

THE MISFIRE

WEST POTOMAC HIGH SCHOOL

Focus 4 5 6-7 8 9

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6500 Quander Road
Alexandria, VA 22307

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Monday, April 5, 2010

Op-Ed 1 2 3 4 5

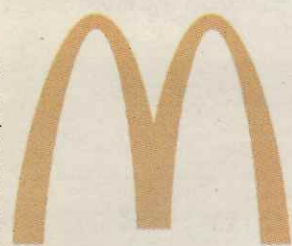
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Photo courtesy of MCT



Where does our
cafeteria food come
from?

Photo Courtesy of MCT



Which teacher's job is
just a cover-up?

Photo Courtesy of MCT



Find out why Dan Snider
sold the Redskins

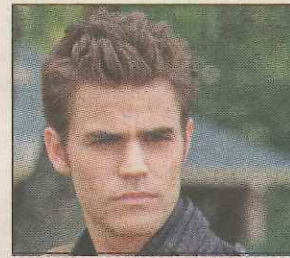


Photo Courtesy of Quantell Colbert/MCT
Do you want to sign up for
the new vampire literature
class?

Photo by Nia Copeland



Find out about the
teacher who went crazy.



Photo Courtesy of Laura Zitnik

Students found out what the new shock collars felt like when they tried to leave school early. Most teachers support this new plan and can be seen patrolling the hallways to watch the effects of the collars.

New plan comes as a "shock"

KATIE "MAD MAC" WOODWARD
MINION

After many failed attempts to control the comings and goings of students during school hours, the administration has reached an innovative level in security tactics. Starting next month, all students will be required to don electric shock collars, which will promptly stun any wearer who passes through the new electric fence surrounding the school.

Principal Hardison proposed this idea to a dumbfounded administration after purchasing an electric fence for his basset hound. Once he saw how effective an electric zap was at keeping his dog in the yard, Hardison realized shock collars are the perfect solution to the long-standing problem of students leaving school during the day. Overjoyed, he presented the idea to teachers and staff. Although many were initially skeptical, most now agree this solution will ensure the attendance of students at all hours of the day. Says science teacher Erin Sikes-Thurston, "Not only will shock collars keep my cherubs in class, but with a couple of adjustments, I also can use them to zap the kids who skip my morning review sessions- how's that for a wake-up call!"

The collars will be purchased from area pet stores, and are rumored to come in a variety of colors and styles in order to appease students. Hardison hopes that these features will mean that students choose to wear the collars rather

than be forced to by the administration. There will be heavy punishments for disobedience, including students being forced to attend night school or, in more serious cases, to spend hours in a dungeon-like area at an undisclosed location. Hardison has also threatened to restrict access to the Gunston Rooftop Pool for students who tamper with their shock collars.

The proposed shock collars have been met with mixed reviews. The biggest conflict seems to be between math teacher Alison Satterwhite and science teacher Garrett Hubbard. Nobody ever would have guessed that these steadfast friends could be torn apart by something as silly as shock collars for students, but alas, this appears to be so. Satterwhite feels very strongly that shock collars are an excellent idea, and in fact recommends periodic school-wide shockings just to keep students on their toes. "This is the change we've been waiting for! No more wishy-washy policies. No more rule-breaking- compliance mandatory. Hey students: GAME OVER," said Satterwhite. The math teacher also has recommendations for pure academic use of the collars: "They should go off whenever a student says $(a+b)^2 = a^2 + b^2$. That would teach 'em quick, and save me the trouble of hurting them myself." Hubbard, on the other hand, is strongly opposed to installation of shock technology, and was seen slapping Satterwhite across the face with a hefty Physics textbook last Wednesday after

See Shock on page 4

Seniors in a daze over graduation this year

CAMILLE "CHAMELEON" DiFOLCO
MINION

Ah, graduation day. For senior Moira Fagan, it was supposed to be a "magical event culminating in a crisp diploma and the prospect of never returning to high school," and, for most students, the chance to finally enjoy the freedom and excitement of college life...

Such a ceremonial and momentous occasion is traditionally held in a grand setting so as to underscore the accomplishments the graduate has achieved. Our own school traditionally held graduation at nearby George Mason University's Patriot Center. This year, however, the class of 2010 will begin a new tradition when they accept their diplomas in one of our school's parking lots.

Originally, graduation 2010 was to be held on the football field, where the school's pride would supposedly be most

concentrated. A memo sent out to members of the Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA) last week, however, pronounced, "Due to unforeseen financial implications, the graduation ceremony for the class of 2010 will be held on the West Potomac Marching Band Rehearsal Block," otherwise known as the parking lot behind Quander. The lot was so dubbed because the marching band does indeed hold band camp and after-school practices on the parking lot. Because of this, the lot is spray-painted fresh each year with yard markings similar to those on a football field. The memo read, "The new location is hardly distinguishable from the original, and possesses the added advantages of remaining solid and mud-free in case of rain."

Though the memo cites no specific cause of the venue change, and administration has declined to comment, this reporter

See Graduation on page 4

New "Situation" to deal with next year

NORRIS "FUZZY G" BROOKS
MINION

On Monday, March 22, it was announced that current Principal Cliff Hardison would be leaving our school. Students are not reacting well to the change; they have all come to know and love Hardison. Sophomore Cormac McPherson complained, "It is really hard to go to school now. I see teachers and students crying all throughout the building. I never realized how attached people were to Mr. Hardison." When asked about why he decided to leave, Hardison's publicist interceded and said the principal was not taking part in any interviews. The search for a candidate to replace him has sent the school into a frenzy, with everyone wondering who would be the new head honcho. According to junior Kyle Skudlarek, "I haven't had an actual class for weeks now. All we discuss is who the new principal is going to be!"

Just last night, the name of the new head of West Potomac was revealed on Facebook. It turns out that our school is about to come face to face with a *Jersey Shore* cast member. Mike "The Situation" Sorrentino is replacing Mr. Hardison.

Mike Sorrentino is a 27-year-old "guido." According to urbandictionary.com, the definition of a "guido" is a male of Italian descent, usually native to New Jersey, who has a fake tan, bulky muscles, and wears earrings, gold chains, and cheesy clothing. "The Situation" will be making his first appearance at our school by the end of the month. In anticipation of his arrival, senior Molly Bowdring said, "All of the seniors are going to decorate the hallways with pictures of 'The Situation's' face, and we plan on getting fake tans and wearing Bumpits in our hair."

In a recent interview, Sorrentino informed the public that he is bringing along his partner in crime, Nicole "Snookie" Polizzi. However, Snookie will not be living as glamorous a lifestyle as Mike. She will be employed as the school's head janitor. When asked how she felt about this job, Snookie replied, "I just cannot believe Mike would make me a janitor, but I need a change in my life, and I hear they serve free pickles in the teacher's lounge!"

While Snookie and "The Situation" will liven up our school, nothing can top the news that was released just this week. Pauly Delgado, the famous DJ from *Jersey Shore*, has been hired as well. He will be the music producer for all the school dances, and even play some of his own beats during the seven minutes between classes.

Some students are worried about the changes "The Situation" will bring. One junior male, who requested that he remain anonymous, expressed his concerns that "The Situation" might make extreme changes to the dress code. He said with apprehension, "I have heard that it will be mandatory for boys to wear wife beaters, and that we will have to pierce our ears!" On the other hand, most students are excited about the new principal. They are mainly pleased at "The Situation's" first official act. He "video-chatted" the school, announcing hot tubs are being air lifted on to the roof before he arrives.

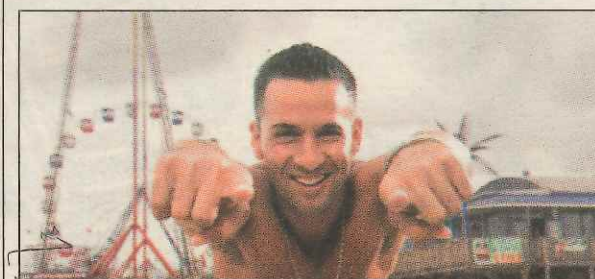


Photo courtesy of nj.com

The "Situation" from MTV's *Jersey Shore* will be the new principal.

Students need a change of attitude

EMILY "THE REAL ONE" SMITH
GD TYPES

West Potomac is the greatest school out there, and it is about time that students showed their love for their little home away from home.

The lack of school spirit at our school is shocking. Not a day goes by that we fail to hear someone say something negative about our high school. "The food here stinks," or "the bathrooms are dirty," or "my teacher is mean." Well, you know what, guys? You are wrong, all wrong.

When we started out at West Potomac as freshmen, it was overwhelming in size and diversity. However, as we matured, we can now see that this high school is practically a utopia. Everything about it—from the peppy school colors to the friendly smiles of the security personnel in the morning—screams happiness. However, it seems as though a lot of people are taking this blessed educational haven for granted. So what if seniors cannot have off campus lunch? The PATIO FURNITURE is on the way here. Any day now, and seniors can be lounging on granite benches in the crisp weather at the back of school. And is someone still complaining about the bathrooms? For the record, it is a fact that Mt. Vernon students are still using Port-O-Johns. We should be kissing our porcelain thrones.

We feel so strongly about West Potomac, in fact, that I am now proposing a change of attitude. A mandated change of attitude. If the law passes in the student government, negativity towards our school will be punishable by suspension. If this law goes through, there will be uniformed "monitors" who will discretely listen in on conversation, making sure students are maximizing their WP positivity. "What if we have a legitimate complaint?" some students might ask. And to that we have to ask, "What is there to possibly complain about?"

This is not unreasonable. This is a necessity. Ask any history teacher at our school, and they will agree that most totalitarian governments were put there for a reason. That this measure is necessary, and everyone will be happier when these negative students leave. Let us be frank. West Potomac is a beautiful campus filled with loving faculty and pristine facilities. Our classes are interesting and the homework load is light. We should be thanking our lucky stars that we are fortunate enough to live in or around 22307. And if someone tries to stomp on our happiness, the monitor will just have to pluck that bad apple from the bunch. No one is going to ruin our school.

Corrections

- We accidentally gave Peter Coffey a column during the whole year, but luckily we have replaced it with what was supposed to be there all year.
- Please ignore any articles written by Josh Belanger. They were entirely plagiarized.
- Michaela Accardi is not an Editor-In-Chief, she actually was removed from her position for not doing any work during layout.
- Ms. Zitnik is not actually a certified journalism teacher, and has been promptly fired. We apologize for the liabilities.

THANK YOU WIRE PATRONS

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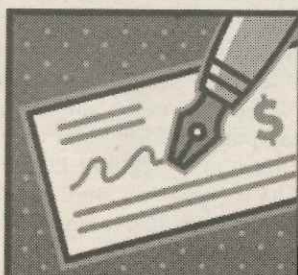
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As a patron of *The Wire*, your name will be published on page two of every issue. If you are donating \$30 or more, you can opt to have *The Wire* mailed directly to your home as well.



