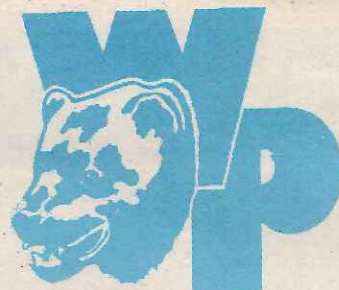


April  
2005

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West Pot High School  
6500 Quander Road  
Alexandria, VA 22307  
Volume 20 #7

# THE LIAR

WEST POTOMAC HIGH SCHOOL

Friday, April 1, 2005

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## Leadership Capsizes

Marissa "Laura's Friend" D'Orazio and Laura "Marissa's Friend" Lofgren

Focus Editor and Photo Editor

Our school has abandoned ship. Leadership. Prom is over, graduation is over, the all-night grad party is over— everything has pretty much been terminated due to a spur of the moment splurge that Leadership sponsor Joan Reynolds insisted on. Last Friday, Reynolds used all of the SGA's funds - \$12,000 - to buy a small freighter.

She has always shown an interest in cargo. Senior Taurin Barrera, the SGA president, confirmed this interest: "We'd be talking about what to do with the SGA funds, and she would yell out, 'CARGO!' and we would all exchange glances. We would ask her what she meant by cargo, and she would pretend like she never said anything."

Sailing is an understandable passion. Reynolds prefers feeling the wind in her hair when she is atop a cargo ship. "There is no other feeling in the world that matches owning your own cargo ship," said Reynolds. "When I am on top of the Fresh Freighter with freight surrounding me, I feel like a queen. It is truly divine." When asked exactly what she was going to be doing with this ship, we uncovered a long kept secret about the Reynolds Dynasty.

"I am actually the co-inventor of Reynolds Wrap®. All I want to do is share my creation with the underdeveloped

countries, and let them see the wonders of sealing perishables."

The Fresh Food Freighter is 100 feet



Teacher Joan Reynolds has frequently fantasized about days at sea with actor Leonardo DiCaprio.

by 40 feet, and can carry approximately 20 tons of wrap. Although this is an impressive amount, we still face harsh

reality— school funds were not meant for buying cargo ships.

Recently, SGA has been selling Tsunami bracelets. The irony rings true— the money meant to help those struck by a water-related disaster, is instead being used to obtain a water-related profit. However, Reynolds' freight interest is not purely self-centered. Although cargo is what *really* gives her a rush, she is also helping illegal aliens from Greenland. (Only Greenland, nowhere else. When asked about her Greenland Only Policy, she replied, "It's cold there. How would you feel if the name of your country implied a lush, verdant environment, and instead, everything was grey and dead? Now that's irony for you.")

Besides the cruelty of spending charitable funds on the freighter frenzy, students are outraged to find that prom will no longer take place this year. Many senior girls were in tears just imagining graduating without attending their senior prom. [Technically, most of them need not worry. Due to the massive depletion of funds, our school cannot afford to buy every senior a diploma. All seniors whose last names begin with H-Z will repeat the 12<sup>th</sup> grade at Mount Vernon Alternative High School, while students whose last names begin with

See Reynolds, pg. 5

## Barrera Finally Gets Busted

Hana "Hannah" Beckerle

Wire Mom

Many of those in attendance at last month's Student Film Festival were shocked to see the school's president, senior Taurin Barrera, in a documentary leading his friends in dangerous and borderline illegal escapades in Washington, D.C. However, recent incidents have shown Barrera to be far more subversive than the student body could ever have imagined.

The documentary, produced by seniors Paul Cambon and Stuart Trouton, showed a group of students from this school entering hotels in the city and attempting to get to the roof and plunder conference rooms. "I didn't even want to make the movie. Taurin said I had to make it and we had to enter it into the film festival so that people would know how indie he is," said Cambon.

Barrera has been known to commit many acts that go against the school's code

of conduct. Many students reported that they have witnessed Barrera regularly leaving campus to go to lunch, showing a blatant disregard for this school's reasonable anti-off-campus lunch policy. "We were walking towards the cafeteria to eat lunch one time, and Taurin started going towards the parking lot. I told him that what he was doing was wrong, but he wouldn't listen," said junior Chris Kelly.

Other students have noticed Barrera's lunchtime activities as well.

"One time Taurin ran into class a minute late. He was out of breath, and everyone knew that he had just gotten back from going out to lunch. Everyone was afraid to say something because he's the school

president and we didn't want to be on his bad side," said senior Laura Beiging. There is also evidence that Barrera regularly bullies other students, often fellow school leaders,



Barrera silences dissenters in an efficient manner.

into coming with him when he ventures off campus in order to make himself seem more popular and take others down with him in case he is caught.

Barrera has been suspected of many other violations. Some of

these illicit acts include graffiti on the bathroom walls, visiting illegal gambling websites on the school computers, and violating the dress code with his obscene "indie" apparel.

One afternoon, Barrera was seen giving the proverbial finger to the standard school traffic pattern when he drove around the front of the school to exit where cars are supposed to enter. "I guess school presidents don't have to wait in traffic," said senior Alex Arnold, who was a passenger in Barrera's car. Several other cars were seen following him, evidence that Barrera has so much influence that he can lead his fellow students astray.

"When Taurin got elected president, we were all happy for him. But now I think that it went to his head, and he thinks he can get away with anything," said Cambon. Besides this reckless and irresponsible

See Barrera, pg. 4



## What Silence Sounds Like

Dear Readers,

Today is a day filled for me with despondence and sadness. In the midst of the joyful and annual celebration of pranks and good humor, I am writing today to announce that this short notification marks my last idiomatic contact with society. After vocally reciting the contents of this epistle, my tongue will become still forever. These words are the last my mouth will pronounce. These words are the last my fingers will ever type. No more will my hand boldly grip the pen in preparation for the rhetorical utterance of literary wonder. No more will my mind race, building letter upon letter and word upon word until I have constructed a veritable verbal palace whose very mortar and brick are the renowned tools of language. I have taken a vow of silence, and there is no bribe, no plea, and no calamity that will tear me from this stillness.

So, bid you now farewell to the succulent sounds of the syllables I string together on the page. Bid farewell to the melodious sound of my voice as I expound on politics and life, sharing wisdom to all in a life-giving utterance of knowledge. And I bid farewell to you, and to this modern industrial society from which I am taking my leave. The hills of Papua New Guinea through which I will trek will never know the rhetorical power soon to pace there.

Your Opinions Editor, Drew Macklin

## My Favorite, Like, Everything

Dear Readers,

I have been receiving many complaints about the lack of me in the style section. The "A-List" and the "State of the Arts" are clearly not enough of my favorites. There is a substantial need for more me in the paper. What could be better than an entire section of complete Ashlee? Imagine an entire layout with pictures of me being Asian, I could even throw in a few graphics of Hello Kitty. And instead of simply only my favorite cds, books, movies, etc., it will be my favorite EVERYTHING! It will be the official Ashlee pages, nothing is better.

Amazingly Awesome Asian

## Make News, Not Love

Dear Reader,

It seems that every issue we formulate, we are always caught in a last minute struggle to find news stories to fill in the blank spaces that are left on my four pages. "Let's do a story on Academy internships!" No. "Let's do a story of the West Potomac Gospel Choir?" Maybe next time. It is seriously like pulling teeth when it comes to finding news stories, and forcing reporters to write them...on time. I ask the West Potomac family one thing: stop being so boring. Get out and change the world for me so I can write about it. No more stories about phytoplankton or school fundraisers.

A Disgruntled News Editor

## Somebody Shut Me Up

Dear Readers,

WHAT?!?! I didn't even notice the sarcasm that I used, but now after reading over my articles from this year I've found out that I could be sent to jail for this! I'm so sorry for all of this; I mean what was I thinking? 2004 Yankees the biggest choke? They ONLY became the first team in MLB history to lose a playoff series after being up three games to none. I may not have caught all of the sarcasm that I used, so go back and highlight all the places where I used sarcasm, then drop it off in room 418 and you just might win a prize! I apologize for the frustration that I have caused.

Alex "Bring the Curse Back" Keckeisen

## Who Needs My Advice?

Dear Readers,

This is an announcement that we will no longer be featuring the Reviews section in *The Wire*. You, the reader, should be intelligent enough to make your own decisions about movies, music, thought-provoking books, etc. You can no longer rely on the convoluted opinions of Marissa D'Orazio, Adele Hampton, or Houston Murphy to decide whether or not to read, watch, or listen to something. How many of us have actually taken the effort to watch the movies, anyway? I can honestly say I haven't, and I edit the section. Please, people, start thinking for yourselves already!

Nothing Left To Say

# Tears for Tardy Desks

## "Too-lazy-to-think-of-a-name" Peterman

What Does He Do?

Ever since the first high school was created, tardiness has been a problem. To counter this, the "all-knowing" administrators invented the tardy desk. They thought that if there was a consequence for being late, then students would make an effort to get to class on time. Fortunately for us, their little plot had the exact opposite effect.

Punishment seemed to excite the students, for lack of a better word. All they had to do was walk a little slower than usual and they could look like a tough guy. Something as simple as a tardy could spark a whole series of punishments, like AIA and even suspension. It's a ripple in a pond; it just keeps getting bigger and bigger. Not only that, but the line to get your late pass usually made you later than you would've been had you just gone straight to class. The students, being the clever little geniuses they were born to be, saw this and took advantage of it in every way possible.

For many years this was the normal, everyday thing. If a boy needed just a small penalty to impress a girl, he'd be late. If a girl needed to get out of class, she'd be late. If someone just didn't want to sit in a boring classroom for an hour and a half, the least they could do is shorten it to an hour and ten minutes or so. Sometimes, after the student was marked down as tardy, they would just leave school, because an unexcused tardy is always better than an unexcused absence. This custom was ruined one day when the administrators, out of sheer spite, took away our beloved tardy desk.

No one knows why they did such a rash and evil thing. They obviously don't realize what they have really taken away. That desk was a symbol of freedom for every high school student who walked through West Potomac. For the next ten minutes while you were waiting in line for your pass, you

didn't have to worry about anything. It's like the huge weight that is life was just lifted off your shoulders for those brief moments. Of course the obvious answer to why they took it away would be to deprive us of those very same moments.

The evil minds behind this nefarious scheme

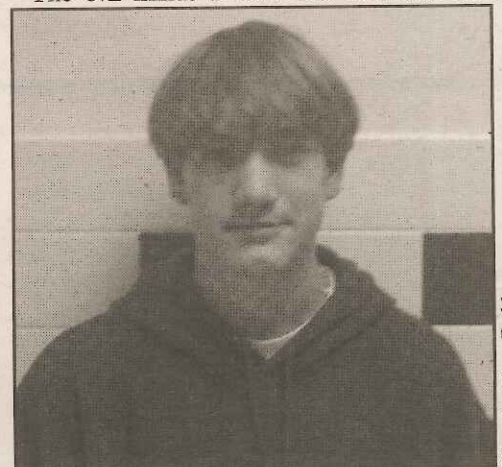


Photo by Evan Dobbs

probably never thought of the repercussions of such an undertaking. The general morale in the hallway has been visibly diminished. Without the ability to miss at least some class time, the students can see no bright side to being in school in the first place. Sure you can get an education and learn some useful things but no one wants to be learning ALL day. The only break they got was taken away from them. Now all that is left is lunch which is constantly being interrupted by students and teachers alike making little announcements that you don't want to hear.

If only the administrators would listen to reason. If only they knew of the lasting effects a simple tardy desk has had on our school, and our way of life. Of course, it's always possible that they do know and just don't care, but that would be a horrible thought. We could always try a signed petition and see if that would sink into their heads but somehow I doubt it would have any effect.

