



Pictionary meets report card

Norris "GINGAA" Brooks

Remember the *Washington Post*, Yahoo, and *Mount Vernon Gazette* media debacle of 2010? West Potomac was in the news 24/7 for the school's new grading scale, which raised controversy across the globe. Teachers were setting essays on fire, parents were acting like Raiders' fans after a loss, and students threatened to throw the school rock through the cafeteria window. Now, Principal Cliff Hardison is trying it again. Hardison has recently developed an all-new grading system that assesses students with symbols rather than letters.

In a recent press conference with President Barack Obama, Hardison released a prototype of his innovative grading scale. A's have turned into smiley faces, B's have become stars, C's have switched to cows, D's are represented by dogs, and F's are only written with invisible ink. Obama's reaction was nothing but positive. He shook Hardison's hand, remarking, "This will fit right in with my Race to the Top initiative. Nothing against cows or dogs, but I do not want to see too many of those on our new recycled-paper report cards." Hardison responded with a chuckle, "And I can guarantee you will not see any

REPORT CARD				
GRADING PERIOD	1	2	3	4
READING	☺	☺	★	🐶
WRITTEN COMMUNICATION	🐶	🐶	🐶	★
MATHEMATICS	★	☺	🐶	★
SCIENCE/HEALTH	🐶	★	★	☺
SOCIAL STUDIES	☺	🐶	🐶	☺
ART	🐶	🐶	★	★
MUSIC	★	🐶	★	🐶
PHYSICAL EDUCATION	🐶	☺	🐶	🐶

F's." A witness reported the president was nothing but smiles, and added, "This is going to change America."

The new scale has received mixed reactions from West Potomac High School. Many students are thrilled to no longer be restrained by the letters of the old system.

Drew Hamlin, the Advanced Placement psychology and history teacher, weighed in on the issue. "Jean Piaget would approve. As children enter the Formal Operational Stage of development, they are able to grasp more abstract concepts. Plain letter grades are oppressive and restrictive. Picture grades are creative and engaging." Junior Ethan Chaney agreed, "I love this new system idea. I look forward to looking down at my report card and being smiled

at." However, many other students have concerns. Some feel that colleges will not accept their new report cards.

It appears these concerns are unfounded. Although some colleges and universities will take time to accept the change, others have been quick to champion the idea. A representative from Brown University said, "We think Principal Hardison is taking a huge step into the future. Many high schools produce uptight students that colleges are sick and tired of

Continued on page 3

Lost and found: a family reunited

Emily "E-Griff" Griffin

"Oh brother, where art thou?" English teacher Colin O'Grady wondered for years.

Growing up in Ireland, O'Grady spent his youth as an only child, but he knew he was never alone. "I felt my brother's presence all of the time, I just did not know it was him," recalled O'Grady. After many years of constantly obsessing over this anonymous sibling he decided to switch his focus to competing in Irish Olympic Games.

He placed first in Ireland's bloodthirsty competitive sport known as Hurling. In hurling opponents use wooden sticks to throw miniature balls between two goal posts. "My nickname on the team was Amadan, due to my pseudo-manly strength. I secretly tried to legally change my name from Colin to Amadan, but obviously that did not work out," reflected O'Grady. After gaining recognition as an athletic legend in Ireland, O'Grady thought it was time to buckle down and go to college. "I wanted to have a fresh start, go someplace where no one had ever heard my name before. That is the reason why I moved to the United States," he explained.

Whilst attending Stanford University, O'Grady came across his true love, the English language. "What can I say? I fell in love and it felt great," said O'Grady. However, despite his newfound love, he still felt a persistent loss. "I always felt that there was a missing piece in my heart, like there was a part of me that was missing all along and I did not understand why," O'Grady tearfully recalled.

On the other side of the world, lived Bernie Cabral, a self-proclaimed typical guy from Massachusetts. Cabral grew up as an only child and attended the prestigious private high school, Cornell Boys Academy. "Cornell was hard for many reasons," he said. "I



Photos by Clare Palo; Photo Illustration by Emily Griffin and Leigh Orleans

Obama buys Facebook for a cool \$50 billion

Caitlin "Is Shorter" Schroeder

In a surprise deal that removed the fragile separation between politics and cyberspace, President Barack Obama formally purchased the popular social networking site, Facebook, from CEO and founder Mark Zuckerberg with fifty billion dollars of the government's tax money. The Obama Administration is currently in the process of transforming the popular social networking site into a campaign platform, renamed "Bamabook," through which the top dog will promote political activism, his democratic ideals, and the importance of a healthy lifestyle to the general public. Immediately after Obama's announcement, outrage erupted from all political and social angles. Government analysts, teenage activists, and devoted Facebook users across the globe accessed their personal accounts planning to stalk their friend's pages, but instead of finding photos of strangers on their friends list, they found a friend request from the head honcho himself. Richard H. Thorndyke, a

political journalist who preaches first amendment rights, was one of the first to express his anger, publically stating, "It is one thing for the President of the United States to develop an internet site through which he can communicate with the good-for-nothing Internet addicts and the submissive public at large to evoke so-called social activism. But using money the government barely has to purchase the most popular public internet site and turning it into one's own podium is disgraceful." Several agree with Thorndike's strong views, almost immediately after the deal was announced over fifty websites were formed in protest to Obama's newfound World Wide Web power including, 'PresidentHacker.com', 'BanBamaBookWeWantFacebookBackPronto.org', and even 'CommanderInCheat.net'.

Select political factions have voiced their infamous I-word, impeachment, following Obama's Facebook deal. Recalling a period of unsettled executive government we have not seen since former president Bill Clinton had highly inappropriate relations with his assistant and Richard Nixon developed super human hearing at the

Continued on page 3

Continued on page 3

Inside this Issue:

News

Page 2



Photo courtesy of starpulse.com

Which student discovered a portal to Narnia in the back of a teacher's classroom?

Sports

Page 4



Photo courtesy of google.images.com

Find which West Potomac athlete is going to the 2012 Olympics!

Style

Page 8



Photo courtesy of rebelshaven.com

Get your cloaks here! Check out which Harry Potter fashions are in style this spring.

Entertainment

Page 9



Photo courtesy of youtube.com

Is Whitegirlztothemax getting back together to make a new video? News inside!

Just for Fun Page 12

3	9	1	2	8	6	5	7	4
4	8	7	3	5	9	1	2	6
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7	2	6	8	9	5	3	4	1

Photo courtesy of Clipart

Can you complete the most challenging sudoku EVER (pictured above)?

Secret society memos leaked

Josh "BALANGA" Belanger & Tyler "Dubstep" Arnold

Continuations
From page 1, East Potomac Ragers cont'd

love conquers all, alienation and isolation, man vs. nature, and overcoming adversity. Ms. Thompson actually dressed up as Holden Caulfield for the last one of her parties. It was rad. I really dug the look."

Letters have been sent out to East Potomac parents informing them of this shocking discovery. Several parents of the partygoers have already filed complaints. They were appalled that Thompson would engage in such rowdy behavior and encourage children to stay out past curfew. One parent, who wished to remain anonymous, revealed, "Kimberly Thompson was once a role model for my child. But after hearing of this nonsense, I am forcing her to withdraw from her class. We may even leave the school." Administration has considered firing Thompson, but was promptly reminded by her that this option was nearly impossible, thanks to teachers' tenure. "It looks like these fan suckers are stuck with me," chuckled Thompson.

Severed cont'd

Officials confronted Peck on Tuesday, March 22. Peck batted her eyelashes and claimed she had no idea what they were talking about. That is, until senior Suzy Kirby staggered out of the room's closet looking like a modern day Frankenstein. Kirby's hair was standing straight up, and she looked like a humanigsaw puzzle. The school officials jumped back in alarm, but quickly pulled themselves together to apprehend Peck when she tried to make a run for it.

In custody, Peck finally admitted to dissecting her students as an experiment for her latest research project. She wanted to find out why high school students act the way they do. When asked whether she thought there were any ethical issues with her methods, she remarked, "Absolutely not. I do not see what the problem is, I put everything back."

Corrigan's finger was returned to her and has now been sewn back on, and many of Peck's other victims have connected a well-known plastic surgeon in the community. It is going to take a while for the stretch to go away, but janitors are stocking all classrooms with economy-sized containers of Febreze. Officer Jones sighed with relief. "We are just glad everyone is still in one piece."

society's secret meeting hall. The location has yet to be discovered. This society has been doing more than just meeting under the school. All of the students have noticed the recent policy changes to grading, security, and even the school start time.

Students may wonder where many school policies and changes come from, such as the "I Policy" grading system change and the earlier start time for East Potomac. Since Hardison has joined this secret society at East Potomac, the society has been in overdrive. Everything from our slogan, "Excellence is Tradition," to the re-surfacing of the football field has had different connotations. "Ceis Trad" means "secret leaders" in Latin and if you look closely enough, "ceis trad" is actually inserted into our slogan. Also, two years ago our football field was dug up and resurfaced. Documents recorded an extra fee of \$50,000 which went to the societies meeting room.

This society also creates the curriculum for teachers. Our source confirms that many former students and teachers are in the society, along with active teachers such as long time veteran William Dobson. Dobson has been at West Potomac since it opened, and long ago formed a similar secret society. Yet when Hardison became principal, they joined forces to create this new, more exclusive society. They believe that together they can turn West Potomac into one of the best high schools in the country and will take desperate measures to achieve their goal.

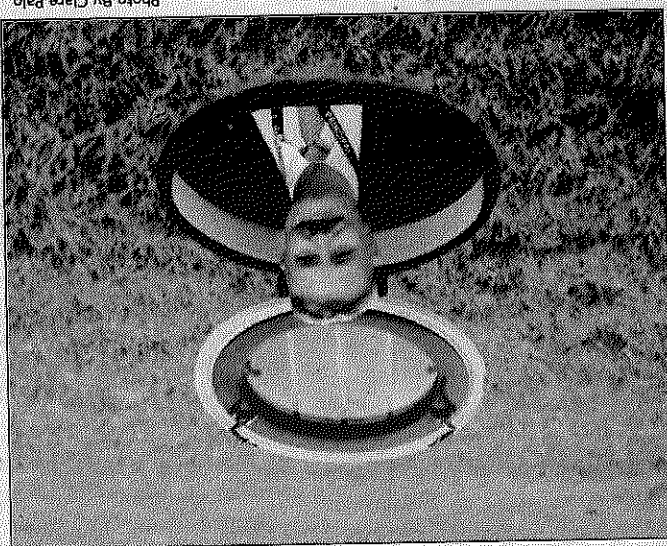
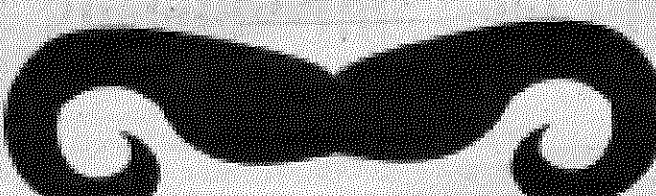


Photo By Claire Paley
Principal Cliff Hardison is caught sneaking out of the secret meeting room entrance on the football field, late Sunday night.

city is a power higher than the school board, and even more selective than Harvard. This society is even closer than students and faculty may think, the headquarters lies right below the campus of the school. Only certain people can join and it requires a super intense initiation. How do we know all of this? Well, someone has stepped forward and they, remaining anonymous, have divulged everything they know from being a part of this society. The location of this society is right under our football field. There have even been reports of Hardison, followed by the society members, entering an underground passage right behind the scoreboard late at night. After discreet but thorough investigation, it was discovered that the entrance must be opened with a secret code. It leads into a long corridor stretching the length of the field, and then into a massive tunnel serving as the meeting hall of the society. There have also been sightings of hooded figures roaming the Springbank wing of East Potomac, where there is alleged to be another entrance to the

FEELIN' FUNKY?
CUT OUT THIS
MUSTACHE FOR
SOME FUN!



