



Wednesday, December 15, 2010

There is no "I" in school

Camille DiFolco & Emily Griffin
Editors-in-Chief

Earn an "A" without doing your homework. For many parents and students, this was the message being sent by the short-lived Incomplete Policy.

Recently, reports about West Potomac High School have been splashed across many major news networks. New grading policies that Principal Cliff Hardison termed a "paradigm shift" were the prevailing topic. These also included a new policy regarding the consequences for cheating. There was a great deal of confusion within the community as to what exactly each policy stipulated. One major issue was that many parents and students first learned about the policies through the media, rather than the school.

The Incomplete Policy allowed students additional time to make up "essential work" by replacing the zero for the assignment with an "I" for "incomplete." By replacing traditional letter grades with an incomplete mark, the policy required students to complete all late work and effectively eliminated "F's" from the grade book.

Hardison said, "Our mission is that all students [pass], and this is also driven by what we call AYP [Adequate Yearly Progress, a part of the No Child Left Behind Act].

We can't afford to leave any kids behind, because then we don't make AYP and we're in violation of federal law."

Any students that received an "I" for the year would have to attend summer school, which would be held at West Potomac. Although other high schools in the county have adopted a "zero zeroes" policy, including South County and Chantilly, West Potomac's policies were the "most advanced," according to Vice Principal Alexander Case.

Hardison stated of the policy, "We have two goals that are reflective of school board goals. The first goal is to increase the rigor and decrease the achievement gap. The second goal is to enhance what I would call 'student resiliency'."

Although the policy's goals were sound, many teachers and parents felt that the policy was neither well implemented nor well communicated. Furthermore, there was concern over the message that the policy was sending to students.

English teacher Mary Mathewson said that the Incomplete policy "addressed the wrong issue... [It] should have addressed motivation..."

Continued on page 3

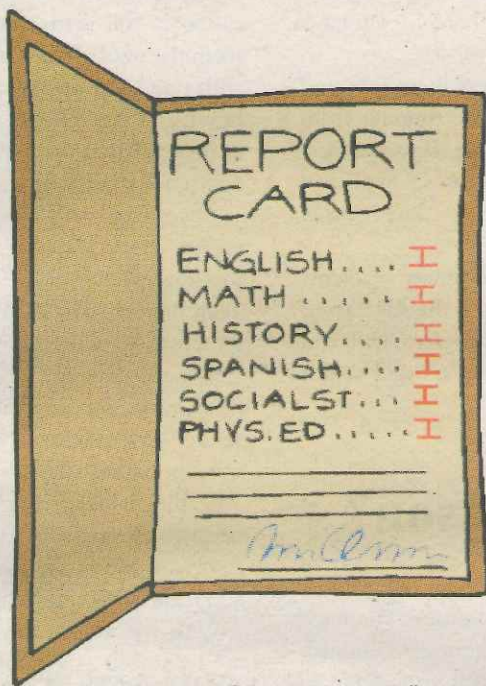


Photo Courtesy of chinaenvironmentallaw.com

Students received first quarter report cards with "I's" rather than "F's."

West Potomac students get political

Caitlin Schroeder
Reporter

Everyone is familiar with the elephant and the donkey, but what happens when they infiltrate a supposedly neutral school environment? Enter the Young Democrats and Teenage Republicans clubs, two of over fifty clubs and activities available to West Potomac students.

However, there are no West Potomac clubs that cater to moderates, libertarians, independents, or other political parties that occupy the middle ground between conservatives and liberals. William Dobson, math teacher and ten year sponsor of the Teenage Republicans club explained, "Politics are polarized wherever you go, not just at West Potomac." He feels that West Potomac leans to the left (that is, liberal) side of the political spectrum.

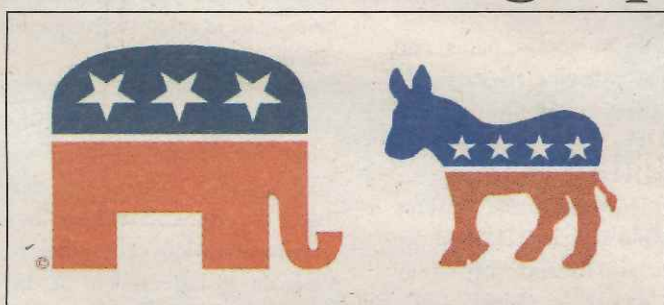


Photo Courtesy of thebuilderblog.com

Many students at West Potomac are getting involved with local and national politics.

The majority of the student body agrees that West Potomac is far more liberally than conservatively oriented. Sophomore Jack Wilson, who participated in President Obama's local campaign, said, "West Potomac treads liberally because of the student body. Any

location with youth will be liberal."

The Teenage Republicans and Young Democrats clubs are staples in student body politics. Dobson stated that the objective of the Teenage Republicans club is "to promote candidates who believe in limited government, strict interpretation of the Constitution, and to help elect candidates who share these beliefs." While president and senior Will Rice stated that his attraction to Republicanism

Continued on page 3

Are honors classes gone forever?

Leigh Orleans
Student Life Editor

"Consider this: let's say you want to take AP Chemistry. Would a general class in chemistry prepare you as well as an honors class in chemistry?" asked chemistry teacher Brian Kerns. West Potomac may face this problem if there is a change to the course selections.

In a recent educational summit, Principal Cliff Hardison touched on the concept of removing honors classes from West Potomac's curriculum in order to be in compliance with Fairfax County policies.

With this amendment West Potomac students would only be allowed the opportunity to take an Advanced Placement (AP) course, or a General Education (GE) course.

Honors classes have been on the chopping block for years now in an attempt to enroll most students in higher level classes, but that goal has yet to be accomplished.

"Every kid should have the opportunity to work at the highest level," remarked Assistant Principal Alexander Case. "We have become notoriously bad with saying who is and isn't an honors kid."

Students are being put into categories and stay there their entire high school career. Additionally, students who normally take the GE class would not consider the challenge of taking a higher level course such as an AP.

Putting students into categories based off of their academic level is called 'tracking.' This issue has become apparent over the years by examining who enrolls in honors courses, and eliminating those classes would also eliminate the students' choice as to which level course they would like to take.

Hardison discussed how if the honors level course is removed and students were only given the opportunity to take a GE class, there would be a more diverse group of kids in each classroom. A major goal of taking out honors courses is to eliminate division and encourage all students to excel and achieve the 0.5 boost to their grade point average.

Studies show that if a student is put into a higher level class, they will typically rise to the occasion and continue doing well in that class. Unfortunately, many students feel defined as a 'non-honors kid' because of the tracked system, and don't bother enrolling in a more challenging course.

But the grade is not the incentive. "We want to help [the students] with more than memorizing facts and forgetting them after the test," stated Hardison. The ultimate goal is to "help students become intrinsic learners" and strive to do well because they want to learn. Kids who are willing and wanting to learn are more inclined to do better in school and later on in life.

Despite the incentives for this change, and despite the fact that this is a Fairfax County mandate, there is still opposition among the students and parents of West Potomac. "Overall, I think it's a bad idea," reported junior Todd Ferri. "Students may be intimidated by the work load and heavy requirements of AP courses, so they may resort to taking the regular version of the class, whereas before they might have chosen to take the Honors class. It eliminates the middle ground and doesn't allow students as much flexibility and balance in choosing their classes."

Inside this Issue

News

Page 2



Photo courtesy of ClipArt

What distractions are potentially fatal for teen drivers?

Sports

Page 4



Photo courtesy of WP Athletics

Which star athlete will be selected as this month's Wolverine Warrior?

Style

Page 8

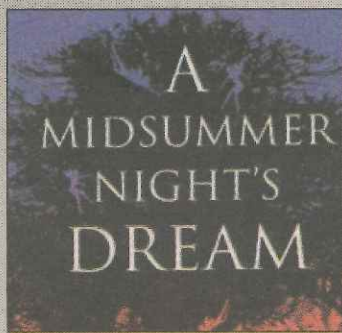


Photo courtesy of Theatre Tickets Now

Find out what students thought of the fall play "A Midsummer Night's Dream."

Entertainment

Page 9



Photo courtesy of Teen Hollywood

Check out the review of the new film "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows."

Just for Fun

Page 12



Photo courtesy of ClipArt

Can you solve this month's holiday themed word search?

Students pay for their GPAs

Rafa Abdelaziz
Reporter

Public school education is anything but free. Due to budget cuts in the Fairfax County Public School (FCPS) system, students will be required to pay an Advanced Placement (AP) test fee of \$75. Fees will not be charged to students eligible for free or reduced-price meals. Collegeboard.com stated that charges initially started at \$87 per exam, and gives fee reductions of \$22 for students with financial needs, and an \$8 rebate for each fee-reduced exam. Now, the FCPS system is charging \$75 per test. They will cover the rest of the exam fee and fees for students who were waived.

According to the school board, a centrally-generated invoice will be mailed to parents whose children are enrolled in AP courses. The invoice will include a list of every AP course the student is enrolled in and the associated fee. Parents are required to pay within 30 days of receiving the invoice. Students who do not pay are still required to sit in for the AP exam and will have future financial obligations if they continue to fail payment of the exam fee.

Students and their families have been burdened with fees this year. Not only will students pay for AP exams, but there are other fees such as sport participation and senior dues. "This year, I have to pay for my senior dues, sport participation, and an AP exam," explained senior

Yohanna Ashraf. Though the county will cover fees for students who are on free or reduced-price meals, there are still concerns for students who do not qualify for fee reductions, but fall in the middle financially. How can their families afford all the fees? There are also many students who take more than one AP course, and must pay for multiple tests. This can become quite expensive.

As more students learn that AP tests are no longer free, they may start to shy away from taking the courses, or may limit their AP courses. "There will definitely be a decline in the number of students taking APs," said junior Michael Richardson. Students do not always get a "5," the highest score, but they still push themselves and continue taking these challenging courses. Since there is a fee included this year, it has become hard for students to pay for a test they may not do well on.

According to school board members, new fees and program cuts are the results of lack of funding from state and local governments. "There are consequences for the level of funding we haven't received," explained school board member Kathy Smith to "The Fairfax Connection."

These consequences may include fewer students enrolling in AP classes and less diversity in the AP classes. "Let's hope the budget plan in the future is better and includes fewer fees imposed on students," said senior Antonio Powell.

Fatal distraction for student drivers

Jade Toft
Business Manager

It takes one second to get in a car crash. Taking your eyes off the road for one second can have an impact that will last a lifetime.

Lots of students have found themselves grabbing food to go and speeding off to various places. Although this might be convenient, it can lead to fatal results. Many students have argued that they have become masters of eating while driving. Others claimed they can drive with their knees! Regardless, eating is still distracting and can easily cause eyes to divert from the road. In the mornings, many students drive to school with one hand on the wheel and the other hand holding their beverage mug. Others are snacking on cereal and granola bars as they pull into the parking lot. Most students feel they do not have enough time to eat prior to driving to school.

According to Megan Brunet, an Allstate insurance spokeswoman, "Eighty-seven percent of the six thousand teens that die every year die because of driving with distractions." Teen drivers have less experience on the road than adults and therefore are more prone to getting into car accidents.

"I was on my way to gymnastics practice and saw a girl doing a crossword puzzle while driving down Route One," exclaimed senior Tayler Aitken. "She was holding up traffic because she was not paying attention."

Reading while driving is another common cause of accidents because the driver is more focused on the print than on the road in front of them. Sometimes they might hold up traffic, and their chance of getting into an accident is greatly increased.

With the advancement of technology, more car accidents are occurring as a result of the use of cell phones and other electronic devices. For people under eighteen, it is illegal to talk on a cell phone in Virginia. For every age, it is illegal to text while driving in Virginia. At the least, the first offense for texting and driving is a \$20 fine and each time after that it is a \$50 fine. While everyone is familiar with the buzzing of phones and the temptation to answer it, it is best not to, especially considering the consequences. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) estimated that eleven percent of people are using their cell phones at any given moment which leads to 448,000 accidents and 5,754 highway deaths in 2009. One study showed that over 47% of people on the beltway were caught texting and over fifty percent were caught talking on their phone.