West Potomac High School  
6500 Quander Road  
Alexandria, VA 22307

**THE WEST POTOMAC WIRE**

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*The Wire* is a publication whose aim is to inform, educate, and entertain the student body. *The Wire* will not 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 Wire* is an open forum for discussion which is printed by Silver Communications. If you have an opinion on a school-related issue, please submit your Letter to the Editor of 250 words or less to Room 418 Quander, or e-mail us at: kelcyjensen@fcps.edu. All submissions become property of *The Wire*.

## Accolades Accumulate Revenge of the Nerds

Dear Readers,

This past year, I am confident that, through my articles, I have become pretty much the most popular person in this school. I've been stopped in the halls by fans countless times. I even receive several fan letters a day, simply devoted to praising my writing style, opinions, and fabulous mug shots. These letters actually all come from the same person. I don't know who this person is, because they sign their letters simply 'Hana Fan.'

I would like to respectfully ask 'Hana Fan' to stop sending these letters. While I appreciate your support, this constant praise is inflating my ego astronomically, and I already know that I am God's gift to West Potomac, I don't need to be told again. Thank you.

Hana Beckerle, Editor-in-Chief

Dear Readers,

I feel the time has come to inform you about our society of Newspaper Nerds. We are no longer just introverted nerds, but a full-fledged cult; freedom of speech-fighting geeks. We will not stand for our higher intelligence to be disregarded any longer. We take pride in our newspaper, and have decided to wage a war on those who litter them among parking lots or toss them out bus windows after a mere glance. Be prepared, we will find you. We are forced to deal with the menaces who disagree with our all-knowing opinions, and those who think they are above reading the newspaper. Without us, you would be lost, so read and respect the almighty paper, or we will read it for you. Have a wonderful day!

Current Editor-in-Chief and Future World Ruler  
Ansley LaBarre



# Lindsay vs. Hilary

Teen Divas Duke it Out for Pop Culture Domination in a Verbal Cage Match

**Houston Murphy**

*Future Teen Diva*

Lindsay Lohan has revolutionized the entire persona of American Pop Culture. Her range of talent has stunned the nation and repeatedly amazed me, as her capacity for entertainment is absolutely baffling.

Starting out as a young star in Disney's *The Parent Trap*, Lohan immediately blew the entertainment industry away at the tender age of 12. Her widely acclaimed and near Oscar-winning performance put her on the map as the next rising star in the world of entertainment.

Over the years, Lohan has continued to make Disney one of the most influential aspects of the modern-day teenager's life, acting as a staple for the association. Without Lohan, it is speculated that Disney would have been bankrupt years ago.

Following *The Parent Trap*, Disney cast their huge star along with up-and-coming model Tyra Banks to appear in the movie

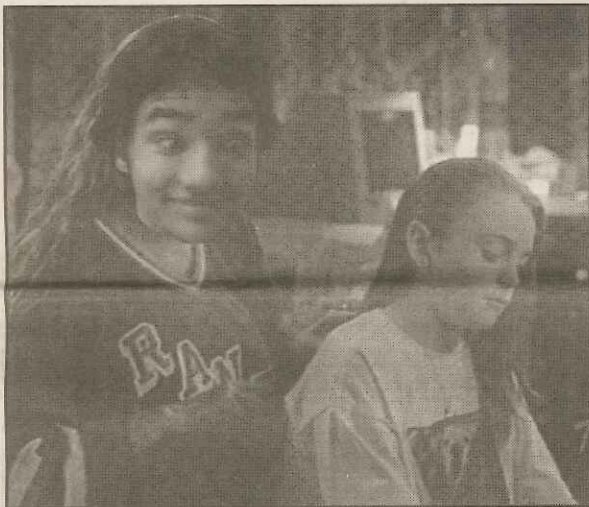


Photo Illustration by Houston Murphy

*Life Size*, which was so controversial that it only appeared on television, on the Disney channel. In the film, Casey Stuart (Lohan) accidentally brings her doll, Eve (Banks) to life while attempting to cast a spell to resurrect her dead mother. It has been said that Lohan single-handedly sparked Tyra Banks' modeling career and if Banks hadn't co-starred alongside the glowing Lohan, she very well might have never become the supermodel she is today.

As Lohan was on a tear, consuming the whole entertainment industry at her will, she clearly had much more to offer. After her previous huge productions, the world couldn't have been ready for the daring stunt she would release next. Lohan would team up with several actors and actresses cast out of nowhere to produce one of the major films of the century: *Mean Girls*. With the production of *Mean Girls*, Lohan has definitely solidified her spot in the Hall of Fame of American History. Lohan pushed the envelope in a way no other actress or actor would have dared. In the movie, Lohan had to do the task, which was previously perceived as impossible, of portraying the stereotypical teenage girl in her every-day school life. This was a risky move, if any move has ever been risky before. With the stereotype of the popular, "mean girl" clique so RARE among teenagers, it must have been extremely difficult to try and study her role, a role in which she performed to perfection.

Lohan broke the barrier for other teenage

girls like herself. Young, beautiful girls with red hair all over the world have been waiting in line for an opportunity. These girls have been discriminated against in the entertainment industry for years, but thanks to Lohan, redheads have been put on the radar. Lindsay Lohan is virtually the modern-day Marilyn Monroe.

A group of fanatic students at this school plan on forming a fan club dedicated to the star. Junior Chris Kelly and a group of his most enthusiastic friends see the club surfacing any time soon, as soon as they get approval from their intended teacher sponsor, Ms. Glaze. "The club is being started by a few dedicated fans whose dream is simply to be Lindsay Lohan's groupies." The news of this club has been kept relatively secret until this point because the group members believed that if the news got out too early, it would be almost impossible to keep the rules of their confidential cult intact.

Lohan's beauty has possessed men all over the world. Her radiant glow of cherry blossomed delicacy has kept men and women obsessing over her ever since she crept up onto the scene. Men want to be with her, women want to be like her, and be with her.

As if she hasn't astounded the entire world already, Lohan has recently achieved the impractical. She has boldly crossed over from films to the music industry to produce her own CD, which is entitled *Speak*. I find this simply unbelievable. I have never even fathomed the

thought of an actress who would attempt to conquer the beast that is the recording business. Lohan is a pioneer in the purest sense.

We have all watched Lindsay Lohan mature from a young, budding star, to an omnipotent goddess in the world of entertainment.

Lindsay Lohan is my idol. She is my pride and joy and brings a smile to my face each time I see her, practically every day on MTV News, VH1, and in each tabloid magazine. Everyone should appreciate how much of a symbol Lindsay Lohan is in American entertainment and politics, and how great of an influence she has provided for all of us.

**Sarah Raser**

*Jason Fan Club President*

Hilary Duff is indisputably the next Britney Spears, no questions asked. Some may compare Hilary to Lindsay Lohan, but in all truth, Hilary wins by far.

How can anyone deny the humble beginnings as America's sweetheart in her starring role in the Disney Channel Original Series, *Lizzie McGuire*? She began her career mirroring the daily life of an average teenager in middle school learning the harsh ways of adolescence. Through her role as *Lizzie*, Hilary has reached out to young viewers. She has practically grown up with them.

Along with her television role as *Lizzie*, she also took on the task of being in various movies such as *Agent Cody Banks*, *Cheaper by the Dozen*, and my personal favorite Hilary role, Cadet Kelly in the Disney Channel Original Movie *Cadet Kelly*. The pressures of being a television star and movie star can get to some people, but Hilary isn't just some people. She is Hilary Duff. My idol.

Personally, Hilary's acting isn't my favorite part of her very successful career. Proving herself through her musical ability, her singing career is exploding on the Top 40 radio, MTV, and Top 200 retail charts. Her debut album, *Metamorphosis*, (my favorite CD, period), speaks of the ever-changing Duff and her life as a growing teenager. In my opinion, her voice makes me think of the angels in the cream cheese commercial, cheesy but heavenly.

What exactly does Lindsay Lohan do to make herself such a worthy comparison to my Duff? I heard from my Uncle's cousin's nephew who knows Lindsay's manager that she has to have her voice electronically altered. I mean, hello? What is the four letter word for bogus? Yeah, Fake.

Both the girls have been in the media for their relationships with the Backstreet Wannabe, Aaron Carter. A year and a half into the Duff/Carter relationship, he started dating Lohan while still with Hilary. Apparently, Lindsay has some secret insecurity that encourages her to steal their

rival boyfriends and create unnecessary drama between the two. After the relationship with the BSB, Lindsay switched from prepubescent to older men. When her love connection with *That 70's Show's*, Wilmer Valderrama ended, she has been allegedly seen being her party girl self at the *Hostage* premier after-party romancing with Bruce Willis, and was led to his room after a little touching and feeling on both their parts. In addition, a secret tattoo was exposed on her bottom half for the rest of the party goers to admire.

Hilary is so the next Britney, and much, much more. To add to her triple threat (film, television, and singing), Hilary has released a line of clothing, *Stuff* (available at your local Target retail stores). I am sorry to say these articles of clothing are not available in junior sizes. The woe I felt when I was deprived of real Hilary clothing, but at least she has a clothing line to her name. What does Lindsay have? Cankles?

To me, the only thing Lindsay has going for herself are two very valuable assets she

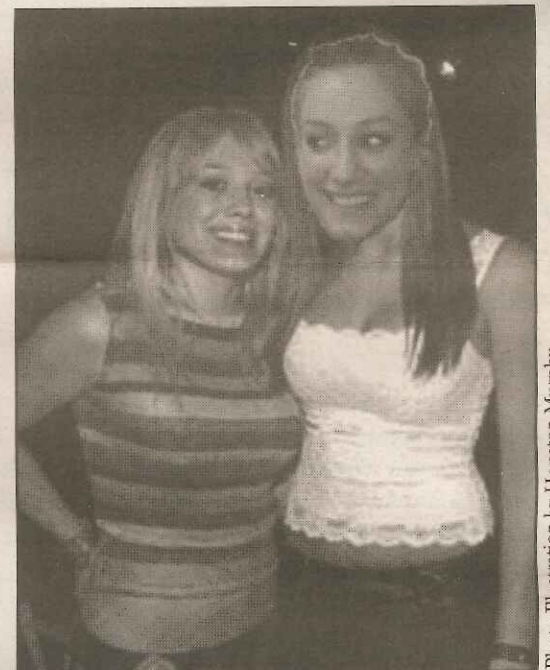


Photo Illustration by Houston Murphy

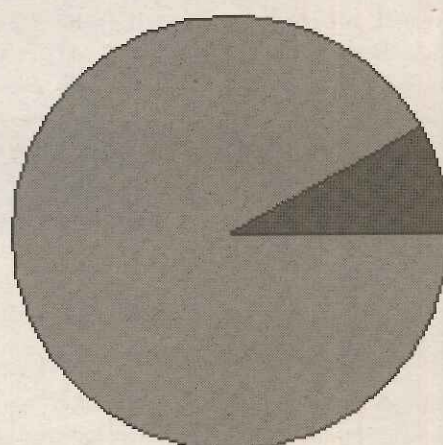
carries... on her chest. She claims they are real, but who is she trying to fool? How can strawberries sprout into melons overnight? Maybe to her, the natural herb supplements that increase your bust size in days are real. It's a phenomenon we face everyday: are they plastic? The next pop icon shouldn't have the silicon tag attached to her for the rest of her "natural" life.

After proclaiming herself as a "mean girl" in her past movie, I see no reason why we should let this tramp invade our popular culture. What message are we sending to the kids? So basically, if I jumped onto the Lindsay bandwagon I would have to dye my hair some freaky shade of red, get a gaudy spray tan, and get some rumors about me started, then parade around a dance club drenched in sweat while I secretly want to go to the roof and do some choreographed dance. Yeah, I don't think so. That was SO yesterday.