Horoscopes

Aries - March 21 - April 19

Taurus - April 20 - May 20

Gemini - May 21 - June 20

Cancer - June 21 - July 22

Leo - July 23 - August 22

Virgo - August 23 - September 22

Do not look at the person to your left. I SAID DO NOT LOOK! They are stalking you. Be aware of your every move. The piece of paper you just threw away? The tissue you just used? They are going to grab it when you are not looking. They like the smell of you. Yum.



Libra - September 23 - October 22

Scorpio - October 23 - November 21

Sagittarius - November 22 - December 21

Capricorn - December 22 - January 19

Aquarius - January 20 - February 18

Pisces - February 19 - March 20



You are an eternal optimist. You are always thinking the best of the situation you are in and the people around you. You have absolutely no grasp of reality whatsoever. Most people consider you to be the greatest living moron. You will continuously fail. Just keep chugging friend.

Your losing streak is going to end soon. Just keep on gambling. Hop on the next plane to Las Vegas and work your magic. Try to hit the "Big Gain" slots, for they will help you succeed in life much more.

You've been stressed for weeks, but the third quarter is finally over! Time to celebrate. Blow off some steam over the three day weekend. Take a roadtrip, hit the mall, or even fly a kite. Just enjoy your last - that is, long - weekend...

Your full-on-crap meter is totally on spot this month. Feel free to dish it out however you may feel necessary because you are probably right. If someone tells you otherwise, explain to them that the stars declare it so.

Love does hide in strange places and could be waiting for you at some of the strangest places you have ever heard of. Or it could be hidden in a cellar, bound and gagged. There are some strange things that go on in cellars. Do not question the possibility.

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Brothers, cont.

was an outsider, nobody wanted to be friends with me, and they all thought I was weird because I wore my heart on my sleeve. Actually my only friend at school was a guy named Paul Russell; we became best friends and still are to this day." Even though his high school days at Cornell were not great, he found a way to escape. "Every day, after my classes, I went back into my dorm room and locked myself in the closet. While I was in the dark closet I was able to connect with my suppressed emotions. I began writing poetry about everything I was feeling," recalled Cabral. After spending his high school years writing down all of his emotions, Cabral wanted to touch the lives of all of the "weird and different" students out there. "No one should ever feel excluded," Cabral continuously advocates.

Both O'Grady and Cabral began teaching at West Potomac six years ago. "I remember meeting all of the new teachers," recalled Russell. "Out of all of those newbies those two [Cabral and O'Grady] stuck out to me. I know there was some deeper connection there, I could feel it." After spending the first few weeks of school wandering the halls and attempting to make lasting friendships with other teachers, Cabral and O'Grady began to talk more. "I was walking down the hallway, trying to look cool to impress the students," remembered O'Grady. "I was walking down the hallway

and strutting my stuff when I saw a tall man walking towards me. At first I thought he was just another teacher who had been working here [at West Potomac] for years. But then I started to look into his eyes and I finally saw the truth."

"I was writing in my journal and was walking down the hallway, to be quite honest I did not even see Colin. While I was writing the most emotional part of my day, I accidentally collided with Colin and knocked him down," recollected Cabral. After helping O'Grady back to his feet, they both stared at each other with great intensity and curiosity. Making small talk for a little while, Cabral and O'Grady were about to leave in opposite directions when it hit them. The person they longed to meet for so long was standing just a mere ten feet away. "We both turned slowly and ran into each other's arms," both of them exclaimed. That was the time they realized they were brothers. "It was the warmest embrace I have ever felt in my life," added a teary Cabral.

"I knew there was a reason why I choose to work at West Potomac," O'Grady giggled gleefully, nudging his brother in the ribs. "I always knew he was out there, I just never knew where. Now, seeing him [O'Grady] every day, it is the greatest gift I could ever get," blubbered a sobbing Cabral. These brothers definitely do not have similar personalities, but that is what makes their relationship so special and precious to them.

Obamabook, cont.

Watergate Hotel in career crushing presidential scandals. However not all Americans are as livid over Obama's Facebook purchase. Sarah Palin, staunch critic of the Obama Administration, surprised the nation when she applauded Obama through her ever popular Twitter account. "@BarackObama congrats on f/b buy, you the best prez ever, I'mpsyched 4 the #Bamabook nation" Palin tweeted to her 400,000 plus followers. Our resident Twitter expert painstakingly translated this tweet into plain English for the less informed tweeters, "Dear Mr. President", her tweet begins, "Congratulations on your historic Facebook purchase. You are an inspiring president and I am excited to begin using Bamabook." Many individuals soon followed Palin's example through their Twitter accounts, MySpace profiles, and new BamaBook updates.

So the real question remains, "What is Bamabook?" In his press conference to anxious reporters Obama remained tight lipped about the new designs and capabilities, but did describe his intentions for the site stating, "BamaBook will encourage socially active individuals to achieve their highest possible potential." Despite this vague executive statement an anonymous source close to the Obama Administration has disclosed details regarding BamaBook's design and applications. He explains the site will still have profiles, but instead of answering optional questions regarding favorite forms of entertainment and personal interests, users will be required to describe their daily diet and calorie intake, enter their current grade point average and/or yearly salary, and state who they will vote for in upcoming elections. Sophomore Victoria Brisbane is uneasy about the suspected Bamabook design. "I used Facebook to talk to friends, creep on strangers, and learn interesting information about people I barely know", Price explains, "I don't want to talk about nutrition and politics on the internet, I mean that's what school is for."

We are a nation of Facebookers unsure of our Bamabook future, but we may need to prepare to type 'oww' into our toolbars next, officially accessing the Obama Wide Web.

Grading policy, cont.

accepting. This is a system that will take the pressure off and loosen people up. We hope West Potomac's grading system will catch on throughout the country."

Teachers are dismayed by the new system. Many are worried that they will not be able to draw the pictures. One teacher, who wishes to remain anonymous, said, "I have enough trouble getting my grades done on time. Now I have to try and be some Pablo Picasso." English teacher Jackie Livelli remarked, "I do not want my students basing

their education on smiley faces and stars. This is high school, not a Lifetime movie."

Hardison plans to implement the new system on April 1, 2011. He is looking forward to West Potomac's transition into the future. When asked whether or not he thought the new grading system would be successful, Hardison responded, "Of course. West Potomac is shedding the shackles of the alphabet and ushering in the imagination of Pictionary. In the end, what really matters is that it is successful in our hearts."



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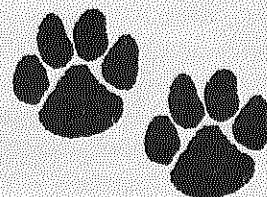
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What's Good in Hollywood Returns

Anna "Oprah" Peck & Clare "Gayle" Palo

Natalie Portman gives birth to swan

Squawk, squawk! Don't you just love the sound of a newborn baby? Oscar winner Natalie Portman just gave birth to her first child. Many were speculating whether it would be a boy or girl, but when feathers appeared, everyone was shocked. It seems that life imitated art and Portman gave birth to a swan. No pictures have been released yet, but people are eager to see what side of the pond this siren will land on, black or white.



Photos courtesy of onlinesunnews.com, popdust.com, & gossip.whofame.com

Rebecca Black nominated for Grammy.

Pop phenomenon, Rebecca Black, is finally getting the recognition she deserves. The thirteen year old is nominated for a Grammy, the highest honor in the music industry. "It is something I have always wanted since I was two years old. Dreams really do come true! I have not been this thrilled since last Friday," said Black on her nomination. After a couple weeks in the business, she is happy that all her hard work has paid off. Black's hit single, "Friday," is up for Song of the Year. "My first words were 'fun fun fun' and I like Fridays, so it made sense to write [the song]. The important thing is that it has an inspiring message that everyone can learn from," explained Black, on the meaning of her song. She is also set to perform her newest single, "Monday," at the awards, but it is unclear whether she will be sitting in the front or back. Trust me, we so excited.



The Royal Elopement

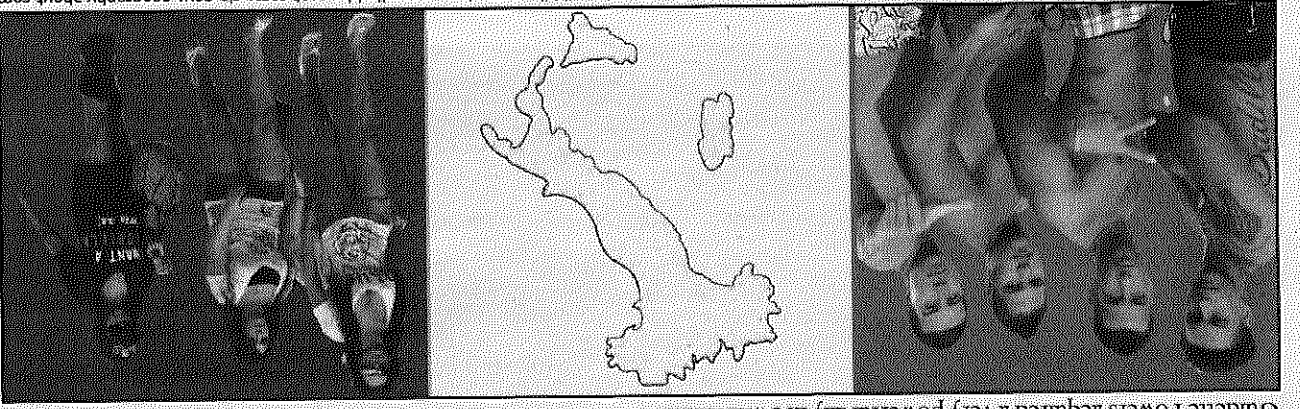
Pip, pip, cheerio! Vegas, here we go! The past couple of months, details surrounding the royal wedding of Prince William and Kate Middleton have been hazy. All that debate regarding the wedding dress, location, and honeymoon, is now over. The lovebirds have eloped to Las Vegas, the Sin City, putting all the preparations to waste. Rumor has it, they spent fifty-million dollars to rent out the True Love Wedding Chapel, where they held an Elvis Presley themed wedding (impersonator not included). The bride wore a custom Ed Hardy jumpsuit, while the groom kept it casual in a clown suit. The couple also plans to honeymoon in Disney World, where they are planning a simple reception in Cinderella's castle. This is truly a fairytale ending.