Driving with distractions is not only affecting teens. It is just as dangerous for an adult to be texting or talking on the phone because despite their experience, they will not be paying full attention to the road. In order for teenagers to do the right thing, the adults should lead by example.

As technology continues to advance, it is important for everyone to learn not to be distracted while driving. No text message is so important as to risk harming others by replying while driving. If a message is that important, take a moment to pull over. Pulling over for that one minute could save both yours and someone else's life.

What is "Eiding" you up this holiday season?

Laura Jacobs
Senior Corner Editor

Strolling through stores during December is nothing less than jolly. Yet students are so caught up in their own holidays, many of them overlook the lesser known holidays. One holiday which is not very well-known is Eid, which stresses the importance of charity.

Eid is a religious holiday for Muslims that takes place two times a year. "The first Eid, Eid-ul-Azha, occurs after Ramadan, and the second Eid, Eid-ul-Adha, is celebrated after the completion of Hajj. [The] Hajj is the 5th pillar of Islam, when a pilgrimage to Mecca occurs during the Islamic month of Dhu al-Hijja," sophomore Amal Aziz explained. Aziz is a practicing Muslim who takes pride in her religion's holiday. "Eid is a great way to give back to the less fortunate and celebrate our heritage."

The second Eid, Eid-ul-Adha, is celebrated for four days world-wide by Muslims in the month of November. Eid-ul-Adha is celebrated 10 days after performing one of the Islamic pillars, the pilgrimage to Mecca, and approximately 70 days after Ramadan. During Eid-ul-Adha, Muslims sacrifice animals in remembrance of their Prophet Abraham who was going to sacrifice his son, Ismail, for God. The story is told that God saw how true Abraham was to him, and instead let him sacrifice a sheep.

Therefore, Muslims either slaughter their livestock or give money for the slaughtering of livestock. The meat is then blessed while being cut by chanting, "Bismillah ar-rahman ar-rahman." Then the meat is considered to be Halal, which is permitted to be eaten by Muslims. Foods that are not blessed are considered Haram, and are not allowed to be eaten. This means Muslims honoring Halal cannot eat meat from restaurants unless the company advertises that they have blessed the meat. The meat sacrificed is then dispersed as charity to family, neighbors, and the poor. This sacrifice of goats, sheep, and cows is known as "Qurban".

To prepare for Eid-ul-Adha, Muslims start their holiday by waking up before sunrise to head over to their mosque for prayer and services. After services, Muslims celebrate with friends and family at homes, parks, and restaurants. Aziz took Eid as a chance to catch up with her family in Culpeper. "For my family, gathered around one big table, it was like a big Thanksgiving dinner," recalled Aziz. She then went to a party with her friends and enjoyed the night. However, some Muslims choose not to take part in religious holidays. Sophomore Ramsha Ahmed did not miss school for Eid. "My family does not really celebrate Eid," Ramsha explained.

Though Eid is celebrated in numerous ways by Muslims, they all come together to honor their holiday.

THANK YOU Wire PATRONS!

PLATINUM: Rene Belanger, Ron Brooks and Lauri Kempson, Francois DiPolco, Robert and Barbara Dreyfuss, Brad and Jamie Heath, Barbara and Peter Jacobs, The Orleans Family, The Phelps Family, Kathryn Smith, Sydney Smith, The Weisblatt Family, Elizabeth Wilmot, Ellen Woods

GOLD: The Kuhnback Family, Deirdre and Steve Parker

SILVER: Jennifer Anduha, Janet Belanger, Shah and Leah Choudhury, Kevin and Michelle Garden, The Garakharaghi Family, Bo and Jessica Hale, Suzette Henry, The Leveridge Family, Joe Mattis, Humera Mujahid, Amy Niepling, Keley Pierre, The Royka-Theodore Family, G. Sid Smith, Kathy and Rob Tempel, Frank Tse, Mary

and David Underwood, Eric and Susanne Young

BRONZE: Peter and Maureen Adams, Jim and Fay Alexander, Gale Alexander, Patricia Axelrod, Betsy Beckwith, Rosemary and Bill Brooks, Spencer Brooks, The Carmichael Family, Bill Chalsma, Richard Cuminalo, Suzanne Dash, Fatima Elhage, Dan Fitzgerald, Bill and Lorraine Gordon, Julie C. Grady, Ann Grau, The Guide/Passacantado Family, Liz Gwarme, Lee Harrington, Mariya Ilyas, Erwin Jacobs, The Johnson Family, Jud Kempson, Mark Kempson, Jean Kernus, Jackie Livelli, Pat Loudis, Colin Mathewson, Rita McGill, Julie McMullin, Sue Murphy, Carmel Norton, Colin O'Grady, Nancy and John O'Sullivan, Michael and Patty Smith, Peter

and Cathy Smith, Tracy Smith, Rita Steele, Cathy Tamburello, Mr. and Mrs. James Tarala, Debi Taylor, Kim Thompson, Don and Arlene Toft, Renee Toft, Glenda Toth, Laverne Treakle, David and Evelyn Venezky, Mr. and Mrs. Jonathan Warren, Kazuo O. Watlington

BLUE: John and Mary Ann Cohen, William Donahoe, Brigitte Gay, Liza Gheesling, Gayle Gilmore, Naomi Jones, Christopher Kamar, David Nauta, Victoria O'Connor, Diego Rodriguez, Sheldina Speight, Sheryl Zdebski

GREY: Jemuel Adams, Rabia Elhae, Madeline Evans, Donna Memmo, Shari Terry

Become A Wire Patron Today!

The Wire is currently seeking patrons for the 2010-2011 school year. As a patron, you will be helping us print our newspaper so that we can continue to distribute it to all the students, faculty, and staff free of charge.

As a patron of *The Wire*, your name will be published in every issue. If you are donating \$15 or more, you can opt to have *The Wire* mailed directly to your home as well.

For more information, contact Kim Chance at kcchance@fcps.edu.

West Potomac guitar classes rock out

Sada Khan
Reporter

Remember when you received your first toy guitar and you immediately thought, "I want to be a rock star"? At West Potomac many kids still have the same dream and are on their way to making it reality.

Some students in high school take electives just for fun while others are very serious about making it a career. Junior Jason Tyler, who is taking level three Guitar, said, "The number one thing I want to be is a guitar player." Tyler got interested in taking guitar class just by listening to rock music, and he has loved it ever since. He has composed many songs, and is in a band called "Moral Sense." One day he wishes to be able to have his name in lights and have a screaming audience just waiting for him and his band. However, the journey to become a rock star is not that easy. Senior Connor Chilton said, "I would love to pursue guitar as a career, but I know it is a long and difficult road."

Junior Cheryl Barnes, who is in level one Guitar said, "I took guitar class because I want to become a country singer. I find Taylor Swift really inspiring, she helps me follow my dream to play guitar and sing. But I would never choose it as a career, because I feel playing the guitar is more of a personal hobby."

Although there are many fine arts classes offered at West Potomac, guitar is the most unique class that is

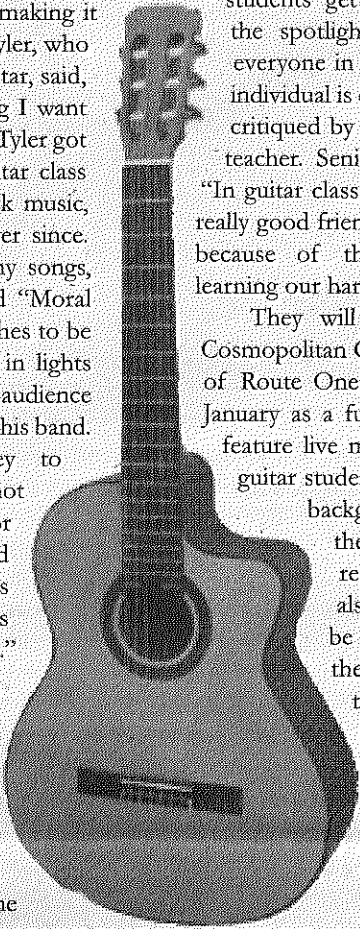


Photo courtesy of bucketlistnetwork.com

presented to the students. It has three levels, which provides students with enough time to discover their true love for music. In a typical guitar period, students usually learn to read notes and practice rhythms for the first 30 minutes. Then they are given a chance to go to the back room and play their guitar chords. Students mentioned they get a chance to learn and play all types of guitars. Every Friday, the students get a chance to be in the spotlight and perform for everyone in the class. After each individual is done playing they are critiqued by their classmates and teacher. Senior Burke Solo said, "In guitar class we have all become really good friends and a tight group because of the time we spend learning our hard musical pieces."

They will be playing at the Cosmopolitan Grill, a restaurant off of Route One by Gold's Gym, in January as a fundraiser, which will feature live music and food. The guitar students will be providing background music to the costumers at the restaurant. There will also be solos that will be played by many of the students. They hope to see a lot of West Potomac students and community members there to donate and help them raise money.

Students at West Potomac might be aware of the guitar classes offered at our school, but what they do not know is how for some students it is a way of expression and for others, a dream they want to pursue.

Incomplete, cont.

"[T]here have been a lot of communication problems during the implementation of the new grading policy," explained English department head Colin O'Grady.

Another facet of the policy involved allowing students who had cheated on a test/quiz to retake the test/quiz for full point value. In other words, there would be no academic penalty for cheating. Many parents, students, and teachers were up in arms about this change, worrying that it would encourage cheaters and devalue grades.

Kate Van Dyck, parent of a West Potomac student and founder of the Real World, Real Grades Facebook group that formed in opposition to the new policies, told Fox News, "[The new cheating policy is] morally corrupt to promote cheating with no repercussions. I teach infants and toddlers and a big principle behind learning there and learning anywhere is natural consequences."

Senior Jeyna Diallo stated to WUSA9 reporter Peggy Fox, "I think allowing cheaters to retake a test is not real life, and it's not going to prepare you in any way for life after college."

On November 18, many news outlets broke the story that Hardison had eliminated both the Incomplete Policy and the new Cheating Policy. He also released a statement to various news sources which read, "I have talked with teachers, parents, and students about the recent publicity surrounding our grading practices, [and] it has become clear to me that we do not have consensus within the faculty, the student body, or the parents at West Potomac to change our grading practices from prior years. West Potomac will completely return to its Unified school discipline policy where students receive forfeiture of credit for incidents of cheating or plagiarism."

West Potomac has indeed returned to its previous grading system. Students who received "I's" on their first quarter report cards will see a change in their grades. According to West Potomac Tech Services, there will be a major system reboot to retroactively alter these marks based on the percentage system.

Although this policy was short-lived, its goals are not necessarily defeated. A county-wide initiative is underway to revamp the grading system, and it may take more than angry parents to stop it. There is a substantial possibility that the policy could resurface within the next few years. Some teachers, including Mathewson, believe this policy could be reworked to benefit students.

She explained, "I think the policy would work if it allowed zeros for kids who just do not show up to class. If you don't do the work, a zero has to be allowed."

Politics, cont.

stems from the party's economic policies which promote a free market economy and independent responsibility over government dependence. Rice works to promote political activism throughout the school and is very excited about the recent November 2nd election results in which Republican candidates came out on top. "If you want the best economic policies, you should go Republican," Rice commented when describing what draws him to Republicanism.

Seniors Nora Ali and Emily Smith, co-presidents of the Young Democrats Club, have been surrounded by politics their entire lives, which inspired them to get others politically involved. "Our primary goal is to get people interested in politics," Ali explained. "We are the future generation of voters and should understand what is going on in the world around us."

Voting rates for presidential elections have risen gradually over the past 10 years. In the 2008 presidential election 54% of the American population voted according to the US Census Bureau. Ali and Smith work to fight political ignorance within the school and community. "Most people choose a political platform based upon well publicized social issues like abortion, gay marriage rights, etc., but there is more to it than that," Smith explained.