Then there was a little movie we like to call *Napoleon Dynamite*. *Summer*, one of the key characters in the movie, was Hilary's sister, Haylie Duff. What a loyal sister to put the good word out for her own flesh and blood and make a name for herself. While her nemesis, Lindsay, has a family that is unreachable due to recent incidents with her father. Now what's that all about?

Who would you rather woo?

117 male students surveyed



Lindsay Lohan - 92 %

Hilary Duff - 8%



# Hallways To Be Electrified

D-Bone MacDaddy

Opinions Thug

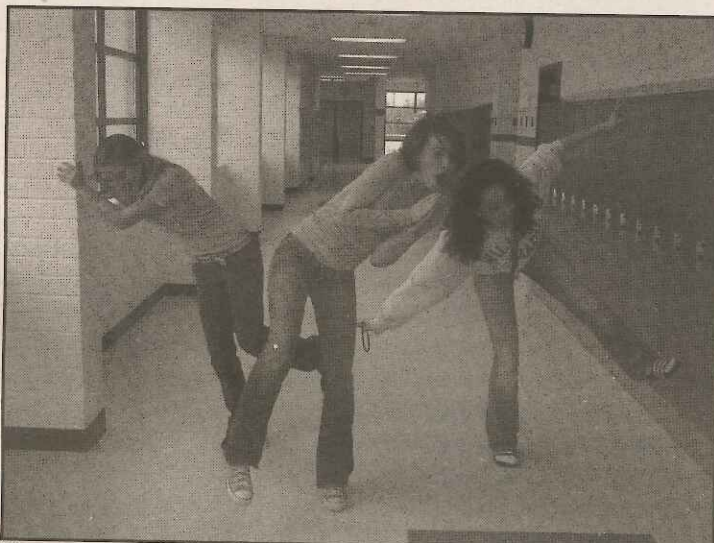
The administration of this school has grappled for a long time with the unruly beast of student tardiness. Now, it is upping the ante and taking the fight to a new level. Following the advice of Dr. Heinrich Schlopplschteinger, a Langley High School custodian, every period, after the late bell rings, the hallway floor will be filled with a surge of electricity, frying any student who brazenly decides he is above the law and does not have to get to class on time. *The Wire* has been authorized to release information about this incoming policy so that students cannot use ignorance to protest the administration's actions.

It takes 1600 volts of electricity to stop the average 6-foot male's heart. Contact with the new floor in its electrified state will result in a shock of an astonishing 67,000 volts. In the interest of full disclosure, laboratory tests have revealed the full effects of such voltage: in an instantaneous moment, the bodies of test goats were incinerated from the hoofs up, leaving nothing more than goat-colored ashes. The incineration is more of an implosion than an explosion, ensuring easy cleanup of the remains, and is coupled with a uniquely fleshy popping sound.

The new floor, to be installed this weekend, will be pressure sensitive. Electricity will be flowing through the whole floor, but will concentrate on areas only where a human presence is sensed. This is good news for some of the smaller students in the school: preliminary information indicates the initial weight setting will be 95 pounds. So, those who weigh under this should be able to slip through

the system. Just be careful – backpacks and clothing can add unnecessary and potentially fatal weight.

Certainly some ethical questions arise from such a harsh consequence. For instance, what if I am excused for being late? Should I still be subjected to the same violent – and often irreversible – death? The answer is surprisingly



These students clearly did not listen to the new policy of electrified floors at this school. They will be missed.

absorbing incredibly large amounts of electricity. There students who walk through the electrified hallway the bracelet on will feel little more than a subtle pr sensation on the balls of their feet. Most of the elec charge will be almost magically attracted to the tiny piec metal on their wrist.

The response from students has been, so predictable. Many have complained about "inherent unfairness of the system," citing th another example of "the Man trying to hold t down." To these accusations, administration off replied – rather tongue-in-cheek, to be sure – tha not the Man which is holding these students "do in their earthbound state, but gravity. Truly, not eases significant policy changes like a little humo

For those students and teachers who conscientio get to class prepared to absorb knowledge, the tardy policy will be a breath of fresh air. For th students who think the axis of this globe lies loc somewhere within their skull, the new policy be a breath of breathless fear, followed by a s of molten electricity which will pulse through t veins, catalyzing the ignition of their blood and rapid incineration of every organ, beginning with intestine, and ending with the brain, so that e excruciating millisecond can be felt in every fi of sensory nerve endings, which will send their screaming signals of prodigious pain from the tips of li which will vaporize into little finger and toe-sized ash p destined to line the waste baskets of West Potomac. Ge class, kids!

Photo by Houston Murphy

## White Walls

Adele "Oreo" Hampton and Angie Palma

Assistant Buisness Managers

White walls, crowded hallways, security at every corner. Does this sound like a regular high school to you? Most students say yes. What they don't know is that the students at "West Potomac High School" are actually prisoners at the West Potomac Penitentiary for Misguided Youth.

Just think about it: at this "school" we have security guards, student ID's that trace our internet voyages, and bars on the vending machines. The campus is closed off from main roads and hidden behind houses. We are kept in school longer every year and have shorter breaks. Some "classrooms" even have a little red emergency button to contact the office when the students get out of hand. "It's

an outrage, I don't even remember doing anything that was against the law," said freshman Mara Cate.

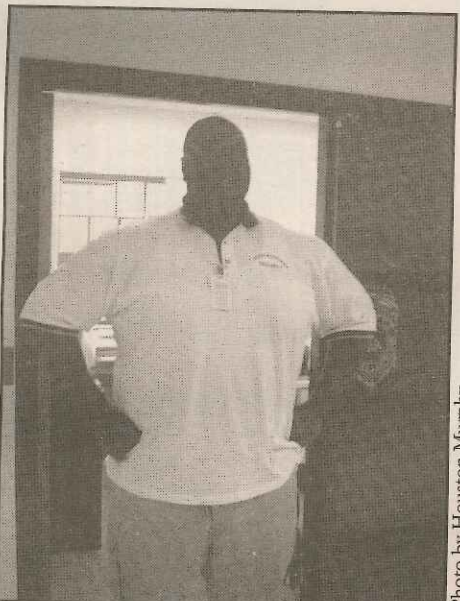
Many students have certainly felt that going to school was like going to prison, but few have actually thought it was true. Sophomore Delynn Woodman said, "I never believed it could actually happen. But I don't understand, I don't remember doing anything wrong." For the most part, the only thing we did wrong was to be born between 1986 and 1990. The state of Virginia issued

a secret law stating that any person born between 1986 and 1990 is subject to serve four to five years in a correctional facility. To prevent a nationwide panic, the state decided to keep the law a secret and disguise their detention center as a high school, which are actual places of learning in other states.

As yet another ploy to cover up their secret, the state bought vending machines and set up a sports system. They hired "coaches" to drill those of us who are physically inclined in grueling after "school" practices. If our "team" wins against those from neighboring facilities, the "school" we

attend receives money, used to keep the vending machines stocked. The vending machines are to pacify us. The staff is afraid we will rebel and try to break out, so, they keep candy available.

"If this school is an institution for misguided youth, why do the students go home, and the teachers (or wardens) seem to stay there all the time?" asked junior Brittany Robinson. That is the one question that even the wonderful *Wire* reporters were unable to answer.



Officer Knuckles is the toughest gaurd at West Potomac Penitentiary for Misguided Youth.

Photo by Houston Murphy

## A Serious Tradition

Mark "Lazy-Boy" Peterman

What Does He Do?

Unlike all those other foolish holidays, April Fool's Day is a serious event. Anybody under the age of 21 is almost required to pull some sort of prank against their peers. Some people have so much enthusiasm around this holiday, they continue to do something mean and clever on April Fool's Day even when they are using a cane to get around. It is passionate people like that who have made April 1st one of the most important dates of the year.

The first day of April has always been a light-hearted and joyful event, but participants are stumped by one thing: where did the idea for such a celebration come from? It used to be the first day of the year and everyone was miserable. Instead of making New Year's resolutions, they were inventing new ways to torment their peers and for some reason, they thought this was a bad omen for the rest of the year. I guess they felt that they shouldn't cram all their fun into the first day of the year.

So, in about the 1500's, the world leaders got together to find a solution to this horrific problem. They decided that April Fool's Day should be in the middle of spring instead of winter. January, February, and March were moved from the end of the year

to the beginning and everything else was the same. There was some discussion ab whether the holiday should be moved to middle of the month, but leaders decid that it would be a stretch to change actual day.

Now they had to get the public to acc the changes in the calendar, which prov to be a lot harder than they had anticipat Most of the people loved having so mu fun at the beginning of the year but lead would hear nothing of

They became the paren figure of the world a

the gene population was t childre T h "parent decide

that the chan was good f the "kids whether th realized it first or no Their respon to protes and riots w constant; "Yo will thank us in the end."

It took quite a long tim before the public accepted th fact that the calendar was not goin back to the way it was. It wasn until about the 1930's that they realized th change wasn't so bad. By this time, they ha forgotten what life was like before the nev calendar, so it didn't really matter. So in th end, the perseverance of these famed worl leaders paid off. If only leaders these day could last as long under pressure as thei predecessors.



Photo Courtesy of John Robarge



# Sarah's Scholastic Section

**Sarah Raser**  
*Jason Fanclub President*

This month's issue is dedicated to some of the more popular colleges of our time. They are sure to bring out the inner frosh in all of us.

**Adam's College** - Well known for its Greek rivalries, Adam's is a home for the nerd and the jock in you. Watch out for the competition at the Greek Games though... sometimes it can get a little dirty.  
 Tuition: \$17,897  
 Room and board: Cost varies due to athletic involvement  
 Suck up to: Dean Ulich  
 Location: Atomsville, AR

**Coolidge College** - Awarded the "Best Food" award, Coolidge allows its students to add their own special ingredients to the food to give it a kick. The students are recognized for their dedication to staying in school as long as possible and throwing the best parties.  
 Tuition: \$43,857  
 Room and board: Depends on who you know...  
 Suck up to: Van Wilder  
 Location: Eclair, ID

**Faber College** - Faber is popular for its two Greek fraternities: the Omega House and the Deltas House. Each makes the college a worthwhile experience creating a balance between good and evil.  
 Tuition: \$6,899  
 Room and board: Get Greek  
 Suck up to: Pledge Master Bluto  
 Location: Faber, PA

**Harrison University** - Home of the infamous "Blue", Harrison is happy to include people of all age, race, and size in their fraternities. The parties can be heard around campus, from the blaring of Snoop to the screaming streaking men down the street, making it all but a boring place to be.  
 Tuition: \$4,123  
 Room and board: N/A  
 Suck up to: Bernard 'Beanie' Campbell  
 Location: Harrison, CA

**Portchester University** - The hospitable students at PCU make the quality of life exceptionable. Anywhere you go on campus you can find a protest or something to protest, so you'll never get bored. The university is also famous for its Ultimate Frisbee games.  
 Tuition: \$45,000  
 Room and board: Try to get something OFF campus  
 Suck up to: Droz  
 Location: Portchester, NY

*Reynolds, from page 1*

the letters A-G will be fortunate enough to receive a diploma (printed in QuickDraft on Print Shop, mind you).  
 As it turns out, there is no mention of the purchase of freighters with school funds in the SR&R. After brief discussion by the administration over what charges Reynolds would face, they have decided to drop punishment. Senior Stuart Trouton summed up the teachers' point of view- "I don't care what Joan did with our money. I still love her. I don't even mind repeating twelfth grade, to be quite honest. Now I get to take AP Physics!"