Jersey Shore drama tears Italy in half

Jacob "Lucus" Alexander & Jack "Diesel" King

It seems predictable that the most dramatic and exciting reality TV show would finally come to this. A war has officially erupted as a result of the nasty break-up between Ronnie and Sammi of the MTV show Jersey Shore. Prior to the split the couple often got on the nerves of fans of the show, but now many of those fans are begging for them to make up and get back together in order to end the utter chaos that has erupted around the world. The country of Italy has been divided, and now countries around the world — including the United States — are getting involved. It all started with a break-up, but now it looks like it may turn into World War III.

The break-up between Sammi and Ronnie has literally split the country of Italy in half. Not by geographical borders, but by gender. The men of Italy have sided with Ronnie and call themselves the "Guido Forces" while the women of Italy have sided with Sammi and have proclaimed themselves the "Guidette Powers." At first the Guido Forces appeared to have the upper hand due to their superior physical and military intelligence. However, it was not long before the Guidette Powers acquired a very powerful ally in Switzerland.

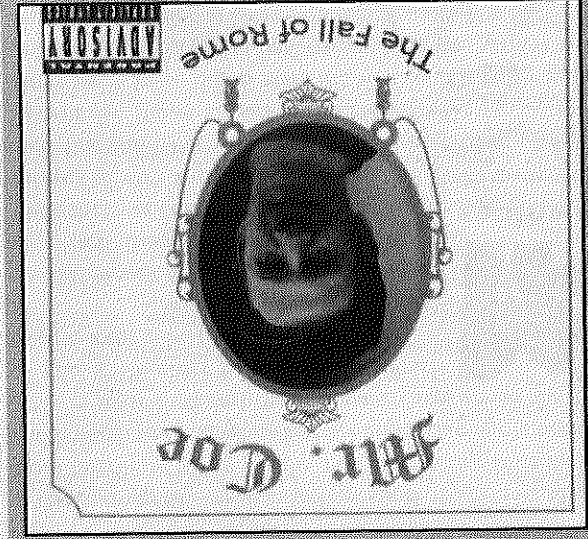
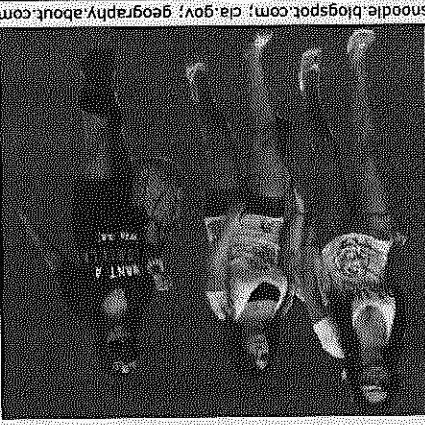


Photos Courtesy by wikids.com, jennysnoodie.blogspot.com, da.gov, geography.about.com

Switzerland had finally decided to grow a pair and take a side in a war after staying neutral for literally every other major war in the history of the world.

There are reports that the Guido Forces are in the midst of creating something that could alter the outcome of the war. Rumor has it that the construction of a powerful nuclear "grenade" bomb that could potentially destroy the entire continent of Europe is underway. There are also rumors that the Guidette Powers have attempted to create a similar weapon made out of a perfect blend of pickle juice and tanning oil that could have the same destructive power.

The leaders of the Guido Forces are Ronnie, Nicole, better known as Snooki, Jwoww, and Deca, who are leading the Raully D, and Vinny, battling against Sammi, Nicole, (better known as Snooki), Jwoww, and Deca, who are leading the Guidette Powers. The Situation, who was booed off the stage at the Comedy Central roast of Donald Trump, is apparently in charge of controlling and distributing weapons and was seen in the desert in Saudi Arabia. Many people believe the Guido Forces are testing their new nuclear weapons there and are planning to use them in battle within a few months. If the Guidette Powers also succeed in creating powerful weapons, the damage caused by both sides could potentially be worse than both World Wars combined.



Lil' Kim's Album
Emily "E-Griff" Griffin

Move over Eminem, the rap scene has a new star. This past week, George Coe released his debut rap album, *The Fall of Rome*. The album is one of numerous others, which have been huge hits in China and other parts of the world. No singles were released before the album, however the album sold over 2 billion copies worldwide after a mere three days. Coe, who recently adopted the stage name of Busta-GC, is a newcomer to the rap scene. His previous albums have consisted of country music, but he decided he wanted to change his image. "Even though country music is making a comeback, I wanted quick fame that came to change his image," Coe commented. "That guy who is named after a candy, the one who raps, he is really cool. I guess it is pretty cool that I get to work with the guys who my students constantly rave about in my class when they should be learning." He decided to start work on his new album with more of an edge because "These kids that I teach—they are so annoying!" This album has shown his true feelings and personal thoughts on every subject from the Roman Empire to postclassical Asia.

The Fall of Rome consists of 12 emotional and meaningful tracks in which listeners will be consumed by the brilliance of Coe's rapping mechanics. His musings are beautiful and powerful to everyone. The tide track weaves into the metaphysical, contemplating the meaning of life while comparing our lives to those during the age of the Roman Empire. Other tracks such as "Calligraphy Thoughts" and "Shiva's Destruction" are deeper, more emotional tunes. The lyrics, "my thoughts stoked with a brush/the lines as precise as you," really bring out his soul, and make the listener think of what message he is trying to convey. *The Fall of Rome* is like Coe's diary, and reflects what he feels throughout the day. His song, "Classes from Hades," honestly expresses how he feels about the teenagers he teaches and sees in the hallways. The opening lines, "My first period/drove me out of my head and into my own little world I go/Where did they come from" really give the listeners a glimpse into his personal life. Another track, called "Khan" gives real insight into Coe's inner persona. The lyrics speak of a feeling of invincibility and of power, "I am Cenghis/Chengis Khan/The empire is mine and mine alone/bow down to Khan."

This signing with Eminem shows that this swamping man is not leaving the music scene anytime soon. His billions of fans are eagerly waiting at their computers and cell phones for an update on his next album. He has already released the name of the next installment of his musical library, *Our Prehistory*. It is supposedly a mix of country, rap, and scream-o-rock. His debut has shown the world that everyone can rap, but few can do so with that Well done, Busta-GC, well done.

Taylor Swift's true identity revealed

Sami "Slami" Kadonoff & Karley "Ms. Urban" Zdebski

The secret is out. Why pay hundreds of dollars for front row tickets to the Taylor Swift concert when in reality West Potomac students do not have to search any further than the English hallway? From day one, English teacher Kim Chance was open about her training and love for opera. However, her claim that she ended her pursuit of singing as she approached a career as a teacher appears to be inaccurate. Recently, students lurking in Chance's office found a little more than graded papers, highlighters, and a planning book. Turns out the beloved Chance is not who she says she is, rather, she is who we believed her to be all along.

Alexandria to Nashville to Los Angeles and beyond; all are regular commutes for the "not so swift" teacher. Ever since she assumed the teaching position in the fall of 2010 at East Potomac High School, Chance has been denying rumors of her alleged yet uncanny resemblance to pop idol Swift. Through extensive investigation, and minor stalking, it has been confirmed Chance's alternate identity is indeed Swift. As soon as the last bell rings at 2:05, Chance sheds her work clothes and pseudo glasses, and hops aboard a private plane bound for wherever she is scheduled to perform. After several encores, she settles back into her plane to grade papers, bound for Alexandria where she must leave behind the glitz and glamor of her night and continue her lesson plans for the next day. Commuting back and forth is hardly a feat for the energetic teacher; however, keeping it a secret proved quite the challenge.

Students of East Potomac who may be feeling deceived; don't get your panties in a bunch. It's not like this is the first

time a high school has been tricked by a blonde pop star posing as a brunette.

Like fellow undercover pop star, Miley Cyrus, Chance has the best of both worlds. For all the skeptics out there whose minds were not swayed by recent findings, Chance has announced she will be giving a free concert to students of West Potomac to formally apologize and make believers out of the entire student body. The alleged concert is set for the day after the last Standards of Learning, and if scheduling permits there are rumors of an appearance at prom.

Chance has expressed guilt for not telling the whole truth about her double life, however, she intends to answer any questions as thoroughly as possible.

Students who suspected the connection are just as shocked as any to find that the rumors proved true. "One day I saw a few blonde strands lingering in Mrs. Chance's hair. I thought I was just seeing things, but it turns out I'm not crazy after all!" exclaimed junior Evan Jenkins. The question of Chance's safety with her new celebrity status still remains. However, on more than one occasion English teacher Colin O'Grady and

history teacher Eric Henderson have been spotted lurking around the halls outside Chance's classroom with unidentified wires sprouting from their ears. With further investigation, it appears that O'Grady and Henderson are Chance's official bodyguards. Ever since the revealing of the secret, they have been on lockdown and making frequent, suspicious stops by the English and Journalism classrooms and communicating through high-tech, almost invisible headsets.

In addition, are the undercover star's recurring poetry assignments really for the sake and benefit of her passion and love for literature? Or is it a scheme to steal student's deep, emotional creations for potential song ideas and lyrics?



Photos by of Clare Palo; courtesy of bopandtigerbeat.com

Taylor Swift is well known for her true-to-life songs about crushes and heartache, and Kim Chance revealed that she draws on students' experiences when penning hits like "Love Story." "I taught Romeo and Juliet to my ninth graders and was inspired," Chance shared.

West Potomac's first annual Hunger Games in review

Camille "Went to a Party" DiFolco & Jade "I Block Intersections" Toft

The first ever West Potomac Hunger Games drew to a close this weekend and, as expected, the senior tributes were victorious.

Held in an arena designed by aspiring architect Alex Cheng and funded by the school, the Games lasted just over a week. Daily updates on the action were a part of the morning news, and mandatory viewing went into effect as major events unfolded.

The arena was designed to mirror the hallways of West Potomac, but with major traps in store for the unsuspecting players. Lockdown went into effect at 7:20 AM sharp on Monday morning, and the first player, freshman Kyle Matthews, was eliminated on account of tardiness. In the first challenge of the

day, players had to grapple with unending fire alarms as they sought hiding places throughout the school. The wailing sirens caused confusion and headaches, and when the alarms were switched off six hours later, sophomore Emma Yohannon was disqualified after having shimmed through an unlocked window to escape the nonexistent fire. In direct consequence to the unsportsmanlike escape, the student received an "F" in physical education for the quarter.

Spectators grew impatient on Tuesday as the remaining tributes kept to separate wings of the school and hardly interacted. The seniors quickly secured Quander and the main offices, the juniors commandeered Gunston with a main base in the gym, while the freshman and sophomore took refuge in the remote hallways of Springbank. It was not until almost 2:00 PM that another player was expelled. Junior Zoe McCray was found guilty of breaching the school dress code after

donning a baseball cap.

