of Swing" by Dire Straits
Ask your parents. Their explanation will be better than ours is.

"Bad Moon Rising" by Creedence Clearwater Revival

With shifty drums and a swingin' guitar riff, this track is reminiscent of being on a train, except not.

"Johnny B. Goode" by Chuck Berry

There is a reason that Chuck Berry is still swinging at age 82. He is a monster and this song sets to prove it!

"Green Onions" by Booker T. and the MG's

This is the ultimate summer jam. The organ and drums are absolutely and positively bumpin'.

"The River" by Bruce Springsteen

"Shout out to my mans Eric Maddog Miller."

- From, MC

"Heartbreak Hotel" by Elvis Pressley

They say that Elvis was known for breaking the hearts of young girls with his crooning skills. This song is perfect evidence as to why that happened.

"Oo Wah Diddy Diddy" by Manfred Mann

What a year for music- 1964. You have Roy Orbison with "Oh, Pretty Woman" and The Beatles starting the British Invasion with an appearance on the *Ed Sullivan Show*. Manfred

Mann was no exception, with this hit that just makes clapping hands necessary!

"Young Folks" by Peter Bjorn and John
Two words. SOOOOOOOOOO INDIE!

"Rocky Mountain High" by John Denver
Harmonies + a country boy + mountains = RMH

"Crazy on You" by Heart

The Wilson sisters are a dynamic duo, with heart. Just do not mess with them, because they may end up crazy... on you.

Forbidden Fruit by Sarah Chaney
"Claire de Lune" by Debussy

To start, people like to show off how cultured and intelligent they are by talking about classical music. Secondly, SC is a member of approximately a million orchestras within the area. Which is which?

"Angel" by Jack Johnson

Everyone needs to mellow out once in a while. Plus Jack Johnson is totally THIIIIIIIGHT!

"Such Great Heights" by Iron and Wine
Although this is a remake, this song scores major "Indie cred." Or maybe I just killed the "Indie cred."

"Be Still My Soul" by the Mormon Tabernacle Choir

Two words: SOOOOOOOOOO MORMON!

"Foux de Fa Fa" by the Flight of the Concorde

French is so sexy...

"After Tonight" by Justin Nozuka

"Oh hey alternative Jonas Brothers, what are you doing on this playlist?"

"Tango de Roxanne" by the Moulin Rouge Soundtrack

"Sup Big Mikel!" - From SC

"Violin Concerto 1 (movement. 4)" by Shostakovich

Hmmm...

"Symphony No. 9" by Dvorak

Brain music, okay. We get it.

"Oblivion" by Astor Piazzolla

See numbers one, eight, and nine.

"Hanging by a Thread" by Nickel Creek

This song is negligible. This playlist shows exactly what type of music SC listens to... all the time.

No more Zoot Suit Riots for these two!

Teen Pop Stars Battle It Out

MEGAN "NEWB" HALEY
LABORER

At Taylor Swift's recent Los Angeles concert, Miley Cyrus brutally attacked Swift while she was on stage performing "Forever and Always," a song Swift wrote about Joe Jonas, after their text message breakup. Cyrus, who had dated Nick Jonas for about a year in the past, was reportedly jealous of Swift's recent success. However, through investigative journalism, and the piecing together of information, the real story was uncovered. In a brief interview, immediately following the abruptly concluded concert, Cyrus let it slip that she "saw Nick going backstage," and followed him in. Stage managers

prevailed by knocking Cyrus out with a 'swift' kick to the gut. Pun intended. "I can't believe that Miley went crazy like that on Taylor. It just doesn't seem like something she would do," said freshman Laura Magnon.

Unfortunately for Swift, both parties have been suspended for two weeks and fined for the incident. The suspension, however, is more harmful to Swift, who is just about to launch her first headlining tour. She is being forced to cancel show venues for the next two weeks. A lawsuit has been filed by Swift's lawyers for the cost of 16 million in damage; this includes the canceled shows and for the time Swift spent in the hospital.

"I feel bad for Taylor, as her career is just taking off and then Miley had to come in and try to steal the spotlight," said junior Molly Bowdring. "Miley just needs to accept that her time to shine is over."

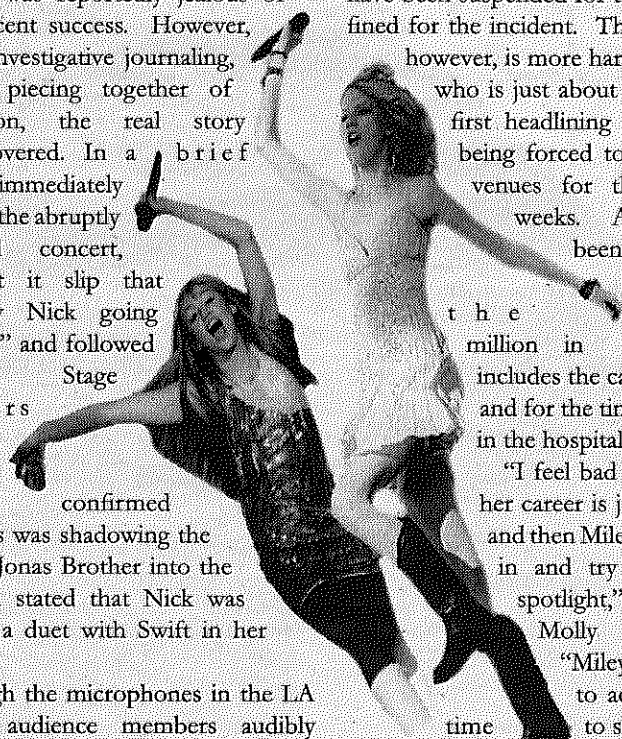
This event marks yet another child star that has gone wild.