# Another New Principal

**Jeff "Insert Inside Joke" Snyder**  
*News Editor*

Starting, April 2, 2005, this school will once again welcome a new principal. This will be the fourth principal in three years.

The current principal Rima Vesilind decided last week to step down, after serving only for seven months as chief administrator. Vesilind has declined to comment as to why she is leaving, but many teachers have formulated their own theories. "You can always hear her in the teacher's lounge yelling, 'I can't take this job any longer! If I see one more lunch tray at an empty table, I'm gonna crack!'" said AP Statistics teacher Kate Wolling. "We're all really worried about her," she added.

Teachers have also concluded that Vesilind might be fed up with all of her after school congratulations to others without receiving any about her in return. "I attend more sports games, theater productions, and fundraising events than the last two principals combined! Where is my kudos!" said Vesilind. Vesilind is planning on returning to the safety and comfort of being an elementary school principal after months of severe psychoanalytical rehabilitation, thanks to this school's students and staff.

The rest of the administration has been looking for a new principal since the tragic news of Vesilind's departure. It did not take them long to find their "optimal choice for a straight shooting, brilliant educator," said vice Principal Inez Bryant. The new principal will be Principal Mortimer

Draculastein, a recent graduate of Transylvania University. He majored in Secondary Education where he earned his masters. He also has a degree in Mortuary Science. Students are somewhat reluctant, even scared to death, to encounter the new principal. "I never knew how good we had it until I heard about this vampire that's taking over the school," said senior Caitlin Coggins.

Draculastein has been busy working in his basement on

plans for this school. Although he has been declined to personally comment on his plans until "the planets are in the correct alignment," his secretary has been more than happy to educate us. Draculastein is planning on abolishing all sports programs except for the rifle team, and will institute a Quidditch team. The drama program will do away with productions of romance, Shakespeare, or comedy; but there will be plenty of recreations of horror classics to watch. Draculastein's secretary also commented of his plans to change the school's colors to black, and a darker black. "'Black-hole, black', were his exact words," said his secretary. Draculastein also plans to go against all West Potomac doctrine



Photo Courtesy of www.boxofmonsters.com

*The new principal is dying to work here next year. He promises we will all have a "killer" experience.*

and encourage trash build up in the cafeteria. In fact, anyone that does throw away their trash will be suspended to the new dungeon for three days.

As we face another administration change, many teachers and students are feeling pessimistic and cynical; expecting yet another new principal next year. However, Draculastein has commented on that subject; "I love West Potomac, and I intend on staying here until I die. And hopefully, even for years after that."

# NEWS BREEFS

On Tuesday, March 15 the outgoing and loud custodian Felicia threw senior Luke Urban into a trash can. When she came to his table to collect the trash, Urban told her that he was not finished. After arguing for a few minutes, Felicia picked him up and hurled him into the barrel of trash. "It happened so fast. She was yelling at me and then the next thing I knew, I was being tossed into her bin filled with the school's lunch garbage," said Urban. In retaliation, Urban and his parents have decided to sue Felicia for \$50,000.

The popular Chemistry teacher Stephen Rezendes was taken to the insane asylum yesterday, due to an unusual retaliation in his classroom. When junior Megan Farrar walked past his room, she heard unusual noises and yelling. She decided to look in, only to see him banging his head up against his dry-erase board moaning "They don't pay me nearly enough," over and over again. When he realized she was there, he picked up the computer monitor and began throwing it around the room. Rezendes was hauled off by security, and picked up by his wife, who took him to an institution. He is not expected to return anytime soon.

For Spring Break, French teacher Dan Fitzgerald vacationed in Paris, France with his wife. He was expected to return back to school last Wednesday, but called in at 7-am to say he had decided to stay there forever and would no longer be teaching at this school. "I belong here. It is everything I have ever wanted. Tell my students, 'Désolé,'" said Fitzgerald. A substitute is in his place until a permanent replacement is found.

Today, government teacher Hassan Mims announced to his students that he would no longer be teaching due to a once in a lifetime opportunity. A Duke basketball fan since 1990, Mims had longed for a job with the team. His dream came true when he got a call offering him the manager position. "I don't care if I was their janitor, they are awesome," he said. His last day at this school will be next Thursday.

Former security officer, Thomas Maher, has now taken over the hookah bar, Oasis, located in Alexandria, Virginia. Maher took over March 15 and plans on making it a chain across the country. "Hookahs are just really cool. I have had one since highschool," he said. He has also began to design his own line of them, which will only cost \$20.



# There's a New King in Town

Ashlee "Sparkles" Newcomb

Original Wire Asian

It was only two years ago, when, sophomore Jeff Snyder discovered the pool underneath this school's gym. Found by accident during the misplacement of a Magic the Gathering card, Snyder stumbled across a switch which unleashed the truth about presumed mythological pool. Two years have passed, and with time comes change. For Snyder came a great amount of change. Snyder has gone from IQ to GQ.

Now a senior at this school, Snyder is far from his original look in 2003. After being spotted in the newspaper, "Ambush Makeover," a makeover television show, contacted Snyder and asked him to participate in an episode. After much convincing from his science club peers, weighing the higher probability rates that he could get a date with young Hilary Duff, he agreed to do the show.

He was swept away from his computer coalition and taken to a nearby salon, *Lord's and Ladies*, where he was given full treatment. "I am used to receiving my weekly manicure and pedicure here, so it was usual to me. However, the waxing was a little bizarre; I did not know I possessed so much hair, especially on my ears," said Snyder.

However, the makeover did not stop there. Snyder was taken to *Tyson's 2 Galleria*, where the agent stylists, William and Gigi, made him shop until he dropped. They explored a broad range of stores like Lacoste, Lucky Brand Jeans, and Thomas Pink. "We were

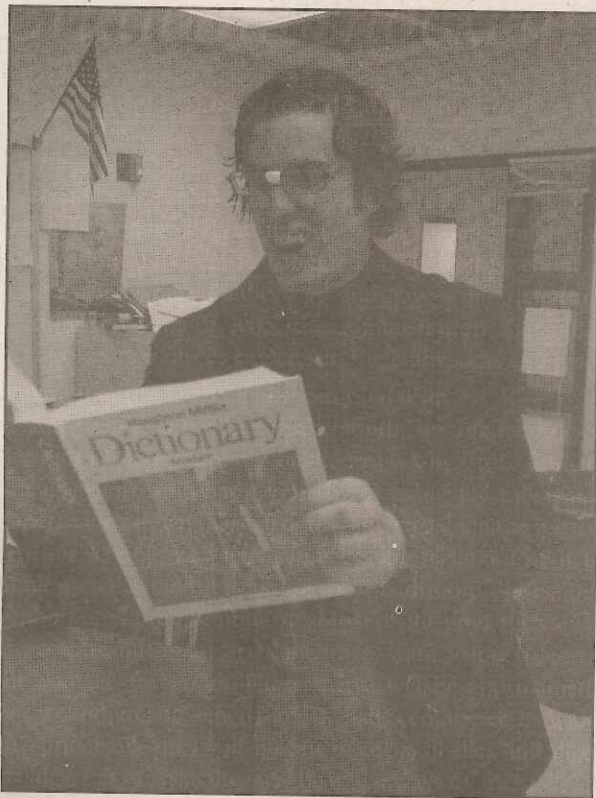


Photo by Houston Murphy

*Nerd Jeff, seen here studying up on his vocabulary words, has changed since his discovery of the pool under the gym floor into a "GQ" man. His change has shocked friends and fellow students.*

in search of Jeff's inner style; it was difficult to find the hidden GQ quality we knew was there. He was masked behind this dorky image of pocket protectors, scientific theories, and rolling backpacks. That image had to be destroyed, and our mission was to do it," said William.

It seemed like a clip from one of the million teen "mission: make over" movies. Snyder tried several different styles, from preppy to punk, indie to gangsta, and jock to classy. "To get the best image of Jeff we gave him the clean-cut look, to accentuate his intelligence in a sexy way," said Gigi. After a full day of a total makeover it was time to reveal the new Jeffrey Snyder.

That same night was that of a huge formal party, where Snyder was to expose his new look. The whole school waited in anticipation at the local country club. "My close comrade has always appeared a sincere male, who was content with his image; however I recognized that he confidentially strived to get a date with local hottie Gertrude Agnes. He secretly revered her, but due to confidence and social barriers, was unable to attain her affection," said close friend, senior Jason Yaworske.

The tension was rising as Snyder approached the doors of the party. "I had many thoughts running through my mind. Would my friends accept the new me?

Would this makeover change my personality? And most of all, will Gertrude notice me? I was overwhelmed in thought and the only thing that I could do was to walk through those doors and find out," said Snyder.

His entrance was welcomed with silence and blank stares. All of the guests were in great shock at the change Snyder had experienced, especially Agnes. "I had never really noticed Jeff until that very moment. I had seen him in school a few times, but I never thought of him as more than a computer nerd," she said.

"Jeff's image not only improved, so did his confidence. I watched him interact with total strangers as if they were long time friends," said William.

Two years have passed, where do we find Snyder today? A graduating senior this year, Snyder has lead the dream lifestyle for a high school boy. After being able to overcome his fear of contact sports, Snyder joined the varsity football team, was a senior year captain, and is now playing varsity lacrosse. He is the hottie within this newspaper staff and the girls constantly fawn over him and jump at any chance to do his news brief. However, even with his new look, Snyder has remained loyal to his old lifestyle and remains the nice guy he has always been.

A new look cannot only change your appearance but personality. For Snyder was a positive change. He went from being the low-level geek in the science hallway to the big man on the campus. The juniors go for nothing on him.

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# You're on Candid Camera!

## Students shocked; demand explanation from administration

Adele "The Oreo" Hampton

Something

Some people may think of the bathroom as a place of peace and privacy. Even though some students might skip class and head to the bathroom, most kids at this school use it as a place where they can go and have some quiet time. Starting on April 2, 2005, the administration is issuing a new policy that places cameras in the bathrooms and cracks down on skipping and bathroom vandalism.

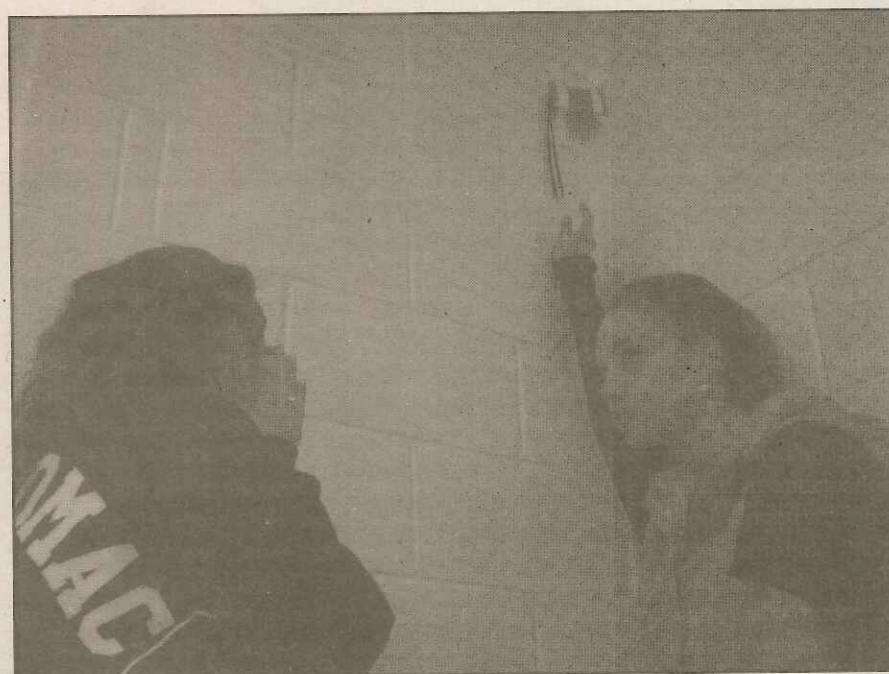
Apparently, in the past three months of this school year, the rate of kids skipping has increased by 75%. Students are also destroying bathrooms by clogging the toilets with paper, taking down the stall doors, and smashing the mirrors. "At this school, the vandalism is getting really out of hand. Some people think it's cool to steal bathroom doors," said sophomore Loren Winbourne. Most of the time, the vandals are caught, but many staff members want to put a stop to the damage for good. The cameras will be approximately one centimeter in length and a half centimeter in width. In Springbank they will be put in the wall tiles and in the ceilings. In Gunston they will be in the walls of the stalls and in the ceilings. And in Quander, they will be placed in the doors of the stalls and in the sides of the sinks.