RANTS and Raves

A **RANT** for the new healthcare bill.

A **rave** for the boy's varsity lacrosse team being undefeated.

A **RANT** for Peter Coffey.

A **rave** for Editor-in-Chief Lucas Alexander's birthday.

A **RANT** for baseball.

A **RANT** for social climbers

A **rave** for Gyllibert Arenas.

Keep this sincere warning in mind

Everyone has been preparing for the Zombie Apocalypse and even the "Snowpocalypse" (a stupid name, might I say) but everyone has been overlooking the impending Leprechaun Apocalypse!

This is no joke, I know, ha-ha, leprechauns taking over the world seems silly but look around. There seems to be an increasing amount of hidden ("closeted") leprechauns lurking about the school. As students and teachers, beware! Sometimes they show their true colors (green) and show slight leprechaun characteristics (like praise for their Irish heritage.) Do not be fooled by centuries of glorifying these imps on St. Patrick's Day. They started the myths and traditions themselves to make people want to spend time with them. Do you really think a mini-ginger can bring good luck? Honestly?

I suggest, although this may seem harsh, getting rid of these horrendous creatures at once from our school. This does not mean extermination-- I assure you. Simply turning them away from the building is a good method to reduce the risk of an attack by these demons. This will let them know that we are on to their charade and are preparing for the inevitable showdown.

Maybe turning them away seems un-American, so an alternative is to give out free Guinness on their commute to school. These imps are useless to resist such an opportunity. (Some stereotypes exist for a reason.)

These methods will most likely upset them at first but then they will simply just move on to another culture that is completely unaware of their evils. That is why they came from Ireland to America. Their most successful technique thus far has been the Lucky Charms Leprechaun, though. We have been fooled by his cartoon appearance and marshmallows. Those children are not running after him for the cereal, but in reality they are trying to stop him from stealing souls. (By the way, that is how leprechauns take over. They steal everyone's soul because they do not have their own.)

Now that you know, what are you going to do? Continue to be fooled by their short stature and empty promises of gold at the end of rainbow or show them who is boss? I mean it is only a matter of time before they join forces with butterflies. Do not even get me started on them.

-A concerned student

If you have an opinion, please submit your **Letter to the Editor** of 248 to 249 words or to Room 000 Quander. All submissions become property of *The Wire*. Also, if you really want to be published, bribe us.

THE

STAFF

West Potomac High School
6500 Quander Road
Alexandria, VA 22307
Volume #26 Issue #7

FASCISTS

Lucas "I argue a lot" Alexander

Michaela "Can we leave?" Accardi

GD TYPOS

Gwen "Was that a whale?" Fishel

Emily "The Real One" Smith

ENGINE ROOM

Emily "Hairdresser" Griffin

LITTLE ENGINES

Laura "Spandex & Uggs" Reynolds

LIL' BROS

Jacob "Oil Lamp" Alexander

Joseph "Belanga" Marinelli

SLAVE DRIVER

Alex "Sonmyns" Fabrizio

APPRENTICE SLAVE DRIVER

Maggie "Went to Wendy's that time" Grady

COFFEY TALK

Peter "Brotomac River" Coffey

ASSISTANT COFFEY TALKERS

Tommy "Danger" Friederich

Josh "JAM" Belanger

GQ

Bryan "CM-3" Jacobs

GOT MONEY?

Maggie "Went to Wendy's that time" Grady

DON JUAN

Alex "Juiceness" Britcliffe

PEEPERS

Nia "Sweet Pea" Copeland
Sonia "Onion Ring" Garakyaraghi

ROYALTY

Laura "Queen Zee" Zitnik

MINIONS

Anna "Banana" Dreyfuss
Norris "Fuzzy G" Brooks
Sarah "Sabertooth" Holloway

Shirine "Vitamin Wonka" Loghmanian

Stephen "WE MISS YOU" Howell

Katelyn "Mad Mac" Woodward

Camille "Chameleon" DiFolco

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.

Irish students excused from school

Special treatment of one ethnic group is declared unfair



NIA "SWEET PEA" COPELAND
PEEPERS

Irish students around the country were excused from school on March 17 in order to celebrate St. Patrick's Day holiday. Irish students were required to have notes from their parents giving them permission to stay home from school and then they were able to enjoy their entire day free from school work and homework and take the day off to celebrate the holiday any way they desired. Though St. Patrick's Day is recognized as a national holiday countrywide, it is unfair for one group of students to be excused from classes because of their religion and traditional beliefs. Several students are outraged by the decision made to allow only Irish students stay home and feel the Irish are not the only race that deserve a day to celebrate their country and religion. "I don't think it's fair that only Irish children are allowed to miss school for a day," said junior Jennifer Long. "There are several different races at our school and many follow different religions but there is not a holiday for each ethnic group in which only a certain group of students are excused from school for an entire day."

If authorities continue to allow Irish students to miss school on St. Patrick's Day, there will be a lot of issues and controversy within the school system. Students and parents have already expressed dislike and are ready to organize groups against the situation.

In response to the new rule, several students organized a group against the rule to excuse Irish students from school. They made signs, created a petition and marched

around the school hoping to attract the attention of neighbors and students in order to convince them to sign the petition. They also made t-shirts and flyers to better publicize the issue and invited students and parents to after school meetings to discuss the issue and create a plan to have the rule abolished. "I think it is a good thing that students are fighting for this," added Long. "This is just unfair and I believe that this group will grab the attention of society and equality will finally be restored in the school system."

Students often harassed the Irish students and warned them not to attend school on the seventeenth; however, Irish students were unbothered by the complaints made by students and feel that they are making the situation a lot bigger than it should be. Junior Tayler Aitken is half Irish and thinks that students should let her and her

people enjoy their holiday in peace. "St. Patrick's Day is taken very seriously on my mother's side of the family and we need a full day of observation," she said. "Plus it is only one day out of the entire school year and we will be required to make up all

“...[It] has caused a lot of unneeded drama between students, parents, and the school system.”

of the work that we miss.”

Even though Irish students deserve the right to celebrate their holiday, it is unfair to allow them a day off while requiring others to attend school. Allowing Irish students to be excused from school on St. Patrick's Day has caused a lot of unneeded drama between students, parents, and the school system. In order to restore peace, the rule must be abolished so that students are able to learn without any distractions or disturbances in their learning environment.

ncopeland@wpwire.com

Fast food takes over the school cafeteria

SONIA "ONION RING" GARAKYARAGHI
PEEPERS



Due to the E. coli outbreak in our cafeteria food, a couple of the biggest fast food chains have bought our cafeteria. These include McDonalds, Burger King, Chipotle Mexican Grill, Taco Bell, Quiznos, Dominos, and Panda Express. In a couple months, our cafeteria is going to look like a food court. Students may be happy and excited for this, but is it really a good idea?

Even though the E. coli outbreak was awful, should we let fast food chains buy our cafeteria? We may actually get some edible food, so the cheese we eat does not erase pencil marks, the hotdogs do not bounce, and the food is not "filled" with E. coli. However, obesity is catching up! When our parents were growing up obesity was only for people in their middle ages, but now many teens and even some children are obese. According to annecollins.com, "76% increase in Type II diabetes in adults 30-40 years old since 1990 and about 15% (about nine million teens in the united states) teens are overweight from the 1999-2000 data." Even though these may just be statistics, students will realize later on how much obesity has increased.

In our community, we already have plenty of people overweight (about 25.7% in Virginia since 1998 and 2000 data), adding the fast food restaurants to our cafeteria would contribute to the increased amount of obesity. We already have fast food all over our community; there is no need to add more to our school. Also, they will take advantage of students and make students pay double the amount we normally pay for lunch. So why pay more and become unhealthy?

Fast food may seem good right now, but once all of our money is gone and many have gained a couple pounds

“Even though the E. coli outbreak was awful, should we let fast food chains buy our cafeteria?”

in only a month, then students might start realizing how bad it is and regret agreeing to get fast food in our school. It may be hard to say "NO!" to fast food now, but later you will be thankful. Making healthy choices now will help you have healthy eating

habits later on in life. Even though our school is saying yes to it, it does not mean we have to go along with it. We have a right to not accept their decision and protest to change their decision to accept the offer of the fast food chains

After the embarrassment from the E. coli outbreak, the school cannot let the offer go. We need people to join the protest, which will be held in a couple weeks and sign the petition that is going around school.

sgarakyaraghi@wpwire.com

LARGE AND IN CHARGE

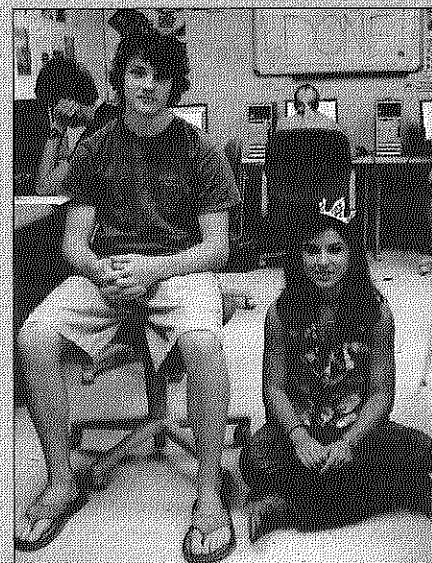


Photo by Megan Haley

LUCAS "I ARGUE A LOT" ALEXANDER
FASCIST

This year and in the years most recent, we have seen the conjointment of two of the world's greatest fashion leaps of all time. Since the sixth or seventh grade, girls have been infatuated with Uggs. It could be the monkey skin that they're made out of, or the fact that they look exactly like every other girl in the school, but everyone loves them. They have been a fashion gargantuan on their own for years now, and because of it, the world is a better place- full of sweatshops where small children are happily forced to work until a 13 year old girls 12th pair of shoe is finished.

Another fashion gift the gods have granted us would be that of spandex. Spandex represents the epitome of effort in the female community. If you want to look good and let everyone know that you look good, you throw on a pair of spandex in the morning. Nothing brings the attention to a fashion queen like it should be when someone notices the divine fabric on your bottom half.

However, by some weird outside influence, these two great ideas have only come together of late. They have burst on to the scene being worn by celebrities everywhere, because obviously, all the fashion gurus are smitten with the new fad.

This combination has been seen everywhere from your local middle school to fashion shows in the heart of Italy. Such a quick sweep of the upper levels of the fashion world and industry is completely unprecedented. It took

“If you want to look good and let everyone know that you look good, you throw on a pair of spandex in the morning.”

years before other world changing fashions to reach the status spandex and Uggs have already.