The seniors upped their game on Wednesday when they tricked the remaining junior tribute, Alex Wong, into going to Chipotle. A coupon for one free burrito thumb-tacked to the Gunston bulletin board was too tempting to resist. The off-campus lunch spelled instant disqualification.

Asked what the inspiration for the innovative maneuver was, senior Madeline Weisblatt answered, "Our strategy is based on superior intelligence and experience."

Another elimination came towards the end of the day when freshman Lyndsay Leisher's cell phone went off, blasting Taylor Swift's "Back to December" through the halls. Security swooped in to confiscate the phone and escort the student off campus and out of the challenge.

With just three tributes remaining, Thursday morning was tense and drawn out. Students and teachers

alike were glued to their televisions, and normal classes were suspended. The seniors took their time, never straying far from their camp in the main offices, knowing that if the remaining sophomore were to attempt to enter Quander they would be forced to use the front doors. But when school let out and no victor had been named, students grew antsy. The administrators were driven to an unprecedented measure: forcing the players together in a challenge.

A relay obstacle race was planned for Friday morning. The course incorporated angry administrators, slippery floor signs, and the security gate in the connector. Not surprisingly, the seniors were victorious. When asked what they were going to do with the prize money, senior Michal Harmata replied, "We are going to have a tricked-out senior lounge built complete with a swimming pool, snack bar, and freshmen serfs!"

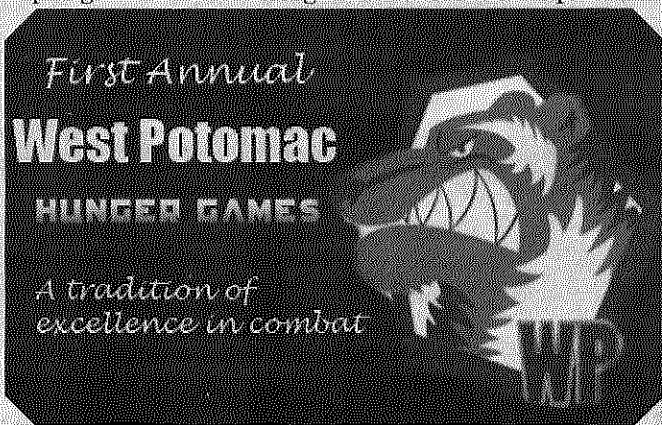


Photo courtesy of oscarvendetta.com & hyblavalle.com

Locked inside a carbon copy of the school, eight players struggled to be the last ones standing in West Potomac's version of the popular Hunger Games.

DON'T BE CAUGHT DEAD WITHOUT...

Emily "E-Griff" Griffin & Lily "Li'l Lil" Weisblatt

"Fashion makes a statement, and if the girls and boys follow some of my tips they will be on top of the fashion world," exclaimed history teacher and fashion extraordinaire Sal Olivo. "Here is a fabulous, exclusive look at my spring fashion tips!"

1. In the first fashion trend, wide is the new skinny. The wide leg trouser is all the rage now on the runways. Fashionistas should veer away from the classic denim pants and go for the pastel pink and shocking lime green versions. The bright colors guarantee that the wearer stands out in a crowd. For those that are drawn to the classic and boring, they should be informed that the trousers come in the always-flattering dark denim to the always-elegant, and completely boring, white linen. Whatever the color, students are bound to make an everlasting impression in these larger-than-life pants.

2. Less is more, especially when it comes to fashion. Undersized sweaters are an up and coming trend for spring. The sweaters are perfect for keeping the abdomen warm while leaving the arms freezing and covered in goose bumps. They flatter very little of the population, but are still hot! The sweaters are made from pre-shrunk buckskin, so customers will not have to worry about more shrinkage. The necklines of the sweaters are unfinished, so the wearer of the sweater can choose which neckline flatters them the most. My favorite patterns include stripes of alternating polka dots, dancing dolphins, and neon roses.

3. Boys, it is time to get bedazzled. When you follow your favorite timeless trend and sag your pants, you should show off your sparkling personality. Instead of wearing boring, plain boxers, why not bling them out? There is a new line called "Family Jewels" which specializes in the making of bejeweled boxers. The ever-present sight of sequins and fake jewels showing over your pants will make the girls swoon.

4. Track pants are swishing along the hottest fashion lines in the world. These comfortable and completely synthetic pants will mark the real athletes. The light material of the pants make them the next hot, or really cool, item for the spring. These pants are loose fitting and look stupendous with a variety of tops such as tutetops, corsets, and turtlenecks. With numerous pockets, girls and boys will no longer need to carry the fabulous bags that cost them a fortune. The real trend when wearing track pants is go bold or go home. Go for the metallic colors such as gold, silver, and copper. Don't forget to mix in neon shoelaces to really make the pants pop! It is time to rock these pants like MC Hammer.

5. Instead of a little black dress, the ultimate staple in a women's wardrobe, consider a black and yellow striped dress. Think total bumblebee. Spring is the time when the flowers are in bloom, the birds are back and the bees are buzzing. Spring needs to be expressed in one's wardrobe, and that includes bee! Girls will look like a flower, but sting like a bee. That is how West Potomac girls ought to be.

6. It is time to go on a shoe cleanse. Throw out those flip flops, stilettos and chunky wedges, and replace them with adorable water shoes. Water shoes are really useful and practical! They can be worn in the water and they have proven to be handy in hot climates and during those rainy days. When looking for the ideal water shoe it is important to consider the styles and the brands. Toss those ugly Manolo Blahniks and Jimmy Choos into the garbage can and go buy Crocs water shoes.

7. For our wonderful, and vertically challenged, male population, you all know that height does matter. Boys hate to be shorter than their female counterparts. "Bulk-up" shoes are all the rage now in Prague and Milan. These shoes are miracles for boys. They increase height and they also make the upper body look more chiseled. The arms look as if they have biceps of steel, and forearms of a god. The shoes create an optical illusion to 99% of the general population, so you can be sure that your girl thinks you look "hawt."



Catherine Royka was an ordinary high school senior. She was in the midst of preparations for college. She was bogged down by AP classes and graduation pressures. She worked at a local cupcake boutique. She played volleyball and had recently been cast in her school's musical. But behind the innocent smiles and playful laughter was a power-hungry girl with one goal in mind: Prom Queen. Royka's quest for perfection drove her so far that she saw only one path in order for her to achieve this title. On February 28, Royka began what would become a three-week chain of kidnappings. She would end up capturing and holding hostage three of her peers and fellow members of this year's Homecoming Court; Erica Sucher, Lauren Wilmot and Lizzie Persekian. Her motive? To eliminate competition for the crown at Prom. What ensued was a three week frenzy of search partys and despair for the community of West Potomac High School. With the start of each week also came the disappearance of another senior girl. Facebook pages were made for the victims, some of them titled "Bring Lauren Home!" and "We PerSEEKian Lizzie." Friends and family of the missing pointed to ex-boyfriends, former teachers, and local sex offenders as possible suspects. Royka was the last person anybody would suspect. This all changed on March 22, when neighbors reported muffled screams coming from Royka's home. Police immediately reported to the scene and found the gruesome sight of the three missing girls tied up in Royka's walk-in closet. Royka pled guilty to the crimes and was sentenced to 25 years in federal prison.

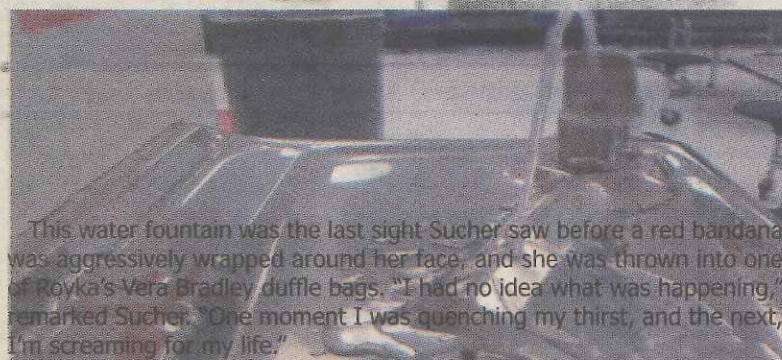
Lauren Wilmot, 18

Senior
Kidnapped for 11 days

"I was gone for two weeks, but it felt like an eternity. Cat took me away from my family, my friends, and my Twitter. This horrific event will be forever imprinted in my mind. Vote for me for Prom Queen!"



Wilmot was lured to the field under the false pretense that she was going to teach Royka some cheerleading moves. She arrived around 7:30 on a weekday night and waited for 20 minutes before a giant net was thrown from the bleachers on to Wilmot. Royka then emerged from the bleachers, bound Wilmot to silence her, put her in the trunk of her car, and sped off.



This water fountain was the last sight Sucher saw before a red bandana was aggressively wrapped around her face, and she was thrown into one of Royka's Vera Bradley duffle bags. "I had no idea what was happening," remarked Sucher. "One moment I was quenching my thirst, and the next, I'm screaming for my life."



Erica Sucher, 18

Senior
Kidnapped for 6 days

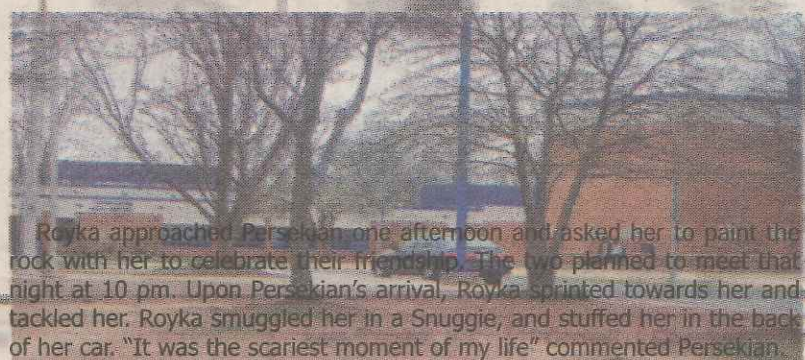
"Cat and I used to be the best of friends. We even went to the pumpkin patch together once. I never expected her to turn on me like this. The Cat I knew was a sweet child. Not a monster."



Lizzie Persekian, 18

Senior
Kidnapped for 23 days

"The first time I met Cat was in elementary school. She was a princess. I guess along the way, something just snapped. And to think I used to eat Cat's baked goods...I wish I had known then how evil she really was."



Royka approached Persekian one afternoon and asked her to paint the rock with her to celebrate their friendship. The two planned to meet that night at 10 pm. Upon Persekian's arrival, Royka sprinted towards her and tackled her. Royka smuggled her in a Snuggie, and stuffed her in the back of her car. "It was the scariest moment of my life" commented Persekian.