Whether your Facebook page describes your political views as "indifferent" or you are the type that eagerly debates recent election results and verbally campaign for your politician of choice, you can't deny that politics are inescapable in today's America. Whether Sarah Palin is preaching on TLC, or you are watching the Tea Party make headlines with its controversial stance on many hot issues, you simply cannot ignore America's government.

FIND OUT WHAT THE COLLEGE RANKINGS DON'T TELL YOU.

what will they learn.com

63% of employers say too many college graduates are not prepared to participate successfully in today's economy.

Go to this free resource to find out which colleges and universities make sure their students learn what they need to know.

THE WIRE STAFF

2010-2011

Editors - in - Chief Camille DiFolco Emily Griffin	Style Editor Anna Dreyfuss	Reporters Rafa Abdelaziz Erick Alvarez Tyler Arnold Randa Elhage Kristin Hoecherl Noor Javadi Sami Kadonoff Sada Khan Laraib Ilyas Zainab Mujahid Anna Peck Caitlin Schroeder Lily Weisblatt
News Editor Norris Brooks	Entertainment Editor Josh Belanger	Adviser Kim Chance
Opinions Editor Jacob Alexander	Senior Corner Editor Laura Jacobs	
Focus Editor Emily Woods	Student Life Editor Leigh Orleans	
Assistant Focus Editor Karley Zdebski	Photographers Sonia Garakyaraghi Clare Palo	
Sports Editors Tommy Friederich Jack King	Business Manager Jade Toff	

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.

WOLVERNE
WARRIORS.

Hellen Moffit

Jack King
Sports Editor

Unfathomable. That's just one of many words that could be used to describe sophomore swim sensation and this month's Wolverine Warrior, Hellen Moffit. Moffit has been making tidal waves in the pool ever since she was five years old and has never shown any doubt that she has the potential to be great. Moffit awes audiences routinely by posting unheard of times such as 56:50 in the 100 fly.

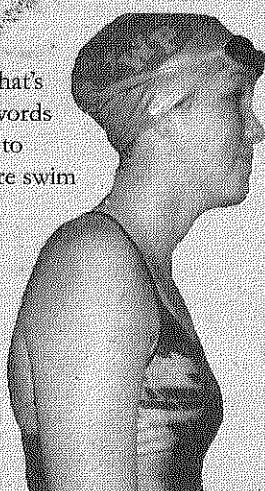


Photo By Jack King

Moffit was first inspired to swim when she attended a local swim meet when she was very little. "I saw one of my neighbors swimming and said 'I wanna do that.' So my mom worked with me and eventually I could swim a lap of the pool, and I signed up for swim team the next year," said Moffit. From day one, Moffit started to turn heads. Not long after her start at Waynewood Pool, Moffit began to swim year round. First for Fort Belvoir Swim Team, and later for Curl Burke Swim Club, a nationally renowned swim team which has won several national championships.

The switch to the powerhouse team did nothing but power Moffit to the top of the Potomac Valley Swim League. Moffit was named PVS swimmer of the year in 2009 when she was just 13. She was again named PVS swimmer of the year in 2010. Moffit also went to Junior Nationals this past year where she participated in seven different events. She placed 19th in the 50 fly and 28th in the 100 fly.

In the dictionary next to the word "dedication," there might as well be a picture of Hellen Moffit. She is truthfully one of the most dedicated athletes at West Potomac. Moffit is in the pool seven days a week for about an hour and a half a day. When asked what it takes to be such a successful swimmer, Moffit replied "It takes a lot of dedication and focus. You can't forget what you're working for."

It seems inevitable that one day all of Moffit's hard work will pay off. When asked about her future goals for swimming, Moffit said that she really wants to swim in college. Aside from that, Moffit added, "My main goal is to qualify for Olympic Trials in 2012, and then the Olympic games in 2016."

Moffit shows a distinct love for swimming that is essential to the success of any athlete. You can tell simply by her attitude at meets that she loves to be there and to compete. "I really love being able to race. It's probably my favorite thing about the sport in general," Moffit exclaimed. "I really like West Potomac swimming because it's fun to compete as a team and to be on relays with my friends."

Every great athlete has at least one trait that makes people stop and stare. Moffit is special because she possesses multiple traits that make heads turn. Her attitude and charisma, her ability in the pool, and her potential to be great all give spectators a reason to believe she is a true Wolverine Warrior.

Vick's past is not his present

Jack King
Sports Editor

Back in December of 2007, it seemed that arguably the greatest athlete to ever set foot on a football field would never be able to play again. The human highlight reel, also known as Michael Vick, was getting locked up in federal prison. After being convicted of dog fighting charges, Vick was forced to leave the National Football League (NFL), and leave the nation livid with his irresponsible actions and choices. The former Atlanta Falcons quarterback was sentenced to a 23 month jail sentence despite an early surrender, a heartfelt public apology, and participation in an animal sensitivity training course. In addition, Vick was suspended by the NFL with no pay. Now, about a year after being reinstated by NFL commissioner Roger Goodell, Vick is back and possibly better than ever before. Since winning the Philadelphia Eagles starting quarterback job over Kevin Kolb, Vick has thrown for 2,243 yards, 15 touchdowns with a passer rating of 105.7. In addition, the Eagles have only lost one game in which Vick has started and finished the entire game. Let's all just admit it; we can't stop watching. The man plays like a Spartan among children. But aside from what he has been doing on the field, Vick has shined off the field just as much, if not more.

There is no denying that dog fighting is a sadistic and vicious crime and one who commits it is a terrible person. Vick deserved every last second that he spent in prison during his sentence. However, some forget that the purpose of prison is not to simply hold criminals captive, but to rehabilitate men who have made mistakes in their lives and give them a chance at making a come back in their personal lives. The

time in prison that Vick has served has done exactly that. He admitted his mistake, fully accepted the consequences, served his time, served it effectively, and is taking strides to do what he now knows is right. Vick told NBC, that the reason he is taking such long strides against dog fighting is that, "I'm just doing what I feel like I promised myself to do, what I'm obligated to do and I enjoy doing it."

It is almost as if Vick has made a total 180 degree turn as a player, but more importantly a person. He often visits schools in improvised areas of the country where dog fighting is popular and speaks out against it. He shares his experiences to show people that dog fighting is an appalling and repulsive practice that under no circumstances is acceptable. On his off days from football, Vick also works with the Humane Society of the United States to help take steps in preventing dog fighting. The point is that Vick did not just serve his time, get it over with and come back as the same cocky and arrogant person that he was. He has changed. You can see it in his walk, in his talk, in his attitude, and especially on the football field.

Vick was the opposite of a role model before he went to prison. During his time with the Falcons, Vick's teammates described him

as lazy and overconfident. He was "that guy who did not work hard, was the last guy in the locker room before games, and the first out. Nearly everything we saw Vick do on the field prior to his conviction was based on his talent and athletic ability. Now he is the polar opposite of 'that guy.' He is in the field early, stays late, watches every play of film, and goes hard in all of the workouts. As a result, Vick has skyrocketed from a first round draft pick to the Philadelphia Eagles starting quarterback, and one of the MVP candidates in the league.

Michael Vick is a dark one, that in fact, has tarnished his name forever, no matter how great a football player he becomes. No matter what he does on the field, his legacy will include how he carelessly and viciously murdered through the act of dog fighting. However, Michael

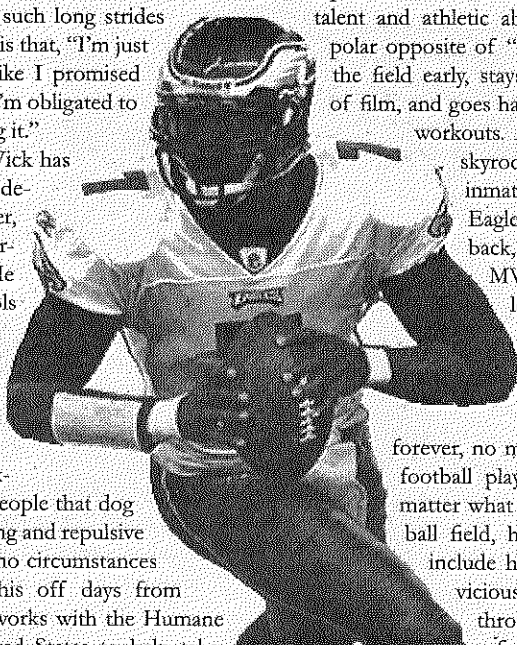


Photo courtesy of blogspot.com

Now the starting quarterback for the Eagles, Vick has quickly gone from a third string back up, to a possible MVP candidate.

things. He has done everything that fans have wanted him to do and then some. Now he deserves a second chance.

Swim and dive team makes waves in the Patriot District

Anna Dreyfuss
Style Editor

"What do swimmers do?" yelled Robert Lombardi. "Swim!" screamed West Potomac's Swim and Dive team, filled with giddy new athletes and veterans to the sport.

Head coach Lombardi has been coaching since 1986 and is the longest single running coach in northern Virginia. He has also coached volleyball for 30 years in Maryland and northern Virginia and is currently an Advanced Placement (AP) Psychology teacher at Falls Church High School. "Lombardi has this way of making you feel like you are an important part of the team while not putting too much stress on you. I'm extremely excited about our first meet Friday, mainly because of how much Coach was able to pump us up," said junior Heidi Jenkins.

Lombardi has now put together a final roster with about 100 swimmers. "Right now no one really knows each other, but swimming is known to be a very social sport," said Lombardi.

"The team has always been close, when we are at our team dinners it's not uncommon to see freshman, sophomores, juniors, and seniors all in one group talking. It's a very un-intimidating atmosphere that

allows people to have fun and enjoy the sport of swimming," said Mattis.

As motivation goes, the swim and dive wolverines are on top. "Every Thursday we have a team dinner at one of the swimmers' houses where we get pumped for the upcoming meet the next night. We have a lot of freshman this season so I'm hoping that they will bring with them a lot of spirit and competitiveness that we have not had in the past years," said Mattis.

"The team is naturally motivated, sometimes they are a little too hyper and I have to settle them down a bit,"

said Lombardi.

Like most sports, there is some form of initiation that

the freshman have to endure. "Lombardi made all the new swimmers doggie paddle across the pool and bark. It was embarrassing, but surprisingly fun," said junior Elizabeth Quin. Despite initiations, the team treats one another like family. "In my lanes we all work together as a group. I enjoy coming to practice because I know my friends will help motivate me for the afternoon. We also do team dinners, which help us stay close-knit," said Jenkins.

Lombardi has set high goals for this season. "I want to take 30% of the girls to state and for the overall team I want them to learn the strokes and then focus on speed next," said Lombardi.



Photo By Jack King

West Potomac swimmers stop to get some air between tough sets at practice given by Coach Lombardi

BY THE
NUMBERS

72 The number of points scored by the boys' varsity basketball team in their win against Mt. Vernon

16 The number of matches won by the wrestling team in their scrimmage against Falls Church High School

Total number of points scored by the boys' and girls' swim team against Woodson

56 Total number of points scored by the boys' winter track team against Lake Braddock and T.C. Williams

THE SIDELINE

Varsity
Football: 6-4

JV Football: 6-2

Freshman
Football: 6-2

Varsity
Volleyball: 3-12

Cross Country
Girls
**District
champions**

Cross Country
Boys
**Region and
District
Champions**

Varsity Field Hockey:
3-7

JV Field Hockey:
4-2-1

Golf: 1-6

Boy's Basketball
West Potomac v.
Mt. Vernon: 72-57
West Potomac v.
Wakefield: 59-63

Girls' Basketball
West Potomac v.
Mt. Vernon: 32-84
West Potomac v.
Wakefield: 44-52



Rugby team hopes to expand

Photo by Kathleen Poulin

Junior Nick Africano makes a tackle from behind to stop the opposing player from scoring.

Clare Palo
Photographer

Are the students at West Potomac ready to get down n' dirty? Rugby may be known as a rough sport, but West Potomac students can decide for themselves when the rugby club begins this spring.

Rugby is an international sport that is based on skill, athletic ability, and tolerating cuts and bruises. It is played in several different countries such as Canada, Australia, England, and France. Finally, West Potomac joins the rest of the world.