This godly combination has now officially transcended into the realms of fashion legends like blow outs, Crocs, and some of the best fashion decisions of all time. No one knows what seems to be the factor these fashions have that brings them to the top. Maybe it is the fact that they take so much effort in throwing together this duo that makes them so charismatic and attractive, or maybe it is the color schemes or the fact that both spandex and Uggs are made from similar monkey skins shipped from Africa to the factories in Australia.

Whatever the cause, may the world be blessed with the continuation and never ending eternal life of this glorious and top of the line combination, because we all know it, and we all want to say it: girls just look better than ever before when rocking this style. Some advice from top fashion gurus that has slipped on the internet and hopefully will hit high schools around the country includes "maybe, to compliment how much effort you put into the bottom combination, complement it by wearing a wife beater tank top or perhaps some men's clothing, because without it the outfit just loses some of its lure." Direct from some fashion website, there you have it. I hope Uggs and spandex are here to stay.

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Submitted by the Anime Club

New foreign language elective introduced

CAMILLE "CHAMELEON" DiFOLCO
MINION

"One ring to rule them all, one ring to find them, one ring to bring them all and in the darkness bind them."

This famous poem can be recited by most fans of JRR Tolkien's *The Lord of the Rings*, and for the first time, students can learn how to utter it in Elvish. In writing his famous trilogy, Tolkien invented not only a fantasy world called Middle-earth but also an entire language, Elvish, which is spoken, not surprisingly, by the Elves in his novels.

According to the West Potomac Course Catalog, Level 1 Elvish will be introduced in time for the 2010-2011 school year, with Levels 2 and 3 being added in the succeeding years if the elective proves to be popular. Students will learn basic grammar, speaking and pronunciation in the course. They will also learn to write in Elvish, a considerable challenge as it does not use the English alphabet. The course will also include a focus on the study of Middle-earth history, complete with geography lessons and excerpts from the books. The popular movies will be screened as a supplement to the lessons.

The elective will be an opportunity for students who are less than thrilled with the prospect of romance languages (French, Spanish, etc.) and would prefer a challenge and an unconventional experience.

"I think it's about time," exclaimed junior Caitlin Moniz, "Elvish is one of the world's fastest-growing languages, and it'll definitely come in handy in the future."

According to the Course Catalog, the language will be taught by one Mr. Baggins. An interview with Baggins revealed a promising future for the course.

Asked if he was worried that Elvish might be overshadowed by the more traditional language electives already offered at our school, Baggins replied assuredly, (while snacking nonchalantly on a loaf of waybread, called *lembas* by the Elves), "Elvish is one of the fastest-growing languages in the world. Already, over 50 people are fluent within the US alone and at least twice that number in Japan. So, no, I am not worried at all."

Indeed, Elvish as a language saw a major surge in popularity during the early 2000's due in large part to the paramount success of the films starring Ian McKellan and Elijah Wood. According to the Tolkien Society's website, there are "many different dialects of Elvish," all of which



Photo Courtesy of Kurt Strazdins and Kurt Strazdins/MCT

This new course will teach students the Elvish language, created in JRR Tolkien's *Lord of the Rings*. Frodo Baggins (Elijah Wood) was the main character in Tolkien's series.

are perfect for conversing "about stars, trees, and death." The two main branches of Elvish, as referenced in Tolkien's works, are Quenya and Sindarin. According to omniglot.com, which provides full Elvish alphabets, Quenya is High-Elvin, while Sindarin is spoken mainly by the Grey-elves or Sindar. The Tengwar alphabet, that is Feanorian letters, is used to write in both dialects, as well as the more obscure Westron and Sylvan strains. Quenya will be taught in the course's first semester, and Sindarin, along with dollops of the ancient dialects, will be the focus of the second semester.

With the addition of Elvish as a language elective, it has been speculated that perhaps other languages from fantasy and science-fiction series could be integrated into schools in the near future. Depending upon the success of next year's Elvish experiment, some other new languages could include Wookiee, Parseltongue, and gibberish.

Shock policy causes student-teacher strife

Continued from page 1

school. Said Hubbard, "Well, somebody had to knock some sense into her!"

This is only one example of the clashes these shock collars have caused. However, the administration is determined to enforce the new policy. An anonymous representative informed us that many influential staff members believe the students have had enough leeway, and it is time to implement drastic measures. But is corporal punishment really the answer? Students certainly do not think so. As senior Maggie Berrigan said, "The whole idea is absolute nonsense. Students are not dogs. We refuse to be tortured into submission!" These words seem to reflect majority opinion of our student body, which has begun to stage anti-shock collar protests. Several once wholesome and down-to-earth students have emerged as leaders of these movements, such as senior Andrew Perkins. Perkins was seen last Wednesday shouting through a megaphone while leading a mob of angry students with pitchforks toward Gunston.

Other students have responded to the change with surprising enthusiasm. Senior Alex Butler has become Satterwhite's second-in-command, and the two are often seen whispering furtively about recruiting new followers. Butler stated, "Shock technology is an excellent idea. Now everybody will be forced to come to calculus!"

The community's response to the shock collar security plan remains a mystery, as the school has banned all external contact until the plans are finalized. While one would expect parents to be outraged with such harsh treatment, underground sources report relief on all parental fronts. As one anonymous father stated, "I look forward to this as an opportunity to save all that gas money my kid is wasting driving to Five Guys every day." Only time will tell whether such support will drive the plan into effect, or whether shock-collar security will be crushed under a tidal wave of student fury.

Graduation in back lot

Continued from page 1

uncovered a startling secret: Mt. Vernon High School outbid West Potomac for our football field. After an infestation of prairie dogs on their field, Mount Vernon had to make a change. The arduous and costly process of relocating the prairie dogs and installing a new burrow-proof AstroTurf field will take months, and graduation is slated for mid-June. Mt. Vernon promptly sought out a new site for graduation, settling on our field for its nearby location, rodent-free grass, and cheap cost. Because they were able to offer twice the price that we planned to use towards graduation, Mt. Vernon successfully gained usage of our football field.

Seniors were less than thrilled with this turn of events. "I'm still in shock," reported Fagan. "What's magical about a parking lot?"

A preliminary sketch of graduation proceedings revealed that hardly any of the trappings associated with graduation will be present. Due to the timely and arduous task that providing ample seating for the expected thousands-strong crowd would require, the school will provide seating for graduation speakers and faculty only. Additionally, only the valedictorian graduates will receive chair space, though they must haul their own folding chairs. Everyone else will be confined to the standing space at the back of and around the parking lot.

For the same reasons, there will be no podium or platform for the speakers and graduates to use. A recent letter sent to all parents of the 2010 graduates explained, "It is impossible to guarantee that guests attending the 2010 graduation will actually be able to see and photograph the exact moment in which their child receives the diploma," due to the lack of tiered seating. The school did hire a professional photographer to snap that defining moment, and pictures can be purchased at \$60 for an 8" by 10" size, and \$35 for wallet-sized copies. Framing is an additional fee.

Senior Anthony Kennedy expressed concern over the photographer issue, stating, "My mom already bought a new video camera for graduation, and now she probably won't get the chance to use it."

Similar woes were echoed by much of the student body. Sophomore Emily Key explained her distress: "This year it's a parking lot, next year it'll be someone's backyard! I'm supposed to graduate in 2012, and who knows if there'll even be a ceremony by then?"

As the event approaches, the administration expects a gradual acceptance to arise. For now though, it is still a major source of disbelief for the class of 2010.

Authorities investigate claims against Sikes

GWEN "WAS THAT A WHALE?" FISHEL
GD TYPES

Who knew a teacher at our school could be a Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) agent?

According to the West Potomac Associated Press, Erin Sikes- Thurston, AP Environmental Science and Life Science teacher, was accidentally "outed" as a CIA agent, after a student put the puzzle pieces together.

Senior Laina Schneider was with Sikes on March 15 in her classroom, when Sikes left to use the restroom. Schneider was sitting at a nearby desk fiddling her thumbs, when she started to notice that things in Ms. Sikes' room were somewhat strange and out of place. There were folders under her desk that we kept under lock and key, papers on her desk in foreign languages, and the clock seemed to be making strange warning noises. After being nervous, she slipped out into the hallway to go and look for Sikes. According to Schneider, she walked down the longer science hallway, where she saw that Sikes was standing at the end. As she approached, she could hear Sikes talking to someone on her cell phone in what seemed to be an Asian language. Schneider said, "This is when I started to put everything together. I've watched a lot of CSI and I've been to the Spy Museum. Let's just say, I knew."

As West Potomac Authorities began to investigate the accusations, the evidence began to all fall into place. According to Chief Commissioner, Colonel Garrett Hubbard, authorities have discovered that Sikes' frequent trips to 7-11, during which she said she was getting sodas, were actually trips to her secret enclave, where she would receive faxes and memos. Police found the enclave in the court yard, where Sikes was having her AP students build their gardens, which Hubbard said was just an effort on Sikes' part to hide that part of her life.

Many students, such as senior Nick White, were surprised to learn that many other parts of Sikes' schedule and perks were aligned with her CIA background. White said, "The things that Mr. Hubbard said, I thought they were crazy at first. Then, the more I learned, the more it made sense. I mean, the four colors and Jackson Five obsession- just-dead give-aways. Everyone knows that Michael Jackson is loved worldwide- she probably used this for conversation on her extended CIA missions- and tarantulas can blind people. Recently the tarantula disappeared. Now, I know what happened to Casey Jenkins. Gah! This is insane."

In her statement, Schneider mentioned that Sikes explained to the class at the beginning of the year that she had many quirks, and would be willing to clarify if the authorities



Photo by of Gwen Fishel

Photographers caught Sikes by surprise after she was found participating in CIA-related activities in the copy room.

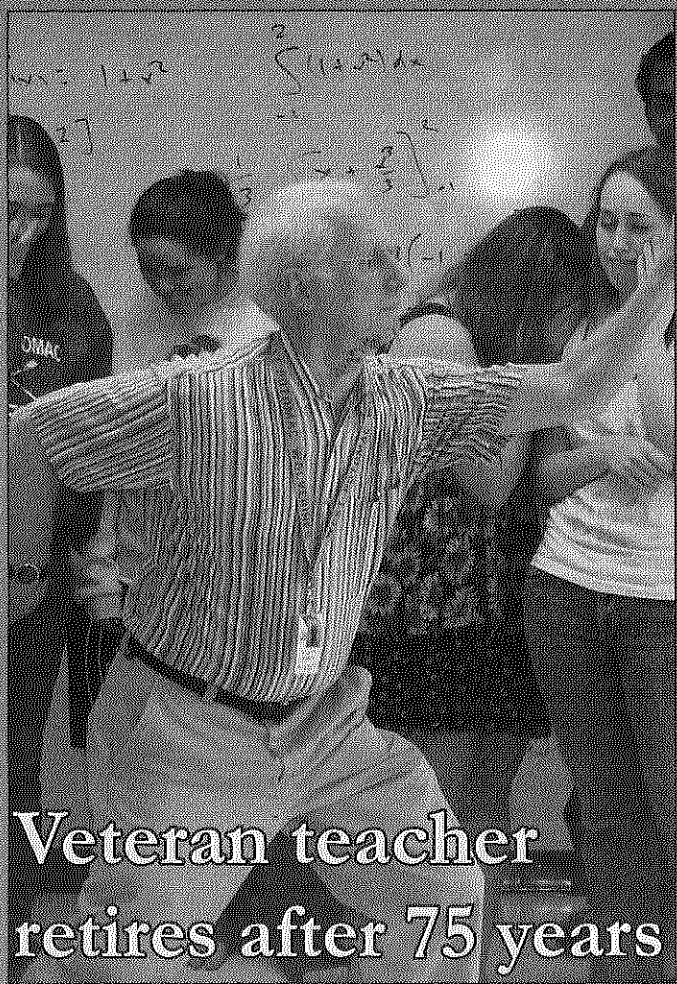
thought they would be worthwhile.

