

## Revolution in Egypt

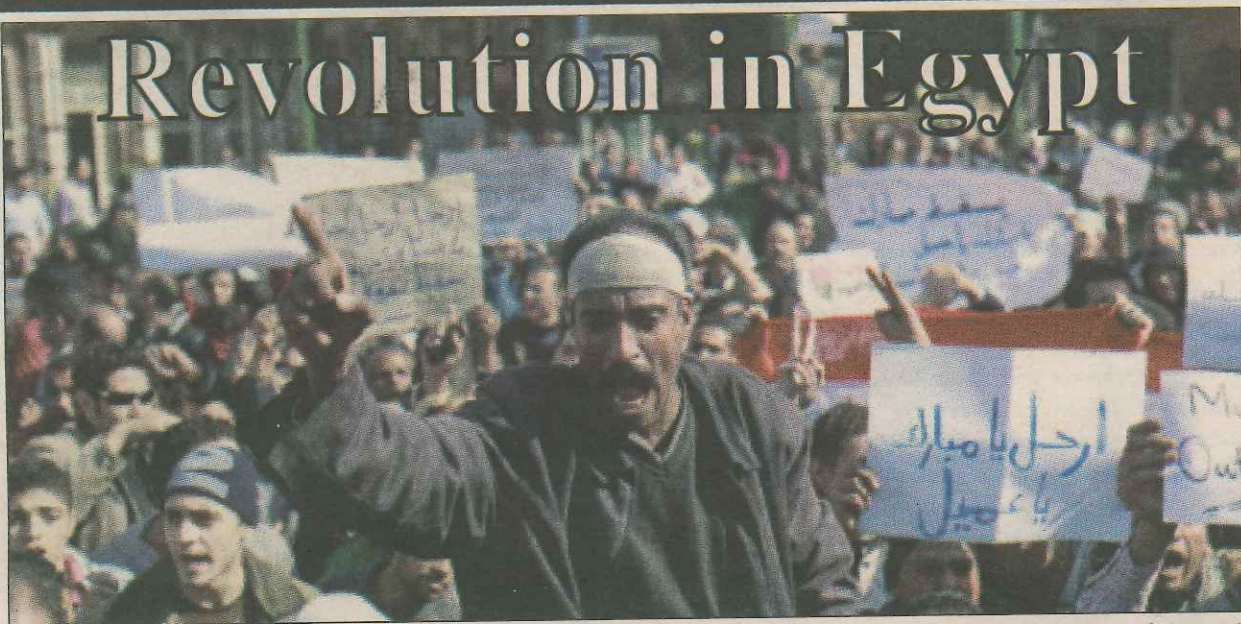


Photo courtesy of Rianovosti

**Camille DiFolco**  
Editor-in-Chief

Unrest in the Middle East: sound familiar? This time the center of turmoil is Egypt where protestors have been active for nearly three weeks in efforts to overthrow the current government.

Since January 25, the streets of Cairo have been engulfed by riotous protestors, halting travel to and from the country and drawing the attention of world leaders. The revolution began in opposition to Egyptian president Hosni Mubarak, a former Air Force commander who has been in power for almost 30 years.

Egyptian Vice President Omar Suleiman announced the creation of two committees to oversee constitutional changes on January 28, but protestors were not appeased. Inspired by the successful revolution in Tunisia,

revolutionaries opposed the intense poverty, widespread unemployment, and autocratic government under Mubarak. The current revolution is the greatest uprising since the 1970s. Police responded to initial protests by blocking Facebook and Twitter in Egypt, and repelling protestors with tear gas, batons, and water cannons, but riots continue almost three weeks later. Protests have since spread from Cairo to Alexandria and Suez, two other major cities.

On February 1, protestors flooded Cairo's main Tahrir Square, calling for one million supporters of their cause to show up. "Tahrir" means "liberation," and is thus an apt spot for the protestors to gather in opposition to Mubarak's regime. Internet service returned on February 2, and on Friday, February 4, more protests were staged. Roads into flashpoint cities like Alexandria, Suez, and Fanoum were blocked by the army.

The Obama Administration announced last week that

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## Does the media influence body image?

**Emily Griffin**  
Editor-in-Chief

The media affects many aspects of our lives, including one of the most important aspects—our bodies.

Since the beginning of time, the media has dictated what should be considered beautiful and what should be accounted as ugly. Due to all of the negative light the media has shone on women, they have become more sensitive and vulnerable about their body image. There are many ways the media, both directly and indirectly, influences the public on what women should strive to look like. Senior Kristen Powell stated "I think all people do these days is try to be thin, it is what they see and what they hear all the time."

The first role of the media is the magazines. In every tabloid magazine out there, they are constantly judging the women for imperfect



Photo courtesy of krisariza.wordpress.com

Many magazine covers cause women to feel depressed about their body and the way they look.

bodies and plastering their flaws for the world to see. Because of all this exposure, the diet industry has flourished and is estimated to be worth an upwards between 40-100 billion dollars. "Research indicates exposure to images of thin, young, air-brushed female bodies are linked to depression, loss of self-esteem and the development of unhealthy eating habits in women and girls," according to media-awareness.ca. This leads to serious eating disorders and crash diets by many young women. The American research group, Anorexia Nervosa & Related Eating Disorders Incorporation, stated "one out

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## Citation for cutting classes in Texas schools

**Tyler Arnold**  
Reporter

Sitting in Saturday school is bad enough for most students, but imagine getting issued a ticket for acting up in class. This policy may seem extremely drastic, but it is happening in American schools in districts all over Texas. They are trying this method of forcing students to show up in court if they do anything that the teachers decided is "wrong." These districts are cracking down on students ranging from kindergarten to high school. Junior Spencer Watkins said, "This policy is just ridiculous and the fact that they have to use tickets to control this huge range of kids shows the lack of organization in these schools." This new method of punishment is aimed to criminalize misbehavior and fall under the category of anything from cursing in class to skipping school.

One twist for this seemingly radical solution to student misbehavior is the fact that if a police officer gives a student a ticket then they stay in school and are not suspended. This means that they miss no school time and only face court penalties therefore giving them the ability to continue to learn and stay up to date with the class work. Suspending students does force them out of school for a set time period, but this approach can be helpful because a small percent of students should not be in school. The majority of students learn well in school and suspension does send the right message for them while also keeping out the kids who just cannot learn. Junior Elise Butler agreed stating, "Suspension has been the main force of punishment in schools for years and the system seems to work well. There should be no need to suddenly give tickets for something that would otherwise be punishable with a suspension." In the end, suspension is a strong tool the school system uses and it works very well while at the same time acting as a less harsh form of punishment other than a ticket.

Our own school has been enforcing new policies lately, from the grade changes to cutting honors classes, but could we see this policy for our students in the future? According to CNN's Steve Perry the founder of Capital Prep Magnet School, this concept of ticketing students is "a last ditch effort of adults who cannot control children." He continued to state giving tickets to children for cursing is not the right thing to do and the proper way to establish authority is to establish the proper connection for the kid to respect the teacher. West Potomac may not see this new type of policy in the near future, but this drastic change in school rules shows that teachers and administrators will go to any lengths possible to control misbehavior.

The issue is the tickets, but maybe the real problem lies in the communication between students and teachers. Many students claim that if teachers would be more forthcoming with feedback and expectations, then the level of misbehavior would decrease. Arthur W. Chickering and Zelda F. Gamson from The American Association for Higher Education Bulletin wrote a piece outlining the seven principles of a good teacher. These concepts consist of encouraging contact between students and faculty, developing reciprocity,

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Photo courtesy of akfca.org

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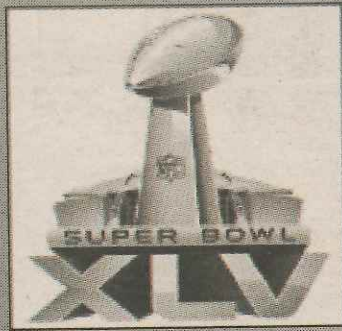


Photo courtesy of sportsnewscaster.com

You already know who won -- now read about the finer points of the Super Bowl.

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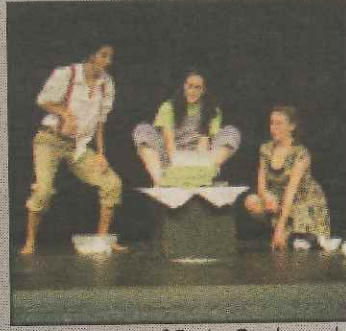


Photo courtesy of Sonia Garakyaraghi

Check out the review of West Potomac's "A Night of One Acts."

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Photo courtesy of Teen Hollywood

Which films deserve an Academy Award and which fell flat?

Senior Corner Page 12



Photo courtesy of Clare Palo

Find out which senior couples are featured on the back page...



## Bring pencils, paper, and a bullet-proof vest

**Caitlin Schroeder**  
Reporter

What would you do if you heard gunfire echoing through your school? Some students had to answer that question in life or death situations within their "safe" schools. The question of school safety was on the backburner for many students, parents, and administrators until April 20, 1999, when two students walked into Columbine High School and killed fourteen students and one teacher in what was the worst high school massacre in American history.

284 students have been killed as a direct result of school violence in the United States from 1999 to 2010 according to schoolsecurity.org, and gunfire in a school setting seems to be on a frightening rise this year alone. On January 5, 2011 a suspended high school senior stormed into his Nebraska school, shooting and killing the vice principal, wounding the principal, and then committing suicide. On January 14, 2011 five teenagers were wounded during in a gunfight after hours in Brooklyn at a Bishop Loughlin Memorial High School basketball game. On January 18th, a concealed gun brought by a student to Gardena High in California accidentally discharged wounding two teenage classmates.

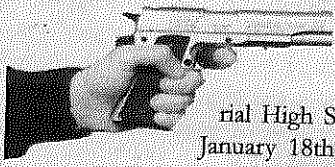


Photo courtesy of forensicarchaeology.org

At West Potomac, the administration and security staff have many precautions and procedures in place to ensure the safety of both the students and faculty. Lockdown drills are used as a preparation exercise to demonstrate what to do in a dangerous intruder situation. However, as infrequent as these drills are, some wonder how effective they really are.

Security officer, Debora Rife, explained Fairfax County Public Schools are only required to perform one lockdown drill a year, with West Potomac performing one to two every school year. "Lockdown drills are effective in showing security where we are weak," she stated, "it gives students an experience similar to that as if a shooter were in the building."

The cameras installed last year are another way for security to keep the school safe. 360 degree video cameras cover all the main entrances of the school with a live video feed transmitting to Rife's and fellow security administrator's portable devices.

These methods and procedures have some students feeling safe and secure at school, while others still worry about their personal safety and that of their peers.