West Potomac Math teacher Alexandra Bowman believes rugby is one the best sports in the world. She was a part of the Fort Hunt Rugby Club, which went on its first-ever tour to Ottawa, Canada this past July. The club was undefeated in the Canadian National Capital Youth Rugby Festival. Bowman also played rugby while attending college at Penn State University, and when she lived abroad in Australia. "I wanted to bring rugby to high school students," said Bowman. "It is a very fun and a growing sport [which] will become more popular around the world." Rugby is expected to become as well known as soccer or football in the coming years.

The game closely resembles football where players attempt to get the ball past a goal point. It is different from football, however, in that the ball has to be carried or kicked, never passed toward the goal. There is no blocking of opponents and only the person with the ball may be interfered with. In addition, rugby uses no padding or headgear, requiring the player to be tough throughout the whole eighty minute game.

Students at West Potomac are very excited that rugby is coming

to the school. Junior Michael Poulin played the sport for the Fort Hunt Rugby Club, and plans to join the team when it starts up this spring. "Some of the coaches from Fort Hunt will be coaching [so] we should have nearly the same roster on the high school team as we did on the Fort Hunt team." Other West Potomac students are encouraged to join the club, and even learn to play the game, whether or not they played for the Fort Hunt squad. "It's important to always look for new and interesting thing to do, and I'd love to learn to play girls rugby," commented junior Lydia Perkins. There will be two separate teams, both a girls' and boys' team. Bowman will assist in coaching the girls, and Latin teacher Robert Rigby will be coaching the boy's team.

Many students are already in frenzy about the new club. Students of Bowman and Rigby are considering joining the club, because of its unique nature. "I'd play rugby for the shirt, but also since it's a boys' sport. I'd love to defy the stereotype," said senior Ashton Starr. People have the preconceived idea that rugby is an aggressive man's sport, but in reality it's becoming more of a women and men's sport globally each year. "[Even though] rugby is more popular with guys, the West Potomac team will help diversify the game," explained Bowman. Rugby is a sport about coming together and using teamwork. The game has transferred from a game for rough and tough men, to one for strong and determined athletic men and women. It is a big step in the sports field, and adds to the equality opportunities for both genders. West Potomac continues to make athletic advances by bringing new and exciting clubs and activities to the students. Because, after all, the students make the game; the game doesn't make the students.

Wolverines look to repeat District Championship

Tommy Friederich
Sports Editor

After a mediocre 2009-2010 regular season, the boys' basketball team shocked the whole school and community by winning the Patriot District championship. With the season at its earliest point, the whole community is asking the same question, can this year's boys' basketball team win a second Patriot district championship in a row? With two returning starters and a valuable head coach in Dave Houston, the team looks very strong and can hopefully enjoy another banner being raised in the Wolverdome.

It is a major possibility for this team to repeat a District Championship. First team-all district point guard Scooter Copeland commented, "We got everything we need, rebounders, shooters, defenders, and ball handlers. We also have a great head coach with experience and a team that will never give up." The team has many different obstacles within the district such as Lake Braddock, West Springfield, Robert E. Lee and the always challenging T.C. Williams Titans. Outside the district, the team faces Mt. Vernon High School and Wakefield High School. The Wolverines opened up their season against their rival Mt. Vernon which proved to be one of the team's biggest tests. "Our experience from last year and new talent should bring us to a win in 'The Battle of the Highway'," commented senior Jesse Fico. From the first three pointer drained by Copeland, the whole crowd knew the Wolverines would come on top. With tough defense and a potent offense, the team blew out their cross-town rivals 72-57. Many Wolverines contributed to the win including lead scorer, Daryl Copeland, who put 21 points on the scoreboard and had two 4-point plays. Along with Copeland, senior Jalen Refearn scored 16, and starting center Jesse Fico collected 4 points after getting in foul trouble early. Strong team defense also played a huge roll. The Wolverines strapped down the Majors' explosive offense. The players weren't the only ones making an impact on the court.

The hype squad will be at every game cheering the team on,

"We are going all out this season, the Wolverdome is going to be bumpin'. We got vuvuzelas and everything, the other team won't be able to hear a thing. A THING!" said senior Atlee Hershner. The hype squad is trying to play the role as the "sixth man" just as the Cameron Crazies do at Duke University. "I know we're going have a great season, the hype squad will do whatever it take for the 'Rines to win another district championship," commented senior Dustin Hess.

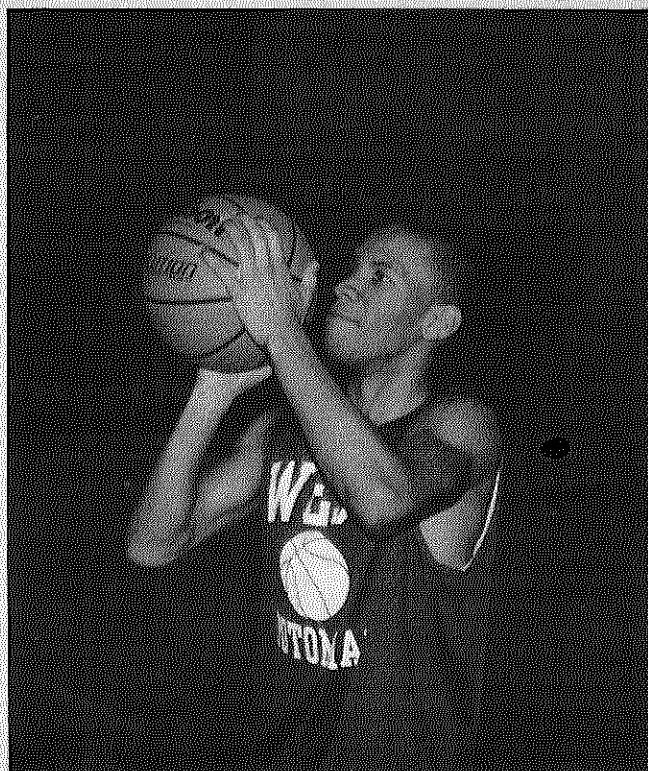


Photo by Tommy Friederich

Sophomore Brandon Presely shoots during practice to get ready for the road to another district championship.

WINTER CHI

As chosen by our readers

and our



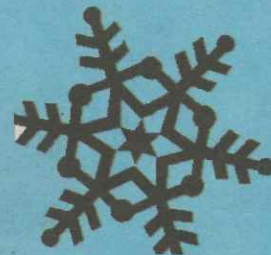
Sled and shred



Top local sledding/snowboarding hills:

- *Collingwood
- *Popkins Lane
- *Masonic Temple

(on Duke and King Street in Old Town)



Give the gift that keeps giving

***TOMS Shoes--"One For One"**

For every pair of shoes you purchase, TOMS will give a pair to a child in need.

***Threads 4 Thought**

Organic cotton and recycled polyester are used to make stylish clothing-- proceeds go to charities IRC and NRDC.



Tune in.

97.1 WASH-FM

was the unanimous reader's vote for top holiday radio station.

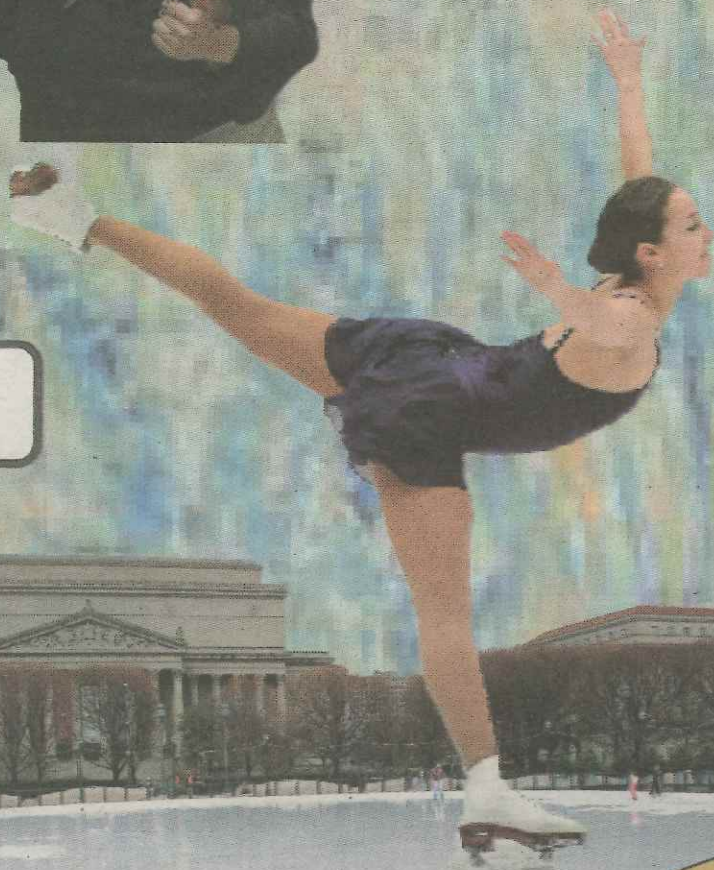
GAME ON

You're never too old for a snowball fight. Be sure to engage in at least one this season. Top location agreed upon by readers?

Fort Hunt Park!

CKLIST

editors



HIT THE RINK

Figure eight? The National Gallery of Art in DC has a scenic outdoor rink open November through Mid-March.

Admission for students is \$6.



Misha's Coffehouse
on South Patrick
Street in Old Town

Grounded Coffee
Shop on Telegraph
Road

Buzz Bakery on
Slater's Line



Top local spots

Go cuckoo for [hot] cocoa

STYLE

Students create a magical universe

Kristin Hoecherl
Reporter

True to the prologue, *The Nutcracker* was magical and dreamlike. On the first weekend in December, Alexandria Dance presented their revamped version of *The Nutcracker*. The Springbank Auditorium stage was transformed into a homey Christmas living room, a snow blown winter wonderland, and a land of candy and fairies. With no spoken part but the prologue, actors communicated with nodding, waving, and smiles, which set the enchanted tone for this production.

It opened with Christmas carolers walking the aisles, while children and their parents congregated for a party. The directors Jennifer Lisenby, Courtney Betzel, and Adrienne Magnuson achieved an honest family dynamic with the children's excited troublemaking and their sympathetic yet distracted parents. There was a strong theme of magic in this child's view of the holiday season. Clara, the main character, is played by Catherine Canary. The last guest to arrive at the party is Clara's godfather, who brings gifts for all the children, specifically a nutcracker for Clara.

The dancing doesn't begin until the dinner party is over, and everyone is off to bed except little Clara. She sneaks back to the gift-surrounded Christmas tree to discover that mice have taken over her living room world, and intend to wage a war against her now life-sized nutcracker toy. She helps the Nutcracker defeat the mouse-king, and the Nutcracker turns into a prince who takes her on a journey to the Land of Snow and the Land of the Sweets. The facial expressions throughout, while exaggerated, were imperative in conveying the meaning behind the actor's dance-actions.

The Land of Snow was perfect. The effect of the behind the scenes snow-

blowers was magical, like looking out a window at the first drifting snow of winter. The crew turned the West Potomac stage into a majestic winter scene filled with circling dancers. This was the second of only four set changes, and the most natural, relatable scene.

After a brief intermission, Act II gets funky. This is the musically refurbished part of the show, with awesome dance stunts to go with it. Clara and her nutcracker prince move on to the Land of the Sweets, where he sets her on his candy throne to enjoy the show. One after another they danced across the stage: little Lollipops, sweet Gumdrops, cute Candy Canes, graceful earth-toned Reed Flutes, black and white jivin' Russian dancers, epic Spanish salsa dancers, and finally the Good and Evil Sugarplum Fairies. The revamped *Nutcracker Suite* Land of Sweets finale was beautiful. With Rachelle Husband as a grandiose ice princess with a tutu, and Amanda Alves as an untamed dark rock queen, these two nearly stole the show.

The closing Waltz of the Flowers dancers were adorable, returning the audience to traditional ballet dance after the fun and surprising variety. Sparkling angels came to dance with Clara, and then return her to her own realm, where she woke up Christmas morning holding her toy Nutcracker, wondering if it had all been a dream.