After the initial allegations, Sikes released a statement in which she maintained her innocence. The statement said, "it has been brought to my attention that a student has brought allegations to the authorities and accused me of being a CIA agent. I wholeheartedly deny these accusations, and in fact, I am appalled that the West Potomac Authorities have done this to me. I am a very quirky person, so is Jennifer Nettles from Sugarland, but they aren't going after her..."

AP Environmental Science student Morgan Carter said, "I am so surprised, I just don't know who to believe anymore. Ms. Sikes is just not what I would imagine a CIA agent to look like. I've seen *Meet the Parents*, and believe me, she's no Jack. Or, at least I hope not!" Former student Lizzy Lunday was outraged and said, "How could they do this to Ms. Sikes. She was the best!"

As of the date of publication, the Central Intelligence Agency refused to comment any further than a simple statement released by the Central Office of Operations reading, "We do no comment on the identity or location of any agents. We refuse to accept or deny these allegations, as we must protect the safety of our agents and the citizens of the United States of America."

An investigation is still pending, and Sikes continues to work here in the mean time.



Veteran teacher retires after 75 years

Photo by Laura Zitnik

Infamous math teacher, William Dobson, announced his retirement to his students. Many of the students were completely shocked by this statement and soon reacted by bursting into tears.

ALEX "SONMYNS" FABRIZIO

SLAVE DRIVER

After 75 dutiful years of inspiring and educating teens in Geometry, Precalculus, and Calculus AB, Mr. William Dobson is retiring.

Reactions to his announcement are mixed. Many students who have had him before are rejoicing that they will never have the stern and strict instructor again. Others have developed a soft spot for him and are disappointed that they will never again have the chance to be in his class.

Senior Aadil Shafiq said, "I'm sort of mad that Mr. Dobson is retiring after this year. I've had him for [Precalculus] and now for [Calculus AB]. His class is funny, though. I guess." Many other seniors share this sentiment. They feel that since they have endured such a veteran teacher, the younger students should as well.

"WHAT? HE'S RETIRING?! THAT'S NOT FAIR," said other senior Casey Marie Jenkins. He, like Shafiq, has Dobson for the second year in a row. This reaction seems appropriate for a student that constantly fights with their teacher or who is struggling in that class but Jenkins and Dobson have a chummy relationship and he is getting along swimmingly with the coursework. Jenkins is not in the minority though.

Over the years there have been thousands of students to go through a math class taught by this stalwart teacher. Many of them had a singular bad experience with him because he just wanted them to try harder or memorize the names of various polygons (a 12-sided polygon is a dodecagon) so their entire impression of him is negative.

There are plenty more students who, like Jenkins, secretly enjoy his class but pretend to loathe it in order to be accepted by their peers.

Mr. Dobson is familiar with this phenomenon and said, "Casey? What else should I expect from him?" The teacher has learned to accept such behavior in his three quarters of a century worth of teaching experience.

After being exposed to the students at our school for so long, he is seldom surprised anymore. Someone could tell him that their cat spontaneously combusts and he would most likely reply, "I'm sure it does."

He said that he will miss inspiring young people on a daily basis and helping them through the intense journey that is mathematics. He then corrected himself and said that he will miss telling corny math jokes to his students and watching their reactions even more.

The retiree is more than pleased with his choice. He said, "I'm going to start eating breakfast and lunch and cut down on my coffee consumption. It'll almost be like detox, but hey, I need a change of pace." He also plans to go to Germany and read through all of Descartes's published journals.

Regardless of personal reactions, every can agree with that statement. Dobson leaves behind the math department, with mixed emotions, as he has been there for such a long time. However, many will agree that 75 years is a long time to do anything.

Springbank secedes from school

KATIE "MAD MAC" WOODWARD
MINION

The Springbank Music and Arts Center has long been viewed as operating as its own school; some students spend more time in the band room than in the rest of their classes combined. This phenomena, which some have described as a self-imposed segregation, has sparked unrest within the student population, and recently these conflicts have escalated into something of an academic war. The final straw seemed to be when senior and music student senior Tristan Clarke was found in a Springbank locker covered with sheets of music and gagged with a large chunk of violin rosin. This recent outbreak of violence has prompted high-profile residents of Springbank to make plans for secession.

Though Springbank has functioned as its own Arts Center within West Potomac for years, this is apparently not enough anymore, and its students and teachers have decided to separate themselves permanently. Much like the secession of the Southern United States, Springbank is leaving with its fists held high, determined to form a powerful nation out of the ruins of West Potomac High School.

Springbank even has its own John C. Calhoun in band director Stephen Rice. Much as Calhoun served as an inspiration for disgruntled Southerners, Rice has become a rallying point for angry art students. Students from the photography, fashion, art, drama, choir, band, and orchestra departments and their instructors are gathering around the mantle of this larger-than-life figure. Rice, who is renowned for drawing students away from academic classes for band concerts and generally treating the school administration with little to no regard, seems to be an ideal leader.

When asked to comment on the secession, Rice said only "I am proud to accept the challenges these tumultuous times have thrust upon me. Long live this independent republic! It is time for us creative think-



Photo by Nia Copeland

Band teacher, Stephen Rice, and many of his students have decided it was time to secede Springbank from West Potomac due to their severe differences.

ers to break the bonds of oppression we have known for so long and RISE UP." He will be the self-declared supreme leader of the new school, which is to be called "The Steve Rice Center For Kids Who Can't Play Music Good and Wanna Learn To Do Other Stuff Good Too."

This new administration seems ideal for everyone. Arts students will be allowed to focus on their craft without having to concern themselves with the "frivolities" of academia, while non-arts students will be able to pursue their structured interests without having to deal with what senior Moira Fagan proclaimed "the artsy-fartsy" and somewhat eccentric personas of Springbank students. "I am like....so artsy..... those nerds just don't mesh with my vision," said self-described "indie" secessionist senior Erin Spangler. These quotes seem to perfectly capture the conflict our school has faced, and it seems best to allow Springbank to attempt to stand on its own feet for a while.

However, the new administration is already beginning to face internal problems, even in its developmental process. Many students feel neglected and overshadowed by the titans that are the band and choir departments. Compromising a large number of incredibly loud, outspoken members, and by far the two largest artistic sects within Springbank, these departments tend to eclipse less prominent subjects such as fashion and photography. "I am all for this art school business, as long as I do not have to listen to the band

geeks all day- the constant blaring from the those flutes and clashes from the cymbals will break me out of my artistic zone," said senior photography student Mara DeRose. This is causing chagrin as the administration establishes its new rules and attempts to settle in. Only time will tell if the new Center For Kids Who Can't Play Music Good will be able to sustain its run as a haven for artistic expression. Meanwhile, the remaining two buildings of our school will watch with bated breath as these pioneers attempt to shake off the

Secret in the math workroom is released

Math department faces charges after discovery of unlawful business

MICHAELA "CAN WE LEAVE?" ACCARDI
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Students can pass by the math workroom and see the numerous sign stating, "No students allowed in about three different ways." Last month, students were asked by math teachers to make posters to be posted outside the math workroom stating "No students allowed, especially Ryan Mach."

Senior Ryan Mach was singled out because he was caught in the math workroom buying a soda from the machine. "I just wanted a Dr. Pepper, I didn't know that the teachers would get so mad!" said Mach. After this occurred, math asked her students to make posters. Why is the math department stricter than other departments regarding their workroom? Students recall being able to enter workrooms such as the English and social studies workrooms to speak to teachers. Senior Michelle Gilmore said, "I go in the English workroom all the time and no one says anything to me." The math workroom door is shut at all times, except when a teacher is entering or exiting, while other workrooms doors are often open. "I walk by other workrooms all the time and just wave to my teachers, I don't get what the big deal is with these math teachers," said Gilmore.

Mach, one of the few students to ever enter the workroom, remembered clearly two rows of students hard at work, putting pieces together to build something. "I began to think about the glimpse of what I first saw. I decided to test my luck and see what really was in there," said Mach. He eventually made it into the workroom again (unbeknownst to

the math department) and realized that the math teachers were keeping a secret - a calculator-making sweatshop. Teachers rotated their students in to the workroom and used the signs as a diversion. These students were forced to build TI-89 calculators, for the teachers to sell and profit from. This brings an entirely new meaning to the term "hall sweep". "I now understand why students disappear five minutes after the bell when teachers are warning students about a hall sweep," said junior Lizzie Persekian.

This "business" has been in operation for over ten years and now that the work room secret has been revealed, students wonder how the teachers will be punished for organizing this highly illegal business. "I just don't understand how they got away with this! I would think that Mr. Hardison would crack down and catch all of the illegal happenings at our school," said Persekian. Junior Danuelle Doswell was one of the few students that has faced severe emotional and physical damage after being forced to make calculators. "Mr. Fink has made me work very hard and due to the laborious tasks that he has given me, I've suffered from calculatoritis, a disease in which I've lost three fingers and my hands are shrinking day by day," said Doswell.