When reporters from "The Liar" went to speak to Royka's mother, they were invited in by a poised, well-spoken lady. However, as the interview progressed, a more vulnerable side was exposed and Sharon Royka began to break down. She confessed that there were early warning signs of her daughter's insanity. "Sometimes, late at night, I would hear her in her room practicing her Prom Queen acceptance speech. She didn't even think to thank me." Other alarming signals of Cat's distress were an "A-" on her last report card, staying up past 10:30 pm, and skipping episodes of "Glee." "Perhaps the biggest cry for help came when Cat began parting her hair on the opposite side of her head. I am just kicking myself for not seeking help after seeing her do that to herself." Allegedly, Cat Royka's sweet disposition and charming nature were all a part of her evil plot

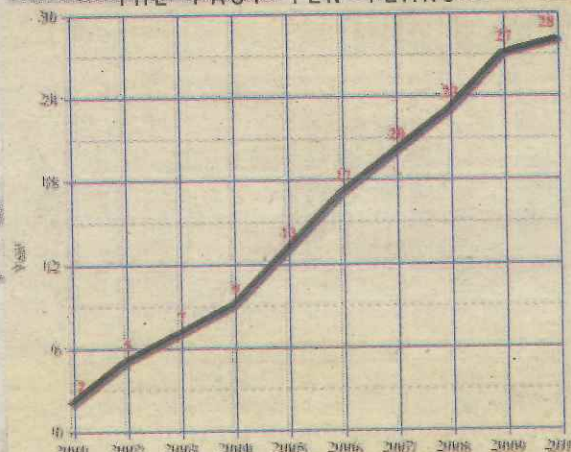
Early Signs



A heartbroken Sharon Royka poses in their family living room with Cat's senior portrait and their beloved cat, Penelope.

for Prom Queen. Sharon elaborated, stating, "Everything she did up until this point, ballet classes, Girl Scouts, Honor Societies, shopping at Gap, they were all to win over potential voters. She never took her eyes off the prize. Now that my baby is behind bars, all I have left are the memories."

DRAMATIC INCREASE IN PROM/HOME-COMING QUEEN RELATED CRIMES IN THE PAST TEN YEARS



The graph above shows the rising trend in criminal activity committed by aspiring Homecoming and Prom Queens. Source: The Onion

Cat's Life Behind Bars

She texts her mom.

She takes naps.

She entertains her fellow inmates.

She bakes pastries for the prison guards.

She looks forward to the future.

She dances to *NSYNC hits.

She accessorizes.

Students struck by tragedy

Agony is in the air. After the shocking discovery of Royka's criminal activity, students have become inconsolable. The same friendly, cheerful child who once brought joy into the school has now cast a spell of devastation. It's not uncommon to see people breaking down in between classes, and holding each other for support. Students and faculty observe a moment of silence every class period in honor of the Homecoming Queen crossing over to the dark side. In one extreme case of grief, a student vandalized the wall outside of the cafeteria, desperately inquiring, "What went wrong?" Nobody knows the answer. The three victims are also suffering from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and frequent panic attacks. This is indeed a tragedy for the ages.

What went wrong?

East Potomac administrators acting like teenagers

Sada "SK" Khan

There are five of them and they are always busy. When students try to find their GPA levels, many are in meetings, while others are wrapped up in their work. Does anyone really know what they are doing when they claim they are busy? While the administrators say they are occupied, this is what they have really been doing:

• Having Rock Band parties:

When the administrators rock out to the video game, *Rock Band*, Aaron Engley jams on the guitar, Dale Eaton sings, Alexander Case rocks the drums and Ivan Johnson plays the bass. Their favorite songs to play together are "Eye of the Tiger" and "Back and Black."

• Updating their status on Facebook:

When we see Case and Johnson with their BlackBerry out, it is not because they are checking their email. It is because they are constantly updating their status on Facebook. Engley's last status was, "Need a doughnut after chasing students down the hallway."

• **Having Clone Wars:** All the administrators love to watch *Star Wars* and dress up as the main characters of the movie. After they put on their costumes they pull out their light sabers and have epic battles. Johnson has been the consecutive winner for the last three times.

• Listening to Taylor Swift's album:

The nation loves her and so do our administrators. They occasionally get together in Eaton's office and listen to Swift's new album, *Speak Now*. Eaton's favorite songs include "Enchanted" and "Haunted." He said, "I can relate to all of Taylor's lyrics, she has inspired me to write songs about the bad experiences I have had with teachers."

• Watching *Glee* on DVD:

The famous comedy series seems to be a favorite for all the administrators. They love to watch all the drama in the show, and also love to sing along with their favorite songs. Engley's favorite was the Gwyneth Paltrow episode; he wore a blonde wig and chanted out "Forget You" while dancing in front of his computer.

• **Throwing Darts:** The administrators have been using the bulletin boards in their offices as dart boards. They have exclusively typed up lists and printed pictures of the teachers who they find objectionable. They put the pictures on the boards, mark them with bull eyes and shoot arrows at the teachers.

• **Making Voodoo dolls:** When the administrators get frustrated after disciplining a disobedient student, they make little Voodoo Dolls for the misbehaved student. They have a secret drawer in their office that needs a special key, because it contains all of the dolls. Every summer they have a ritual of getting together,

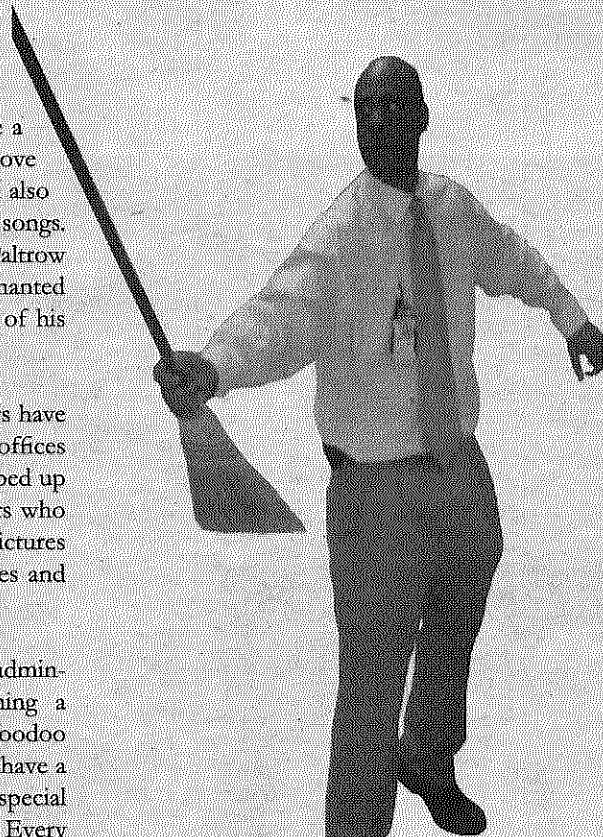
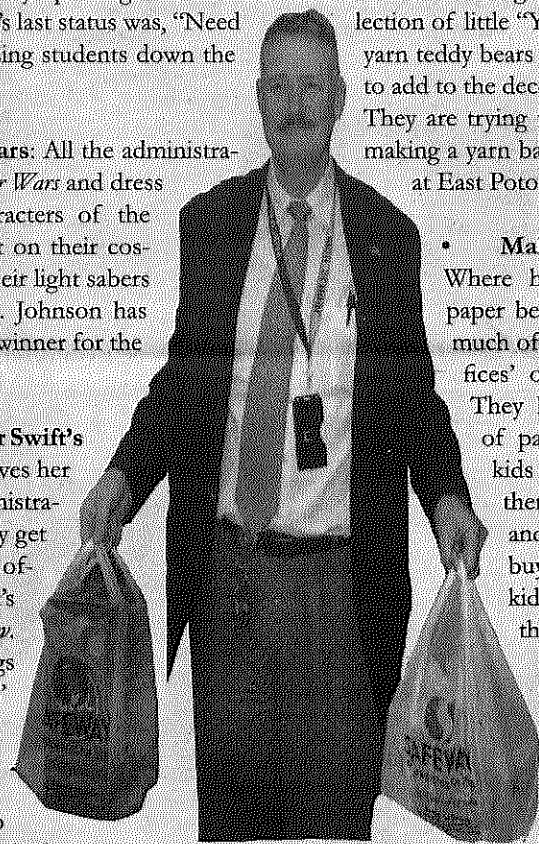
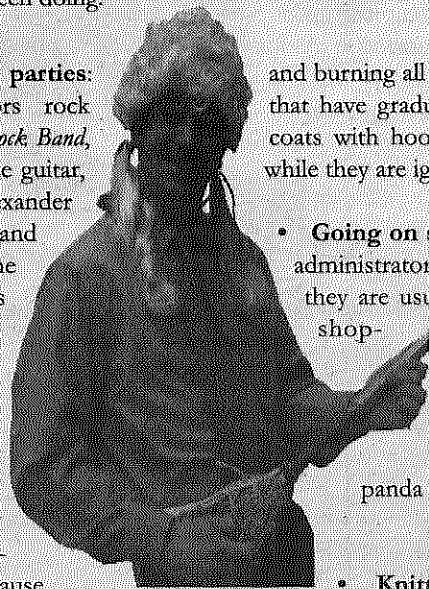
and burning all the old dolls of the students that have graduated. They wear long black coats with hoods to disguise their identity while they are igniting the fire.

• **Going on shopping sprees:** When the administrator's claim they are in meetings, they are usually at Tyson's Corner Mall, shopping. Hardison's favorite place to shop at is Express. He is fond of running into the store and attacking the rack with teddy bear and panda ties.

• **Knitting:** As soon as administrators find free time they lock their office doors and begin working on their collection of little "Yarn Babies." The little yarn teddy bears are a great accessories to add to the decoration of their office. They are trying to reach their goal of making a yarn baby for all the teachers at East Potomac.

• Making Origami hats:

Where has all the computer paper been disappearing? Well much of the stock is in the offices of the administrators. They have massive amount of paper to make hats for kids in Finland. They sell them for two cents each and use the proceeds to buy rubber chickens. The kids in Finland recognize them as "mad hatters."



Swift breakups

Anna "Doofuss" Dreyfuss

Taylor Lautner

"Taylor squared" was the talk of the town. After a couple weeks of research Swift had the CIA do on Lautner's background, she found out that the Twilight star smuggled five pounds of marijuana over the border and used Dakota Fanning as a drug mule. The split was announced on December 13, 2010 and left fans in remorse. The werewolf was once again, heart-broken.

JAKE

GYLLENHAAL

With a nine year age difference, the relationship was quite a scandal. Although there was no reason given for the split, America was shaken by the death of the famous couple. There were over 3,000 people reported missing from school or work the day after the news went public. The Federal Bank also took a couple days to grieve. Gyllenhaal voodoo dolls were also frequently used across the country. A song about Jake has yet to be released.

JOHN MAYER

Even Swift goes for the "bad boys." The oxymoronic couple dated for a short period and ended when Swift got her heart broken... a shocker to all. They were reported to have been canoodling at the beach exactly ten feet away from Lautner's ten-story beach house and grabbing extra-vitamin enriched smoothies at a disco-themed café, owned by Jonas. The day Mayer broke it off, celebration arose throughout the nation. Nashville, Tennessee threw a parade, complete with floats and all.