One West Potomac student claimed he had seen numerous weapons in students' possession on school grounds including dart guns, combat knives, and BB rifles, which are prohibited on school grounds and will result in recommendation for expulsion. However, there is no doubt students, faculty, and parents put more time, more effort, and more resources into school safety than they did twelve years ago to ensure the welfare of every individual walking the halls.

## Listen to your mother

**Clare Palo**  
Photographer

Do you like it Western style or Asian style? Would you like to be bruised and brilliant, or okay and ordinary? How should parents be raising their children in regard to schoolwork and discipline? Say "I do not want to practice anymore," to a tiger mother and see what you get.

Amy Chua, author of memoir, "Battle Hymn of the Tiger Mother," said cutting off children from social activities and expecting pure perfection, is the best and only successful approach. The Chinese philosophy consists of forcing children to put in hours of study, no play dates or sleepovers, and surrendering to fingernail practices of piano (or violin). Usually sports aren't allowed, because that would be distracting from their studies. Some Chinese parents even use physical motivation such as corporal punishment to encourage their children to work harder and exceed the goal. But does the philosophy actually work?

Different from the Chinese style of parenting, Western Style "settles" for a "B" and a state university school, opposed to an "A" and Harvard. "Tenacious practice, practice is crucial for excellence; rote repetition is underrated in America," Chua said in the Washington Post. The American way of raising children is for them to try their hardest, whatever that might be, and to live up to that goal. Americans believe that kids go to school to get a job, while Asians go to school to be the absolute best at that job.

Chinese-style and many Asian households expect children to attend Ivy League schools, even though the Chinese philosophy of drilling children to reach their goal can produce terrible long-term results. Many argue that the obsession with perfection in regard to education can be detrimental to a child's development. Is all this torture to be flawless worth it in the long run? Many Asian students and adults need years of therapy to recover from their tortuous childhood. The mindset that "you are not good enough" can cause psychotic breakdowns and can even lead to depression or suicide in adults and teens.

In Chua's memoir, she recalls a critical moment in her young teenage daughter's life, describing her breakdown in a public restaurant, due to the pressure her mother was putting on her. Though Chua did confess that her fixation on perfection was a bit excessive, Chua's daughter admitted that the push was indeed helpful in the long run. Sophomore, Jhunyae Kim, born in a Korean household, agrees that the standards Asian kids are expected to reach can be extreme. "My parents do not force corporal punishment on me, or beat me, but they do show disappointment when I do not reach their goal," commented Kim. Kim, like Chua's daughter, has found that the push is beneficial in the end when say, handed back the "A" on a math test.

So, is the Asian style of expecting excellence, really worth the price? Amy Chua decided that the system may be too harsh at times, but if it gets the job done, parents can deal with the negative effects later...once their child gets the acceptance letter from Harvard.

## Students who pray together, win together

**Karley Zdebski**  
Assistant Focus Editor

After two years in running, the Fellowship of Christian Athletes [FCA] club is still in the game, perhaps through the strong commitment of the 'players' and the power of prayer. Physical Education teacher Casey Grubbs is the sponsor of the inspirational and heartfelt club, FCA. Grubbs stated, "I've been involved in athletics for a long time and am also a follower of Jesus Christ." The club is a chance for all fellow believers to gather and grow in their faith.

The organization offers anyone a chance to join in the school. Grubbs said, "Since the FCA deals mostly with athletes, there are a lot of schedules to accommodate practices, games, and we even have some people that compete in sports that are not sponsored by the school and have private coaches, finding meeting times continues to be a challenge for our club." This year, the club meets on every other Wednesday. The meetings, called Huddles, have a time of fellowship-like playing games or doing some sort of activity, followed by Bible study and prayer. In addition, the students chat about their everyday life and offer plentiful encouragement towards each other. As it is known that there a lot of negative pressures and temptations, especially in high school, the students in the club can encourage each other to make the right decisions. One of the leaders, sophomore Megan Panagopoulos, said, "This club gives students a chance to pray for each other and pray for our school. All of the FCA members are there to encourage each other to do what is

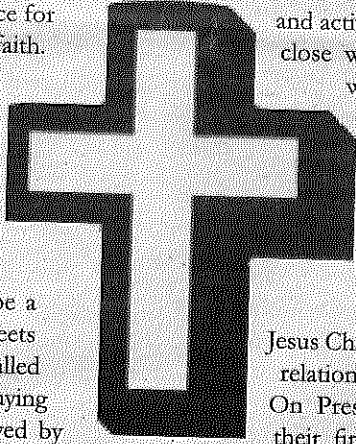
Godly because we are facing a lot of the same problems. It also gives everyone a chance to learn and grow together."

Other leaders of the club include, senior Alex Graybill, senior Kevin Prescott, sophomore Emily Marr, and sophomore Kelsie Whalen. Each leader contributes a unique and cheering spin to the club with different chances to take charge. Leaders help to recruit others, but are mainly there to talk amongst the group and support other members and peers. Leaders have the ability to organize meetings with bible verses and activities to get to know each other and become close with God. Whalen remarked, "We do not

worry about the number of students in our club, but more importantly being grateful for the club and who is in it. We open it for anyone who would like to join and we invite everyone to join us!" The FCA mission statement is: To present athletes and coaches and all whom they influence the challenge and adventure of receiving

Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, serving Him in their relationships and in the fellowship of the church. On President's day, the FCA members attended their first club happening at a local bowling alley. After bowling, the club had a twenty minute bible study from Romans 12. Grubbs remarked,

"Our Huddle is definitely in the beginning stages of growth. We have several enthusiastic leaders with different backgrounds that play different sports. Students are encouraged to pray daily, thanking God for the things that they have been blessed with and also to raise prayers for both themselves and for those that they care about. Future events include a BBQ, different games, and laser-tag."



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## Body image, cont.

of every four college-aged women uses unhealthy methods of weight control—including fasting, skipping meals, excessive exercise, laxative abuse, and self-induced vomiting.”

On average, researchers have found that women's magazines print approximately 10.5 times more weight loss advertisements than men's magazines. However, there were recent approaches taken to have the magazine industry appeal to all women sizes. “For several years the Quebec magazine ‘Coup de Pouce’ has consistently included full-sized women in their fashion pages and ‘Châtelaine’ has pledged not to touch up photos and not to include models less than 25 years of age,” media-awareness.ca said. Still, the media stated the only reason they continue to publicize thin models is because of the marketplace and in the advertising business “thin is in.” In the 1980's the average model weighed approximately 8 percent less than the average woman. Nowadays the average model weighs 23 percent less than the average woman; this does not include the increase in obesity reported media-awareness.ca. Powell believes women are more prone to achieve a thin look because “women always want a fast response to looking better, whether its crash diets, diet pills, or even bulimia or anorexia.”

The massive amount of pressures from both the media and peers to be thin has been the source of many diets for women. Media activist Jean Kilbourne concluded, “Women are sold to the diet industry by the magazines we read and the television programs we watch, almost all of which make us feel anxious about our weight.” Nowadays, it has been cited that dieting between the ages of 6 and 12 years has been considered common. “I know many of people who strive to be thin and it has effected them in many ways, none of which being good ways,” said Powell. Overall research indicates that 90% of women are dissatisfied with their appearance in some way, reported

media-awareness.ca. Other explanations for the recent studies of how the media is consistently making women regret their bodies and themselves are the advertisements Americans see every day on television. The average American sees three thousand ads per day. Almost all commercial media aimed at women are supported by advertising revenue from the fashion, beauty, diet, and food industries, and their survival depends on their ability to please their sponsors, stated ourbodiesourselves.org.

Many girls grow up playing with Barbie dolls and try to achieve the same look as Barbie while they are growing up. However, researchers found out through a computer generated model that Barbie's body proportions would cause great physical stress and harm to the body. “[If] a real woman [was] built that way [she] would suffer from chronic diarrhea and eventually die from malnutrition,” reported media-awareness.ca. President of Mattel distributions (manufacturer of Barbie dolls) Jill Barad stated that 99% of girls between the ages of 3 to 10 owned at least one Barbie doll and were most likely influenced to look like Barbie.

A study was recently conducted in which women were shown slides of thin models and average to oversized models. After viewing the thin models the women had lower self-evaluations than the people who had seen average and oversized models. Girls reported in a “Body Image Survey” that “very thin” models made them feel insecure about themselves. While Powell does not let the media dictate her life and her perceptions of herself, she understands how others can be sucked into all of the media hype. She concluded by stating in the media “there is always [the] ‘pretty, skinny, gorgeous’ people that can make others feel bad about themselves.” All of these facts prove that the media has impacted women on their body image.

## Egypt, cont.

it would review the military and non-military aid provided to Egypt in the wake of the protests. President Obama also gave a speech in which he revealed that he'd spoken with Mubarak and urged him to take “concrete steps” towards reform.

The volatile situation in Egypt is troubling to the US for a number of reasons. Egypt acted as one of the chief arbitrators in the Israel-Palestine peace treaty, and if a new regime is installed in Egypt, it could upset the treaty. Others fear that the current government could be replaced by an equally unfit party, such as the violent Muslim Brotherhood. The revolution in Egypt was inspired by the successful Tunisian Revolution, (in much the same way as the French looked to the successful American Revolution for inspiration in 1789), but with the situation equally tenuous in Yemen and Jordan, a domino effect

could occur in the Middle East.

West Potomac students expressed their feelings about the turmoil in Egypt.

“I think the Egyptian people have every right to rebel against their oppressive government and demand democracy,” said senior Kyle Skudlarek.

Senior Sarah Slichter agreed, “I am happy that a ruler who was grotesquely abusing his power is being ousted and am optimistic about Egypt's future.”

With ongoing riots and Mubarak desperately trying to retain his power, the only certainty is that Egypt will not solve its problems overnight. One can only hope that the casualty count does not grow as the struggle continues.

## Tickets, cont.

encouraging active learning, giving prompt feedback, emphasizing time on task, communicating high expectations, and respecting diverse talents and ways of learning. If each of these ideals were put to work in those Texas schools then ticketing students would not need to be necessary.

Norris,  
why don't you ever pick  
me up in the morning  
anymore?  
Yours Truly,  
WALKING TO  
SCHOOL

O'Grady,  
Please stop acting so  
freaking shady!  
From  
BC

Falling in love with you is  
like peanut butter. Sticky,  
sweet, and Connor Chilton  
can't touch it.  
Love,  
A

Russell,  
Thanks for being the  
world's most chill  
teacher!  
Your favorite  
student

To My fellow members of  
“The Five”: Thanks for mak-  
ing this year so awesome!  
Even you, Kati, who  
makes the rest of us  
look bad!