Several teachers, who are unidentified at this time, are facing lawsuits from parents and Fairfax County Public School (FCPS) officials. Further updates on the civil charges against the involved math teachers will be released as information is made public. "I really hope that these teachers get punished for what they have done. I got in trouble for buying a soda! In the long run though, it was a hit I had to take for the greater good of West



Photo by Nia Copeland

Junior Danuelle Doswell lurks around the math workroom to catch a sight of the department's unlawful actions.

the wire in



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Tommy Talk

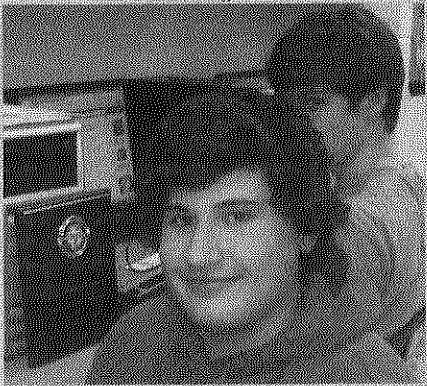


Photo by Peter Coffey/Mac

PETER "BROTOMAC RIVER" COFFEY
COFFEY TALK

In the bro world, there is only one sport that can really represent the entire brommunity; that sport is lax. Lax is not just a sport, but a way of life. "Bros" have been around for thousands of years, slamming and pounding all the time. However, it was not until lax was invented in the late 90's that the brommunity really erupted. The inventor of this bro sport was Brosuf McBrosufstine. Mcbro was the ultimate bro, always rocking salmon shorts to the mid calves, a closet full of pastels and pinnies, Oakley sunglasses, starters hats, while cruising in his Jeep Wrangler, but there was something missing. One night after a long night of bro-ing, he decided to take a very long bro nap and had a dream. In the dream, Broseidon, the king of the brocean, told Mcbro that the only way to expand the brommunity was to invent a sport, in which one could show how bro-one was. Then boom! It hit Mcbro when he woke up; he must change the sport of lacrosse to lax.

Like I said earlier, bros have been around for thousands of years, but it was not until recently that broism has really grown in popularity. The first documented bro was Benjamin Franklin. Franklin had tremendous swagger, was affluent, was not scared of lightning, and had a laundry list of women that lived within the carriage ride of his house. To top it off, he ended up on the hundred dollar bill—the currency of choice for all bros. Thomas Jefferson, Andrew Jackson, and Ulysses S. Grant all follow him on the list of historical bros. For some reason our bro hating history books recognize them as prominent American historical figures, instead of the starters of the bro movement.

Bro haters have been detrimental to the bro movement, failing to recognize broiness as a positive attribute. Famous bro haters include John Wilkes Booth, Lyndon B. Johnson, and Ronald Reagan— all who ruined any chances for a bro movement in the 19th and 20th centuries. What drives these bro haters remains unknown to broologists. After years of research there are only theories, no definite answers. Some include bro haters are jealous, only have half a brain, and are ugly, and the final theory is that bro haters are jealous, ugly people who have half a brain. But, one true bro created a path for Broism to become popular and that bro was Bill Clinton.

Bill Clinton was a much needed life savior for the bros. His bro-type attitude helped bros everywhere believe in their inner bro and give them the drive to accomplish whatever they want. It is no coincidence that Clinton was president when lax was created. Mcbro saw that this bro loving president was the perfect man to help nationalize the lax movement. It took a while for bros to catch on, as it does for any great movement to gain speed. However, after seeing the luxurious lifestyle of lax bros, it became irresistible not to be a lax bro. Lax bros have been credited for a lot of things over the years, like catching Saddam Hussein and inventing flowfection (perfect hair.)

Lax today is the fastest growing sport around the world; little bros everywhere are picking up lax spoons and laxing in their neighborhood. Broism is being popularized everywhere and now with the newly elected bro president Barack Obama is making broism more popular than ever. And to think all this started because of one bro's dream, it's pretty bromazing.

Cross Country team gets cut

After a successful season, their work does not pay off

KATIE "MAD MAC" WOODWARD
MINION

After one too many seasons of non-performance, the administration has decided to cut the school cross country team. The announcement last Thursday was drowned out by cheers from the athletic department, which is reportedly ecstatic to be rid of the only losing team in an otherwise stellar athletic program.

The decision was made after the stunningly disappointing results of this fall's meets were verified by the district. Despite scattered rumors that the girls' team came in first at the Georgetown Prep and the boys' at the Monroe Parker Invitational, and that both teams went to states, it is true that the school cross country team came in last at every meet this year. This came as no surprise to anyone, as team members have allegedly walked each and every race for the last six years.

According to senior captain Peter Stebbins, "Everyone on the team just goes to Wendy's on our 'runs' at practice— it is awesome." This behavior reflects what is widely-regarded as an extremely "lax" running program, where athletes are



Photo Courtesy of Katie Woodward

After being cut, the cross country team takes advantage of their newfound spare time by relaxing instead of training.

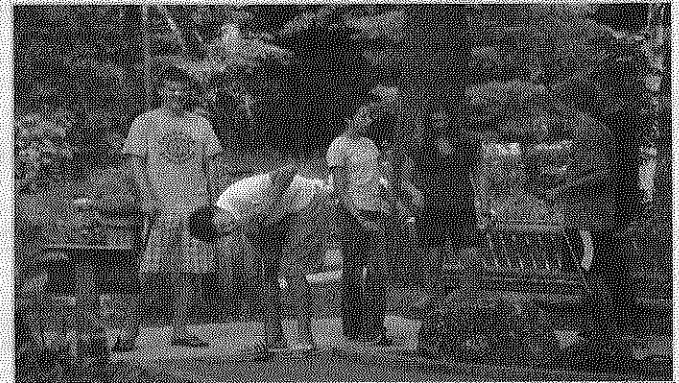


Photo Courtesy of Katie Woodward

The cross country team now enjoys playing mini golf instead of going to practice.

discouraged from training during the off-season or from exerting any effort at all. Many witnesses have confirmed reports that runners on the team regularly wear flip-flops to practice and the girls' team wears only sports bras "just to work on our tans" as reported by senior Kelsey Rosenburg.

Runners from the team have expressed extreme excitement over the cut. Said sophomore Sarah Jane Underwood, "It is completely pointless to run for miles on end, we all know it doesn't actually keep people in shape." According to one source, the only reason many remain on the team is for the chance to go to camp in Michigan during the summer, where ice cream is served at every meal and each afternoon is dedicated to team naps. "Now that I don't have to go to cross-country practice every day, I am free to pursue my dream of professional longboarding," says sophomore Patrick Murphy.

In addition to saving money, the cut was made in hopes of quelling a long-standing feud with the Annandale cross country team, which is considered one of the best teams in the district. Members of both teams consistently organize unofficial races; however West Potomac runners are always too lazy to participate. The athletic department insists that this decision will benefit all parties, which Stebbins summarizes by saying, "Now no one has to pretend running is a sport any longer."

Maniglia will compete in 2012 Olympics

Weightlifting legend looks to prove herself to competitors

NORRIS "WHITE GIRLS TO DA MAAAAX" BROOKS
MINION

With the end of the Winter Olympics, the contenders for the Summer Olympics are already preparing and training harder than ever.

Sophomore Morgan Maniglia knows exactly how this feels. At a young age, Morgan's parents noticed an odd amount of strength in the toddler. Craig Maniglia, her father, said, "Morgan was able to carry five bags groceries all at once at the age of three." With this astounding discovery, Morgan's father decided to train Morgan at the local Gold's Gym. By the age of eight, Morgan was benching 200 pounds. The trainers at the gym could not believe their eyes. For her ninth birthday, Maniglia entered Morgan in a weight-lifting competition. She swept it and won a gold medal. This event put a goal into the mind of young Morgan: to win an authentic Olympic Gold medal.

To her parents this idea seemed outrageous, but not to Morgan. She was determined she would go to the Olympics and perform in the event of weightlifting. To achieve her dream, Morgan began lifting weights every day after school from the age of ten. When asked about her daily routine, she replied, "I go to the gym every day from three pm to seven pm. I run on the treadmill, do a core workout, and then I bench. After I am done with the bench press, I like to do a couple hundred curls, and then I start all over." Every day, after her training session, Morgan jogs over to the nearby I-Hop to eat her favorite dish: The "Big Platter." It includes bacon, sausage, two eggs, and an endless supply of pancakes. She eats it so often that it has earned her the nickname "Big."

As impressive as her routine is, the fact that she still goes to a public school is even more impressive. Most Olympic athletes have to be home-schooled, but not Maniglia. She was determined to have a normal social life. Not only is Morgan always surrounded by friends, but she also has a 5.0 GPA. Almost all of her classes are Advanced Placement courses, and she strives to get straight As.

An abnormal amount of strength was not the only talent Maniglia possessed as a child. She also had an unbelievable amount of brain power. Maniglia is an inspiration to all students. Her training has also been beneficial for her performance in school sports. As a sophomore, she has already made two varsity sports teams: volleyball and softball. The fact

that she is able to maintain perfect grades and simultaneously participate in varsity sports and Olympic training, leaves her friends awestruck. One of her closest peers, Emily Hauptle said, "Morgan is my inspiration. She is an amazing athlete, student, and friend. I wish there were more people like her."

While her parents may have doubts about Morgan going for gold, her friends do not. Todd Ferri, one of Maniglia's best friends said, "I have total faith that Morgan will win gold in London. She could beat the other contenders with just one arm!" Hauptle and Ferri are not the only ones who support Morgan. More and more friends help her train every day, and they strongly believe she will be successful in 2012. Morgan responded to this by saying, "It is astounding to me how great my friends have been. Most kids would not even consider helping me, but not my friends. They have stuck by me and are guaranteed front row seats during the Olympics!"

How does she do it? The public will never know. What is known is that it takes a pretty incredible person to pull off what Maniglia is doing.



Photo Courtesy of Paul Kitagaki Jr./MCT

Sophomore Morgan Maniglia competed at the 2008 Olympics in Beijing and plans to continue her Olympic career at the 2012 games.

Real talk with Mark Hanak goes a long way

BRYAN "CM<3" JACOBS
GQ

Junior Mark Hanak walked out of his physics class cool, calm and put together; he had an interview and he knew it. With a tie-dye sweatshirt, straight Lee jeans, and green and brown Nikes, most people say he resembles the actor, Michael Cera, yet he is far more interesting. I started the interview by saying that, "You are probably going to find this a little intrusive and we really need to find a good spot to do this."

We sat down in a corner. Hanak crossed his legs, looked up and accepted to the terms of the interview. At first, he was a little timid, as most interviewees are; however, his awkwardness ebbed and he warmed up to the interview.

Mark Francias Hanak was born in Alexandria, Virginia on September 3, 1992. Hanak is the youngest of two brothers to whom he is "extremely close." Hanak "always wanted to do what [his] brothers did." Throughout childhood, Hanak was quite the athlete. One of his fondest and earliest memories was, "winning the Northern Virginia Swim League All-Stars when I was eight."

He continued his athleticism through high school. He is a star cross-country runner, and is literally, "whipped after every practice, I basically go home and fall straight asleep."

Academically, Hanak always wants to challenge himself. He takes AP Economics, AP Chemistry, BC Calculus, Spanish 4, Humanities, and Physics. However, he only considers himself to have "above average intelligence," and only "pretty good at sports."

After high school, Hanak plans to attend Yale University and has University of Virginia as his safety. Yale University is important to Hanak because his brother attended the university, and he "felt a personal connection to the campus when I visited Yale. I probably will want to go into dentistry, do private practice with my brothers who are also studying dentistry, and just straight chill with them. It would be awesome."