Joe Jonas

The middle brother of the famous band, *The Jonas Brothers*, was involved in one of the biggest Taylor Swift breakups, which occur a little too often (but make for great albums). Jonas was quick to tell his fans the real story of their breakup. Jonas was in fact saving Swift from a raging maniac, who disguises himself as a hot dog seller. He heavily stalks Jonas and has threatened to pour 28 gallons of mustard on Swift. The "Hot Dog Man," as the New York Times called him, has caused 638,986 hot dog stands to be burned down to the ground in New York City.

Kanye West

After the Video Music Awards (VMA) scandal, West invited Swift to a quick trip to Coffee Bean as an apology. Even though their genres collide, their hearts did not. The two went on a road trip with their closest friends, Snoop Dogg, Lupe Fiasco and Eminem. The joyful trip ended with West dumping Swift because of her incessantly depressing mood. Although much of the population assumed it would come, Swift supporters turned their depression into anger and West received many death-threatening presents, including clowns and three ton boxes of Cup Noodles. West called it enough and admitted he and Beyonce will be getting married after she and Jay-Z finalize their divorce.

WOLVERNE WARRIORS

Dan Carriker

Tommy "Mr. Urban" Friederich

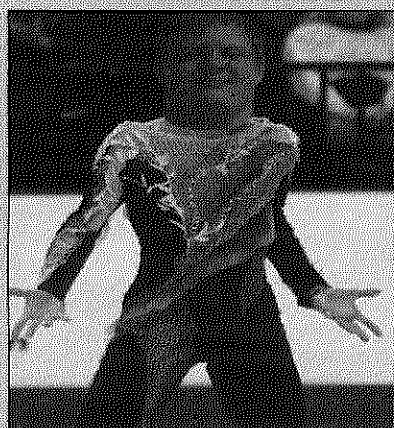


Photo courtesy of jibourne.com, by Sonia G.

He flies like a swan on a windy but cool winter day in the midst of the December sky. Who, you might ask? 6'2", 300 pound senior Dan Carriker also known as "Ginger Swan." Carriker was an All-Met offensive lineman for the 2010 West Potomac football team. He had everything going for him such as a full ride to the University of Maine to play football, a loving family, and beautiful red-orange hair. Things have changed since Carriker viewed the movie "Black Swan." Recently Carriker has decommitted from his full ride scholarship to the University of Maine, run away from home, and begun training with Michelle Kwan to become an Olympic ice skater. It doesn't end there, he cut off all his hair and is not bald all over his body for better wind resistance.

"It is a life style change, everything I do now is completely different than what I did before. Ice skating practices are about 100 times harder than football practices. I feel like I am going to die after each practice. Coach Kwan is the devil, but I am committed to winning a gold medal so that I can show people that gingers do have souls." If Dan becomes a gold medalist he will become the first ginger to ever win anything ever. Carriker is planning on competing this summer in the New Zealand National Competition held at the Opera House in Sydney, Australia. Dan's biggest competitor is 8-year-old Natalia Kurkzchan from Russia. Kurkzchan commented, "Dan is large but is much like a jaguar, big and fast. He flies through the air much like a swan. I will defeat him." Carriker's whole family is behind him, "My son has always had a big heart, he has a goal and is doing everything he can to reach it. I just wish he would call his mother once or twice. I miss him so much," commented Mrs. Carriker.

Carriker just decided to get up one day and ice skate, "I was hot one day, my air conditioning was broken so I went and ice skated. I decided I would do that instead of football," said Carriker. The cost of all his trips and training comes out to be about 7 years' tuition at George Washington University. "I will pay it back once I get my gold. And nothing is stopping me from getting that gold." Carriker is on the path for a very difficult and challenging road, but he has the heart, determination, and orange hair that will allow him to succeed in life.

Coach Nelson is a modern day 007

Jack "Diesel" King

Agent 007 from Goldeneye, Ethan Hunt from Mission Impossible, and of course the groovy Austin Powers are all famous secret agents from our favorite movies. However, none of these skilled agents could ever measure up to an agent as cunning, as intimidating, as slick, and as dangerous as agent Scott Nelson. Agent Nelson has been coaching baseball at West Potomac for the last three years and is entering his fourth season this year. Throughout his time here at West Potomac, Nelson would occasionally miss practices leaving his players dumbfounded as to where he could be or what he could be doing. While they all knew that he was not there due to work requirements outside of his coaching, no one could have ever imagined what Nelson was secretly doing away from his team.

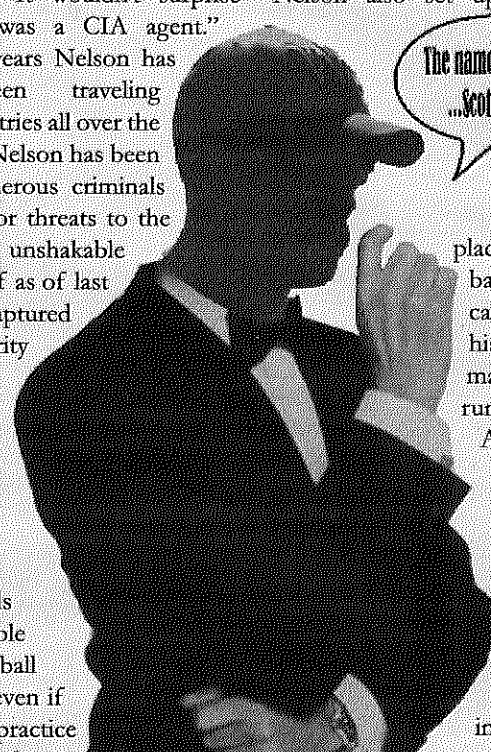
Nelson played baseball in college and was one of the top prospects in MLB draft in his senior year. He would have easily been drafted first over all, but nearly every team was simply terrified to draft him solely because of his unfathomably intimidating presence on and off the field. Nelson went undrafted but his luck later turned when the CIA, recognizing his potential to become an agent, recruited Nelson into the program. Within just a few weeks of training, Nelson passed with flying colors and made a mockery of the CIA training program. Soon he was out in the field taking on criminals

in the streets in major cities in the U.S. Junior catcher Ryan Aitkin commented, "Coach Nelson is one of the most intimidating and determined people I have ever seen. It wouldn't surprise me at all if he was a CIA agent."

In more recent years Nelson has frequently been traveling overseas to countries all over the world. While there Nelson has been hunting down numerous criminals that have been major threats to the United States with unshakable determination. As of as of last year Nelson has captured numerous security threats to the United States and brought them all to justice.

Although Nelson is forced to fight off dangerous criminals overseas, he is still able to coach the baseball team with success, even if it means flying into practice with style. "I'll never forget the day that coach came parachuting into practice last year," commented junior pitcher Andrew White. "He came

down dressed in a suit and once he landed he ripped it off in one motion and he already had his baseball uniform on underneath. We all thought it was just ridiculous." Nelson also set up hidden cameras and



The name's Nelson...
...Scott Nelson

Photo courtesy of Sonia Garakharaghi

Dressed in a fresh tuxedo, Nelson often goes undercover to get information about the criminals that he is tracking down.

miniature microphones in various places around the baseball field so that he can constantly watch his players overseas to make sure practices are running smoothly.

Agent Nelson declined to speak when asked about his involvement in the CIA and his missions overseas but the evidence of his job with the CIA is almost indisputable. It just goes to show that you never really know what anyone, especially your coaches, are truly capable of.

Crew cheaters get caught

Laura "Get On My Level" Jacobs & Leigh "New" Orleans

"Power ten in two strokes!" yelled junior coxswain Lauren Soriente to her varsity girls' boat. The West Potomac crew is a competitive club sport that starts conditioning in the fall. However, since there was a fallout with their last boathouse, they were weeks late in practicing on the water. To get ready for their upcoming regatta, an event where all boats compete against different teams, they took matters into their own hands.

"We decided we would need a different source of power," explained sophomore rower Maddie Stevens. "We already had the Commitment, the Rigger, and the Equality in C-R-E-W, so all we needed was the Win. We just did what we had to do."

Senior team captain and team president, Anna Leonard and Julia Bolger, devised a scheme in which to win their first race. Three nights before their "Polar Bear Regatta," the rowers met at a secret rendezvous behind the boat house to formulate a plan of action. The midnight congregation was reported to be a success. With intricately developed planning, it



Photo by Laura Jacobs

was decided that the senior rowers would supply the goods, the juniors would rig the boats, and finally the sophomores and freshmen would act as distractions. The coxswain would be able to manage their new motors as the rest of the team rowed in flawless synchronization. All they had to do was find a supplier. "I was happy to help out," claimed the old man living in the lighthouse. He said that he'd been a big fan of the team for years now and wanted to do something to "raise their spirits." He quickly gave the rowers their boat motors and helped

the seniors transport them down to the dock. Hours later, the mission had been completed. The boats were rigged and ready to race. The coxswains came early that morning to practice using their new means of success. By dawn, the crew team was prepared for the big race.

The rowers arrived at the regatta, ready to check in at 6 a.m. The seniors carried the motors in large duffel bags, hurrying to help the team prepare for the race. The freshmen and sophomore rowers were spotted dressed as clowns with make-up, flamboyant costumes, and bright red noses in attempts to distract the judges. Meanwhile, the juniors attached put the motors in a secret compartment in the boats.

"I was sweating. I am not very good at being sly, so I just tried to act cool and play it down. I was sure that the judges would see the motor when I attached it to the boat. Luckily, we were smart enough to camouflage the motor with the water. Win or lose, I knew it was going to be an 'oar'some race!" Soriente commented. The plan was for the coxswains to attach the motor right before the start. However, things took a turn for the worse.

"The whole race went in a blur. I remember being exhilarated when I saw the coxswain start the motor because my legs were getting tired," commented Stevens. Just then, the motor caught a crab and died with a "putter, putter." Nevertheless, the girls' boats rowed up to a first place victory without missing a beat. "This regatta was just a trial run to test the motors. Maybe next time we will also take the rudders off of the other schools' boats competing. Hopefully we will be an 'inspir-row-tion' event to future generations on doing everything it takes to get the win," Soriente finished.

THE SOUND BOX

"I'M TIRED OF HEARING ABOUT MONEY, MONEY, MONEY, MONEY. I JUST WANT TO PLAY THE GAME, DRINK PEPSI, AND WEAR REEBOK." - SHAQUILLE O'NEAL

"I'D RUN OVER MY OWN MOTHER TO WIN THE SUPER BOWL." - JOE JACOBY

"HE TREATS US LIKE MEN. HE LETS US WEAR EARRINGS." - TORRIN POLK

"NOBODY IN FOOTBALL SHOULD BE CALLED A GENIUS. A GENIUS IS A GUY LIKE NORMAN EINSTEIN." - JOE THEISMANN

"I MEAN LISTEN, WE'RE SITTING HERE TALKING ABOUT PRACTICE, NOT A GAME, NOT A GAME, NOT A GAME, BUT WE'RE TALKING ABOUT PRACTICE." - ALLEN IVerson

Brothers, cont.

was an outsider, nobody wanted to be friends with me, and they all thought I was weird because I wore my heart on my sleeve. Actually my only friend at school was a guy named Paul Russell; we became best friends and still are to this day." Even though his high school days at Cornell were not great, he found a way to escape. "Every day, after my classes, I went back into my dorm room and locked myself in the closet. While I was in the dark closet I was able to connect with my suppressed emotions. I began writing poetry about everything I was feeling," recalled Cabral. After spending his high school years writing down all of his emotions, Cabral wanted to touch the lives of all of the "weird and different" students out there. "No one should ever feel excluded," Cabral continuously advocates.