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## WOLVERINE WARRIORS COACHES EDITION Coach David Houston

Jack King  
Sports Editor



"Coach Houston is one of the most motivating coaches I have ever played for. He pushes us hard and always encourages us to reach our full potential," commented junior Todd Ferri. That is only one way to describe the relationship between head varsity basketball coach David Houston and his players. However, this is not the only trait that makes him a great coach and worthy of the title "Wolverine Warrior." During the past seven seasons that Houston has been at West Potomac, he has transformed the basketball program into a force to be reckoned with throughout the Northern Region. After winning a Patriot District championship last year and leading his team to a ten win season so far, Houston is more than worthy of the "Coaches Edition of Wolverine Warriors."

Houston grew up in Springfield, Virginia and enjoyed basketball at a young age. He then went on to play high school basketball for West Springfield High School. After high school Houston went on to play ball in college. "I played Division 1 Basketball at Coppin State College in Baltimore, Maryland," said Houston. He also played professionally in the Philippines for a brief amount of time.

Houston was an assistant coach at West Springfield before receiving the head coaching job at West Potomac. Prior to accepting the head coaching job, West Potomac had only won two games. In his first two years at West Potomac, he turned the program around and won sixteen games. Then in his third year the team advanced to the regional tournament for the first time in eight years. During his fourth year he led the team to the Patriot District championship and in his sixth year he led the team to a Patriot District title.

Despite losing a lot of experienced players last year, the basketball team hasn't missed a beat. This year the team has a current record of 10-6 and also won the Wakefield Holiday Tournament with senior Daryl Copeland winning the most valuable player award and senior Jalen Dawson and sophomore Brandon Pressley were voted to the all-tournament team. "Losing so many seniors (last year), many people thought that we wouldn't win many games at all but now we are currently 10-6 due to all of the hard work the guys put in during the off-season," stated Houston.

There are many other things that make Coach Houston a true Wolverine Warrior outside of just titles and records. Houston is a coach who enjoys the experience of coaching and enjoys the challenging aspects of being a coach. "I enjoy the challenge of trying to teach 12-13 young men to be on the same page at the same time," commented Houston. "Our league is the best in the region, so the challenge of winning in the district is great." Houston also recognizes the hard work of his players and assistant coaches who are essential to the success of the entire organization. "I really like the coaches and players are West Potomac and I know how hard the kids play and try and how much time the assistant coaches put in," said Houston.

Houston has had more than an enormous effect on the basketball program at West Potomac. He took a program that was struggling, rebuilt it, and turned it into something that both the school and the entire community are now very proud of.

# The Pack brings back the Lombardi Trophy

Jack King  
Sports Editor

It is fourth down and five yards to go. Ben Roethlisberger's pass falls incomplete, and longtime Cheese-Head Tommy Friederich falls to his knees in tears. The Green Bay Packers had just defeated the Pittsburgh Steelers to win Super Bowl XLV. In a thrilling game the Packers were able to outlast the Steelers winning 31 to 25 despite losing key players such as Wide Receiver Donald Driver and defender Charles Woodson. By forcing the Steelers to make mistakes and taking advantage of turnovers, the Packers simply out played Pittsburgh to win their fourth Super Bowl title and their first since 1996.

The first half was totally owned by Green Bay in nearly every aspect of the game. Green Bay quarterback Aaron Rodgers came out on fire from the start to put his team up 21 to 3 by the end of the first half. However, the Steelers seemed to come out of the tunnel after halftime with a totally new attitude. Ben Roethlisberger lead the Steelers in the third quarter to score 14 unanswered points to cut the Packers lead to just four points. However, when the Steelers running back Rashard Mendenhall fumbled the ball at the beginning of the fourth quarter and the Packers recovered, the Packers seemingly took control of the game.

Quarterback Aaron Rodgers picked a great night to have the game of his career. "It's the top of the mountain for my sport and my profession," said Rodgers after winning the game. "It's what you dream about as a kid and think about in high school and college." From the beginning of the game, Rodgers tore down the Steelers "steel curtain" defense

as if it was more of a bed sheet. Rodgers outplayed the defense as well as Pittsburgh quarterback Ben Roethlisberger completing 24 of 39 passes, throwing for 304 yards, and three touchdowns. Rodgers was named Most Valuable Player of Super Bowl XLV.

Something that his predecessor Brett Favre never did in all of his years with Green Bay. Rodgers joined Packers legend Bart Starr as the only Packers quarterbacks to be named a Super Bowl MVP's.

The Packer's defense was also key in the victory. Safety Nick Collins intercepted a pass and returned it for a touchdown in the first half to put the Pack up by 14. The pressure up front by Green

Bay's defensive line was also key in shutting down the Steelers offense and causing them to make mistakes all night long. The pressure caused quarterback Ben Roethlisberger to throw two interceptions and the much expected physicality of linebacker A.J. Hawk forced the fumble by Rashard Mendenhall at the beginning of the fourth quarter to shift

all the momentum of the game to the Packers.

Winning the Super Bowl is historic and special for any team, but there is something about the Packers winning the Super Bowl that just makes it a little sweeter. There is something special about a team that has no single owner, but instead is owned by all of the citizens and fans of the town in which the team resides.

There is something special about the history and the tradition of winning in Green Bay instilled by legendary coach Vince Lombardi in which the Super Bowl trophy is named after. There is simply nothing more magical and more spectacular than the Lombardi trophy finally coming home to Green Bay.

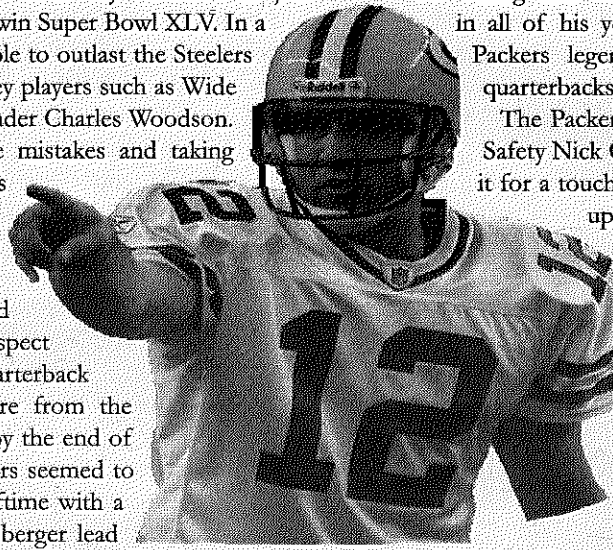


Photo courtesy of flint.com

Green Bay quarterback Aaron Rodgers was beyond clutch for the Packers in Super Bowl XLV. Rodgers is only the second Packers quarterback to win the Super Bowl MVP award.

# Steroids continue to cripple athletes on and off the field

Tommy Friederich  
Sports Editor

Breast enlargement, shrunken testicles, lowered sperm count; increased sex drive and decreased sexual performance are effects of anabolic steroids in men. In women, growth of facial hair, male pattern balding, deepened voice, and the formation of an Adam's apple. There are more concerns that come along when teens experiment with steroids, these added effects include severe acne and stunted growth. Steroids can ruin almost every aspect of your life; the risk of taking steroids outweighs the possible outcomes such as bigger muscles.

Athletes often turn to steroids for many reasons. It is true that steroids build muscle and give you the extra urge to work out, but the upside of steroids is heavily pulled down by the downside of steroids. Steroids have become more and more popular in the professional leagues of every sport and in a result, it has influenced more use at the collegiate and high school level. Junior baseball player Casey Hagan commented, "Steroids are a very serious matter in high school sports and specifically the sport I play. There has been so much use of steroids in baseball with all the big names such as

Barry Bond and Mark McGuire, and it's a shame because the success they had influences all athletes because they believe there will have this success as well. First

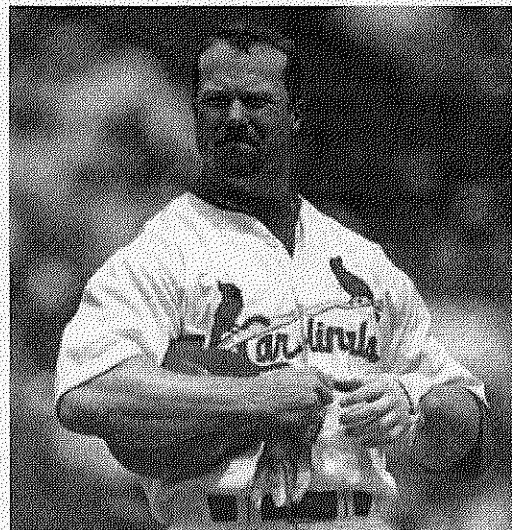


Photo courtesy of seattletimes.nwsource.com

Former MLB All-Star Mark McGwire recently admitted to steroid use while with the St. Louis Cardinals including his single season homerun record breaking season in 1998.

off, you will get caught either through random drug tests and if you don't get caught through a drug test, the damage on your body will expose the public to your use of steroids. Secondly, steroids will

affect you mentally such as a 'roid rage'."

There isn't a magic potion that will help an athlete gain muscle legally. The fact is that the only healthy way to gain muscle is hard work and discipline. There are plenty of ways athlete can make his or her body in the best way possible shape for one or more specific sports. The first thing an athlete needs to address is a healthy diet. "For an athlete there is a specific diet that most should stick to. First off, drink a lot of water because it is important to stay hydrated. When it comes to food, the safest bet is to eat food in its most natural state." Besides a diet, the most obvious way to make your body ready for sports is exercise. There are many types of exercise such as agility and weight lifting. Weight lifting is a great way to build. The great thing about weight lifting is that there is a lift for every part of your body.

The fact is that steroids are not the right choice for an athlete. If you want to hurt your body, ruin relationships and ruin yourself mentally, then yes take steroids. Athletes need to realize that the professional athletes who use steroids ruin their lives. They get caught and every accomplishment they have done in their life is discredited. Steroids are dangerous; you risk everything in your life by taking steroids.

BY THE NUMBERS

## 1,000

The number of points scored by senior Daryl Copeland in his basketball career at West Potomac. 6th player in West Potomac history to score 1,000 points in their career.

## 4

The place of the girls Swim and Dive team at the northern region meet. Highest place by the girls team at regionals since 1997.



## College aspirations can quickly disappear

**Tommy Friederich**  
Sports Editor

Seniors Jimmy Bennett, Daniel Carriker, Kevin Sydney and Dustin Hess are among few of the West Potomac athletes who have been recruited to play collegiate athletics. Some people believe playing sports in college is easy. First, getting a division 1, 2, or 3 scholarship in any sport is extremely challenging. The best player from each high school team usually is the only player to play for a division 1 university. Working towards getting a scholarship to play collegiate athletics is the easiest part of the process it takes to become an National Collegiate Athletic Association [NCAA] athlete. There are many requirements that many athletes are unaware about which cause them to slip up and mess their whole recruitment to the NCAA to go down the drain.