Hanak also wants to be known as a person who does not "give up on opportunities" and is "basically an opportunity seeker, I never give up."

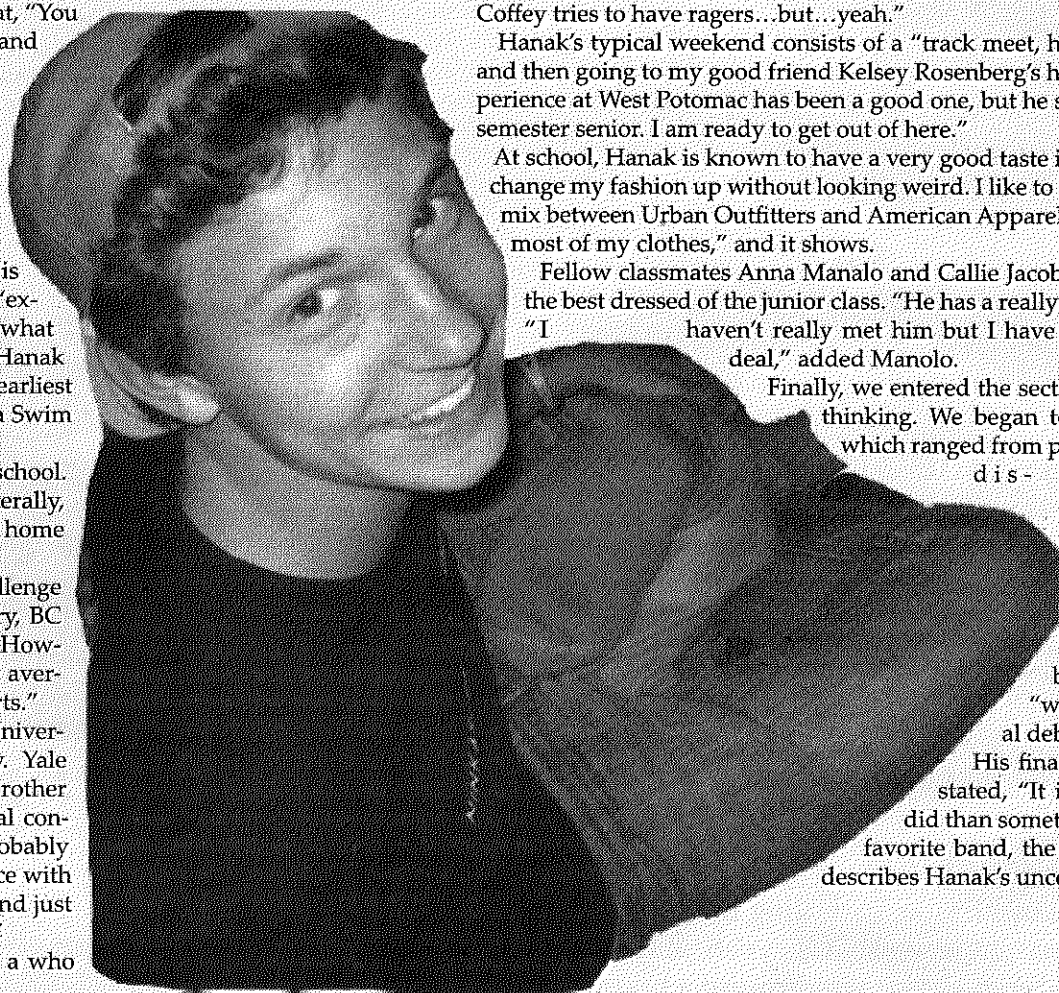


Photo Courtesy of Mark Hanak

For fun, Hanak likes to do a variety of activities. Besides the obvious of track, Hanak is an avid snow boarder and goes to Breckenridge, Snowbird, Solitude, and Skaw. Hanak also relaxes a lot with his best friends Drew Sanders, Chad Warner, and the "track crew" which consists of "Peter Stebbins, Peter Coffey, Kelsey Rosenberg, Julianne Bigler and a bunch of others. We go to each other's house in the basements and relax. Sometimes Peter Coffey tries to have ragers...but...yeah."

Hanak's typical weekend consists of a "track meet, hanging out with Drew and Chad, and then going to my good friend Kelsey Rosenberg's house." Overall, Hanak said his experience at West Potomac has been a good one, but he says, "I cannot wait to be a second semester senior. I am ready to get out of here."

At school, Hanak is known to have a very good taste in fashion. Hanak stated, "I like to change my fashion up without looking weird. I like to say that I have the fashion that is a mix between Urban Outfitters and American Apparel. American Apparel is where I get most of my clothes," and it shows.

Fellow classmates Anna Manalo and Callie Jacobs both agree that Hanak is one of the best dressed of the junior class. "He has a really good taste in clothes," said Jacobs. "I haven't really met him but I have seen him and approve, it's a big deal," added Manalo.

Finally, we entered the section of the interview that required thinking. We began to talk about his personal views, which ranged from politics, the Middle East, to nuclear disarmament. Hanak considers himself a libertarian.

This means that he is fiscally conservative and socially liberal, could care less about abortions marijuana usage," however he thinks that the healthcare bill is bad for the United States because, "we do not need to add to the national debt," he said with a smile.

His final comments were mysterious. He stated, "It is better to regret something you did than something you didn't," a quote from his favorite band, the Red Hot Chili Peppers, and best describes Hanak's unconventional outlook on life.

School to implement mandatory uniforms for upcoming school year

LAURA "SPANDEX & UGGS" REYNOLDS
LITTLE ENGINE

West Potomac has just announced that uniforms are on their way. Beginning next year, all students must wear their uniforms every day, no matter the weather. The only variations are the type of shoes, socks, and jackets that students can wear.

However, in an attempt to foster creativity and participation in school affairs by students, the design of the uniforms was left up to students. In a strange turn of events, only one student submitted designs for the male and female uniform designs, leaving her the clear winner. Junior Danuelle Doswell is glad that she can do something to bring the student body together and put her fashion sense to good use. Known as a daring dresser, Doswell stays true to her style by including lists of suggested accessories to go with her outfits. The administration insisted that the tops of each uniform be white and bottoms be blue, but that is where their jurisdiction ended.

In an effort to keep the uniform designs a surprise, a tight lock has been kept on the finished product, and Doswell has been forbidden to tell exactly what they look like. "For the boys, I kept it a lot simpler, but for the girls I had some fun with fabric and different cuts."

She continued, "I was hoping that I could include what shoes you can and can't wear with it after seeing what some people try to put together, but the school didn't let me," was all that she could say about the new uniforms.

Many students are excited for the uniforms, as they seem to be fashion forward and will save time on figuring out what to wear at whatever ungodly hour they rise at to prepare for school. For those who neglect to wear the uniform, West Potomac staff will be merciless. If the new dress policy is not adhered to by students, there will be full outfits in the office for students to use. Dress code violators will also receive neon armbands to wear so that their peers and teachers will know that they had trouble with the universal uniform that morning.

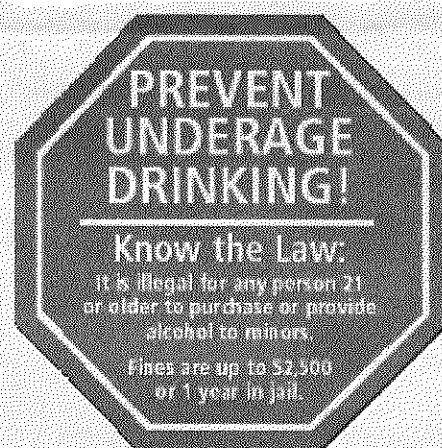
Teachers will also have certain standards of dress. They will be voting on their own requirements sometime in the next month. Should teachers be permitted to allow jeans? Is casual Friday an occasion to allow? These are the questions that teachers are fighting about.

The students' lack of initiative to impact their own dress code is reversed in the teachers' manic obsession with deciding what style of clothing they will need to stock their closets. Many teachers have banded together and are lobbying for the type of dress that they want. The new groups that have formed are creating some tension around school and the workrooms. Departments are split on whether they want a more casual dress or if formal is the way to go. As the weather heats up, so is the debate about dress for next year; staff and students are in for a big change next year.



Courtesy of MCT Campus

Students are left questioning what the future school uniforms will look like.



According to MADD.....

Teens that drink are more likely to:
Die in a car crash, get pregnant, flunk school
be sexually assaulted, become an alcoholic

While penalties for underage drinking include:

- * loss of participating in extracurricular school activities
- * forfeiting a driver's license
- * suspension/expulsion from school

The bright red stickers are a reminder to stop before you violate underage drinking laws by buying or providing alcohol to those under 21.



PAID FOR BY THE SOUTH COUNTY YOUTH NETWORK

Look for your Past, Present, and Future ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

EMILY "THE REAL ONE" SMITH
GD TYPOS

Aries (March 21- April 19)

The love of your life will walk into your life this week. And will run out a few days later. But try not to worry, the stars are fairly sure you will survive this heartbreak.

Taurus (April 20- May 20)

Soon, you will realize that all of the teachers who said you were special were actually lying. I mean, can you blame them? They have to have some sort of stress outlet.

Gemini (May 21- June 21)

Your year will be blessed, with flowing milk and honey and riches and whatnot. Or, if you are lactose- intolerant, I am sure the stars will provide some sort of soy alternative.

Cancer (June 22- July 22)

You will quickly learn that the expression "break a leg" also doubles as a gypsy curse. Too bad you do not have enough friends to sign your cast.

Leo (July 23- August 22)

All of your dreams will come true, including that one where you give a speech in your underwear. Oh, yeah, and that creepy one, where the clown chases you around a house filled with bouncy balls.

Virgo (August 23- September 22)

Guard your house pet with your life. The stars predict a sharp increase in the number of spontaneously combusting cats owned by Virgos.

Libra (September 23- October 23)

Do you know that warm feeling that some sort of guardian angel is watching over you? Well, you will soon find out that it has been your creepy neighbor all along. Close your blinds.

Scorpio (October 24- November 21)

You will be afflicted with a fearsome disease that renders you unable to finish anything you start. Say goodbye to high school and hello to your parents' basement. Or, for the twelfth-graders, hello to Senioritis.

Sagittarius (November 22- December 21)

A union of Saturn and Venus will have a huge effect on your love life. By next month, you will be irresistible to women between the ages of 60 and 62, standing at 4'11 in height. Lucky you.

Capricorn (December 22 – January 19)

A wave of joy will sweep over you next month, flooding your basement, ruining your video game collection, and water logging your belongings.

Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

The kindness of a friend will leave you speechless with gratitude. When, after a few hours, your power of speech fails to return, people will realize how little your words mattered in the first place.

Pisces (February 19- March 20)

Beware of ginger children. They may try to steal your soul.