Both O'Grady and Cabral began teaching at West Potomac six years ago. "I remember meeting all of the new teachers," recalled Russell. "Out of all of those newbies those two [Cabral and O'Grady] stuck out to me. I know there was some deeper connection there, I could feel it." After spending the first few weeks of school wandering the halls and attempting to make lasting friendships with other teachers, Cabral and O'Grady began to talk more. "I was walking down the hallway, trying to look cool to impress the students," remembered O'Grady. "I was walking down the hallway

and strutting my stuff when I saw a tall man walking towards me. At first I thought he was just another teacher who had been working here [at West Potomac] for years. But then I started to look into his eyes and I finally saw the truth."

"I was writing in my journal and was walking down the hallway, to be quite honest I did not even see Colin. While I was writing the most emotional part of my day, I accidentally collided with Colin and knocked him down," recollected Cabral. After helping O'Grady back to his feet, they both stared at each other with great intensity and curiosity. Making small talk for a little while, Cabral and O'Grady were about to leave in opposite directions when it hit them. The person they longed to meet for so long was standing just a mere ten feet away. "We both turned slowly and ran into each other's arms," both of them exclaimed. That was the time they realized they were brothers. "It was the warmest embrace I have ever felt in my life," added a teary Cabral.

"I knew there was a reason why I choose to work at West Potomac," O'Grady giggled gleefully, nudging his brother in the ribs. "I always knew he was out there, I just never knew where. Now, seeing him [O'Grady] every day, it is the greatest gift I could ever get," blubbered a sobbing Cabral. These brothers definitely do not have similar personalities, but that is what makes their relationship so special and precious to them.

Obamabook, cont.

Watergate Hotel in career crushing presidential scandals. However not all Americans are as livid over Obama's Facebook purchase. Sarah Palin, staunch critic of the Obama Administration, surprised the nation when she applauded Obama through her ever popular Twitter account. "@BarackObama congrats on f/b buy, you the best prez ever, I'mpsyched 4 the #Bamabook nation" Palin tweeted to her 400,000 plus followers. Our resident Twitter expert painstakingly translated this tweet into plain English for the less informed tweeters, "Dear Mr. President", her tweet begins, "Congratulations on your historic Facebook purchase. You are an inspiring president and I am excited to begin using Bamabook." Many individuals soon followed Palin's example through their Twitter accounts, MySpace profiles, and new BamaBook updates.

So the real question remains, "What is Bamabook?" In his press conference to anxious reporters Obama remained tight lipped about the new designs and capabilities, but did describe his intentions for the site stating, "BamaBook will encourage socially active individuals to achieve their highest possible potential." Despite this vague executive statement an anonymous source close to the Obama Administration has disclosed details regarding BamaBook's design and applications. He explains the site will still have profiles, but instead of answering optional questions regarding favorite forms of entertainment and personal interests, users will be required to describe their daily diet and caloric intake, enter their current grade point average and/or yearly salary, and state who they will vote for in upcoming elections. Sophomore Victoria Brisbane is uneasy about the suspected Bamabook design. "I used Facebook to talk to friends, creep on strangers, and learn interesting information about people I barely know", Price explains, "I don't want to talk about nutrition and politics on the internet, I mean that's what school is for."

We are a nation of Facebookers unsure of our Bamabook future, but we may need to prepare to type 'oww' into our toolbars next, officially accessing the Obama Wide Web.

Grading policy, cont.

cepting. This is a system that will take the pressure off and loosen people up. We hope West Potomac's grading system will catch on throughout the country."

Teachers are dismayed by the new system. Many are worried that they will not be able to draw the pictures. One teacher, who wishes to remain anonymous, said, "I have enough trouble getting my grades done on time. Now I have to try and be some Pablo Picasso." English teacher Jackie Livelli remarked, "I do not want my students basing

their education on smiley faces and stars. This is high school, not a Lifetime movie." Hardison plans to implement the new system on April 1, 2011. He is looking forward to West Potomac's transition into the future. When asked whether or not he thought the new grading system would be successful, Hardison responded, "Of course. West Potomac is shedding the shackles of the alphabet and ushering in the imagination of Pictionary. In the end, what really matters is that it is successful in our hearts."



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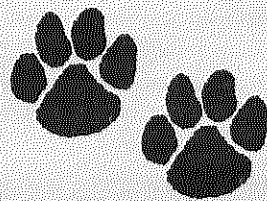
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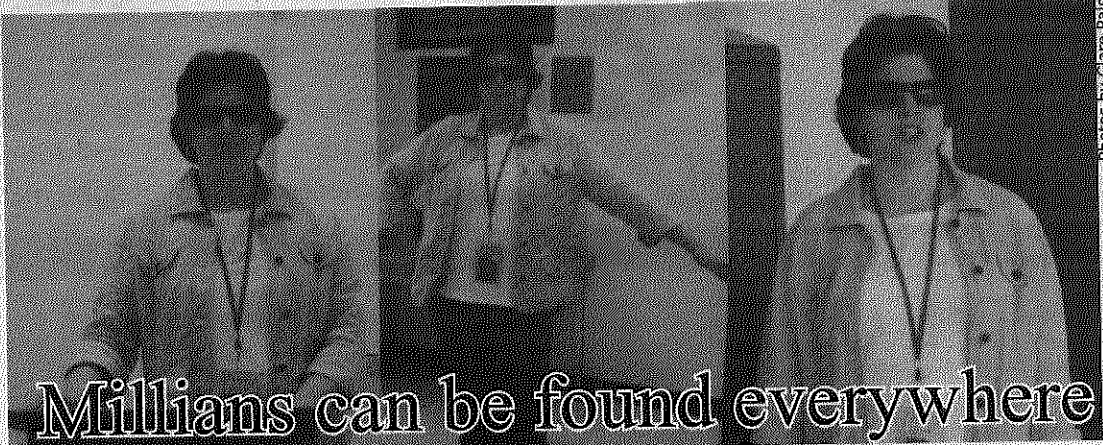
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Photos by Clare Palo

Millians can be found everywhere

History teacher Emily Millians can be seen in just about every place at West Potomac. Through the latest cloning technology, Millians can be in two places at once.

Kristin "Chickensower" Hoecherl

Emily Millians, a history teacher at West Potomac, recently became the first woman cloned. Millians has discovered a new friendship from an unlikely candidate. Upon the safe release of her new clone from the top secret government facility, Millians gained a new best friend. Although they have the same DNA, Millians' clone, nicknamed Meyli, does not share her love of flamingoes. Meyli instead favors whales.

At school, the Millians duo pulls double duty. While one of them teaches classes, the other will patrol the hallways, searching for students who are skipping class or are creating a disturbance to the learning environment. They rotate schedules every two days, that way both Millians and Meyli get an A and a B day.

One rough Monday, Meyli thought it was her day to teach and had planned out a whole lesson on whales when it was actually Millians' day to teach, and the twins showed up to the extreme shock of their first period students.

According to Meyli, the students were astonished and very confused, and West Potomac was in danger of being sued for several student mental health breakdowns. But the crisis was averted because the Central Intelligence Agency had handed over the Men In Black Neuralizer, also known as the "flashy-thing," and the students' memories were swiped.

One student, on their way to the bathroom from

another class, saw the double Millians through their classroom window as they neutralized the first period students. Although this student wishes to remain anonymous, they added, "When I first saw the famous Men In Black Neuralizer being used by Millians and someone who looked exactly like her, I thought it was just a fun classroom activity, but by their stoic, nervous demeanors and Millians quickly hurrying out of the room, the anonymous source knew something secret was going on."

It did not take much to put the pieces together. Chris Castiglioni, a senior, stated, "Millians is everywhere! She confiscated my phone two days in a row!" Another senior, Rachel Davis, pointed out, "I see Millians in the halls so much, I am amazed she has time to do anything else!"

Cloning and anti-cloning organizations alike have taken interest in Meyli. The Carbon-Copy Privileges Association contacted Millians hoping to make Meyli their new poster child, but Millians refused on the principal of protecting Meyli, who is already well-adjusted in her life. On the other front, Pope Mouszinger also confronted Millians. He claimed Millians was leading people astray and was wrong for allowing herself to be cloned.

But fans and haters alike do not realize what West Potomac students have discovered: "Meyli is another human being. She is very real, just like any other teacher. And she is a great instructor." Students love their unknown new teacher just as much as the real Millians.

Move over Grāpples, here come the Broccados

Camille "Went to a Party" DiFolco

Nutritious *and* delicious? The two do not have to be mutually exclusive anymore, introducing the Broccado®, a fruit-vegetable hybrid that transcends the food pyramid. Combining the fiber and vitamins of broccoli with nature's most beneficial fruit, the avocado, the Broccado will hit supermarkets next month.

Developed by the same company that brought Grāpples® to American grocers, the Broccado will change the way people eat their fruits and veggies. A spokesperson for the company said, "We aim to improve the health of America as a whole by promoting vitamin-rich diets. Our new line of hybrid Vegefruits® will be released in the fall, and, if I may be so bold, they will blow the other produce companies out of the water."

The Broccado is the first of the aforementioned Vegefruits, and public demand will decide the fate of the newest innovation in the food industry. Health benefits of the Broccado abound, say public health officials. A recent study at Johns Hopkins University found that on average, people who ate a Broccado in the place of one daily serving of fruit or vegetables for six months had almost twice the levels of vitamins C and K, fiber, and antioxidants as people who ate traditional fruits and vegetables separately.

Although Grāpple refused to reveal the formula behind the groundbreaking Broccado, it is clear that this is genetic engineering at its best. Yielding up to 400 fruits in a month, Broccado trees can thrive in most types of soil and take very little maintenance. For many farmers, these new hybrids could be a godsend, as they are genetically designed to resist climate fluctuations, insect damage, and even drought conditions.

"Hale and hearty," said Grāpple lab scientist Robert Cutlass, "That is how I would describe Broccados—hale and hearty. They are virtually indestructible! I cannot say what, but it is something in their genetic codes that allows the plants to resist all kinds of environmental and human factors that would spell disaster for traditional fruits and vegetables."

West Potomac school officials are even considering incorporating the hybrid plants into the cafeteria menu. Rumors of a special Vegefruits salad bar are already swirling. "I think it would be great," said senior Michael Berkoni. "They taste great and they are loaded with vitamins. I am all for Vegefruits at West Potomac!"

So what can the public expect from the Vegefruits line this fall? "We expect to see some pearrots, cornberries, and maybe even some spinachmelon!" revealed Cutlass with a chuckle.