The NCAA recruitment process is very complicated and can be easily messed up if not taken serious. Simple mistakes can ruin someone's future not in college athletics but potential in all aspects of life. First, an athlete who is getting recruited must talk to their coach and get all the details on illegal and legal recruitment. Secondly, an athlete must be able to resist the temptation of recruiters who will do anything to get players to play sports at their school. A coach cannot actively recruit

a high school player until they are in the spring of their junior year. Former University of Colorado coach and current University of California Las Angeles coach brought his recruits to a strip bar to try and persuade high school football players to commit to playing at the University of Colorado. Heisman Trophy winners Reggie Bush and Cameron Newton both were caught up scandal involving recruitment. Both players were eligible given money thought out their career at their respected universities. "The first thing I knew I had to do was not getting caught up in recruitment scandals; luckily I did not have any coaches who brought up any shady situations. My biggest advice to athletes getting recruited, is take it very seriously. Make sure you trust your coach because he or she will end up doing the majority of the work for you. Coach Eric Henderson helped me a lot in my recruitment process," said Hess. Head football coach Eric Henderson sends out approximately 700 emails to college coaches every January. This email consists of his team's roster, varsity returners and standout players.



Photo Courtesy of Chris Beal

Dan Carriker signs his letter of intent to the University of Maine to play football. Dan is joined by his family, A.D. Aaron Helmick and the West Potomac football staff.

Recruiting high school athletes has put a dark shadow on collegiate sports. Most high school athletes don't understand that getting recruited is a huge step in their lives and that it can go wrong in a matter of hours. Remember than many athletes have ruined their future in sports because they were not responsible when getting recruited.

Sada Khan,  
Happy Birthday  
-Elizabeth  
Yemane

Little Lillian,  
Happy Valentine's  
Day.  
-Colleenie

Sada Khan,  
Happy Birthday  
Anna Dreyfuss

Colleen Sweeney,  
Happy Valentine  
Day  
-Anonymous

Melvin Ramirez,  
Thanks for always put-  
ting a smile on mine  
and Ms. Jones's face  
everyday. :-)  
Ms. Erin

Laraib,  
We love you!  
Your  
Family

The Five,  
Here is to long nights  
and copious amounts of  
coffee! Cheers!  
One of the Five

Latin Sutdents,  
Felix Lupercalia!  
Eugepael  
Mr. Rigby

Jon,  
Roses are red  
Violets are blue  
I like you  
and coldstone too!

Emily Griffin,  
You have given us 18  
years of happiness.  
Love, Mom and  
Dad

All Bait,  
Its me and you to-  
gether forever. Class  
of 2011 c'mon!  
@TRatedTe

Baby Girl,  
You make me smile.  
Happy Valentine's  
Day. I love you.  
Tiger

Heart-Broken Singles,  
Never get mad when you see  
your ex someone new. Your  
parents always taught you to  
give your old toys to the less  
fortunate. :-)  
Life/Rafa

2nd Period AP  
Government,  
Stay awake, arrive  
early and "Let it  
rage!"  
Hendo

# You have 3,000 friend requests.

*Share the best four years of your life with friends you will have forever.*

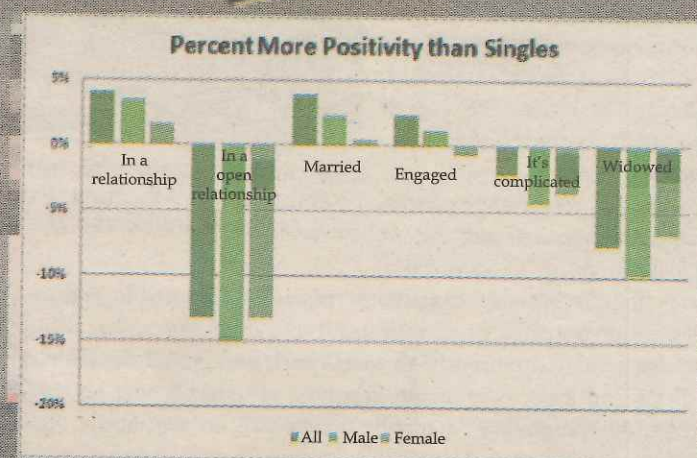
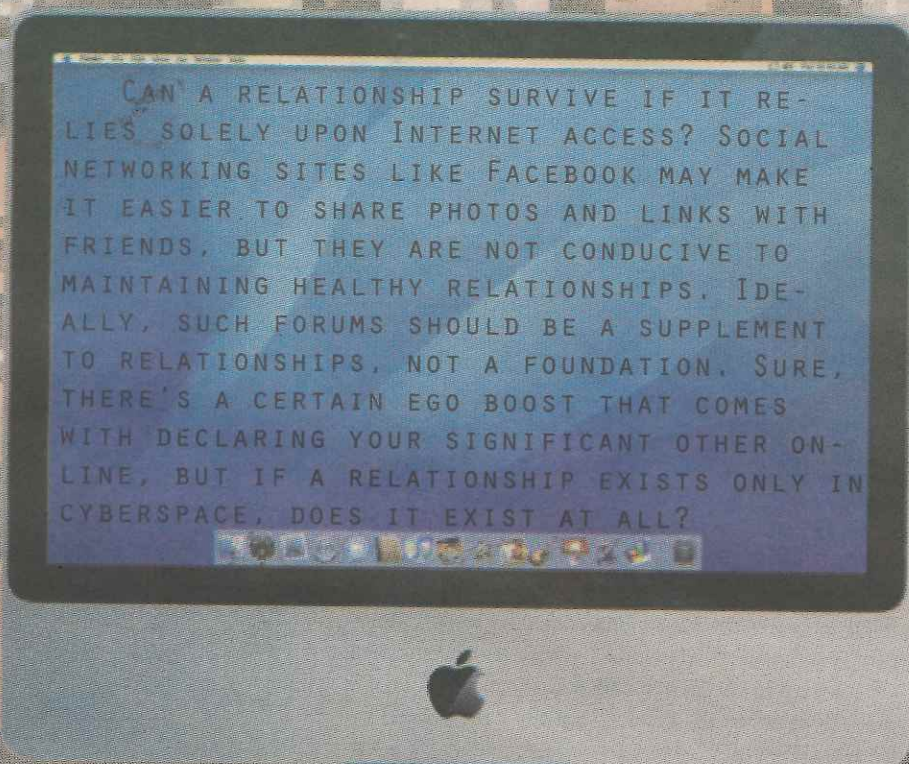


SIENACollege [www.siena.edu](http://www.siena.edu)



# It's complicated.

## DOES FACEBOOK RUIN RELATIONSHIPS?



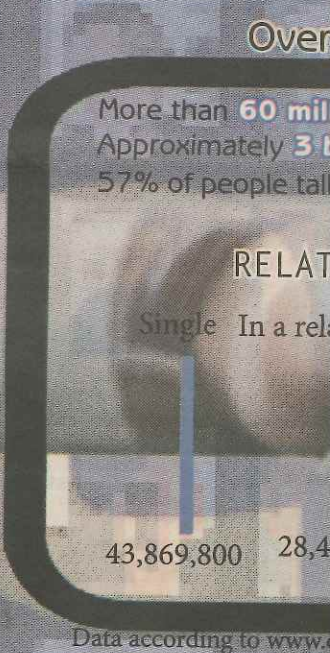
For one week in January 2010, Facebook monitored the usage of positive and negative words in status updates among users in different relationship statuses. This study was a part of the USA Gross National Happiness Index and showed that those listed as "in a relationship," "married," or "engaged" had significantly higher levels of happiness than those listed as "single."

"We're not in a relationship on Facebook because we are happy without it. We don't need to tell everybody we're together."

-Junior Erik Quinonez, on dating freshman Jill Larkin

"I like being in a Facebook relationship with my boyfriend because it lets everyone know we are dating."

-Junior Livvy Mickevicius, on being "Facebook official" with senior Brooks Lee



"No, I am not in a relationship with my girlfriend on Facebook. I think it is superficial. It's not meaningful because it's just a status on a website."

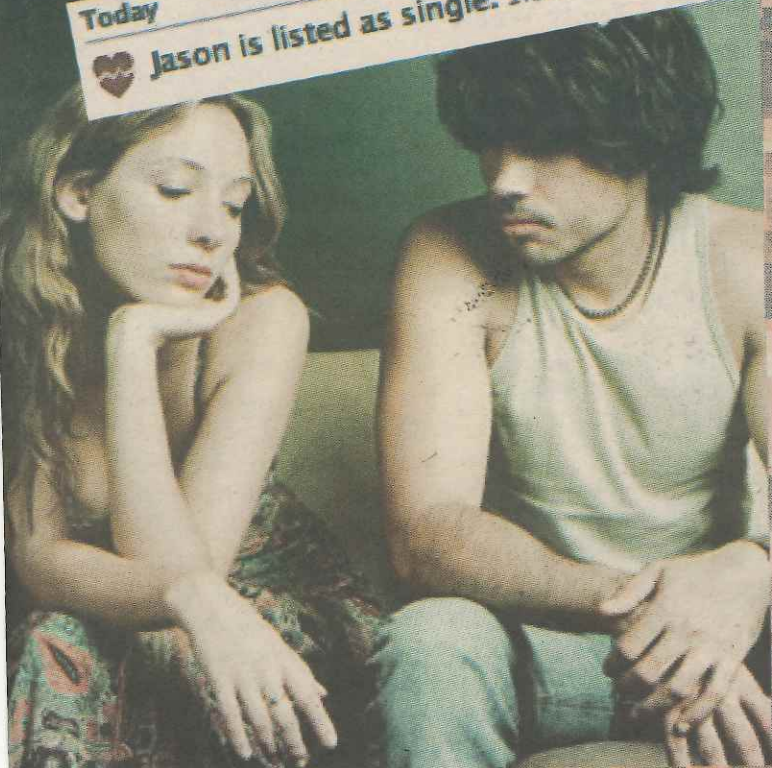
-Junior Tyler Arnold, on his Facebook relationship with junior Meredith Gilmore

"My girlfriend and I are listed as 'in a relationship' on Facebook but I think relationship statuses are overrated. If you really love someone, it doesn't matter if it's public or not."