New elective is vamptastic

ANNA "BANANA" DREYFUSS
MINION

Watching *Twilight* and *True Blood* will not only help a student's pop culture skills, but it can now help them in an AP class. Due to the popularity of *Twilight*, West Potomac will be the first school in the nation to introduce an English class dedicated to the literature of the new vampire craze. This new fun elective will not only teach vampire literature, but also teach students the history of vampires and even the psychology of the vampires for a better understanding of the reading. English teacher, Mary Mathewson, who will be teaching this class, said "It surprised me, I just thought of this idea and it will be a great way for kids to really get excited for an AP English class since this topic is so popular with teenagers."

It is planned to be an unconventional and exciting class, but it is still an AP and will have rigorous work to go along with it. "The students will have a slightly heavy amount of homework each night, mostly reading and annotating vampire literature. In class we will do a lot of Socratic seminars discussing what we read and the characters" said Mathewson. Mathewson is even planning field trips such as to the movie *Eclipse* and is in the early stages of scheduling a trip to Forks, Washington. As every teenage girl knows, Forks is the small, rainy, town where Stephanie Meyer set her story, *Twilight*, the

book that became a movie, grossing \$1 million at the box office.

"I'm really excited to take this class! I'm obsessed with *Twilight* and I'm now reading *True Blood*! Also all my friends are taking it," said freshman Kristina Karlsson, one of the 35 eager students who already signed up for the class. "Mr. Dahlgren and I were even thinking about making an AP Vampire Humanities class, so he can teach the history side and it will make it a lot easier to understand the literature," said Mathewson. The students were notified about this new course a month ago and decided West Potomac

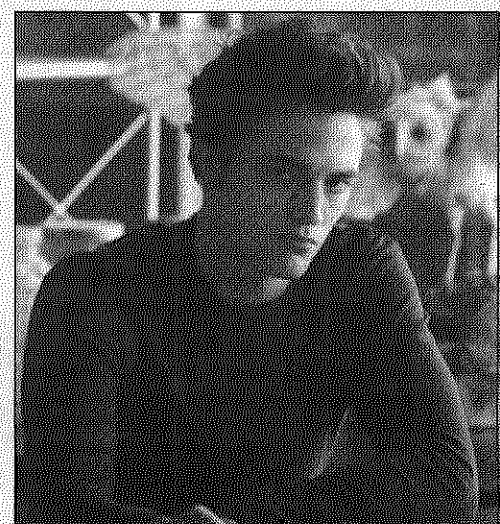


Photo courtesy of cracked.com

Students will now be able to enjoy reading vampire novels for a new Advanced Placement (AP) class special to our school.

Mathewson. The school board on the other hand wants a mainly history based multiple choice test.

Mathewson said, "AP Vampire Literature is definitely one of the most unique electives ever approved, but it will definitely increase students' creativity and hopefully give them a new outlook on life."



www.simpregnancy.org

Alexandria
pregnancy help center

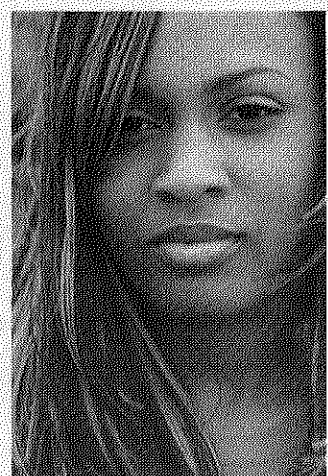
703-780-4700

LifeChoices
resource center

703-323-8060

Fairfax
pregnancy help center

703-278-5433



Casting now open for new *Twilight*

*Students, faculty and staff compete for spots to get a chance to be on the cast of the upcoming *Twilight* movie*

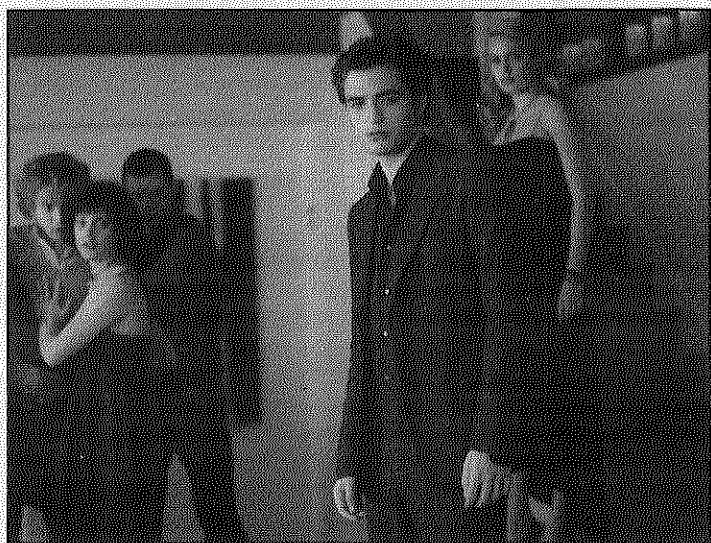


Photo courtesy of MCT campus

Robert Pattinson plans to attend the auditions and will give advice for actors in the upcoming feature film.

SARAH "SABERTOOTH" HOLLOWAY

MINION

A spike in *Twilight* interest at West Potomac has summoned a casting crew from Los Angeles to visit and run auditions this summer with the Kogleman Theatre as its venue of choice. After "Twilight Day" was part of spirit week this year, Principal Hardison sent a letter to the director of the film, Catherine Hardwicke, asking if she would be interested in casting any of the talented vampire fanatics at West Potomac. A week later, a letter was returned to Mr. Hardison stating that West Potomac High School would be the next venue for *Twilight* casting auditions.

Already, countless teachers and students have begun practicing lines for the event which will take place sometime in May. Mr. Hamlin, history teacher, confesses, "I will be auditioning for the part of Edward Cullen. I already get it all the time [that he looks like main vampire character, Cullen], and I am pretty confident with my chances." Some students are even getting into the vampire spirit. Juniors Lizzie Persekian and Savannah Jackson recount when they heard the news that West Potomac would be the designated casting spot, "We just knew we were going to be the first to try out. It is so perfect that they cast here with so many diehard *Twilight* fans."

In the next few months, after school Vampire-Acting seminars and classes will be held to help students and teachers alike prepare for the upcoming event. It was even rumored that a real vampire will be making an appearance to give some extra tidbits to assist the people looking to audition something genuinely unique.

Paige Thoman, a *Twilight* enthusiast, will be helping at the Vampire-Acting seminars. "I have seen each of the movies three times at least, read ALL of the books multiple times, and have all the life-sized character cut-outs. I think it is safe to say I am these kids best chance at doing well in the auditions June 20th", Paige asserts. Many students, like Paige will be helping with the preparations for the *Twilight* casting crew.

As a host school, West Potomac will be putting on a "Vamp Dance" to get everyone in the spirit for the casting. Preparations are being done by the school's new segment of Student Government, SGA of Vampire Affairs.

They welcome any newcomers (as long as they have read the *Twilight* series more than once) and are excited about the upcoming dance on April 7.

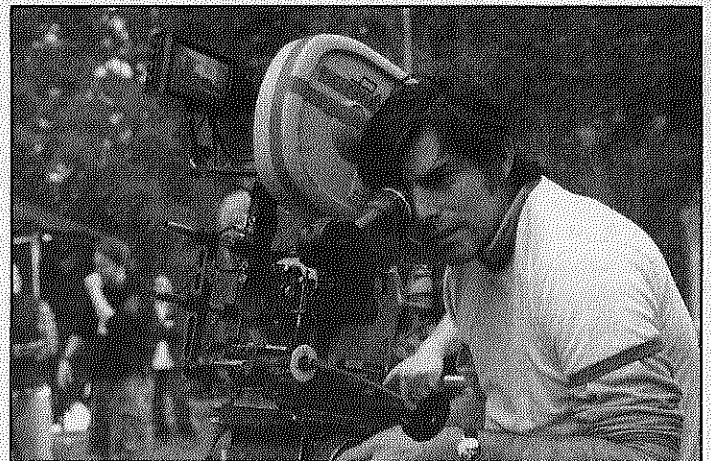


Photo courtesy of MCT campus

Famous film directors will be at West Potomac to help guide students in finding their "inner" vampire.

Lil Wayne performs for student body

BRYAN "CM<3" JACOBS
GQ

On Friday, March 19, rapper Lil Wayne performed for the student body during a Black History Month pep-rally in the main gym.

The performance was a surprise to the entire student body; however, Mr. Hardison had been planning this event before he took the role of principal in June 2009. The crowd went into shock as Wayne busted out of the side doors of the main gym and proceeded to walk to middle stage screaming, "GUCCI!" and "BURR." Lil Wayne was dressed in a plain white tee, with a platinum chain hanging around his neck and yellow and black Nike boots. Although security was tight, it did not stop screaming fans from breaking line and running towards the famous rapper. Senior Naarah Jackson ran towards Lil Wayne as quick as possible. As she caught her breath, she said, "I have never seen such a famous person in real life. It was all so surreal. I needed to get closer, so I decided to go after him. I mean come on...it's Lil Wayne...BURR!" The concert started with a deafening roar as Lil Wayne proclaimed, "Free Gucci!" The bass dropped and the concert proceeded. Wayne began with "Mrs. Officer," "A Milli," "Prom Queen," "Mr. Carter," "Lollipop," and "Got Money." In between every song, Lil Wayne said something about the song and how it is personally related to him. He even commented on his upcoming court date. He said, "I can't say some things up here because of the Feds, but let me say one thing and one thing only...legalize it!"

Lil Wayne continued his performance for another forty-five minutes. By then, the crowds had circled tightly around the rapper and the air was steamy hot. This prompted Lil Wayne to perform "Mrs. Officer." He said to the crowd, "I know ya'll are hot, but let's make it hotter." The base dropped again, the Lil Wayne did his magic. "Mrs. Officer" got the entire performance into the mood. Freshman Karley Zdebski was with her friend Nicole Marinello in the front row of the concert. They said in unison, "Mrs. Officer" is probably my favorite song. I always listen to my boy Lil Wayne, why would I ever not do that?"

Also, Principal Mr. Hardison was seen dancing in his corner. He talked on his walkie-talkie to Vice-Principal Mr. Johnson, who was even seen "busting a move." Freshman Kurt Anderson commented, "I am

a complete newbie at West Potomac, but I have never ever seen an administrator dance like Mr. Johnson or Mr. Hardison. They might as well have been background dancers for Lil Wayne. Yeah...that is one thing Lil Wayne was missing...background dancers." Other comments occurred during the song. During the song, "Mrs. Officer," juniors Erica Sucher and Khoki Bernier felt the need to proclaim their love for each other, again. Khoki Bernier got on his knee and asked, "Will you be my Mrs. Officer?" to junior Erica Sucher to which she replied, "Yes!"