Mrs. Bowman caught fighting with students, employment status uncertain

Clare "Gayle" Palo

Two failed tests plus zero completed homework assignments equals a beat down from math teacher, Alexandra Bowman. Students are living in terror due to recent reports of Bowman fighting failing students. One bad math test and students step into the dreaded ring.

Typically, boxing involves opponents in the same weight class who have specifically trained for each match, aware of their rival's strengths and weaknesses, but Bowman disregards these rules to teach students a lesson. The types of students that are penalized vary, from two hundred fifty pound football players, to teeny tiny ballerinas. "I am a ballerina dancer, but I have never danced with death before," commented Senior Cat Royka. Royka competed in her first and hopefully last brawl during her second period class. "Not only do students have to endure the competitions but they

are limited to their education in other classes," added Royka.

Every third Friday during the last period of the day, Bowman storms the halls and seeks out her latest challenger. Bowman pulls the student out of class to "talk to them about their grade," but once they step into the hall, they know their doom. According to spectators, the matches are held at the rock, where skipping students jeer from afar. The secluded environment allows Bowman to psych-out her opponent and the only sounds heard are the faint cries of the students' cry for help.

While in the ring some students yell out math equations and correct answers from the test they have failed in order to plead for mercy. But gateway quiz answers and the quadratic formula will not help students in these competitions.

Since Bowman implemented this "unique" intimidating teaching strategy, the average grade in her Precalculus classes has risen from dangerously low F's,

to B's and A's. Due to its effectiveness, other teachers are considering using this successful boxing strategy. Math teacher and friend of Bowman's, Robert Riddell said, "I have never seen a [teaching] technique work this well; I am dying to give it a try... literally."

Junior and Precalculus student Matt Kuhbach is the only known challenger to have defeated Bowman in a life or death battle. "I channeled my ninja skills from my Asian ancestry. At first I was nervous, but then I remembered I work at a taekwon do gym, where I train kids every day to be champions," boasted Kuhbach. Bowman was disappointed in the loss but admitted it made her stronger. Bowman commented, "Winning is not everything for me. My goal is to teach my students a lesson, and encourage them to work harder. If dueling with students and beating them to a pulp is what it takes, I gladly accept the challenge."

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Focus

Best Senior Pranks 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Friday, April 1, 2011

Mrs. Thompson is now Mrs. Rager

Emily "Norris Brooks" Woods

It is 11:30 PM at East Potomac. Teachers have left behind locked doors and dark classrooms. Sports practices have been over for hours. The janitors have cleaned every hall and bathroom, and have departed. Only one soul remains. Her name is Kimberly Thompson, and she is quietly setting up decorations in the cafeteria for one of her infamous late night parties.

"I have been doing this for about five years now," claimed Thompson, an AP Language teacher, after word got out about her secret festivities. "I only invite my favorite students. You know, the suck ups. The ones that give me their pathetic school pictures to hang on my wall and tell me I remind them of Daisy from *The Great Gatsby*." It has been revealed that in the past few years, Thompson has held over 300 parties in the school cafeteria. The faculty and administration at East Potomac were completely unaware of these events. When asked for quotes, every member of the faculty declined to comment. One would assume this is because they are deeply ashamed and embarrassed by their co-worker's celebratory tendencies.

Word got out about the so called "underground parties" when pictures from some of the events were leaked on Facebook by students who attended. Comments on these photos read, "Wait a minute...why are you and Ms. Thompson wearing matching party tops in the cafeteria?"



English teacher Kim Thompson has been raging with some of her students after school hours.

Photo by Colleen Sweeney

and "Why is my English teacher covered in glow sticks and confetti?" Once East Potomac administrators were tipped off to these posts, they began to look into the situation.

As students confess to attending Thompson's parties, more and more details are emerging about the nature of them. According to junior Christine Gannon, "They are absolutely wild. Imagine prom on steroids, and you pretty much get the picture." It has also become evident that Thompson will occasionally hire entertainers for the night. Among those who have performed in the past are Eminem, Ke\$ha, Lil' Romeo, and Flavor Flav. The parties are said to run as late as five AM. In several instances, Thompson has stayed at the school overnight following her celebrations. She sends her partygoers on their way, then simply retires to her classroom to blog about her crazy night until her students start showing up for class.

The guest lists for these events are allegedly extremely exclusive. In order to notify her students that they have made the cut, Thompson will sometimes mark their papers with symbols indicative of the time and date of the party. "I knew I was invited when she wrote 'see me' on the first page of my essay and then drew a boom box and a party hat on the next," said senior Sarah Slichter, who was in Thompson's class last year. Theme parties are also a crowd favorite. "She mostly sticks to literary themes," said junior Pace Woods. "I know it sounds lame, but it is actually really hip. Some of our party themes have been coming of age,

Severed students

Norris "GINGAA" Brooks

As Shakespeare would say, "There is something rotten in the state of East Potomac." And no, it is not the usual stench coming from chemistry teacher Eli Hyman's room. Rather, it is the rancid odor wafting into the halls every Tuesday and Thursday. It is so strong that students are tearing up as if they were peeling onions. The source of the smell appears to be coming from anatomy teacher Kelley Peck's closet.

School officials first suspected something was going terribly wrong when a janitor recently reported seeing a student walking stiffly through the halls with some crude stitching on her head. Officer Jones was alarmed at the janitor's story, because just last month he had received a similarly disturbing report from English teacher Mary Mathewson. Apparently, she had described a student who was unable to write an essay because of strange scarring and nerve damage to his wrist and fingers. When asked to comment on the situation, Mathewson said, "I was skeptical of his excuse, but then I glanced down and saw what looked like a map of Disneyland etched into his forearm."

Then just last week there was a break in the case. A finger was found in the front office. The appendage was discovered by secretary Patricia Jones when she returned from lunch. She was trying to roll her chair under her desk, when it refused to move. When she checked to see what was obstructing the casters, she let out a blood-curdling scream. Her colleague, Erin Whittaker, asked, "Find another rat?" Jones was speechless as she held up the bloody digit.

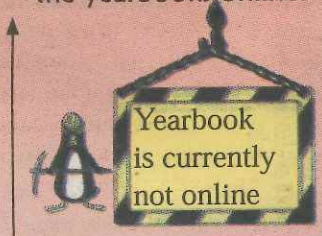
DNA tests were conducted and the finger was linked to senior Caitlin Corrigan. Everyone thought Corrigan had lost her finger in a tussle with a fellow student, but she said the last thing she remembered before noticing her missing finger was walking into anatomy class after school. She was staying late for test corrections when her afternoon turned into an episode of the "Twilight Zone."

Continued on page 2

Continued on page 2

Take a Peek...

Budget cuts hit yearbook.
Check out where to find
the yearbooks online.



Page 9 10 11 12...

Astronomers add another
month to the year,
"Rocktember."



Page 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

Find out which East Potomac student tried out for American Idol.



Page 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Charlie Sheen instills tiger blood in students

Camille "Went to a Party" DiFolco

East Potomac's newest faculty member has promised that by the end of the school year every senior will be "winning." Since December, the College and Career Center has been in desperate need of an advisor. The senior class has experienced mounting anxiety as the time for college decision letters drew nearer without an advisor to consult on last minute scholarship information. Luckily, the void has been filled.

Charlie Sheen, actor and certified lunatic, was hired last week as the new advisor. Sheen has never been off the tabloid radar for very long, but in recent weeks his press coverage has dramatically multiplied. This is due in large part to a series of interviews in which Sheen made ridiculous and extremely quotable comments, including a claim that he possessed "tiger blood and Adonis DNA."

Just a short time after these interviews aired, East Potomac announced that Sheen would be the new College and Career Center advisor. Initially apprehensive about the choice, many seniors have since warmed to Sheen.

"He's been really helpful," said senior Evan Rajadyhaksha. "He has a lot of world experience, and really helped me put things into perspective. I've realized that college is a waste of time when I can become famous by posting auto-tuned YouTube videos of myself or just being generally wacky." "Meeting Mr. Sheen has definitely been an eye-opener," added senior Leah Naidorf. "He is just full of witty one-liners and great life lessons to boot. It just goes to show you

should not judge someone based on what they say in an interview!"

Sheen has certainly put his own flair on the role of College & Career Center advisor since arriving. In the past, the advisor was usually available during lunch periods (if not all day) to begin prepping ambitious sophomores for the SAT's, field questions from anxious juniors, and provide moral support for seniors. However, Sheen

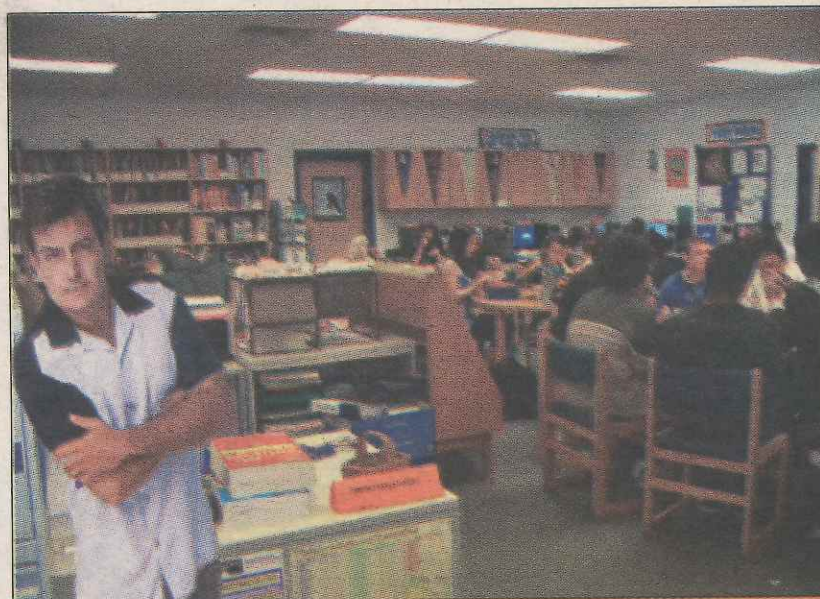


Photo by Camille DiFolco; Photo courtesy of imdb.com

Charlie Sheen, East Potomac's newest College and Career Center advisor has been successfully educating students in the values of a college education and a positive work environment.

wonder if Sheen can use his sway within Hollywood to nab a celebrity commencement speaker or performer for Prom. With regards to a prom performer, Sheen mentioned that he could pull some strings with Rebecca Black's team. Could the "Friday" starlet be coming to our school? If so, Charlie Sheen may well go down in history as the College & Career Center's most popular advisor ever.

has only been seen a handful of times in the school parking lot, often openly defying the Drug-Free Zone status of the campus by chain-smoking. In all of these instances, Sheen has been surrounded by a pow-wow of awestruck students, all breathlessly waiting their turn to ask him a probing question. His unfettered honesty has school administrators worried, but unless another applicant surfaces, Sheen will enjoy job security. Rumors of an *E!* special on the school are already flying, while some students