Following in the footsteps of Britney Spears, Lindsey Lohan, Jamie Lynn Spears and countless others, Cyrus is headed down a very dangerous path. This in combination with the impending end to her hit television show, Hannah Montana, seems to be the demise of yet another Disney-born starlet.

confirmed that Cyrus was shadowing the youngest Jonas Brother into the show and stated that Nick was there for a duet with Swift in her next set.

Through the microphones in the LA stadium, audience members audibly heard Cyrus tell Swift that Nick could only do duets with her, and no one else. Then, fists started flying. "When I saw Miley walk out on stage, I knew something was up, she wasn't supposed to be there," said Riley O'Shaunessey, a front row ticket holder from the LA show.

Although representatives on the stars behalf denied that there was in fact a fight, Youtube.com videos from said concert confirm the speculation that after the initial punch by Cyrus, Swift



Photos by Kimberly P. Mitchell/
MCT Handout Photo Illustration by Emily Griffin

Erik Ferri's Senior Sesh

VICTORIA "STARBUCKS" NARINE
VOGUE

Senior Erik Ferri evokes modesty. He walks through the hallways of our school unnoticed. His uncontrived wardrobe of solid colored sweatshirts, jeans, and worn sneakers allow him to become one with his peers, and thus brings Ferri the anonymity he desires.

As Ferri effortlessly navigates his way through the throng of students after first period one Thursday morning, he continues to deny the fact that he is a world-wide phenomenon. Having starred in the indie flick *Thumbsucker* along side big-screen heroes such as Keanu Reeves and Vince Vaughn, one would think that Ferri would gladly release the long-time withheld experience of working with two of the world's most sought-after actors. Ferri, however, has a different plan of action. Abundant pestering by those who are curious are unsuccessful ventures. Even high-end bribing leaves Ferri unscathed. In conclusion, Ferri is made of steel.

"I don't want to brag," offers a reluctant Ferri. "I'm happy with my life right now. I don't want people to treat me differently. I also don't want the paparazzi to follow me everywhere. I'm not always that photogenic."

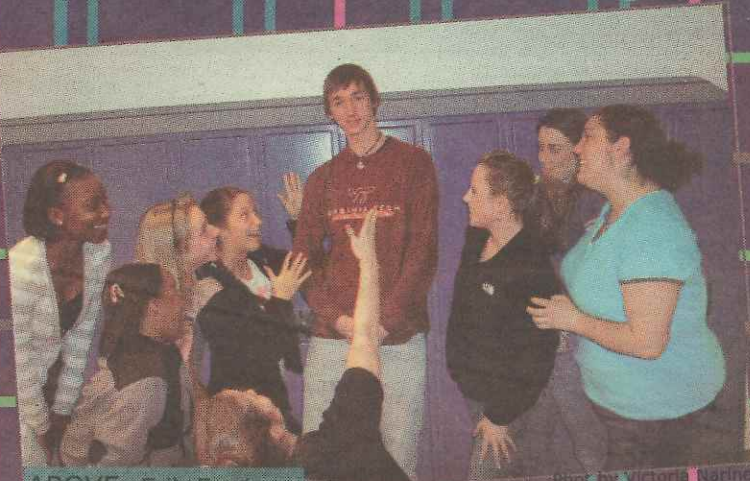
After much persuasion and a few mind-altering aides, Ferri starts to talk. *Thumbsucker*, Ferri's favorite job, was also the first film he ever starred in. "I received a call from Mike Mills [the director] saying that he wanted to cast me in the lead. At first, I thought my friends were playing a cruel joke on me. But when I didn't return Mike's calls, Mike

called me again, in a very fussy state, saying that he would do anything to get me in his movie. It was an offer I couldn't refuse."

In *Thumbsucker*, Ferri plays Justin, a socially-maladroit teen with an addiction to his thumb. Justin tries the typical tactics of hand tying and hot sauce. Once proven unsuccessful, he moves on to large amounts of drugs and sex to keep his mind off of his thumb. Not until Justin finds his talent of debating does he actually overcome his unfortunate addiction.