Lil Wayne noticed this, turned to the couple and said, "Das what I'm talking about!" as he drank from his diamond encrusted cup. All of the sudden, the roof of the gym opened up and a purple helicopter that said "No Ceilings" came out of the sky. The helicopter dropped a rope down to Lil Wayne, he proceeded to be airlifted from the gym, surrounded by a myriad of screaming fans.

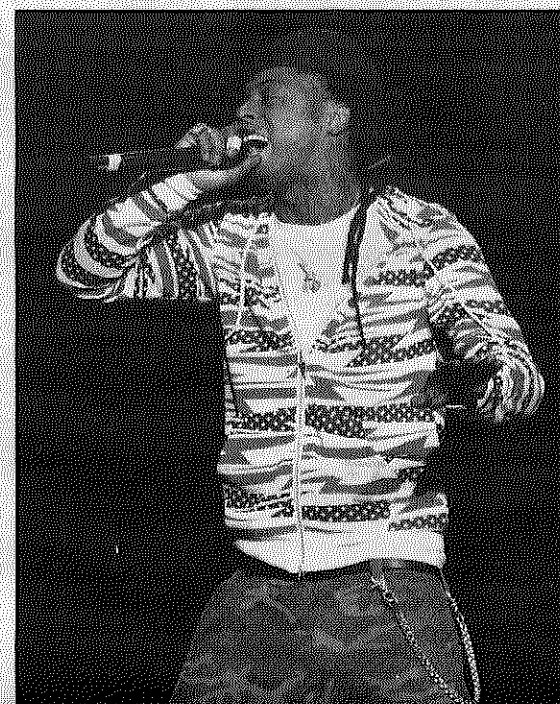


Photo courtesy of MCT Campus

Lil Wayne performs in front of hundreds of students singing songs like "Got Money" and "Prom Queen."

Dooley attends Fashion Week

Johnson's assistant gets a chance at big stage fashion fame

BRYAN "CM<3" JACOBS
GQ

Administrative assistant, Dina Dooley, has been invited by New York's fashion elite to attend the prestigious Fashion Week. Dooley was chosen to represent West Potomac to write as a critic on designers such as Dolce & Gabana, Marc Jacobs, and Gucci. Dooley will submit her criticisms for review in the popular women's fashion magazine, *Vogue*. Chosen out of a competitive pool of one billion applicants by New York's elite, Dooley was chosen based on recommendation of co-workers. Math teacher, Alexandra Bowman, commented, "She is the best dressed person in Guston, probably West Potomac, and maybe in the entire state of Virginia." She is also rumored to have a close connection with fashion elitist Anna Wintour, who was once a Fort Hunt Federal cheerleader and was Editor-in-Chief of *The Wire*.

Dooley has been prearranged to arrive in New York's The Plaza on April 26. She said, "Well, it is a long and confusing trip, but I'll give it to ya'll anyway. So, I am going first class to New York with United Airlines. I am going to be picked up by limo at the airport. It is about a 30 minutes ride and fifty dollar ride to The Plaza, but it is all prepaid." After arriving at The Plaza, Dooley plans to do some sight-seeing.

She said, "I really want to see the Statue of Liberty, MoMa and maybe a couple shi-shi bars. Other than that, I am staying in The Plaza sipping on my tea and getting a massage," she said with a chuckle. She continued, "I get about two days of a true vacation until I actually have to do some real work in New York. It all begins on day three, or at least that is what they called it on the itinerary."

On day three, things begin to start getting spicy for Ms. Dooley. She said, "Oh my god, day three is going to be one of the biggest days in my life. Let me tell

you one thing, I will be dreaming of models for days to come, as that is all I am going to be seeing for that week. Yeah... skinny slightly deranged looking girls that can make a toothpick look skinny." *The Wire* asked her whether her close connection with fashion elite, Anna Wintour, helped her be chosen for this event to represent West Potomac. She coolly replied, "Doesn't everyone pull some strings sometime?"

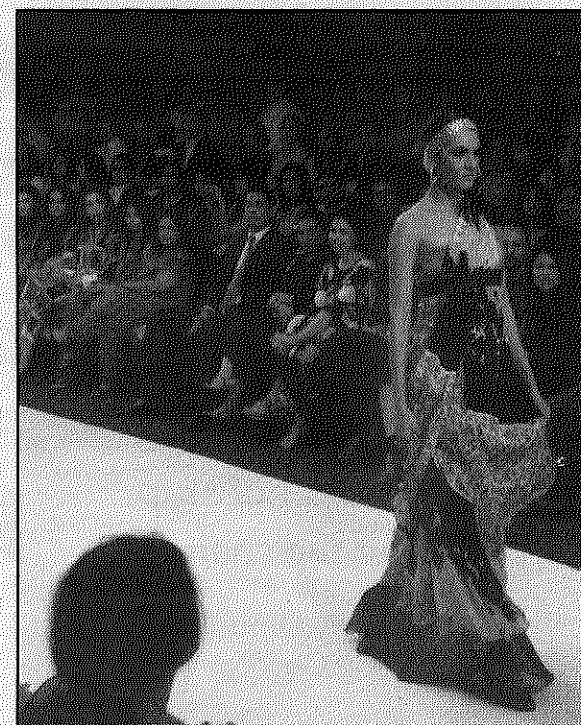


Photo courtesy of MCT campus

Dina Dooley attends and take notes on the recent fashions. If one looks closely, one can faintly see her in the back row.

Marshall hopes to play collegiate football

JACOB "OIL LAMP" ALEXANDER
LIL' BROS



Photo Courtesy of Ken Steinhardt/MCT

At 6'4", 225 lbs, Senior Dequan Marshall is hard not to notice. He was a starting wide receiver on the varsity football team this year and is well known among the

students here as West Potomac. He was also successful on the basketball team, averaging 29.8 points per game. He enjoys hanging out with friends and listening to all kinds of music on the weekends.

Marshall was born here in Virginia, but has always wanted to visit Russia. "I've always liked the cold. I don't know why, but ever since I first visited Alaska I've loved it," stated Marshall. He also would like to meet NBA star Kobe Bryant from the Los Angeles Lakers one day- one of the most inspirational basketball players, he said. He has already gotten to talk with NFL wide receivers Larry Fitzgerald from the Arizona Cardinals and DeSean Jackson from the Philadelphia Eagles- two very inspirational football players in Marshall's book.

Marshall hopes to go to the NFL or the NBA one day. "If I don't make either of those I would probably try to play basketball in Russia for a while," he commented. Marshall hopes to get a sports scholarship to a good school, preferably one with a good sports team for that sport. When asked what he would do if he never made it big in any sport, Marshall simply replied, "That's ridiculous. It just won't happen!"

Marshall has a C average in school, and is waiting to hear back from numerous Division I schools to see if he will receive a scholarship to pay college sports. "I don't really care which school I go to, as long as I make it into one," he replied. It is very likely that Marshall will get a scholarship to one of these schools, considering his statistics in both football and basketball.

Marshall easily qualifies for a scholarship, receiving a 25 out of 36 on the ACT. Marshall's friends and teammates also highly support his attempt to make it big. "My teammates are always bringing up stories of something amazing I did in a game, like cracking someone in football and stuff like that," commented Marshall.

Marshall has always been a great athlete here in the community, dominating in little league sports as a kid. All of his friends that he has known since a kid talk about how he has always been the best at sports. Marshall commented and said, "My friends have always told me that I was going to make it into the pros one day, ever since I was about six. I'm not quite sure about the pros yet, but I do think I'll at least be able to play college." When asked about what schools he has applied to, he said, "I really can't think of a school I would prefer. I don't have a top choice for football, and I don't have one for basketball either. I guess I'll just see what happens and what kind of scholarships I get, if any."

Marshall plans to have a final decision by the end of this month, when he finally hears back from all the schools he applied to in the fall. No matter where he goes, there is not a doubt in anyone's mind that he will play on the college team, and many people believe that he will even make it to the professional league. No matter what happens Marshall knows that he is going to try to major in something related to English, because that is his favorite subject in school. "My English teachers have always commented on my ability to excel in their classes," said Marshall. English is the only class in which he has an A, and he has received an A in English every quarter this year. Whether it is because of sports or English, Marshall is likely to become successful, and many here at West Potomac look forward to seeing him succeed in the future.

Dequan Marshall(left) has high hopes for the future as he hopes to play professional sports. Marshall is currently awaiting scholarship offers from several Division I universities.

The Romans rage on as Rigby goes mad

EMILY "HAIRDRESSER" GRIFFIN
ENGINE ROOM

"It was so scary. All I remember thinking was... oh my God," said junior Alexander Tyson.

Most students know Latin teacher Robert Rigby as the calm, collected, usually completely chill teacher in the foreign language hallway. However, during one school day during seventh period, in which Rigby was teaching his Latin 3 class, he lost it (literally.) He reportedly grabbed unoccupied chairs and started throwing them forcibly around the classroom. His students were completely shocked by this. None of the students knew the motive for this strange change. Senior Sarah Burley said, "we were just doing our work and suddenly I hear this crashing sound. I look up and see this mad man throwing chairs everywhere."

Many of the students ran out of the classroom and left Rigby in the classroom throwing chairs. Security officer Marvin Goodley was grabbed by many of the concerned students and then ran to the scene to stop Rigby. Goodley recalled, "I had to eventually tackle him to the ground because he would not stop [throwing the chairs]."

As for the students, none of them were hurt physically but many of them are hurt psychologically. Junior Veronica Clark stated, "Now, whenever I walk by a chair I have instant flashbacks of that time in Latin class. I just did not know what to do or how to react to Mr. Rigby throwing chairs."

Rigby had been having a hard day before he started throwing the chairs reported Foreign Language Department Head Victoria O'Connor. She explained, "You see his favorite rugby team lost their big game and he forgot to pack his lunch. All in all, I think it was a mix of anger towards the rugby team losing their big game and being hungry that started this rampage." Will students continue to take Latin after all of this? Many students said that this will affect their decision to choose to take Latin again next year.

Senior Shannon McCarn said, "I am thankful I am a senior this year because I would not want to even think about having to switch to another language my senior year." While other students like junior Taylor Daley wanted to take Latin next year "but now [are] reconsidering it." Daley continued, "I really enjoyed the subject and wanted to take Latin my senior year, but I do not want to go back into that classroom ever

again."

Officer Goodley took Rigby to the local holding cell, where he stayed for three days until he went to court. While in court Rigby was ordered to spend 500 hours in anger management and was forced to watch the game where his favorite rugby team lost over and over again. Many of the broken chairs remain in the classroom to this day and the school is working on replacing them. Due to the lack of students signing up for Latin next year, it has been decided that Latin will be cut. There will be another class taking its place, Pig Latin, in which History teacher George Coe has signed up to teach.

“I had to eventually tackle him to the ground because he would not stop [throwing the chairs].”

- Security Officer Marvin Goodley