Many students and parents are outraged by this new policy, feeling as though it is an invasion of privacy. Some are shocked the school is allowed to do this, and many wonder if it is against the law. "I can't believe that they are doing this. It has to be against some type of law. I think the administration has gone way too far," said freshman Rachel

Curzon. According to the Bureau of Bathroom Policies and Rights, there is nothing that states cameras are not permitted. Although some might think the cameras are unacceptable, there are a few teachers that agree with the new plan. "Well, it's about time the school started to crack down on these obscene acts of violence," said Sharon Dickens.

The school's tolerance plan issues new disciplinary acts against violators. Various types of consequences are

- If a student is caught skipping for the first time, minimum 3 day suspension.
- If a student is caught skipping for the second or third time, minimum 5 day suspension.
- A referral and a call home are issued if a student is caught, on camera, doing acts of vandalism for the first time.
- A minimum 2-day suspension for second time violators caught on camera.



Juniors Maureen Hoene and Lauren Shannon notice the cameras placed in the bathrooms.

- A minimum 4-day suspension for third and fourth time offenders who are caught on camera.

Outrage or relief; either way with this new plan in place students will start to think twice about destroying, skipping classes, or even taking a break! This would give the teachers what they want and would keep the students in balance.

# Secrets Revealed: Miss Knight A Student

Houston Murphy

Head Paparazzi

After a great amount of speculation and several years of secrecy, a supposed English teacher here at this school, known as Miss Knight, has finally admitted to actually being a student. The speculation was laid to rest after a team of undercover reporters from *The Wire* gathered substantial evidence that proved beyond a reasonable doubt that Ms. Knight was indubitably a student in disguise.

The guise of the infamous Ms. Knight as just a teacher of particularly short stature has been a mystery during each of the student's

four years at this school. Many students have wondered about Miss Knight's qualifications as a teacher, but the possibility of a student acting as a teacher seems farfetched. "I knew Miss Knight was really a student when I saw her parents come to pick her up after our practice," said junior Tyler Gray. "We have always had a connection and I related to her in a student-type of way."

Miss Knight's plan started when she was a freshman during the 2001-2002 school year. Mr. Henry Johnson was the principal at the time and Ms. Knight was enrolled in a special internship in which she would learn to prepare herself for her dream career — to become a high school English teacher. Mr.

Alan Johnson, an English teacher at the time, immediately took Knight under his wing and taught her everything she wanted to know about being a liberal English teacher. Mr. Alan Johnson was so satisfied with Knight's advancement that he, Knight, and the principal, Mr. Henry Johnson, devised a master plan to make the new Miss Knight an English teacher at this school. The issue came about when the school was in dire need for a replacement for 9<sup>th</sup> grade English teacher Mrs. Smith after she mysteriously disappeared.

The plan had to remain a secret if Mr. Johnson and Mr. Johnson wanted to avoid the controversy with the school district pertaining to this difficult decision that they had to make. "They [Johnson and Johnson] told me everything had to remain a secret or else they would get fired," said Miss Knight. "That was fine with me, because I was the main one making the cheddar." Miss Knight immediately began teaching Mrs. Smith's 9<sup>th</sup> grade English class only three weeks into the school year.

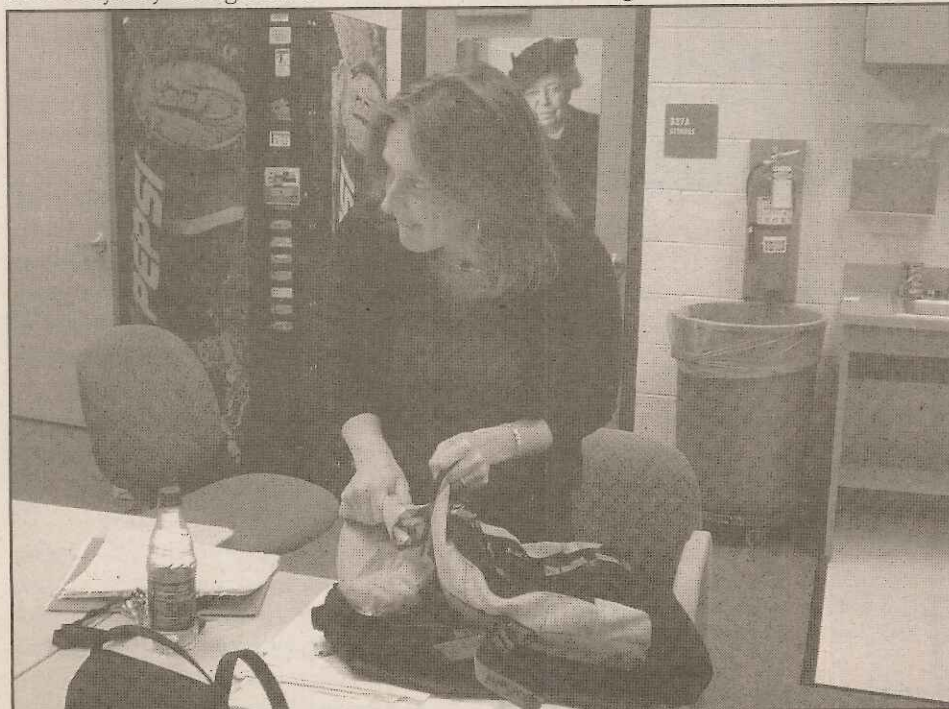
Everything was going fine until a mix-up occurred and the rest of the English department found out that "Miss" Knight wasn't actually a fellow teacher. "I had a hunch that Miss Knight wasn't an actual teacher when I noticed that she still brought a bagged lunch," said Ms. Alemian. "I mean, what English teacher brings a bagged lunch when they can drive to Panera for a gourmet snack on their break?"

Miss Knight became very distant from the English department. She thought they resented her because of her youth and her opportunity to teach without going through the rigors of college. "They would tease

me and make fun of me and even give me wedgies," said Miss Knight. Although all of this is true, the teachers' motives for doing such acts was not out of resentment; this was just a hazing ritual the entire English department performed to new English teachers. Ms. Reynolds, one of the veteran English teachers at this school, said "She thought we hated her, but in all truth, we cherished lil' Miss Knight. She always has a positive attitude and had such a passion for teaching," said Reynolds. "This was the main reason we accepted her with such warmth."

Though the English department was fine with Miss Knight, it was not certain how the rest of the staff of teachers and student body would react. The English department was not sure when Knight would actually reveal her secret. Out of fear of getting fired with a bad reputation, several teachers and administrators who knew about the clandestine teacher began to resign with unknown reasons. Knight told the staff that she would reveal the truth when she gained enough credits to graduate after her senior year, which is this year. Mr. Johnson didn't want to wait to discover the consequences of his actions, so he resigned after last school year and skipped town. Since then, he has not been heard from.

Miss Knight's plan of revealing her position as an English teacher at this school at her graduation has been bamboozled by an experienced task force of covert reporters from *The Wire* staff. More information is currently being investigated by the administration, and it is indefinite as to whether Miss Knight will retain her position at this school next year.



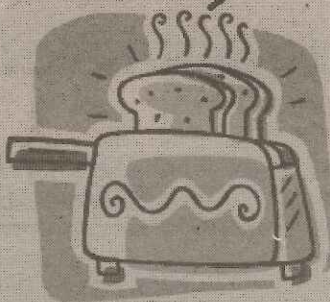
Miss Knight has been suspected of being a student but these rumors had never been verified until *The Wire* uncovered her secret.

Photo by Houston Murphy



## State of

Poker Seminar  
Fado Irish Pub  
Washington, D.C.  
April 12



Native Tree & Shrub Planting  
Luria Park  
Annandale, VA  
April 9 Quondium ta etropoeri pos

Miss Liberia Virginia 2005  
Richmond, VA  
April 2

The Family & The Brain  
George Mason University  
Arlington, VA  
April 6-17

History Hunters: Textiles  
Gadsby's Tavern  
Alexandria, VA  
April 3

Garden Day  
Earlye House  
Alexandria, VA  
April 16

Drink Day  
ELKS  
Alexandria, VA  
April 5

Plant a Fairy Garden  
Washington National Cathedral  
Washington, D.C.  
April 9



American Founding  
Gadsby's Tavern  
Alexandria, VA  
April 19

## the Arts

# Young the Next Idol

Jason Yaworske

Apple of Their Eyes

We have had the privilege over the last few years of having one of the hottest up-and-coming pop stars to attend our school. Senior Alex Young, who we've all heard blasting Jessica

Simpson and Brittany Spears in his minivan, is right on track in following these two famous stars' footprints.

Stardom seems to be coming at this young man faster than he can peel out.

Senior Alex Young is a clear representation of the senior of a born performer.

Although his audition for *American Idol* was unsuccessful, as Simon kicked him off the show after repeated "SKEET SKEET," and "WHAAAT?!" outbursts, talent scouts saw all they needed and record deals were being shoved in his face from every direction. He accepted a multimillion dollar deal from *Jive*, and life has been easy livin' ever since.

Young's rise to stardom has been thus far eerily similar to that of William Hung, but Young says that he is no joke. "William Hung ain't got nothin' on me!" insists Young. Young began singing at an early age, when he discovered he had a real knack for emulating the voices of the day's hottest pop stars. His favorite songs are "Take My Breath Away" by Jessica Simpson,

and "Rico, Suave" by Gerardo.

Young just recently finished his debut album entitled "Look at Me." Although it is a very straightforward pop album, the hype surrounding it almost ensures it will be a hit. The first single, entitled "Minivan Blues," is a catchy track that promises to have unfortunate high school students singing along around the country. "I feel as if the song is speaking directly to me," notices senior David Hanson. Other songs include "My English Teacher Kicked Me Out Again" and "I'm Listening to Pop!" in which Young admits he rolls his windows down even in the rain so that the whole parking lot will notice his unusual taste in music.

So when will Young's talents finally be revealed to the world? His album is scheduled to come out in late June. Young will take his act, as well as his band of groupies, on a world tour in support of the album. Young has also expressed an interest in acting, and was cast for the sequel to *8 Mile*. After receiving the senior superlative for "Most Likely to be a Pop Star," success is only a formality for Alex Young.

# Diary of the BRRRAD

Joy "YooHoo" Yoo

New Wire Asian

Many people, living outside of the West Potomac walls, are interested in a student's life at this school. So recently, Fairfax County officials and the superintendent have eagerly agreed to allow MTV's staff and camera crew to shoot a reality show right here at school.

Keep in mind that we have to live up to the expectations and legends of MTV's reality shows such as *Real World* and *Road Rules*. After all, the *Real World* was really the show that began the revolution of reality television. The show here at West Potomac will be titled *WePo Diaries*.