Tremendous kudos go to the costume design team for their delightful and original costumes. Additional kudos to the Crew, whose well-planned set design

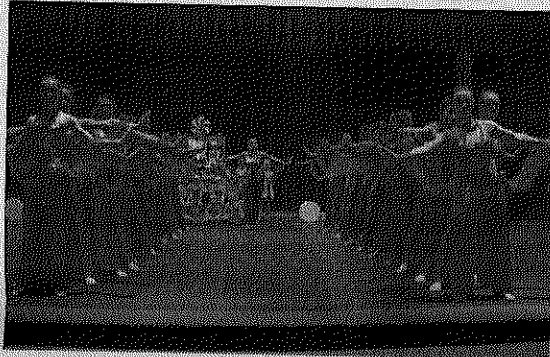


Photo courtesy of Beth

"*The Nutcracker*" featured delightful costumes, a well-designed stage, realistic actors and fantastic dancers.

enabled them to pull off this production with only four set changes. They kept it practical, but put enough artistic detail in each set to keep it inspiring. After the curtain call with the 100+ performers, the curtain closed for the final time on the entire cast glorying in their successful work of art.

Fall Play filled with humor and sincerity

Norris Brooks
News Editor

"The course of true love never did run smooth." When senior Burke Solo, playing Lysander, uttered these words, the audience fell in love with West Potomac's production of "*A Midsummer Night's Dream*." It is a tale of twists and turns in the lives of four lovers with a little mischief from a band of fairies. At the mention of Shakespeare's name, many high school students sigh, groan, or lose interest, but in the case of this production, the reaction was quite the opposite. West Potomac's theatre department embraced the complicated language, and wove together an enchanting production that anyone would want to see.

Director Colin O'Grady, who teaches English and Shakespeare, was able to revive the enthusiasm and passion for theatre that has been missing at our school for the past couple of years. O'Grady incorporated successful blocking techniques, lively costumes designed by Angela Robinson, and especially vivacious actors to bring the classic play to life.

One of the best aspects of the show was the physical humor. Seniors Connor Chilton and Javier Zelaya had a charisma on stage that electrified the performance. Playing the characters of Francis Flute and Nick Bottom, respectively, Chilton and Zelaya used exaggerated physical comedy to present their story to the audience. Add in Chilton's playing of Thisbe, a girl with long Viking braids, and Zelaya's unique walk as Pyramus and donkey imitation as Bottom, and laughter could be heard from every person in the theatre. Senior Cat Royka said, "The

play was extremely entertaining and had me laughing the entire time!"

Not only was the physical comedy riveting, but the overall performance was as well. All of the actors interpreted the Shakespearean verse with a great deal of expression. For most students the language is not particularly easy to grasp, but the performers' clear understanding of the dialogue brought the audience right along with them.

One stand out scene was the fight scene between Helena (junior Nelson McKeown) and Hermia (junior Emily Woods). Alternating between serious and funny, the scene was extremely entertaining, because it was clear that the actors had worked very hard and were convincing as rivals in a tale of mismatched lovers. The love interests, Demetrius (junior Toby Mananzan) and Lysander (senior Burke Solo), played off of the conflict between the two women beautifully and interjected physical humor and witty remarks throughout.

The one problem with the show was the final scene, which was overdone. The performance successfully built to a happy ending where all were blessed with good fortune, and it needed to finish smoothly. Instead, the actors mimicked a well-known scene from "*The Lion King*." Although it was good for a laugh, it disrupted the flow of the play and dragged on for too long.

Overall, the show was a tremendous success which enraptured the audience in a delightful journey through the adventures of the characters on one magical night. As sophomore Isabelle Cooksey said, "Despite some struggles with the language, the show was captivating and kept me entertained until the very end!"

"WE BE JAMMIN'" AT WEST POTOMAC

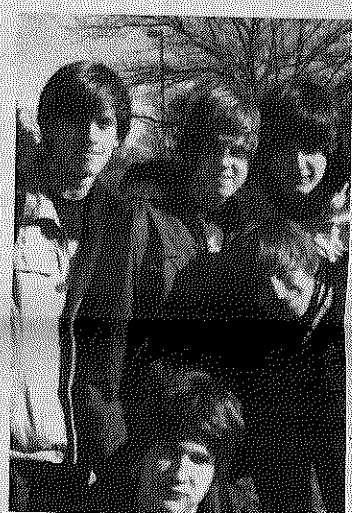
Leigh Orleans

Co-Student Life Editor

Come rock out with West Potomac. Our school is filled with creative and talented individuals. Not only do we possess a world-class Fine Arts program, but some especially inspired students have taken their enthusiastic passion for music to the next level. They took the initiative of starting their own bands, writing their own songs, and playing their own music.

Picasso Autobody

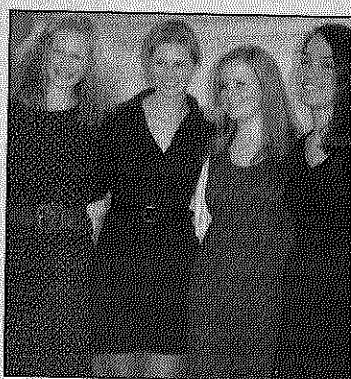
Picasso Autobody is composed of Burke Solo, Christian Marchant, Javier Zelaya, and DJ Condon. The idea for the band originated on a road trip where they passed an autobody shop called 'Picasso Autobody.' This automatically struck them as a perfect name for a band, inspiring the group to come together. Each band member brings completely contrasting styles of music to the group, such as folk, classic rock, R&B, hip hop, and hard core rock. "It does help to have different people with different styles that come in with different ideas," explained Zelaya.



PLAINS OF EZEKIEL

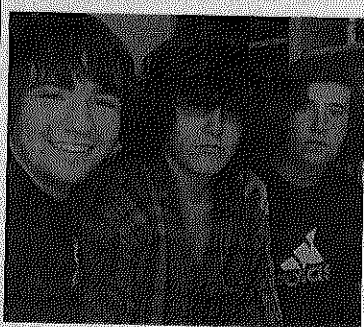
"We were jamming in P basement and we came across a sweet, sweet sound," reflected sophomore Peter Finfrock. "I ran it across some friends and as we were continuing to make sick sounds, Pat found a cool guitar riff and DJ hopped on the accordion... and we went from there." From that, their band Plains of Ezekiel, was formed. Members include Pat Silva, DJ Condon, Peter Finfrock, Dave (Slave) Finfrock, and Will Neer.

You don't have to have instruments to make a good music group. Sophomores Kate Schneider, Meghan Mallon, Sophia Passacantando, and Katie Carbone formed an a cappella quartet last year, and have been performing at retirement homes and local coffee shops. Sometimes they incorporate instruments in their act such as guitar, piano, and ukulele to add variety. The girls have all been in their school choirs since elementary school and are members of the Bella Voce and mixed choirs at West Potomac.



a capella

Half Brother



A totally different style is that of the band, Half Brother. They are an alternative rock/punk group consisting of sophomores Jack Hubbell, Erik Liner, and Connor Sumpter. The band was formed in the summer of 2009 by Liner and Hubbell. Their shared love of music brought the band together. In December of that year, Sumpter joined the band. Half Brother plays at music bars such as Jammin' Java as well as public and private parties. They recently had a show at the 9:30 club in Washington DC on December 12th with another school band, Picasso Autobody.

Deathly Hallows: Part 1 is spellbinding

Camille DiFolco
Editor-in-Chief

From the moment the haunting, familiar overture began streaming out of the speakers, the audience was captivated. After all, it was the premiere of the highly-anticipated seventh installment of the Harry Potter saga, entitled

"Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1." More specifically, this was the first of two movies adapted from the final novel in the bestselling series; the last movie is slated for release in June 2011.

West Potomac students thronged to movie theaters, hoping to snag a coveted seat at the midnight premieres across town. Many of these students grew up alongside Harry Potter, devouring the books like Chocolate Frogs, and recall waiting impatiently for the next novel's release.

This movie opens in the aftermath of Albus Dumbledore's death, and things are looking grim for the Wizarding World. Harry Potter's nemesis, Lord Voldemort, along with his Death Eater henchmen, is on a killing spree, targeting Muggles and any wizards that put up resistance to his regime. After bidding the Dursleys a final goodbye as they prepare to leave the country, Harry is convoyed to the Weasleys' ramshackle home under cover of night and seven Polyjuice Potion doppelgangers. It quickly becomes apparent that Harry cannot remain in any one place for very long as Voldemort's spies are everywhere. Itching to embark on the quest left to them by Dumbledore, Harry (Daniel Radcliffe), Ron (Rupert Grint), and Hermione (Emma Watson) set off on their own, having decided not to return to Hogwarts for their final year. The rest of the movie follows the trio as they move from hiding place to hiding place, camp out an awful lot, and confront approaching adulthood.

So just where have the charming triumvirate disappeared to? Off to hunt down Horcruxes, of course. For those who are unfamiliar with the series, Horcruxes are physical objects

in which one can stow pieces of their soul, and thereby cheat death. So what are the Deathly Hallows? Like the Horcruxes, they can be used to gain eternal life. And like the Horcruxes, Lord Voldemort is very intrigued. The Hallows consist of an invincible wand, a resurrection stone, and a Cloak of Invisibility, and whomsoever possesses all three

also possesses great power.

This movie stands out from its predecessors in a number of ways, but the most prominent departure is the absence of a single scene at Hogwarts. The usual formula of escaping from the Dursleys to stay with the Weasleys, boarding the Hogwarts Express just as it is leaving the station, and changing into school robes for the welcoming feast in the Great Hall is completely ignored. Indeed, there is only

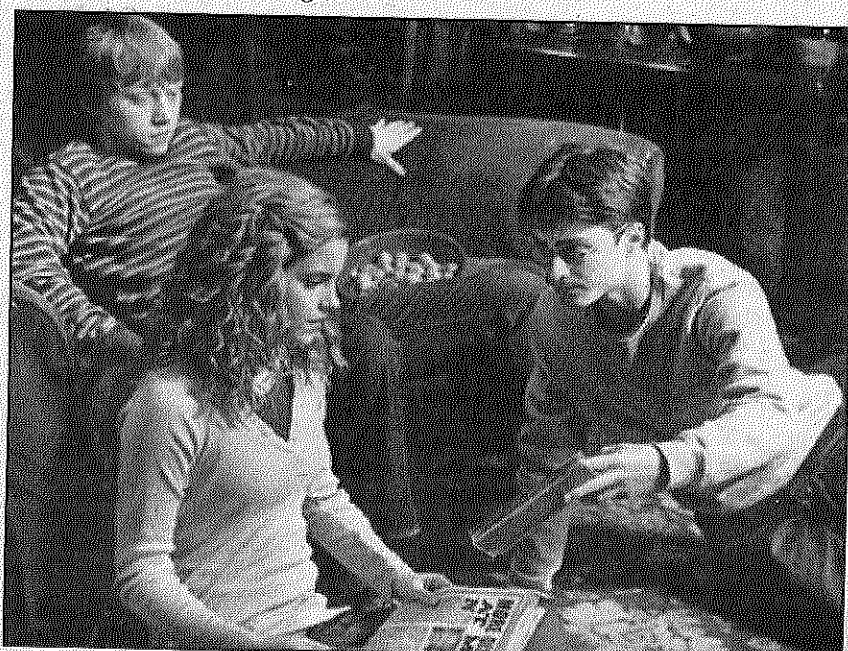


Photo by imnotobsessed.com

Harry, Ron, and Hermione are back in the highly anticipated conclusion of the Harry Potter epic. "The Deathly Hallows: Part 1" made over \$125 million in its first week and has now totaled \$715 million worldwide.

one scene in which the viewer is directly presented with evidence of the fact that the school is still operating. It is also the only scene in which the lovable Neville Longbottom appears. Death Eaters storm the Hogwarts Express in the remote countryside, and it is Neville who steps forward to declare defiantly that his friends are not on the train.