-Junior Pace Woods, on his relationship with junior Zoe Slobodin



Today Jason is listed as single. 1:59am



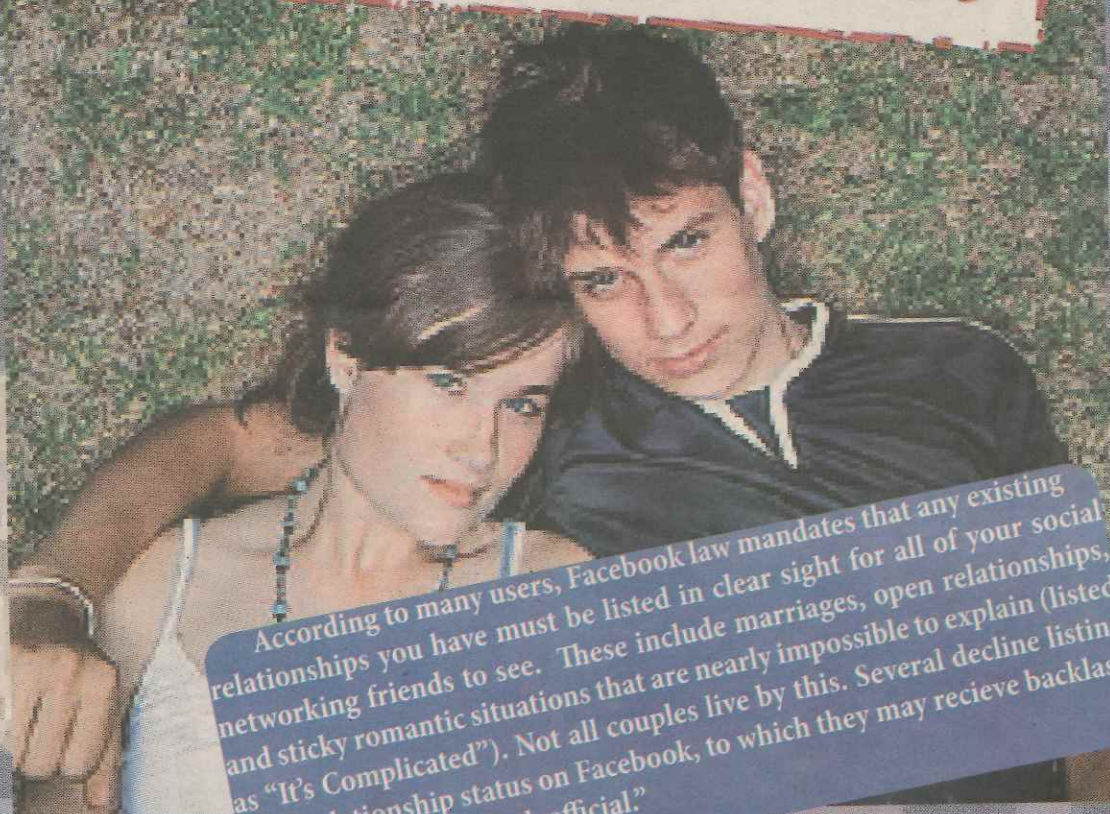
but social networking websites such as Facebook have made it easier than ever. Nowadays, all it takes is the click of a mouse to end a relationship. Several teenagers will even use Facebook as the sole method of letting their boyfriend or girlfriend know, "it's over." Imagine their partner's surprise when they log onto their account hours later, only to find they are now listed as "single." Perhaps even more demeaning than ending a relationship via Facebook is how one's "friends" will react to this online announcement and corresponding broken heart icon with comments of counterfeit encouragement, claiming that their pal "deserves better." Is it really necessary for personal quarrels and decisions to be broadcast on the Internet?

5 updates on any given day  
 10 photos uploaded to the site each month  
 10 people more online than they do in real life

Relationship Status	Count
Married	6,774,801
Engaged	5,974,574
It's complicated	3,025,791

ols.org

APPROVED



According to many users, Facebook law mandates that any existing relationships you have must be listed in clear sight for all of your social networking friends to see. These include marriages, open relationships, and sticky romantic situations that are nearly impossible to explain (listed as "It's Complicated"). Not all couples live by this. Several decline listing their relationship status on Facebook, to which they may receive backlash for "not being Facebook official."



is wondering why everybody is crabby today. on Tuesday

Clear Chat History

Steve

I love you

10:47pm

Pharmie

10:47 am

Love you too 😊

Kaylee

Clear Chat History

Kavlee

9:34pm

heyyyyyyyyyy

9:34pm

He  
hey babe

9:34pm

**Kaylee** 9:34p  
omg this new facebook chat is soooooo  
amazing! now we can talk all the time!

1000

love

yooooooooooooo

I think we should break up!

Pharmie

## Benjamin

**Kaylee**

Ashley

### 1 Online Friends (6)



## West Potomac students act out

Jade Toft  
Reporter

"Words, Words, Words" directed by senior Madeline Evans, was based off the saying "Give a monkey a typewriter and sooner or later she will write Hamlet." The actors "monkeyed" around on stage, bananas in hand and all. The acting was funny as the three girls transformed themselves into three very different monkeys. The only problem was the inconsistency of the costumes. Two of the monkeys sported overalls with big, obnoxious pigtailed. The last monkey looked more elegant, wearing a dress and French braids while bouncing around on a ball. All of the costumes should either further reflect the three personalities of the monkeys or be consistent for everyone. Other than the costume problem, the girls pulled it off, especially with a good usage of props.

### The Philadelphia

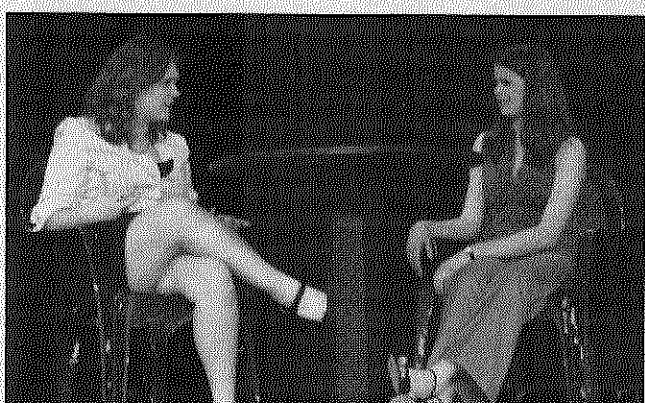


Photo by Sonia Garayarraghi

The second act, "The Deceivers" was written by junior Alex Wong. Wong created a scene with a surprising twist at the end. Senior James Guss pretended to be paralyzed to get his wife, senior Ariel Villa, to stop committing crimes. In the end, Guss deceives the audience and stands up from his wheelchair, revealing that he is not actually paralyzed. Unfortunately, the storyline was confusing to follow and it was a little bit too long. The story was not fit for a one act and would be more appropriate for a play so the details could be further explained. Junior Sam Ludovici was the star of the act, providing comic relief where it was much needed and making it enjoyable to watch when he took over the stage.

### Run, Nigel, Run



Photo by Elizabeth Levey/Yearbook

The one acts turned serious with "Women and Wallace" directed by junior Emily Woods. Senior Keith Riddle did a great job leading the audience through his traumatic childhood. The audience could feel the pain he felt as his mother, junior Emily Key, slit her throat and left him alone. The blocks in the background displayed all of the girls that ran through Riddle's life in plain sight. Woods created a scene that really showed the difficulty of dealing with death and the problems that come along with it. The only thing about this act was that it seemed a little bit out of place. It was a lot more serious than the other ones and stood out.

### Sure Thing

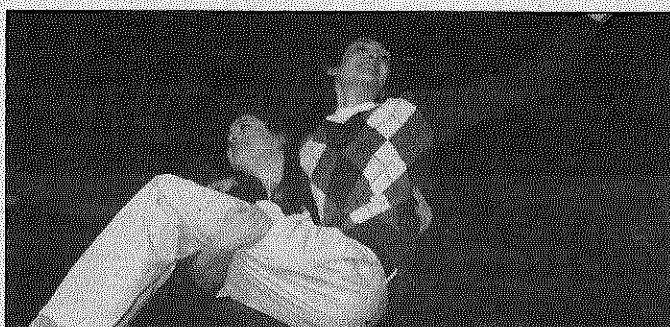


Photo by Maggie Solo

## Words, Words, Words

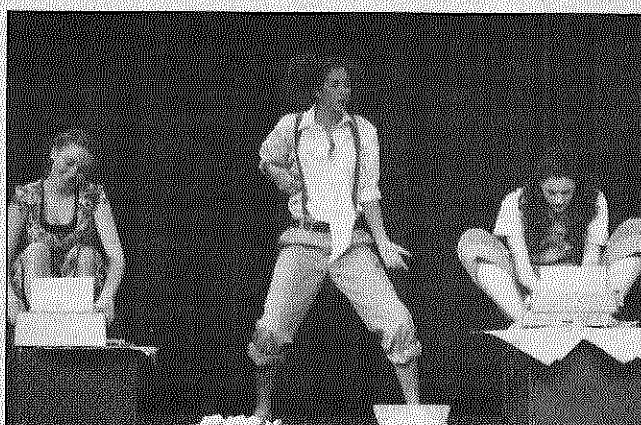


Photo by Sonia Garayarraghi

The first half ended with a crowd favorite, "The Philadelphia." Junior Ali Muir stated, "It was fun to watch and the actors did a great job. It was definitely my favorite!" Junior Nell McKeown and sophomore Laura Friesse meet in a diner and Friesse begins complaining about how awful her day has been. Everything she asks for, she will not be able to receive from a taxi stop to a drink. When McKeown exclaimed she is "in a Philadelphia" Friesse does not know what to think. Later on in the act, McKeown discovers she is also "in a Philadelphia" when the waiter, Manzanan, brings her the wrong meal. The actors were very witty and had the audience laughing the entire way through. All three actors sold the act to the audience and it was the talk of the long and unneeded fifteen minute intermission.

### The Deceivers



Photo by Sonia Garayarraghi

After intermission, the show returned with "Run, Nigel, Run" another student produced act written by junior Robert Nichols, and directed by senior Brian Goodspeed. The casting was perfect for this act, especially the casting of Nigel and Mr. Davis. Nigel, played by senior Connor Chilton, did a great job depicting a character who does what he is told, especially by a much smaller and hysterical Mr. Davis, played by freshman Eddie Perez. Perez proved that big things come in small packages, showing off his big attitude and leaving the audience in hysterics. Chilton often broke a scene with another character to show the audience his true feelings and made the transitions work.