The celebrated and popular *Diary: A Day in the Life of...* series has been known for following famous celebrities and their buzzing, hectic lives. This time around, the MTV crew will be following junior Brad Dalton. Many,



Juniors Mike Howell and Brad Dalton are constantly found arguing.

including teachers and students, know Dalton as a goofy, charming, and just a fine young man. He is an active member in almost every type of school-related activity such as student government, athletics, clubs, and more.

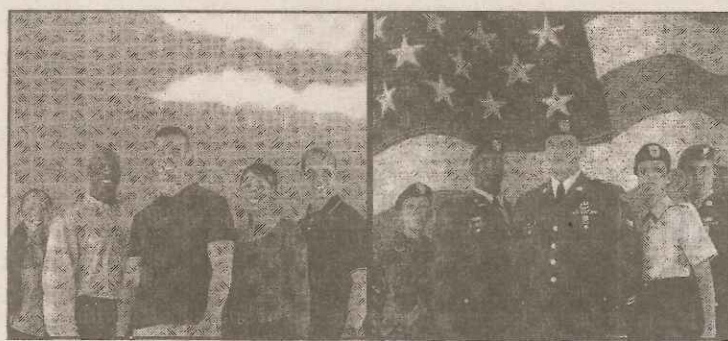
This is why the crew chose him; most of the student body knows who he is and likes him for who he is.

The team from MTV was not ready for the hectic and continuously vigorous schedule they would have to follow while keeping up with Dalton's frantic and busy schedule. From schooldays to weekends, Dalton is rarely found sitting at home channel surfing. By following Dalton, the crew will be able to see the school in a number of different perspectives. This is because Dalton is known to hang out with all types of people.

One thing that will become apparent is the drama and numerous fights. Walking through the cafeteria will be similar to the scene from the infamous movie *Mean Girls*.

On a different note, diversity will be hopefully an appraised component of our school that many will recognize and commend.

With a smirk, Dalton stated, "There are a lot of different groups at this school. It's important that the world sees that I'm so cool and cool enough to hang out with everyone.... I mean, everyone." The question for the rest of the student body is whether or not we want to be exposed through such a character.



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# Wes-Letomac Dominates

Alex "Kecky" Keckeisen

Wire Tool

After hours of competing and years of hard work, our very own freshman Wesley Woodward was able to take home the Mr. Universe crown in a thrilling upset.

The work was hard, but well worth it as Wesley Woodward, a freshman beat out the stiffest competition seen in years. Veterans

and stamina of the worthy competitor and awarded him the highest honor in the world of bodybuilding.

While some of the students at this school were surprised, many of his close friends knew that he had the will to win. "I wasn't surprised at all that he won. His curves and physique are irresistible," said juniors Lauren Bauman and Kaelin Emory. His

them. "He has great facial features."

Wesley is known throughout the school as the "friend of all," because of his uplifting attitude and fun personality. "He's always really nice to everyone and its great being his friend," said freshman Rachel Storey. As a member of the JROTC, Woodward knows that hard work ultimately pays off in the end.

He is just a freshman, but he is gaining much attention from many students at this school. Wesley plays a large part in the football teams success as the varsity manager. Many of the students recognize him as their leader. "I first saw him during our first practice and was amazed. He really motivated me during the season and gave me the will to win!" commented sophomore quarterback Chris Farquahar.

"I always see Wesley benching in the weight room. He works harder than anyone else in the school," said sophomore Andrew Freitas. His hard work and determination has given him the confidence to compete in such a competition. His work in the weight room was unyielding as he knew the top of the bodybuilding mountain was the Mr. Universe competition and that if he won, he would gain credit throughout the world for his relentless work.

Many of the students at this school have noticed him in the weight room or on the track everyday before and after school working out and training. Woodward currently holds the record at this school for leg press and bench press.

"Everyone knows he's the strongest guy in the school," said Freitas. "And winning Mr. Universe really showed everyone his potential," he added.

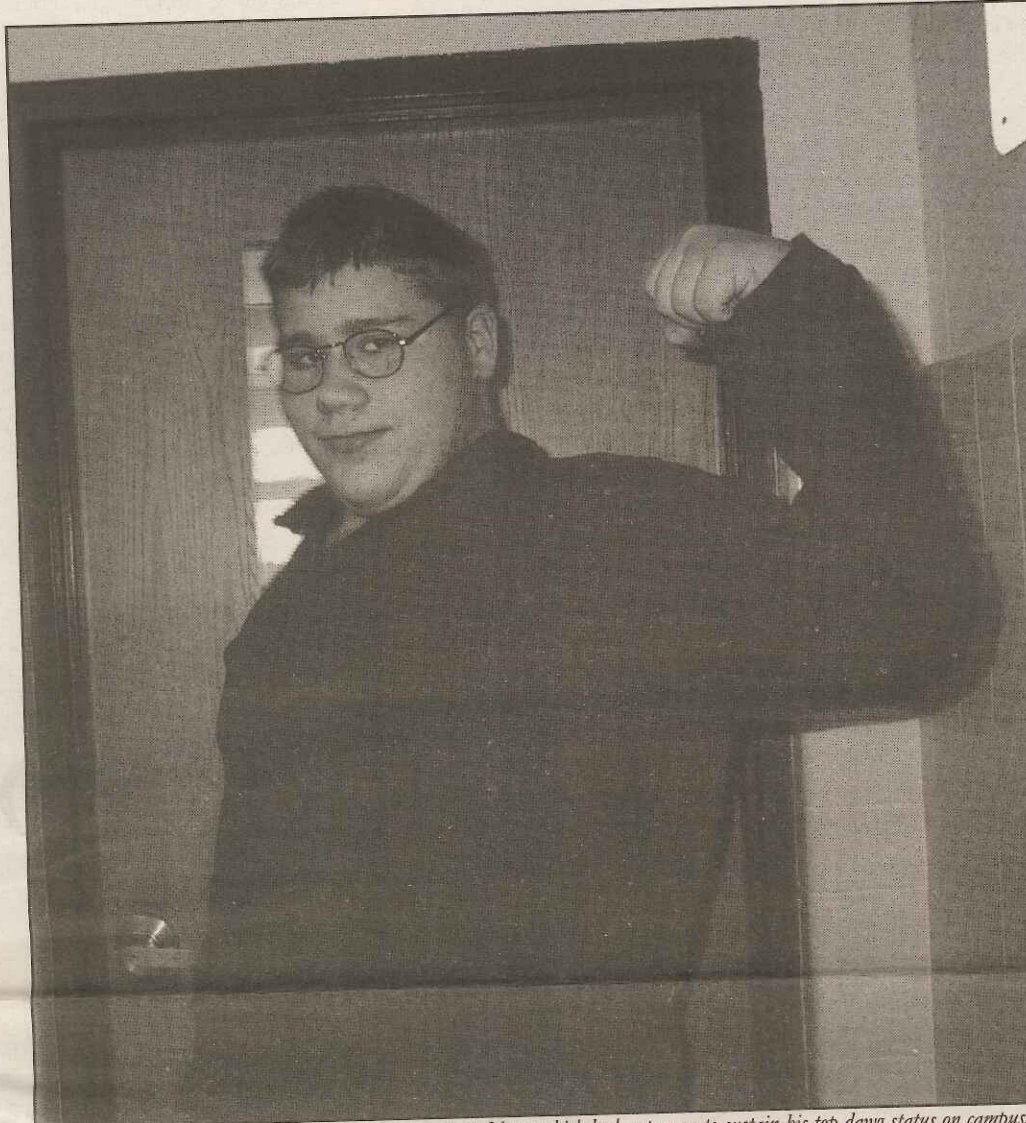


Photo by Laura Loggren

Freshman Wesley Woodward shows his strength and confidence which he has proven to sustain his top dawg status on campus.

Stephen Mentzner and Chad Fransen rounded out the top three, but could not hold off Woodward as he stormed to the forefront and took charge. The judges were very impressed by the valor

pure determination and support from many of the students at this school pushed him to the point of victory. Even guys notice him while walking in the hallways. Sophomore Pierce Kreutzer is one of

## A-List Ansley annouces all avoidables.

Book: Although it made reviewers rave, I just couldn't fight through Martel's *Life of Pi*. I was bored with descriptions of animal habitats, and found the uneventful plot of a tiger and a man in a canoe to be too unrealistic. It's slow, even for pleasure reading, and complicated beyond enjoyment.

CD: "Vanilla Ice" was always on the ice. I'm more than his one-hit wonder, obnoxiously what's become of him, but at least he taught

not sure he ever had enough material to record repeating the lines "ice ice baby." Who knows us that white men shouldn't attempt to rap.

Movie: The superhero recreations can only ambivalent as to whether or not the main cat fights get a little old. Although Halle it doesn't perk up the box office bust.

go so far and *Catwoman* goes too far. It's character is trying to do good or evil, and the Berry can sport a leather suit rather nicely,

Restaurant: Fast Eddie's tops the undercooked food, hostile servers, and uncomfortable, making the customer tables. And steer clear of karaoke night, definitely a place not worth wasting money.

run  
question if they  
unless you are

sketch-ball list with overpriced (and down billiards. The atmosphere is dim keep the lights low to hide the unwashed looking to lose your hearing. This is

TV Show: "TRL" has evolved from a "must" to a "bust". In all honesty, I haven't been able to watch this show since the ninth grade. They don't even bother to show the entire music video, just wannabe shout-outs and pathetic VJs who obviously can't get over the fact that they are no longer 19. There are definitely more productive ways to spend your time.

# The Rural Truths

Evan "Madame Zaroni" Dobbs

Wire Damien (Mean Girls)

In the spirit of April Fools day, *The Wire* staff thought it would be nice to share some urban myths that students before us have passed through the halls. Yet, the following should not be disregarded as entirely false:



Photo edited by Evan Dobbs

Teacher Kathy McCormally basking in the glory of being a Oscar Winner.

1. There is a pool on the roof of Gunston; passes are sold in the cafeteria bathrooms.
2. Our school's veggie burgers are really made from veal.
3. Computers are surveyed by the FBI.
4. Sleeping gas is pumped into the school's ventilation to keep students from uprising.
5. The Wire staff copies ideas from *The New York Times* and uses them to produce better articles.
6. The fashion design class is a sweat shop for Nike.
7. Amnesty International endorses Paris Hilton.
8. The sophomore's prom is cancelled because they used their class' money on that drunk driving video.
9. Orchestra Department uses instruments made with wood from the rainforest.
10. Hats can be worn in school only if they say "Ms. Vesilind is pretty."
11. Ms. Dickens discovered that 'gullible' really isn't in the dictionary.
12. Mr. Dietze bought the rights to "Wolverine" from marvel comics.
13. Art Club painted subliminal messages into the mural.
14. Ms. McCormally won an Academy Award for best original screen play for *Charlie Chan in Chile*.



# Plague Strikes Home

Evan "Madame Zaroni" Dobbs

Wire Damien (Mean Girls)

The boy's lacrosse season was cancelled yesterday after a plague-like disease caused 27 players, and 6 other students, to be hospitalized. The 23 junior varsity and 4 varsity players were reported having black sores along different parts of the body.

After a successful first month of practice, several of the JV team members suffered flu-like symptoms and tenderness in their arms, legs, and scalp.

"At first I thought they were bruises, but then I saw these marks on their cheeks and necks, where bruising is unheard of," Coach Bear said.

Investigators believe the illness is Nowak-Macarski disease, also known as the Cotton Mite Disease. Cotton Mite disease originated in Poland in the early 1800s, and is carried by the mites found in cotton. These mites cling to hair on the body and burrow into the root of the hair, entering the skin. The first strain discovered only caused severe skin irritation and rashes, but a new strain has recently developed. The new strain is said to cause the nervous system to fail.