Though this film was not the best Harry Potter movie, it stuck to the storyline very closely. Chopping the book into two separate feature-length films was a sound decision and allowed for more details to be observed. In some ways, the movie was a reunion for cast members appearing in the last six films, with characters like Nymphadora Tonks and Mad-Eye Moody making brief cameos. However, if one had not read the seventh book, it would have been very difficult to follow the fast-paced plot that seldom paused to explain the background story of any of the characters. Perhaps the worst thing about this film, however, is the fact that now we are in sight of the end. There is only one more movie, one more midnight premiere, one more chance to shout, "Expecto Patronum!" and actually retain one's friends, and that is a sad prospect to face.

KiD CuDi does it again

Tommy Friederich
Sports Editor

Lost in a sea of depression and loneliness sits the great musical mind of Scott Mescudi, better known as KiD CuDi. Mescudi recently released his sophomore album, "Man on the Moon II: Legend of Mr. Rager." The album probes the thoughts of a 26-year-old hood head from Cleveland who is confused by the world he is living in. But if a listener were to look closer into the ingenious lyrics of CuDi, they would find a much more artistic view on life. CuDi even charts his own life experiences. At the same time, the dark songs describe the recent downward spiraling of "Cudder's" life. He was recently arrested for cocaine possession. In the song "All Along," rhythmical drums are mixed into a classic hip hop beat and complimented by more R&B vocals than CuDi's traditional rap style. The lyrics of the song are consistent with the depressed, lonely attitude CuDi reflects. This was shown when CuDi sang, "All along, all along, I guess I'm meant to be alone, out there on my own."

"Mr. Rager" reveals the confusion that Cudder is feeling over his rising fame. The song is a realization that fame is a dangerous thing. Cudder explained this in the lyrics, "Hey Mr. Rager, tell me where you're going, tell me where you're heading." The dark songs are again matched with CuDi's love of R&B singing. More stereotypical Cudder songs include the song "Ashin' Kusher," which is a song with a futuristic hip hop beat along with CuDi's flowing rhymes.

It's obvious that MOTM:II has many gems including the song "Erase Me" featuring Kanye West and "The



Photo by completevii.com

End" with Chip tha Ripper, Nicole Ray, and GLC. Meanwhile, the album includes some bland songs which leave the listener bored. The long track list balances the gems with boring tracks so it seems to work out. The only problem with this album is KiD CuDi's constant effort to let his audience know that he is depressed and unhappy with the recent fame he has received. I would rate this album an 8.5 out of 10 because the songs that are good, are really good, and the songs that are mediocre are simply mediocre. There are no really terrible songs on the album. The high rating also has to do with Cudder's versatility between his vocals and his rapping. KiD CuDi is trying to change the world with his album, but it seems he needs to change his world first.

New must read: why the Hunger Games trilogy is the next book craze

Lily Weisblatt
Reporter

"Harry Potter" is over, but The Games have just begun.

Many have sworn that no book could be an adequate substitute for the "Harry Potter" book series. "Artemis Fowl" fell short, "Percy Jackson" did as well, and the "Twilight Saga" was so far off, it was not even in the running. "The Hunger Games," however, has come close to filling the space left behind by the absence of Harry Potter.

The book is set in a post-apocalyptic North America, in a country called Panem. The Capitol of Panem is surrounded by twelve districts from which the contestants of "The Hunger Games" originate. The contestants from each district, a boy and a girl between the ages of twelve and eighteen, are sent to an arena to fight to the death on live television, serving as prime entertainment for the Capitol.

At the beginning, 16-year-old Katniss Everdeen, the rebellious and strong heroine, sacrifices herself to save her 12-year-old sister from participating in The Games for their District 12. Katniss is a beautiful character, forced to confront everything she has ever feared, including love, death, sickness, and the prospect of failure or change. Peeta Mellark, the boy from District 12, is alongside Katniss through The Games, and is an exceptional character as well. Peeta's supporting character shows great strength throughout the book, as well as becoming a love-interest for Katniss.

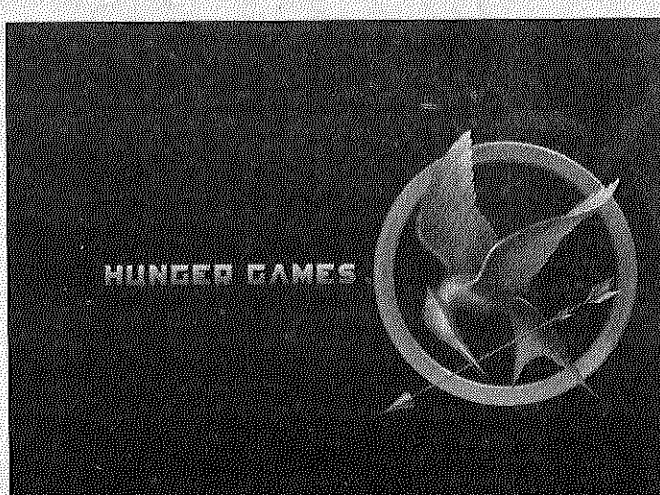


Photo by scifiool.com

"The Hunger Games" by Suzanne Collins is the first book in the trilogy series. The other two books are "Catching Fire" and "Mockingjay."

Suzanne Collins, the author of "The Hunger Games", has written this book in such exquisite detail that the reader is instantly pulled into The Games. The reader will be hooked on the first page and will refuse to stop reading until they have finished it. Little moments were written as tear-jerking and awe-inspiring events and Collins describes them so well, the reader has no choice but to be sucked into Panem.

However, while the author chooses to focus on smaller events, larger scenes are not given as much attention. Events that seemed more important to the reader, such as the beginning of the Games, were glossed over, and not given as much attention from Collins. Nonetheless, the smaller scenes more than made up for the less detailed events. As Katniss is being dressed for an interview, she looks in the mirror at a made-up Katniss and says, "The creature standing before me in the full-length mirror has come from another world. Where skin shimmers and eyes flash and apparently they make their clothes from jewels... The slightest movement gives the impression I am engulfed in flames." This description pulls at the reader, making them see what Collins saw. In addition, Suzanne Collins successfully foreshadows many events that will happen in future books. The hidden innuendo

pique the readers' interest to read the rest of the trilogy. "The Hunger Games" more than exceeded expectations. Geared toward young adults, the book features some graphic violence, grief, romance, and some humor thrown in as well. "The Hunger Games" is recommended for anyone with a desire to explore another world and a possible future. Journey into Katniss' life, and see the horrors and wonders that will arise.

WOLVERINE WARRIORS.

Hellen Moffit

Jack King
Sports Editor

Unfathomable. That's just one of many words that could be used to describe sophomore swim sensation and this month's Wolverine Warrior, Hellen Moffit. Moffit has been making tidal waves in the pool ever since she was five years old and has never shown any doubt that she has the potential to be great. Moffit awes audiences routinely by posting unheard of times such as 56:50 in the 100 fly.

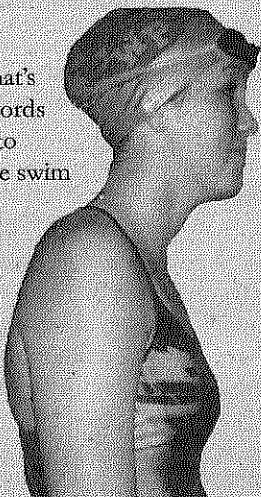


Photo By Jack King

Moffit was first inspired to swim when she attended a local swim meet when she was very little. "I saw one of my neighbors swimming and said 'I wanna do that.' So my mom worked with me and eventually I could swim a lap of the pool, and I signed up for swim team the next year," said Moffit. From day one, Moffit started to turn heads. Not long after her start at Wayneswood Pool, Moffit began to swim year-round. First for West Potomac Swim Team, and later for the Capital Area Swim Club, a nationally renowned swim team which has won several national championships.

The switch to the powerhouse team did nothing but power Moffit to the top of the Potomac Valley Swim League. Moffit was named PVS swimmer of the year in 2009 when she was just 13. She was again named PVS swimmer of the year in 2010. Moffit also went to Junior Nationals this past year where she participated in seven different events. She placed 19th in the 50 fly and 28th in the 100 fly.

In the dictionary next to the word "dedication," there might as well be a picture of Hellen Moffit. She is truthfully one of the most dedicated athletes at West Potomac. Moffit is in the pool seven days a week for about an hour and a half a day. When asked what it takes to be such a successful swimmer, Moffit replied "It takes a lot of dedication and focus. You can't forget what you're working for."

It seems inevitable that one day all of Moffit's hard work will pay off. When asked about her future goals for swimming, Moffit said that she really wants to swim in college. Aside from that, Moffit added, "My main goal is to qualify for Olympic Trials in 2012, and then the Olympic games in 2016."

Moffit shows a distinct love for swimming that is essential to the success of any athlete. You can tell simply by her attitude at meets that she loves to be there and to compete. "I really love being able to race. It's probably my favorite thing about the sport in general," Moffit exclaimed. "I really like West Potomac swimming because it's fun to compete as a team and to be on relays with my friends."

Every great athlete has at least one trait that makes people stop and stare. Moffit is special because she possesses multiple traits that make heads turn. Her attitude and charisma, her ability in the pool, and her potential to be great all give spectators a reason to believe she is a true Wolverine Warrior.

Vick's past is not his present

Jack King
Sports Editor

Back in December of 2007, it seemed that arguably the greatest athlete to ever set foot on a football field would never be able to play again. The human-highlight reel, also known as Michael Vick, was getting locked up in federal prison. After being convicted of dog fighting charges, Vick was forced to leave the National Football League (NFL), and leave the nation livid with his irresponsible actions and choices. The former Atlanta Falcons quarterback was sentenced to a 23 month jail sentence despite an early surrender, a heartfelt public apology, and participation in an animal sensitivity training course. In addition, Vick was suspended by the NFL with no pay. Now, about a year after being reinstated by NFL commissioner Roger Goodell, Vick is back and possibly better than ever before. Since winning the Philadelphia Eagles starting quarterback job over Kevin Kolb, Vick has thrown for 2,243 yards, 15 touchdowns with a passer rating of 105.7. In addition, the Eagles have only lost one game in which Vick has started and finished the entire game. Let's all just admit it; we can't stop watching. The man plays like a Spartan among children. But aside from what he has been doing on the field, Vick has shined off the field just as much, if not more.

There is no denying that dog fighting is a sadistic and vicious crime and one who commits it is a terrible person. Vick deserved every last second that he spent in prison during his sentence. However some forget that the purpose of prison is not to simply hold criminals captive, but to rehabilitate men who have made mistakes in their lives and give them a chance at making a come back in their personal lives. The

time in prison that Vick has served has done exactly that. He admitted his mistake, fully accepted the consequences, served his time, served it effectively, and is taking strides to do what he now knows is right. Vick told NBC, that the reason he is taking such long strides against dog fighting is that, "I'm just doing what I feel like I promised myself to do, what I'm obligated to do and I enjoy doing it."

It is almost as if Vick has made a total 180 degree turn as a player, but more importantly a person. He often visits schools in improvised areas of the country where dog fighting is popular and speaks out against it. He shares his experiences to show people that dog fighting is an appalling and repulsive practice that under no circumstances is acceptable. On his off days from football, Vick also works with the Humane Society of the United States to help take steps in preventing dog fighting. The point is that Vick did not just serve his time, get it over with and come back as the same cocky and arrogant person that he was. He has changed. You can see it in his walk, in his talk, in his attitude, and especially on the football field.

Vick was the opposite of a role model before he went to prison. During his time with the Falcons, Vick's teammates described him

as lazy and overconfident. He was who did not work hard, was the last to arrive in the locker room before games, and the last to leave. Nearly everything we saw Vick do in the field prior to his conviction was based on talent and athletic ability. Now

polar opposite of "that guy" who shows up late to the field early, stays late, works hard in all aspects of film, and goes hard in all aspects of workouts. As a result, he has skyrocketed from being an inmate, to the Eagles starting quarterback, and one of the MVP candidates in the league.