### Women and Wallace

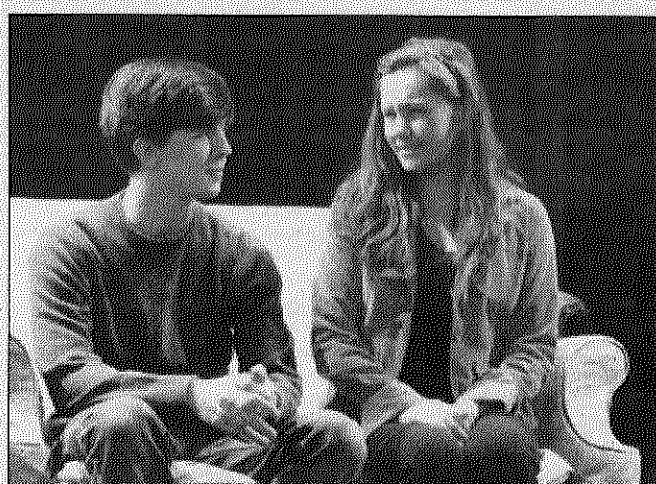


Photo by Emily Woods

The One Acts finished leaving the best for last. Senior Jack Edgar stole the show with junior Julia Warren. They went back and forth depicting different first impressions. The audience was captured by the exaggerated facial expressions and precise comedic timing that both actors possessed. The act itself was hilarious, but Edgar and Warren really made it unforgettable, ending with Edgar in Warren's arms.

## Lets kick some class

Emily Woods  
Focus Editor

When registration rolls around this month, take caution. The last thing every student wants is to be stuck in a class they dread going to for a full nine months. So instead of jumping the gun, take time to consider each of your future classes individually. These tips will aid your course selection process:

### 1) Consider size

Some classes here at West Potomac are known to have well over 30 kids each year, while others have a class size in the teens. Of course, this is subject to change from year to year. But if you want individualized attention in your elective, try selecting one of the less popular courses.

### 2) Do not factor in your friends

Just because nearly all your friends are taking Photojournalism or Ceramics, does not mean you should as well. This is even truer with core classes. If several of your friends sign up for an Advanced Placement [AP] Course in which you cannot handle the workload, it may be wise to not follow the crowd. Although you and your pals may share everything, the one thing you do not share is the same brain.

### 3) Be future-oriented

West Potomac and the West Potomac Academy offer a wide variety of high-level classes that are geared towards upperclassmen interested in certain careers. Future designers can take Fashion Marketing. Aspiring musicians often enroll in AP Music Theory. Criminal Justice is a popular choice for those hoping to make a career out of law enforcement. The list goes on.

### 4) Find out about the workload

Ask friends of yours who have taken the class before, or make time to stop by and see the teacher. It is important that you take the amount of work required for a certain class into consideration before signing up. If what you find out surprises you and a content heavy class is not what you are looking for, then perhaps you will elect to take another course.

### 5) Take what interests you

If you love to write, take Creative Writing. If you are always in the kitchen, try out Gourmet Foods. Even if you have heard nothing but rave reviews about a class, you will not be compelled to do the work unless it is something you have a genuine interest in.

### 6) Create a balance

Seven AP Courses is probably not advisable. Neither are five electives. Find a healthy, manageable balance. Your schedule should contain both enjoyable classes and the ones that motivate you to invest extra time and effort.

### 7) Embrace your inner artist

Before you graduate, you need to take at least one class in Springbank. From music to drama to visual arts, these fine and performing arts courses contain a plethora of opportunities for you to get creative. Do not be afraid to go outside of your comfort zone. You may have never thought you would enjoy taking Photography or never expected to find yourself looking forward to Guitar class every other day. But you may be surprised by what these courses have to offer.

### 8) Challenge yourself

Every student wants the "Easy A" course. Do not fall into this trap. West Potomac offers some incredibly stimulating courses that many students overlook because they are "too hard." Take the classes that will push your limits and require you to work hard to earn a high mark. These courses are more rewarding and chances are, taking a few difficult classes will improve your scores and work ethic in your other classes as well.

### 9) Stick with it

Colleges love to see students who show dedication in their areas of interest. So do not just hang up the towel after a few years of Spanish. Staying with one or two electives throughout your years of high school will be worth it in the end, when you display mastery in that subject.



## The best movies of 2010: which one will take home the Oscar?

Anna Dreyfuss

Style Editor

### Inception

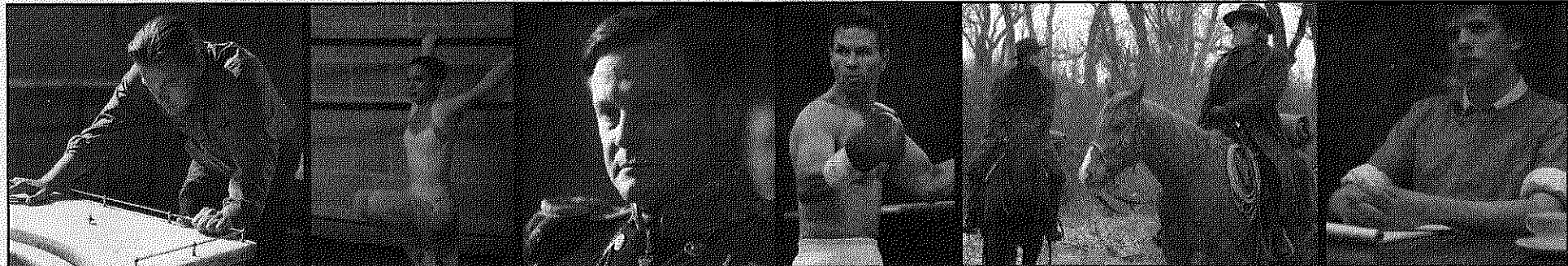
How often does anyone remember their dreams? *Inception* got audiences thinking about their dreams more often. Dom Cobb (Leonardo DiCaprio) is an incredibly skilled thief at stealing valuable secrets from the subconscious of people when they are within their dream state. Cobb is then offered a chance at redemption from his sins once he realizes his crimes has affected everyone he loved. This incredibly exciting action movie extracted around \$62.8 million at the box office, with good reason. Although the plot is confusing, the different levels of dreams the characters go through is so enthralling, the complicated story is almost forgotten.

### Black Swan

Words cannot describe the adrenaline rush audiences receive from this movie. Director Darren Aronofsky is known for making creepy, mind-boggling films and this is no exception. *Black Swan* is about a talented and dedicated dancer, Nina Sayers (Natalie Portman), who is committed to the role of the Swan Queen. Sayers has to battle many factors to become "perfect", including rivalry from other dancers, complications from her teacher and her own delusions. This emotionally-draining and fast-paced thriller makes audiences feel like they just went on a two hour roller-coaster.

### The King's Speech

This film is probably the most favored for the Academy Award and there is no question why. King George VI (Colin Firth) struggles with a speech impediment and therefore seeks out speech therapist Lionel Logue (Geoffrey Rush) to help him. The story displays the relationship between the two and the atypical strategies George VI practices to overcome his speech troubles. Firth gives an unbelievable performance. He shows the almost-impossible internal struggle he went through which people before watching this would not be able to understand. This movie may just leave audiences speechless.



Photos by brusimm.com; screenrave.com; awardsdaily.com; filmofilia.com; mamapop.com; blogcritics.org

### The Fighter

This story is about brothers, Micky Ward (Mark Wahlberg) and Dicky Eklund (Christian Bale) and their friendship through Ward's challenging boxing career. Bale did an incredible job portraying a boxer-turned-trainer who is addicted to meth and ends up in prison. Based-off of a true story, the movie contained much more than a couple boxing fights. The film really only had about 20 minutes worth of boxing matches and the other 195 minutes has shown the remarkable stories of the troubled, non-conventional family that is scarily realistic.

### True Grit

Everybody loves a good Wild West movie, but mix in Jeff Bridges and a little Matt Damon and audiences will have a mind-blowing experience. Mattie Ross (Hailee Steinfeld) is on a mission to hunt down and kill the man who murdered her father. Once she eventually meets Rooster Cogburn (Bridges) and LaBoeuf (Damon) and they agree to help her, they embark on a journey that does not go as well as planned. A cowboy adventure is not the only element in the plot. The film discovers the importance of friendship, betrayal and a lot of humor.

### The Social Network

Mark Zuckerberg (Jesse Eisenberg) is the youngest billionaire in the world. This astonishing film questions if the creator of Facebook deserves all his money and success or if he stole the idea from Tyler and Cameron Winklevoss at Harvard University. The movie shifts between Zuckerberg's days at Harvard when he first creates the site, the court case where his friends sue him and all the troubles in between. Eisenberg does an impeccable impersonation of Zuckerberg, displaying the lonely, socially-awkward genius who just wants to fit in. Therefore he creates an environment that lets him feel that way, which would be Facebook. He then descends into a more cold and selfish side of himself, which makes people turn away from him. This is a rather "talky" movie, but the dialogue and chemistry between the characters works.

## 3-D Nintendo DS is set for stores

Zainab Mujahid

Reporter

Many have thought handheld games have done everything. From making the games flip-open to touch sensitive touch screens, but think again. Nintendo is coming out with their newest edition to their already vast collection. This \$250 game consol is worth every penny. Nintendo 3DS is a whole new experience; it is a 3-Dimensional experience. This is not just any movie that is in 3-D. There are no glasses required and of course this is accessible in the palm of a hand.

The 3-D features on this Nintendo consol are also more extensive than what they seem. The holder can adjust the depth of the picture and turn it off if they do not want it. Any Nintendo game- even if it is not specifically 3-D- can work with this new 3-D feature. Along with a 3-D screen there are two built in 3-D outer cameras that allow the holder to see things just like the human eye. This device transforms photos into 3-D images.

The makers of the Nintendo 3DS also wired their game consuls to accommodate their new feature call StreetPass. The way it works is when the Nintendo is on sleep mode the owner can exchange game data with characters and high scores with other users when it passes them on the street. This combines the virtual and real life experiences all into one. Another very useful feature is their new SpotPass, which allows the consol to detect Wi-Fi hotspots.

Along with all this, Nintendo 3DS has even more to offer. It comes with a personal charging cradle which allows it to power up while it is on sleep mode. Included with it is a memory card which allows the player to save 3-D photos, music and

sound recordings. With a built in motion sensor and gyro sensor it can react to the motion and tilt of the system to make the screen move with the user. Also it includes a Circle Pad located above the + control. Along with touch screen, 3-D, and motion/gyro sensors the possibilities are endless.

Aside from the electronic features the Nintendo 3DS has a visual appeal as well. With double screens that are each capable of displaying a brilliant 16.77 million colors the Nintendo 3DS provides for a mesmerizing experience.



Photo by islate.org

Nintendo also changed its outward appearance with two sleek and modern colors available, "aqua blue" and "cosmo black". It has also switched out the traditional black stylus to a stainless steel size adjustable length stylus. Of course the customer is always right, so we asked West Potomac students about what they thought of the Nintendo 3DS and its' features.