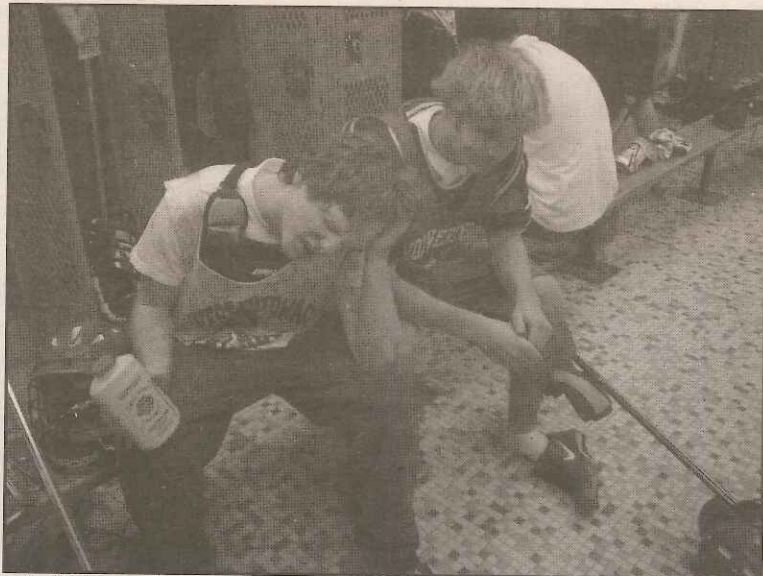
Bear ordered new JV jerseys from Scrimmage UK, which is one of the leading low-cost jersey manufacturers in the UK and most of Europe. The uniforms are made from a special blend of cotton specifically made for mesh jerseys. The cotton, which originates in Poland, was found to have hosted disease-baring mites. Investigators say the disease traveled through a shipment of the team's equipment from overseas. Upon

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athletes receiving the newer uniforms contracted the illness.

The Center for Disease Control (CDC) has declared the sports equipment storage and other equipment harboring locations quarantined until further notice. During spring break, the football and baseball fields were chemically burned and replaced to kill the cotton mites, and to protect athletes from additional contamination. All lockers were cleaned along with every team's cages. It is now required that all uniforms undergo cleaning before distribution.

Robin Burton, a manager has suffered the most symptoms, although only a manager, she has had most contact with the boys' equipment. Burton has had surgery on her arms, and inner thigh to prevent cotton mite. Freshman Andrew Fritas was the first to be sent to the hospital after collapsing during practice. Unfortunately, after neglecting the warning signs, Fritas now suffers from a mutated form of the disease on the leg,



After finding out that their season was cancelled due to the Cotton Mouth Plague, players from the varsity squad were distraught and tried to find ways to heal themselves.

Photo by Houston Murphy

arm and cheek. Skin deterioration occurs on the outer thigh, and organ malfunctions occur in special cases.

If a student suspects him or herself of contamination, the CDC advises to immediately burn all clothing that has been in contact with the body, including bed sheets, table cloths, and towels. Also to covering with plastic also prevents spreading to others. Trash bags are recommended. If sudden rashes on the thigh or arms appear, call 911 immediately. Do not hesitate to contact a physician. Cotton mite symptoms and precautions can be found at [www.cottonmiteprevention.org](http://www.cottonmiteprevention.org).

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## Steroids: Good for the Game

Jason Yaworske

*The Apple of Their Eyes*

After its hearing on the topic of steroids in baseball two weeks ago, congress delivered a shocking decision yesterday that baseball is better off with steroids.

The hearings, which started on March 16<sup>th</sup>, came straight off the heels of former Major League Baseball player Jose Canseco's book release that claimed widespread use of steroids by Major League Baseball players. Congress issued subpoenas for former St. Louis Cardinals slugger Mark McGwire, Baltimore Orioles outfielder Sammy Sosa and first basemen Rafael Palmeiro. Although the players were mum about steroids, Congress came to the conclusion that steroids use is rampant in baseball. Given this new information, Congress began to grasp the fact the more players used steroids, the better the sport would be.

"I love baseball," said the committee chairmen, "but I want to see more 500 foot homeruns! Enough of these low-scoring games, lets give 'em all steroids and sit back and watch the show!"

Congress has arranged to have steroids distributed in MLB locker rooms. Not only that, a new marketing campaign is set to begin regarding high school and collegiate steroid use. The theme for this campaign is to start baseball players on steroids young, in hopes that the next generation of major leaguers will launch the sport into a new dimension. Every young baseball player dreams of having a forehead like Barry Bonds and acne like Mark McGwire, and now it can be done legally.

Baseball was struggling back in 1998. Although Cal Ripken, Jr. had helped the sport's popularity after the strike of '94, it wasn't until the homerun race between Mark McGwire and Sammy Sosa in the '98 season that baseball really come back into prominence. And only a few years later, Barry Bonds hit over 70 homeruns, a feat that was thought of to be impossible. Thankfully, Congress has realized that Major League Baseball wouldn't be where it is today without record breaking homerun hitters like these.

## In The Numbers



Games forfeited by West Potomac opponents from the football season due to the drug scandal that has rocked the northern region.  
New record: 10-0

47.5

Meters curled by Sarah Mullen for this school's World Champion curling team.

63

Athletes from this school who made the Washington Posts' All-Met teams this winter.

3

Athletes subpoenaed by Congress to take part in the recent hearing on Capital Hill. All three have been subject to the grand-jury's investigation into the BALCO scandal.



## You Need to get *US*

Joy "Yoo-hoo" Yoo

New Wire Asian

Magazines and newspapers have so much influence in the general public's perception of everyone from world-changing politicians to self-absorbed entertainers. Without a doubt, the best magazine out there is *Us Weekly*. By initially reading the title, I was fooled by thinking that the magazine's title was, in fact, *U.S. Weekly*. When I came to my senses, I eagerly opened the magazine, waiting for the revealing of "How Top Stars Went from Flab to Fab."

Personally, there is no other way I would be finding about Lindsay Lohan's supposed drug use, anorexia, and plastic surgery. It is important for the parents in this nation to know, inside and out, what their children's role models' lives are like. Paying

attention to national crises such as the tragedies of September 11 and the war in Iraq is honestly just a waste of time. Who cares? Eventually, this world is going to destruct itself. Why not just acknowledge the good things in life?

other are all such a waste of time, as well. I like to read from grade "A" material, and the only magazine that fulfills my expectations is *Us Weekly*. The reporters are the best in the world, the "cream of the crop"; taking risks

by bombarding in to so many people's lives is not a risk that all are willing to take. That is the most distinctive and respectable characteristic of the staff of *Us Weekly*.

It is obvious that such journalistic skills and talents must be acknowledged by everyone. The biggest benefit that *Us Weekly* offers, besides its expertise and quality writing, is the cost. They even offer four issues free to prospective subscribers. To already

committed subscribers, they offer an irresistible deal with 52 issues for only a mere \$51.48. Such deals for the #1 nation's magazine is simply crazy to resist.



Photo illustration by Sarah Raser

After all, the only way to enjoy life to the fullest is to make the best of it.

All these other entertainment magazines such as *People*, *Teen People*, *Vogue*, *Glamour*, *Cosmopolitan*, and every

## Music to Your Earz

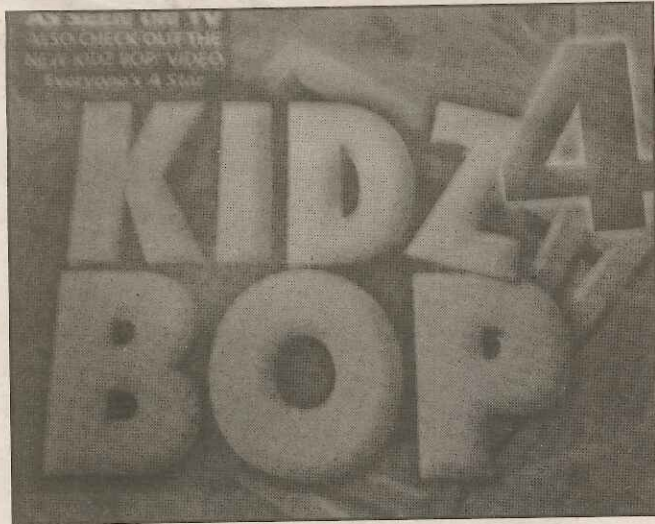
Marissa D'Orazio

Laura's Friend

Phenomenal. If I had only one word's amount of space to describe this album, that is the only word that could begin to give this album justice. But I have more space, so let me continue.

You've seen the commercials. You've heard the hype. But what do you really know about the Kidz Bop series?

You turn on the CD and bam: it makes you fall to pieces



over the crowd-pleasing rendition of the Ashlee Simpson hit, "Pieces of Me." They give a mature touch to Ashlee's hit. It's nice to hear someone a little older, like 8 or 9, serenade you. We love you Ashlee dear, but you're just too young. It feels like we're listening to our five-year-old sister sing about relationships, and that is just weird. The older-sounding kid boppers sound much better.

Who doesn't love the sound of third-graders chanting the version of a song that has been edited so that it doesn't offend the mentally challenged? The Kid's rendition of The Black Eyed Peas' "Let's Get it Started" (original title: "Let's

Get Retarded") is so cute that it will make you wish they hadn't changed the title! I wish they had left in the profanity, too. Kids these days. God love 'em.

So let's get this straight—Jojo is 13, and these kids are... 9! Would somebody please get R. Kelly over here? Fresh meat! Their melodious cover of "Leave (Get Out)" is, well... sexy! And while Jojo, with her mature voice and appearance, seems older, the Kids Bop kids are genuinely young. It is truly a beautiful thing when kids embrace their age.

Have you ever felt humiliated, sad, and worthless? Have you ever fallen off the monkey bars and just felt like lying there until the guffawing upperclassmen (fifth and sixth graders) just left? This song is a motivational power chord in the ballad of elementary school. The cover of Switchfoot's "Dare You To Move" should be called "Dare You Not To Break Down And Cry"—I know I do every time I hear it. No one knows what these kids go through—the constant pointing and laughing, throwing mulch, degrading name-calling of "teacher's pet," okay, maybe that was just my elementary school.

I divorced one of my fellow seniors in kindergarten and married my teacher who was female. I had little understanding about what to eat and what not to eat, let alone gender. I wish this CD was around back then, to I could listen to fellow tots sing about my "Breakaway" (sounding dangerously similar to the original!) and then, after my joyful marriage, "My Happy Ending."

Life in elementary school is intense. Between drinking milk that comes out of pouches (what is *with* the pouches, people?) riding a scary bus, constantly getting in trouble with those nerdy safety patrols, it is a wonder kids these aren't over over over-medicated. No, you're child is not just a happy kid. He is hyper and needs Ritalin. No, your kid isn't crying because you stole his cupcake and called him fat—he is depressed and needs Prozac. Track fifteen offers all these kids a little reassurance, though, to know that in the end, we all "Float on."

## Recipe for Quality

Katie Staples

Jason Fan Club Member

A new taste sensation has hit Route 1, and "quality is their recipe." *Wendy's*, located at 6329 Richmond Highway, has a menu that ranges from its old-fashioned hamburgers and frosties to the new fruit bowl; and is sure to please anyone's sweet tooth.

*Wendy's* is known for its fabulous fast-food munchies. Junior Simon Willis said, "Every day, D.A. and I enjoy the delicious southwestern bacon cheeseburger and a fruit punch. *Wendy's* always fills me up because it's so scrumptious, and I'm sure it's as healthy as it is good."