Michael Vick is a day that is a testament to the fact that you can be a villain one day and a hero the next.

forever, no matter how much you are a football player he becomes a man. No matter what he does on the football field, his legacy will live on. It includes how he conducted himself through the viciously murderous world of dog fighting. He is a man who has done everything fans have wanted him to do and now he deserves a second chance.

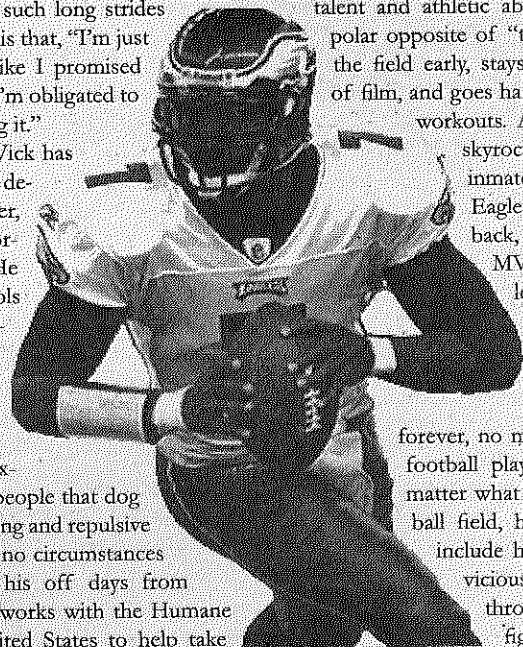


Photo courtesy of blogspot.com

Now the starting quarterback for the Eagles, Vick has quickly gone from a third string back up, to a possible MVP candidate.

Swim and dive team makes waves in the Patriot District

Anna Dreyfuss
Style Editor

"What do swimmers do?" yelled Robert Lombardi. "Swim!" screamed West Potomac's Swim and Dive team, filled with giddy new athletes and veterans to the sport.

Head coach Lombardi has been coaching since 1986 and is the longest single running coach in northern Virginia. He has also coached volleyball for 30 years in Maryland and northern Virginia and is currently an Advanced Placement (AP) Psychology teacher at Falls Church High School. "Lombardi has this way of making you feel like you are an important part of the team while not putting too much stress on you. I'm extremely excited about our first meet Friday, mainly because of how much Coach was able to pump us up," said junior Heidi Jenkins.

Lombardi has now put together a final roster with about 100 swimmers. "Right now no one really knows each other, but swimming is known to be a very social sport," said Lombardi.

"The team has always been close, when we are at our team dinners it's not uncommon to see freshman, sophomores, juniors, and seniors all in one group talking. It's a very un-intimidating atmosphere that

allows people to have fun and enjoy the sport of swimming," said Mattis.

As motivation goes, the swim and dive wolverines are on top. "Every Thursday we have a team dinner at one of the swimmers' houses where we get pumped for the upcoming meet the next night. We have a lot of freshman this season so I'm hoping

that they will bring with them a lot of spirit and competitiveness that we have not had in the past years," said Mattis.

"The team is naturally motivated, sometimes they are a little too hyper and I have to settle them down a bit," said Lombardi.

Like most sports, there is some form of initiation that

the freshman have to endure. "Lombardi made all the new swimmers doggie paddle across the pool and bark. It was embarrassing, but surprisingly fun," said junior Elizabeth Quin. Despite initiations, the team treats one another like family. "In my lanes we all work together as a group. I enjoy coming to practice because I know my friends will help motivate me for the afternoon. We also do team dinners, which help us stay close-knit," said Jenkins.

Lombardi has set high goals for this season. "I want to take 30% of the girls to state and for the overall team I want them to learn the strokes and then focus on speed next," said Lombardi.



Photo By Jack King

West Potomac swimmers stop to get some air between tough sets at practice given by Coach Lombardi

DU TA
NUMB3

72 The number of points scored by the boys' varsity basketball team in their win against Mt. Vernon

16 The number of matches won by the wrestling team in their scrimmage against Falls Church High School

23 Total number of points scored by boys' and girls' swim team against Woodson

56 Total number of points scored by the boys' winter track team against Lake Braddock and T.C. Williams

Should yoga be offered as an elective?

Emily Woods

Focus Editor

Child's pose? Here. Downward dog? Present. Stress? Anxiety? Obesity? All absent. Alright class, let's begin.

Yoga in the school systems is on the rise. In 2002, a Colorado public school teacher, Tara Gruber, proposed adding the series of soothing exercises and meditation to the curriculum and was immediately bombarded with rants and threats from outraged Christian parents, who argued that the Hindu roots of yoga violated the separation of church and state. A defiant Gruber stood her ground and avoided the controversy by simply removing all Sanskrit language and religious insinuations. This marked the successful birth of yoga in public schools. It is now time for West Potomac to take the same approach. By offering yoga as a course, our teachers and administrators alike would see a rise in student's physical and mental well-being.

The benefits of yoga are endless. Recent studies done by specialists Gates and Wolverton have shown that yoga's smooth body movements and breathing techniques allow for a minimal stress environment. The exercises can get rid of excess energy and relieve fatigue. Furthermore, yoga's stretches and meditation produce a calming effect conducive to learning and retaining information. According to the International Journal of Yoga Therapy, students with ADD and ADHD may find themselves able to concentrate better after participating in yoga. In 2003, researchers at California State University studied test scores at the Accelerated School, where students practice yoga on a daily basis. They found a correlation between yoga and better behavior and grades.

The aforementioned effects of yoga on the body are widely known, however, few are aware of the social impact yoga can potentially have on a high school environment. Research has been conducted to show that yoga can increase self-confidence and social adaptation, and improve communication skills. In short, a significant amount of teenagers walking around school with boosted endorphins is by no means a bad thing.

When informing others of the idea of yoga as an elective, one reaction stood out: "Can't that just be a club or something?" The answer is a big, resounding "no." Participation in clubs is often flaky and insincere, a last-minute attempt to add to a college application or a way for friends to hang out after class. Offering yoga as an actual course would weed out the students

who do not have a genuine interest in it. Junior Zoe McCray agreed, "I think it would attract a lot of students, especially those who want to fit yoga into their life, but may not have time after school."

Currently, West Potomac and the various Academies at West Potomac, Falls Church and Edison offer nearly one hundred electives. If we have can include obscure courses such as Hotel Marketing, Gourmet Foods, and Archeology Drawing, why not yoga? Classes that made a debut this year, including Ceramics and Shakespeare Study, have gained a significant following. Yoga would do the same. The demand for it, among a population of over-stressed, restless teenagers, is incredibly high. Sophomore Nicole Marinello spoke for all of us when she said, "I would take yoga in a heartbeat. What better way to start off the day?"

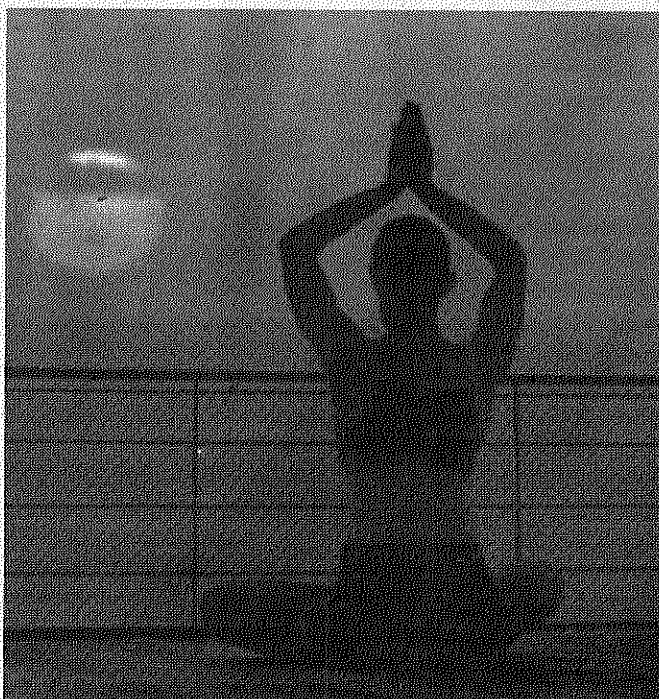
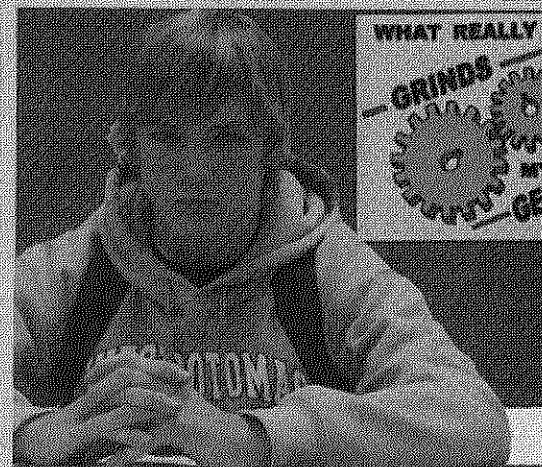


Photo courtesy of downdoggyogastudio.com

Yoga is a great way to relieve stress. If it was offered as an elective, many students would take it and many people would benefit from it.

You know what really grinds my gears?



Jacob Alexander

Opinions Editor

December 31st is fast approaching for President Obama, because by that day he must make a huge political decision.

In 2001, former President George W. Bush passed a law that lowered tax rates and simplified retirement and qualified plan rules such as 401(k) plans and pension plans. In 2003, he passed another law that sped up the rates of the 2001 cuts and also lowered income tax rates. These tax cuts then sparked the question: did they help or hurt the economy? The tax cuts are set to expire on December 31, and President Obama must determine if it would be beneficial to keep or eliminate the tax cuts.

If Bush's tax cuts are not renewed, then high-income tax payers will be forced to pay a higher income tax than lower income tax payers. One of the reasons for the tax cuts in the first place was to eliminate this. Why should some people have to give up a greater percentage of their earnings just because they are more successful than others?

One of the main arguments for demolishing rather than continuing the tax cuts is to help the economy. However, there is no fair way to help the economy in a way that involves taxes, and there are plenty of other things that could be done to help the economy. One example is the legalization of marijuana which was voted on recently in California and did not pass. The unemployment rate in the US today is about 9.6 percent, which is more than twice what it was a decade ago, according to data.bls.gov. This is affecting the economy, and one way to help it is to create more jobs. One way to do this is to give incentives to investors. Investments spur economic growth thus creating jobs, and eliminating income tax can easily encourage investments.

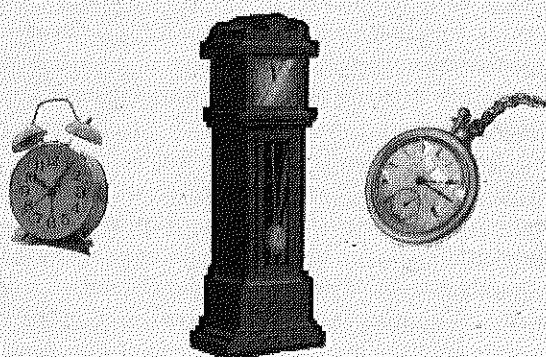
Currently the government is too involved in the economy. A free market economy is one that is governed by the laws of supply and demand, according to investorwords.com. In this type of economy producers can produce what they want and determine their own prices and consumers can buy what they want. Prices will set themselves in a way, depending on the supply and demand of the product. Our economy is based on this, and this economy usually works. However, the government often gets involved by controlling prices of certain things. This throws off the balance in the economy and causes problems. In addition to this, the government often unnecessarily raises taxes to pay for it.

Obama would be making the best decision possible by renewing the Bush tax cuts. There is no need for higher taxes, and there are more ways than just raising taxes that can earn the government more money and improve the economy. It seems ridiculous to punish certain people simply for making more money than others.