They all had mixed reviews. While some were skeptical about how it worked like Senior Remaz Abdeogader who said "Personally, I think this product is experimental since it is the first of its kind" and freshman Zanasifa Findley continued "I want to see how it works before I get hyped up about it". Others had positive feedback like freshman Vivian Owusu who said, "Totally have to have it" and freshman Amal Mohamed, "I think it is neat and worth the money".

This consol is set to release on February 26, 2011. Nintendo 3DS is offering us the most extensive amount of features compared to any other game consol available today. New technologies come and go, but the Nintendo 3DS is sure to leave a lasting mark and revolutionize future game systems.

## Artists release music after they die

Emily Griffin

Editor-in-Chief

People for numerous years have been entertained by the music of Jimi Hendrix, Michael Jackson, and many others. The question is why we still hear new songs from dead musicians? The answer to the question is a mix of technology and unfinished demos from the artists.

During the process of making albums, artists tend to record several versions of the songs and also record numerous additional songs. Then when the album is released the songs that were chosen to be on the disc are made available to the public, while the other songs are saved for possible later use. After an artist dies, it is usual that the music production companies continue to release songs by the artist. When an album is released after an artist's death it is referred to as a posthumous album, which means after death. Senior Veronica Clark thinks posthumous albums are fine to distribute "as long as the family of the dead artist is okay with it".

The most frequently used method that many music production companies use to release new songs by deceased artists is by remixing and then releasing songs that had been previously recorded. This basically means they take the artist's voice and add a new beat to the song then they release it to the public. Tupac's songs, such as "I Wonder if Heaven got a Ghetto" are songs that Tupac, himself, had previously recorded. The music producers then just finished the song by adding a new beat and released it.

An additional way that music producers try to revamp either released or non-released material is by collaborating with other artists. What normally happens is the deceased artist's voice is used and then

the new artist's voice is added to the track. Thus creating the illusion the two artists were both present at the same time for the recording. A prime example of this would be the collaboration of The Notorious B.I.G. and Eminem with the song "Dead Wrong" which was released in 2004, despite the fact that B.I.G. had passed away in 1997.

Other common ways of releasing songs of deceased artist are by adding new vocals to unfinished songs. This is when another singer takes the place of the

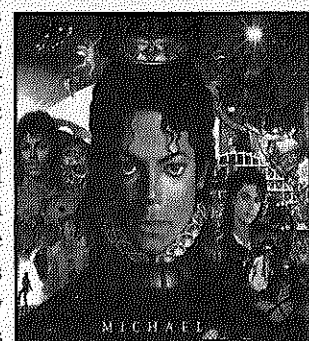


Photo by theinsider.com

original artist and finishes any of the unfinished work. However, this is the most controversial way to unleash work from a deceased artist. Many times when it is speculated this has happened, both the media and the lawyers begin to press questions about ethics towards the music companies. The most recent case of this was

in December 2010, when Jackson's album "Michael" was released. Both the Jackson and the media continually questioned if Michael's voice was used in the album. This resulted in the Jackson family consistently not endorsing the album "Michael."

When someone dies usually they are supposed to disappear and never return. However, because of the technological advances in the entertainment industry and the purchases of posthumous albums, this is not true. Clark stated "I would [only] buy stuff by classic bands like Leonard Skynard." Even though musicians die, their music does not. Famed artist Hendrix died in 1970, but has since then released 11 hit albums-all with new, original songs. That is just one artist who never left the music industry, even after he died.



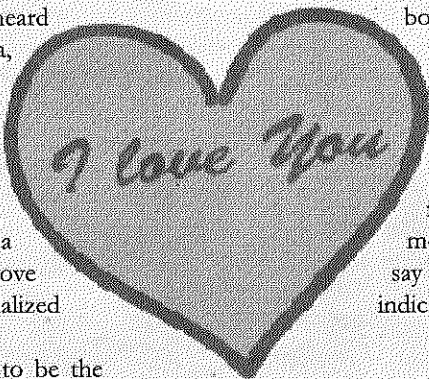
## What does saying "I love you" really mean?

Lily Weisblatt  
Reporter

"I love you." Those three words make up one of the most commonly used phrases in any language around the world. Unfortunately, the three-word phrase has lost all of the meaning it used to carry. "I love you" is no longer a phrase that is only shared between couples, family, and close friends. It can be heard resounding across the cafeteria, down hallways, and through walls. "I love you" is even becoming an increasingly common text phrase. "ILY" is used as a signature on a cellphone, as a way of saying goodbye, sometimes even a substitution for "thank you." "I love you" has turned into a commercialized and unimportant catchphrase.

Those three little words used to be the most important thing to say to a significant other. Hearing that from their special someone used to make a person feel cherished and confident in their relationship. If a friend told another friend that they loved them, the recipient would be sure of their sincerity. "I love you" was never a lie, never an exaggeration. If one said "I love you," they meant it.

The phrase "I love you" used to be accompanied with flowers, poetry, even a marriage proposal. That is how seriously the three words used to be taken. They were no diminutive declaration of affection; they were the ultimate announcement of long-lasting, life-changing love.



The heart is the universal symbol for love, and similar to the words "I love you" it is losing its meaning.

In this day and age of computers, iPhones, instant-messaging, and texting, message intentions can get lost in the data waves. When two people are texting, and one receives a message that says "ily" there are multiple meanings that can be taken from it. The recipient can become extremely happy, thinking that the person they are texting has just revealed their feelings, or they can believe that the sender did not mean anything serious by it, that he was just being cute. The boy that sent the message could have meant the "ily" to mean the opposite way that she inferred, and the mistake could cause a lot of hurt and confusion. When someone says "I love you" over text, it has a domino effect on feelings and friendships.

Today, almost every person in this school will have feelings of affection, whether they are for a pet, a family member, a friend, or a boyfriend/girlfriend. Some of them will say "I love you." Almost none of them will truly mean it. This indicates that "I love you" does not mean anything anymore.

Keith Riddle,  
Happy Valentine's Day,  
baby, and here's to  
many more!!!  
Ariel

Mrs. Chance,  
Thank you for your  
southern accent. It  
reminds me of my  
southern roots.  
Jack

The Wire Staff, you guys  
are amazing! Thanks for  
all the hard work!  
Mrs. Chance

Derrick Abankwa,  
I love you. You are a  
sexy African.  
Anonymous

## Huckleberried under NewSouthBooks censorship

Emily Woods  
Focus Editor

Give a man a "backspace" button, and he has the power to erase history. This is the mentality of several literature fans that responded to the recently censored version of Mark Twain's *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by shouting "What the Huck?" The new edition of the novel, edited by NewSouthBooks and Mark Twain scholar Alan Gribben, will replace over 200 uses of the "n" word with "slave." The racial slur, "Injun," will also be removed, and instead "Indian" will be used in reference to Native Americans. Several West Potomac students and faculty have reacted to this novel's new release with outrage and shock. English teacher Jackie Livelli commented, "I think you are going to completely destroy the intent

of the author if you alter the diction in any way, shape or form."

Gribben's decision to censor this classic text is more than just preposterous; it alters the novel's plot and characterization. *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* is written in the first person by Huck himself, an uneducated, teenage boy living in 19th century Missouri. His dialect is indicative of the setting of the story, specifically the time period. Twain's book is a snapshot in history, a fleeting moment where the "n" word would have been the only appropriate word for boys such as Huck to use in reference to an enslaved African American, and "Injun" the only name for a Native American. The fact that the vernacular used in *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* may be offensive to readers in our modern society only proves that Twain was successful in creating an authentic and dated piece. His story shows how our morals and values have evolved over time and removing any part of that would be nothing but a futile attempt to cover up America's past mistakes.

The main argument for the censorship of *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* is that by cleaning up the book's language, it will now become accessible to a new generation of young readers. However, as pointed out by Twain scholar Thomas Wortham, at University of California Los Angeles, "A book like Professor Gribben has imagined doesn't challenge children [and their teachers] to ask, 'Why would a child like Huck use such reprehensible language?'" Wortham's line of reasoning is extremely valid. The words in Twain's book can be used as a teaching tool for children, allowing them to gain an understanding of the racial injustices of the time.

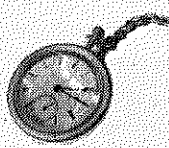
It has been suggested that the same approach taken to Twain's classic should be applied to Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird*. This novel is one that is widely used in middle school and high school curriculum and contains approximately 48 uses of the "n" word in reference to Tom Robinson, a black man accused of raping a white teenage girl. A literary masterpiece, *To Kill a Mockingbird* is a story that makes the reader empathize with Tom and has absolutely no room for censorship. Junior Maddie White was quick to agree, and stated, "If [Tom] wasn't called a hateful name, it would make the accusations less racially biased than they are, thus changing the whole purpose of the story."

This recent controversy has shed light on the painful truth that censorship is still alive. According to the American Library Association, family values, religion, political views, and minority rights are four motivating factors that will trigger censorship or banning of books. One factor that the ALA fails to take into account, however, is the reader. No two readers are the same. What one person may find overwhelmingly offensive may seem commonplace to somebody else. The major flaw in censorship is that it is a system in which one group of people thinks for millions. And the millions pleading Huck's case will not rest until NewSouthBooks gives back the valuable piece of history they have stolen.

### BELLE VIEW JEWELERS



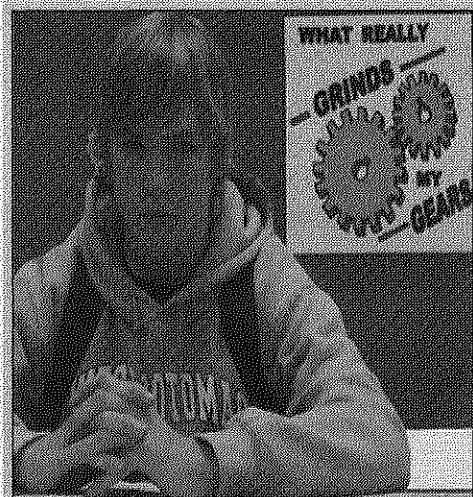
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## You know what really grinds my gears?



Jacob Alexander  
Opinions Editor

You know what really grinds my gears? Parents and electronics. Parents used to always tell their kids to get their faces out of their phone, iPod, computer, or any other electronic device, and now many parents are having trouble doing just that.

The world today is very technology-based; it's only natural that parents have begun using more electronic devices than before. This is completely fine, when the electronic device is used for work and the adult is not using it constantly in their free time. However, many adults seem to be addicted to their new iPad or phone and continuously use it for pleasure purposes. Sometimes they just cannot seem to log off of Facebook or other social networking websites.