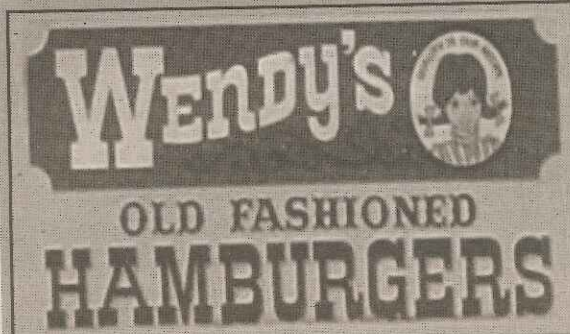


Photo illustration by Evan Dobbs

*Wendy's* is located at 6329 Richmond Highway and serves burgers, fries, chicken, among other foods.

My personal favorite is the double cheeseburger and a *Wendy's* frosty, for only four bucks. Students can use a handful of change and still make a complete meal. Popular items such as the chicken nuggets, junior bacon cheeseburger, and small fries appear on the *Wendy's* 99¢ menu. Here, people can make an even cheaper meal or just grab a snack. Other West Potomac students savor the chicken nuggets, chicken strips, or the all-time favorite: Garden Sensations Salad.

Its convenient location makes *Wendy's* an even more appealing restaurant. Only a mile from this school, students can take the shortcut off of Beacon Hill Road, up the hill on Dawn Drive, and straight to the *Wendy's* parking lot. As it is open all day and this close to school, no wonder students often visit this prime dining location, I know I have (over 50 times and counting—yes, we counted.)

The *Wendy's* service is just about as great as their food. In all of my dining experiences, I have yet to confront a problem with my order. Never have I had to go back up to the counter to tell the fast-food specialist I asked for no lettuce, or the fry engineer that I ordered a medium and not a small. I think it's safe to say, the *Wendy's* staff is perfect in serving us well.

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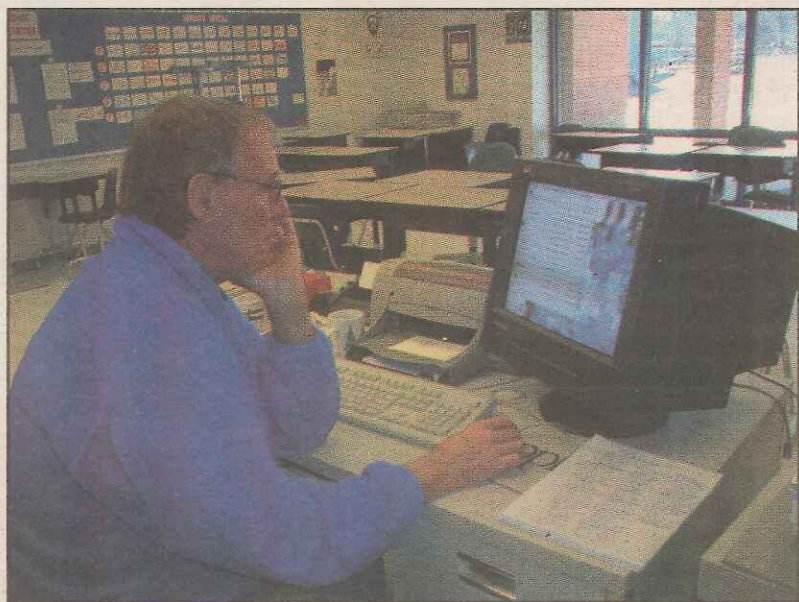


# Restless Mr. Russell

Rob "Goatboy" Jones

Wire Slacker

Though many do not know it, one of this school's most respected teachers started his career here in a most unorthodox fashion. Mr. Paul Russell, who has taught here since long before any of the current staff remember, shares his story today for the first time in over forty years.



Mr. Russell spends most of his day playing games on the computer.

Russell began his career here as several teachers did, as a student. However, he did not make the transition to teaching in the normal manner. Rather than graduating, going to college and earning a degree in education, Russell's paid employment began as a result of a long legacy of slacking. Russell never officially

graduated high school. He repeated his senior year a record eight times, merely refusing to pass the requisite number of classes to graduate.

His grades showed a consistent trend, with outstanding marks in humanities classes, coupled with constant failures in math and the sciences. That is not to say Russell failed to grasp these concepts. He simply refused to apply himself in a subject he felt he would never use. After his eighth senior year, it became apparent to the staff that 26-year-old Russell had no intentions of ever leaving the school. After a total of twelve years of close contact, the administration had developed somewhat of a fondness for this loveable slacker, and decided to put his constant presence to good use.

Russell was offered a paid teaching position in the English department, joining the staff at around the same time as fellow veterans Joan Reynolds, Alan Johnson (moved), and Bill Dobson. He jumped into teaching with a kind of vigor he had never exhibited during his extended student career, quickly becoming a favorite of students and staff alike. His creative lesson plans and lively classroom atmosphere reflect his true love for the job. When asked about his sudden change in attitude, he simply replied, "I never intended to leave. If they want to pay me to stay, I'm

not going to complain."

Since his addition to the staff, Russell has employed a teaching method somewhat similar to his student career. He encourages students to stretch their ideas of appropriate classroom conduct, often using raucous games to illustrate his points. In one of his famous class activities, Russell brings in Twister boards and oversees as the class plays literary trivia Twister.

Russell has also been known to teach the finer principles of snake-charming in class. "The basic principle of charming a snake is absolute focus," says Russell. "Along the same vein, writing an essay or research paper requires constant focus and attention to one's thesis. If students can learn to focus on not being bitten by a highly venomous cobra, they can certainly apply that skill to writing. See the snake. Be the snake." When asked to comment on this bizarre teaching method, former student senior Brandon "Krusty" Cate replied simply, "Snakes are cool!"

This highly unconventional teaching method earned Russell the respect and eternal friendship of long-time administrator Thomas Maher. "I like an educator who isn't afraid to get his hands dirty teaching a valuable lesson," remarked Maher. "I would have been proud to have served with Paul in 'Nam, hippie or no."

Although theoretically eligible for retirement in the near future, nobody who knows Russell foresees such an event. Says senior Shaughn Dugan, a student in Russell's Creative Writing class, "There's no way Mr. Russell will ever retire. He will most likely keep teaching long after his heart stops beating." Senior Juan Fonseca, a student in Russell's AP English Literature class, agrees. "In my opinion, Mr. Russell died years ago from massive boredom. He is operating now on his sheer will to defy expectation."

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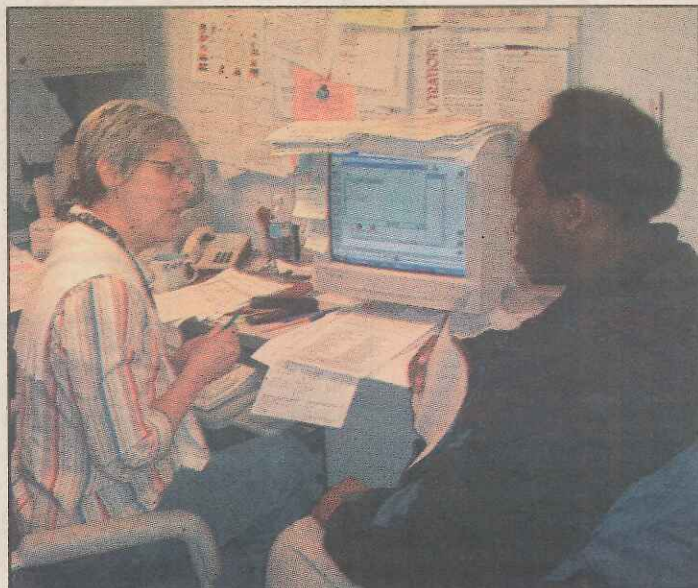
# Happy to Help Helfert

Rob "Goatboy" Jones

Wire Slacker

Many students at this school know Kathy Helfert as merely a friendly high-school guidance counselor whose job centers around selflessly helping students set up their post-high school education. Those who make this assumption, however, have been hopelessly deceived by an elaborate ruse. For years now, Helfert has sat in her office, watching students as they progress through school, judging them for their personal and intellectual qualities. Little do Helfert's students know, they are being cultivated for use in a plot to change what we know as the greater world order.

Helfert's background is spotty, at best. A native of Austin, Texas, she supposedly worked as a home economics teacher in that area, first in middle-school, and later at a regional high school. Her arrival at this school supposedly followed her obtainment of a masters' degree in human relations, allowing her to work as a guidance counselor. However, a tip from a source who preferred to remain anonymous (Nick



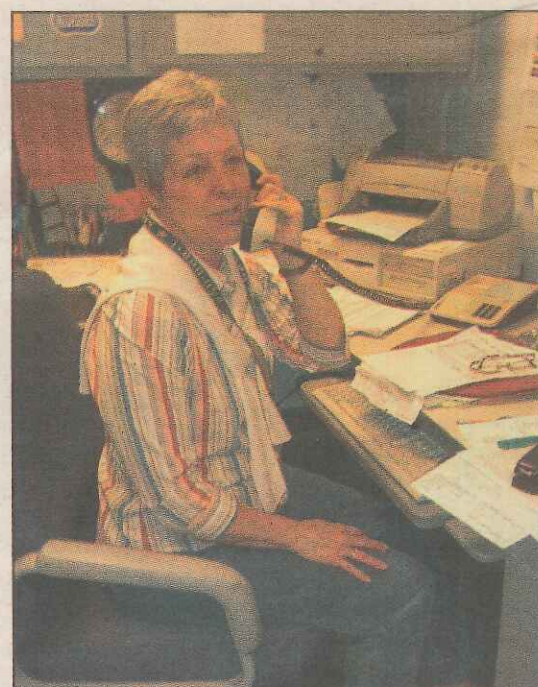
Mrs. Helfert is always willing to help this school's students.

Jachowski—oh my, did I just undermine the integrity of my entire paper?) prompted the Wire to make a few inquiries into Helfert's pre-West Potomac history. It quickly became apparent that this mild-mannered guidance counselor has never before been in the employ of a high school.

Background checks indicate that Helfert has, in fact, been working for a small, renegade branch of the University of Austin, operating out of the miniscule town of Succotash Springs in the Canadian province of Saskatchewan. The institution in question has been working for years to overthrow the governments of the US, Canada, and Mexico, and create a nation of metalheads, in which the law of the land will be Ozzy Osbourne worship. In order to accomplish this, manpower is desperately needed.

Helfert's position at this school was contrived as a way to recruit bright, capable high school students to "the cause." Since her arrival, she has sat quietly in her office, observing those students who she deems to be "fit" for her master plan. When Helfert targets a student for recruitment, the candidate never has a chance to escape her wrath. She immediately sends a full record of the student's background to the university. Those of her cadets who plan to attend college after graduation are either dissuaded from this path or immediately and ruthlessly sabotaged in their efforts, leaving them with no acceptance letters except a very generous offer of a full paid scholarship from the University of Austin.

Helfert then spends her summer accompanying her class of graduates to this small, remote campus and introducing them to their "professors". Once students arrive in Succotash Springs, Saskatchewan, they are taken to a freshman seminar at which they are brainwashed by montages of MTV's The



Helfert plots brainwashing of West Potomac students.

Osbornes set to the soothing music of Enya. They are then compelled to bite the heads off small mammal birds and/or reptiles and bow to a statue of Ozzy.

When Helfert was confronted with the discovery of this information, her demeanor changed drastically. Her eyes glazed over, her normally charming southern accent was replaced by a monotone, in which she chanted, "Ozzy is God. All hail Ozzy. Eat Top Ramen. Ozzy commands you."

In light of this recent development, further investigations are underway to determine the progress already made by this organization in its anti-governmental aims. It has been determined that 54 1/2 students from this school have been brainwashed as a result of this plot since 1985. When Mr. Osbourne was interviewed as to his involvement, he denied any knowledge of such an operation. The involvement of Enya and Top Ramen are still in question.