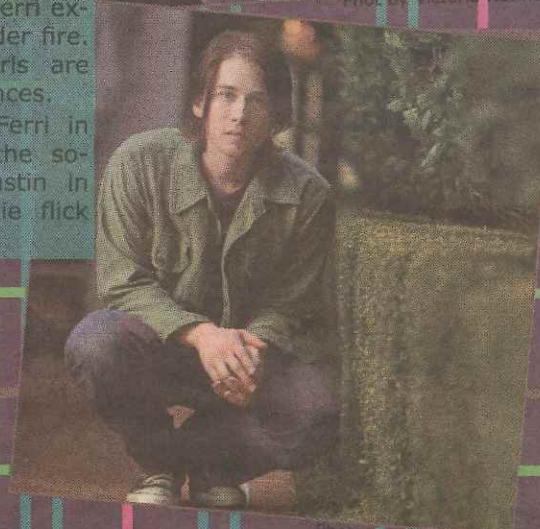
"I was immediately drawn to the movie. The story line was so interesting yet incredibly twisted," recalls Ferri. "Personally, I think some people can even relate to Justin's dilemma. I know I can."

With a lucrative future ahead of him, whether it includes satirical indie flicks or box-office blowouts, Ferri is prepared for anything, including swooning females. "I haven't had to deal with any girls throwing themselves at me yet. I'm not the Jonas Brothers. I'm almost positive, nothing will change," explains the ever-so-moolest Ferri. Hopefully Ferri's naivete will not get in the way of his acting capabilities. Meanwhile, the seemingly omnipresent paparazzi, including Britney's newest paparazzo-muse, has set up camp outside of Ferri's house. Ferri cowers inside waiting for it to pass. "I'm not used to all of this attention," quips a sweating Ferri. But after a few cups of herbal tea to calm his nerves Ferri states the obvious, "I wish I could replace the paparazzi with girls."



ABOVE: Erik Ferri exudes grace under fire. Swarms of girls are regular occurrences.

RIGHT: Erik Ferri in character as the socially inept Justin in the occult indie flick *Thumbsucker*.



SPECIAL!

FRESHMAN FOCUS on

PETER "WANNA HANG OUT?" COFFEY
LABORER

A lot of you have seen that youngster Brady Corum wandering the hallways of our school, but very few people know he is actually a student here, and not a part of the day care center.

Brady is an eight year old child who happens to be extremely smart and athletic, enough so that he is in high school, despite how young he is. From a young age, Brady's parents knew that he was not like any other kid. For example, when he was just five months old, he was able to recite his ABC's. At 10 months, he was able to name every bone in the human body.

By the time he was one, he was able to do complex math such as multiplication. And he did not stop there. On his third birthday, he was able to recite all his time tables in 10 different languages. "We didn't know what to do with him. He was just so smart," said Mrs. Corum. "He was actually assisting his teachers in elementary school while other kids his age were chewing on dinosaur toys in their cribs." How did Brady become so smart, one asks? The answer is vegetables and Skittles.

That is right. From the day he was born, Brady would stuff his mouth with vegetables and Skittles, which caused his brain to grow at uncontrollable rates. "I was able to learn on my own. I would sit in my room and just teach myself things like math and the periodic table," commented Brady. His extreme capabilities have allowed him to become nationally recognized. This year, he was named "Person of the Year" by *Time* Magazine. Brady has not only excelled beyond his age in education, His talents stretch into the sports world as well. Brady was on club soccer teams for 13-year-olds while he was only seven and

this year, he won the state cross country meet.

His name has even caught the attention of President Barack Obama. "I can see him becoming one of my chief advisors within the next few years, but first he has to get through high school," said Obama. Getting through high school will not be hard for Corum as he already has enough credits to graduate. Corum took AB and BC Calculus in middle school and this year he is taking AP Biology, AP Chemistry, AP English Literature, AP English Language, AP Statistics, AP World History, AP US History, and gym. He has an "A" in every class except AP Statistics, but that is due to his teacher, Ms. Strano (and as most of us know she does not give out A's).

Some students are not reacting well to Brady's new celebrity status he has earned for being a genius child. "I just can't stand the thought of there being someone out there better than me at school. There is just no way for me to one up Brady," said senior Kathleen McDowell, who is currently standing trial for the assassination attempt on Brady that occurred earlier this year (she tried to replace Brady's Skittles with rat poison).

There is also a lot of jealousy among the athletes of West Potomac. "It's just not fair. I have spent the past three years trying to become the best athlete at West Potomac, but Brady had to come out of nowhere and steal all of my glory," said varsity football quarterback Cole Walters, trying to fight off tears.

But we cannot hate Brady just because he is smarter than all of us. We should all just try to shake his hand and hope that maybe, just maybe, some of his greatness will rub off on us.

BRADY CORUM



Photo by Peter Coffey

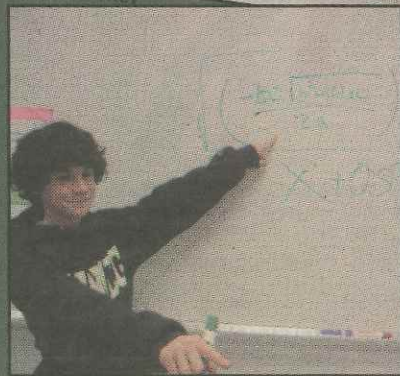


Photo by Peter Coffey

Aside from being extremely gifted in sports, Brady Corum possesses an uncommon amount of intelligence.