This is understandable because many of these new electronics can be very addicting. Electronics these days are quick and efficient and are easily accessed. This leads to a lot of electronic use by everyone. Also, most high school students use websites such as Facebook, and their parents have also started using them. Once they get the bang of it, they can use it to connect with people that they have not seen for over twenty years. However, this makes parents very hypocritical when they punish their kids for exemplifying similar behaviors.

For the most part, adults need to realize they contradict themselves when they do this. It is true that everyone could use a little less time using electronics because they can easily lose track of time. This is exactly the opposite of what many adults are doing now; they are spending more and more time using electronics and less time focusing on other important aspects of their lives. Over use of electronics is not a huge problem, however, because of how much is done on them.

Most students would agree, because they have gone through it all. When they first got into these new electronics, all their parents could say was "Get your face out of that new phone! Why don't you go play outside?" Now, their parents cannot get their faces out of their new phone.

It is completely understandable that many adults are getting into them and learning more about them. What does not make sense is that these same adults have in the past and often will punish their children for doing this.



# It's not me, it's you

Leigh Orleans  
Student Life Editor

When the New Year rounds the corner and comes onto the month of February, we are inundated with the extravagancies of candied hearts, plush animals, and boxes of chocolate. Valentine's Day is a couples chance to show how much they unconditionally adore one another. However, there are people who are not as fond of the holiday. They see it as more of a time in which they are expected to put more work in a relationship than they think necessary. If this is your situation, February is the perfect month for a break up! Separation from someone you felt a strong tie to can be difficult considering they most likely still consider you to be someone they "could never live without." Consequently, your lack of personal space has driven you to a termination of the bond.

If this is the case, they still deserve you putting some thought into the way you break up with them. It has to be heartfelt, but direct. Of course, as a student at West Potomac, you are going to keep it "kla\$\$y." Deciding the best way to go, however, can sometimes prove to be a challenge. Here are a few ideas for those who are soon-to-be-singles.

**1) Rent a Good-Year Blimp** – Nothing says "It's Over!" like printing your break-up message on the side of a sky-high blimp. There is no room for confusion when your profession of distaste is printed across the sky. And who could be upset after you went through all the trouble of getting them a blimp. They'll get a laugh out of it and everyone will be happy.

**2) I Have Developed Some New Feelings** – If you are a guy, possibly develop a slight feminine-like lisp and make 'pshh' hand motions often. Carry a hand bag and care much more about your appearances. Girls, get out your baggie clothing. Call your man 'dude' more than you say their name, and if you so desire, get a butch hair cut. Tell them you have started having feelings for the opposite sex. Hopefully, they will understand your dilemma and will accept the break.

**3) Religion takes Precedence** – Tell your significant other that you wish to be closer to the deity of your choosing. Get all religion-crazy on them and talk about how their relationship is a sinful thing and that they should be more aware of what God/Allah/Buddha/etc would want you to be doing. They will either understand, or go running for the hills.

**4) Hygiene Habits** – Do not shower, stop brushing your teeth, forget deodorant, and go all-natural. Letting yourself go is the key to this method. If you are dressing like you do not care, acting like you do not care, and above all, smelling like you do not care, your significant other will generically become repulsed by your presence. If they are more sentimental and are not one to judge you by your appearance and are willing to hold their breath for the better part of the time you spend together, hint to them that giving up on yourself may be a prerequisite for giving up of the relationship. Be indifferent about everything and they will get the hint.

**5) Barbershop Quartet** – Is your partner more of the musical, artistic type? They could not appreciate anything more than the soothing harmony of four middle aged men singing about the tragedies of your break up. Its more than thoughtful, it is inspirational.

**6) The Old Fashioned Way** – If your significant other was a real sweetheart by courting you, taking you on dates, buying you nice things, continue the trend. Get them a telegram! Also, what beats having another person doing it for you? This historical gesture will be deliberate and you will not have to deal with the initial, awkward moments of the break up.

Regardless of the method, breaking up with someone can be a very difficult experience. Hopefully, with these helpful techniques, you and your x-partner will feel relieved and, if you are lucky, get a good laugh out of it. Because after all, Valentine's Day is a day of love and should be a joyful one.

## Timeless love tunes

Sonia Garakyaraghi  
Photographer

Valentine's Day is a time for showing the person you care about how much you care about them. People express love in different ways, some give chocolate, jewelry, flowers, and others write songs. Many of our favorite artists accomplish this through their songs that can melt anyone's heart. Here is a list of favorite love songs throughout the years:

**Love by Nat King Cole** – "L is for the way you look at me, O is for the only one I see, V is very, very extraordinary, E is even more than anyone that you can adore." Through this song Cole used his poetic words to create a song about falling in love.

**1,2,3,4 by Plain White T's** – "There's only one thing two do three words four you. I love you." This explains how much a boy loves the girl because of how much she loves him. It exemplifies how you can get as much as you put effort into it, in this case about love. The lyrics of the song say the three very special words in a cute romantic way.

**Love Story by Taylor Swift** – While describing the meaning of one of her best singles love story, she said it, "This is a song I wrote when I was dating a guy who was not exactly the popular choice. His situation was a little complicated, but I did not care. I started this song with the line, 'This love is difficult, but it is real.' When I wrote the ending to this song, I felt like it was the ending every girl wants to go with her love story. It is the ending that I want. You want a guy who does not care what anyone thinks, what anyone says. He just says, 'Marry me, Juliet, I love you, and that is all I really know.' It is sort of told in a character kind of thing, where it is Romeo and Juliet, and it's not me saying that I'm getting married or anything...but I think it is fun to write about it."

**Love Me Tender by Elvis Presley** – One of the most classic romantic songs written by Presley. This love song has a beautiful and meaningful touch to love in a real and true way. It creates a feeling of peacefulness while describing a feeling any human being would want love.





# SENIOR CORNER

## Senior Sweethearts:

These senior couples were questioned separately about each other to see how well they knew each other. An "X" mark by the answer means they got the answer wrong...(Hopefully, this won't break them up!)

### Victoria Parces & Jonathan Lazenby

**What was your first impression of him?**

When he walked into class he had a goofy smile and i knew I would ilke him.

**How did you meet him?**

I met him in AP Language with Mrs. Thompson

**Where was your first date with him?**

We went to Facia Luna in Old Town.

**What is Jonathan's dream college and why?**

University of Virginia because he likes the campus and his dad went there.

**What is your favorite movie?**

My favorite movie is Aladdin.

**What is your best pick up line?**

You be  $\sin^2 \theta$ , I'll be  $\cos^2 \theta$ , and together we are 1!

**How long have you been together?**

1 year and half a month

**How did you meet her?**

We met in Mrs. Thompsons English class last year.

**What was your favorite date with her?**

When we went to National Harbor for our anniversary.

**What is Victoria's dream college?**

She wants to go to Virginia Tech or Cornell because she wants to be an engineer.

**What is Victoria's middle name?**

Her middle name is Raquel.

**What is Victoria's favorite movie?**

Her favorite movie is Ratatouille. X

**What is your best pick up line?**

I lost my number, can I get yours?

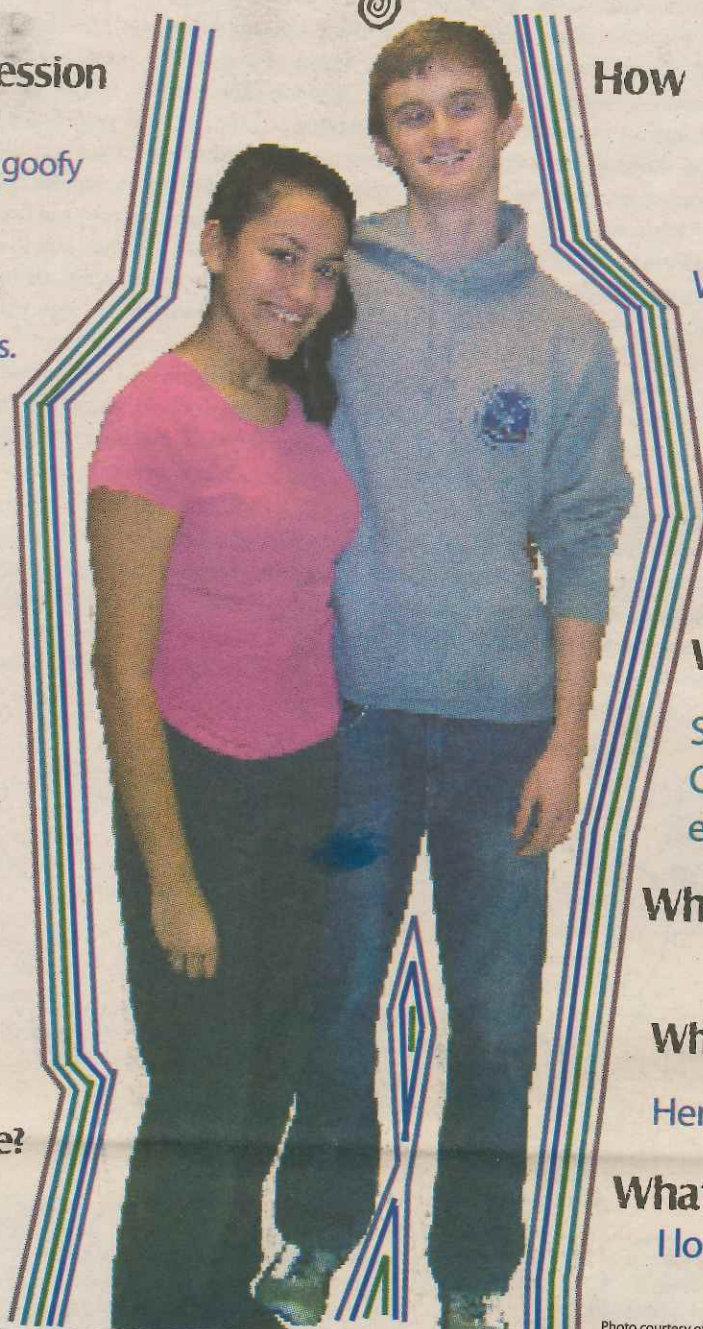


Photo courtesy of Sonia Garakyaraghi

### Christian Marchant & Samantha Niepling

**How did you guys meet?**

We met in Spanish class.

**How long have you been together?**

We have been together for 19 months.

**What college does she want to go to?**

Longwood to become a teacher.



**What was your first impression of Christian?**

I thought he was a cutie! He was sweet and laid back.

**What is Christians best habit?**

His best habit would be thinking of others. He is a very generous person!

**Who is his favorite actress?**

He loves Katherine Heigl.

**What is your partners dream college?**

He wants to go to VCU since he loves music!

**What has been the best part of senior year?**

Once all my appliclations were sent, I was not as stressed. Everything became more relaxed, and now I have more time for myself and friends



Photo courtesy of Clare Palo