BELLE VIEW JEWELERS



Expert Jeweler on Premises
Expert Repair and Restoration
Modern, Vintage and Antique Time
Pieces
Jewelry Appraisals
Engraving
Pearl Restoring
House calls on Grandfather Clocks



Member (AWT)-American Watchmakers-
Clockmakers Institute

1604 Belle View Blvd Monday-Friday 10-6
Alexandria, VA 22307 Saturday 10-4
Phone: 703-768-4900 Sunday-Closed



LESLIE J. CARNEY
OWNER

TEL: 703.768.0010
FAX: 703.768.0042

7918 FORT HUNT ROAD
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22308

LESLIE@SHOPINTIALIMPRESSIONS.
COM

Wolverine Wishlist

Josh Belanger

Entertainment Editor

The holiday season is full of giving and receiving with a high demand to spend and pressure to satisfy your family and friends. If you have no idea what gifts you should give this season, follow this list and you will be sure to be invited back for next year's Christmas party.

•X-Box Kinect \$150

The newest Microsoft phenomenon, taking after the Playstation's Eyetoy, this new and improved gaming system will get you up and into the game for sure. It is much like the Wii, but it uses a camera to display your movements in the game.

•iPod 4th Generation \$229-399

The freshest iPod out there has the ability to face chat with a new built-in camera. Also, Apple has put in a better battery that lasts longer, and the screen is clearer and brighter with the new retina display.

•Evo 4G HTC phone \$199

Quite simply the best phone on the market. It does everything the iPhone can do, faster.

•X-Box 360 \$199-299

With a new, sleeker look and a built-in Wi-Fi connection, the world of X-Box Live has never been easier to access or better looking.

•A new DVD \$9.99-24.99

A new released movie like Inception, "The Other Guys," "The A-Team," or "Despicable Me"

•Pandora bracelet with charms \$30-55-, \$30-200

The most thoughtful and caring gift to give your favorite women this holiday season. After you buy the bracelet you can buy her the Pandora charms for every special occasion!

•A puppy (prices vary)

Every little kid's dream is to open a box with a cute, loving puppy in it. Make sure to put breathing holes in the box!

•Gift Cards (prices vary)

Find out what your giftee's favorite store is and let them pick their own holiday gift. This is a great last minute solution to the holiday gift crisis.

A Holiday with Dangers at Bay

Lily Weisblatt

Reporter

'Tis the season for hospital trips. A season that is meant to be filled with cheer and family is unfortunately often filled with bandages and emergency rooms. The decorations that people work so hard to put up each year cause them more pain than they like to think. Each year, decorating for the holidays leads to approximately 14,000 emergency room visits for cuts, falls, burns and electric shocks. The beautiful, twinkling lights that are strung up each year are a formidable opponent.

According to surveys, an unfortunate number of people were never taught the lesson that electricity does not belong in our mouths, wrapped around our hands or touching water. It might seem funny to others, but a burnt tongue or hand is not really a great present to oneself. We should probably keep electric lights off the appetizer menu at dinner.

Speaking of cooking, please, please, please, keep a watch on stoves, ovens, cook tops, microwaves, and grills. The holiday season is the number one time for house fires. Holiday dinners, crackling fires and even those festive candles can be hazardous. Be careful not to leave the bubbling cranberry sauce unwatched, and those Hannukah candles should be blown out before bedtime. The candles that are perched near a dry evergreen tree are very important. The second the wax or flame starts to near the leaves, blow it out! Nearly 600 fires per year have been started by

ignition of Christmas trees in the US. The fires are mostly caused by light malfunctions and candles, so look out! One broken bulb can cause a peaceful snowy night to turn into a scene pierced by wailing sirens. The story of "The Night Our Christmas Tree

Caught on Fire" will definitely bring laughs to the dinner table, but wait a while before retelling the story, at least until Mom fixes the burn spots.

Common sense is the number one needed present during the holiday season. Here are a few tips to keep happy, healthy, and un-electrocuted:

- Lights belong on trees and around the house, not in mouths.
- Spotters are invaluable to the decorating cause, and having distractions around is not a great idea.
- Pets may like playing with ornaments on the tree, or the tree itself, but they may not like it when the tree falls on them. Hang ornaments at least a foot off the ground to avoid.
- Count candles! If the number of candles lit doesn't match the number of candles blown out, go take another look around the house.
- While deep-fried turkey sounds....mouth-watering....either leave it to the pros, or have



Photo courtesy of timtim.com

the local fire fighters on speed dial.

- Ladders do not equal jungle gyms.
- Ornaments are not footballs, soccer balls, or basket balls.
- Lights and water do not mix. Especially not when there is a dry evergreen nearby to catch the spark.
- Be smart! If you're not sure about whether something is safe or not...do it anyway and then write in and tell us what happened! (Please, do not actually take this advice. It was merely a joke. Do not do it.)

Student Shoutouts

Need Advice? Email
Llistening@gmail.com

WAY TO GO KEY CLUB FOR
COLLECTING OVER 200 CANS!

This is for Mrs.
Mathewson &
everyone who
walked for a cure!
We love You!!
Period 5

Anyone want to see their
shout out in the
newspaper? Submit to
room 418. All shoutouts
cost \$1.

Happy Birthday
Frezette!
-Sada

Mantis
Strike!
- Amanda
Flesher

Dear Mr. Feinstein,
Thank you for all of the quizzes.
--From your students

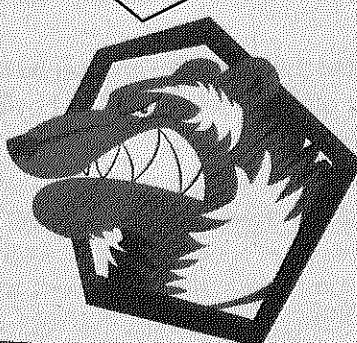
Shoutout to my boy
head swim coach Bob
Lombardi!

Ask Laura and Leigh...

L&L,

HOW MUCH DOES HEIGHT COUNT IN A RELATIONSHIP, OR WHEN SEARCHING FOR SOMEONE TO BEGIN A RELATIONSHIP WITH? MY FRIEND AND I HAVE DIFFERENT OPINIONS ON THIS. I DON'T BELIEVE HEIGHT MATTERS, SO LONG THAT THE PERSON HAS GOOD, REDEEMING QUALITIES. MY FRIEND, HOWEVER, THINKS THAT NO GIRL WOULD DATE A BOY SHORTER THAN HER, OR THAT A BOY WOULD DATE A GIRL TALLER THAN HIM, NO MATTER HOW MUCH THEY WOULD BE GOOD TOGETHER. HOW MUCH DOES IT MATTER, IF IT DOES AT ALL?

-ANTI-PROCRUSTES



DEAR ANTI- PROCRUSTES**
IF YOU BOTH FEEL COMFORTABLE WITH ONE ANOTHER, HEIGHT DOESN'T MATTER AT ALL, AND SHOULD NOT PLAY A ROLE IN DETERMINING IF A RELATIONSHIP WILL WORK. BE SURE TO CONSIDER YOUR RELATIONSHIP.
DON'T FRET,
L&L

**ACCORDING TO GREEK MYTH, PROCRUSTES WAS A ROBBER WHO OFFERED TRAVELERS HIS BED AND EITHER STRETCHED OR LOPPED OFF THEIR LIMBS SO THAT THEY WOULD FIT; HE SYMBOLIZES CONFORMITY.

NICK & NORA HOWE ALI

WHAT COLLEGES DO YOU PLAN ON GOING TO?

I plan on going to one of the following: Radford, Longwood, or VCU.

I've gotten into V.T, but I have also applied to four other schools.

IF YOU TOOK A CROSS COUNTRY TRIP, WHAT PLACES WOULD YOU STOP AT?

Chicago, California, and Texas

Seattle, Yellowstone Park, the Grand Canyon or Chicago

WHAT IS THE MOST EMBARRASSING THING THAT HAPPENED TO YOU DURING HIGH SCHOOL?

Sophomore and junior year I straightened my hair, I thought it looked good but now I think it looks wretched. I guess that's kinda embarrassing.

One time I had a really hot sub and everyone in class was talking. He told us to be quiet but everyone was still talking. I told them, "Stop talking! He is trying to talk to me!" He just stared at me like uh..... and got angry after that.

WHAT DO YOU DO IN YOUR FREE TIME?

Write music, listen to music, and chill (and play video games but I don't want to look like a nerd)

More things than you can imagine!

WHAT JOB DO YOU WANT TO HAVE?

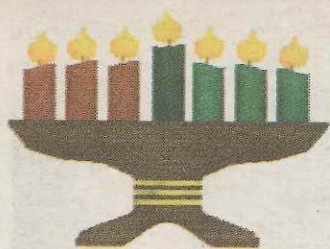
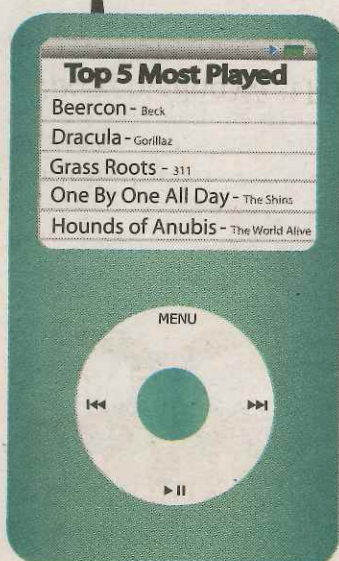
Something with music

ENGINEERING!

IF YOU WERE EVER SENT TO JAIL, WHAT CRIME WOULD YOU HAVE COMMITTED?

Probably for stealing

Well I have three...
1. Passionate murder of Emily Smith!
2. Kidnapping a hot professional soccer player.
3. Killing Shawn White despite Alex Marinello.



Just for Fun!



West Po Lingo

Sami Kadonoff
Reporter

Upon entering West Potomac, one might feel a culture shock. This dictionary is to help those who may be less informed.

AVA- (n) Acronym that is used to refer to Alexandria, Virginia.

CRUSTY- (adj) disgusting; repulsive; used to describe someone that more or less repulses others with both their appearance and actions.

GIX- (n) 1. a person who has partially committed themselves to another by means of frequent texting, calling, or hanging out, without official labeling such as boyfriend or girlfriend. 2. (v) the act of engaging in the aforementioned

HYPE- 1. (v) to over exaggerate as if to create an overly positive or negative reaction. i.e. "Don't hype it, it's not a big deal." Also used to express excitement, as in, "I'm so hyped for your party" 2. (n) used when talking about something, usually an event, that has been overly talked about. i.e. "Wow, that concert was not even that good, that was some hype."

HYPE-SQUAD- a group of students, primarily seniors who can be seen at nearly every football game sporting neon yellow shirts and vuvuzelas, and are always loud enough to trump any other cheers omitted by the other team.

ROLL- (v) 1. to leave; i.e. "time to roll" 2. to be kicked out; i.e. "roll means roll" or "yeah, you guys got to roll"

SCOOP- to pick up usually by car; i.e. "I'll come scoop you so we can go out to lunch"

Holiday Word Find

S	J	D	T	U	M	V	S	X	U	J	V	G	X	Z
N	S	C	U	W	M	P	Z	E	S	Z	C	T	Q	S
L	I	G	H	T	S	B	V	G	L	P	T	G	K	E
J	S	Q	A	B	P	K	R	M	O	D	Q	X	H	N
G	I	N	G	E	R	B	R	E	A	D	N	Z	M	G
Z	M	B	O	Q	N	B	B	N	A	S	J	A	Q	O
X	N	E	M	W	O	N	S	N	L	K	O	C	C	N
E	V	K	T	K	F	H	R	E	P	N	L	R	E	G
Y	H	C	E	R	O	L	G	F	R	Y	L	R	Z	G
Z	A	X	M	P	M	N	A	X	E	D	Y	C	P	E
R	R	J	P	V	A	L	J	K	S	L	G	J	C	X
Z	W	I	Y	P	L	B	X	O	E	J	J	V	I	Q
T	N	K	V	R	N	U	U	U	N	S	E	Y	E	F
G	U	X	F	U	E	N	F	N	T	A	D	G	Y	H
C	J	W	Z	S	S	O	C	H	S	I	S	U	S	V

ANGELS
EGGNOG
LIGHTS
SNOWFLAKES

BREAK
GINGERBREAD
PRESENTS
SNOWMEN

CANDLES
JOLLY
SHOPPING