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West Potomac High School
Library

THE WIRE

WEST POTOMAC HIGH SCHOOL

West Potomac High School
6500 Quander Road
Alexandria, VA 22307
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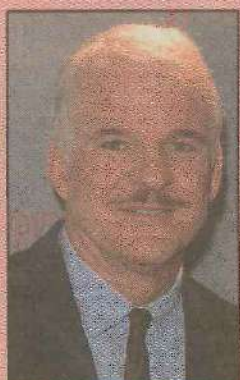
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Black History Hits in Full Swing

Kate O'Connor & Kristina Dahmann

Special to The Wire & Wire Reporter

Black history month began as just a week in 1926, when the achievements of African Americans were first being documented and studied. Eighty years later, our school celebrates Black History Month and remembers the people who shaped the world we live in today.

Our school's TV production class, responsible for our morning announcements, is working closely all month with the Black Cultural Alliance to supply our school with black history facts. All this February, the morning news is featuring one or two pieces of information about African American contributions to U.S. history, for example, the birth of Hank Aaron, the home run king, on February 5th, 1935.

"The Black Cultural Alliance supplies the facts and the announcers for [this month's] news," said Charles Hanger, the TV production teacher. Members of the Black Cultural Alliance read the announcements while media class students broadcast the program. "Black history occurred in every month," said Mr. Hanger, "It should be involved in every month, not just February. Our country's great contributions should be highlighted."



Members of the Gospel Choir seen here, are one of the many groups honoring Black History Month.

"I'm very pleased with the way [Mr. Hanger] is handling the morning announcements," said Mrs. Bobo, sponsor for the Black Cultural Alliance. The BCA reorganized and became an active school club for the first time this year. "Ms. Bobo had a lot to do with bringing the BCA back," said Brittney Boykin, president of the BCA. In earlier years, during February, the school would host a Black Cultural assembly but this year our school is excited to see what the BCA has planned for us. "We have done so much to promote [African American History] this year," said Bobo. The BCA has released a calendar full of events going on this month to celebrate Black History, as well as organizing an assembly. On February 5th, the annual Black History Forum took place at West Springfield where our BCA competed against other schools and won second place. "It's a lot like Jeopardy," said Boykin. On top of everything else, BCA members also prepared a Gospel Choir to present at the assembly on Thursday the 23rd. BCA members take pride in their organization and in the work they've done for Black History Month.

Art Teacher, Adam Sanchez, said, "A Black History Month project for the Art Department is in the makings." Sanchez

See History, page 5

Don't Let Any Credit Slip By You

Hooff Cooksey

News Co-Editor

Signing up for classes is more than just marking a circle next to some words. It is what determines if you graduate from high school and go on to college and a career.

To graduate, a student needs a certain amount of credits in each subject group; history, science, mathematics, and arts. Depending on how many

credits they receive, a student can receive certain diplomas which can help them excel later in life. Students can receive a Standard Diploma, Advanced Studies Diploma, or Modified Standard Diploma. Each diploma requires a student to collect more and more credits. "When signing



A diploma (shown above) can be obtained by having enough credits at the end of a student's high school career.

up for my classes," said sophomore Mary Sargeant, "I pay attention to the credits so that I can receive a Pass Advanced diploma."

The Standard Diploma requires a student to collect twenty-two credits throughout their high school career. A student must get all standard credits, which are acquired when a class is passed, as well as six verified credits. Verified credits are received when a student passes the SOL associated with the class. This is the most standard diploma a student can earn to graduate from high school.

A student can also receive a Modified Standard Credit, which requires twenty credits. This credit is for any students with any disabilities that would have trouble meeting the twenty-two credit requirement needed for a Standard Diploma. These students are not required to complete any SOLs or as many credits.

The highest diploma a student can receive is the Advanced Studies Diploma, which requires a student to collect 24 credits. This says a student must have nine verified credits, obtained by passing nine SOL tests. Although this diploma is harder to get, it can get you more opportunities in life, because more credits equals a better transcript for college.

There are many different classes to take that fit in to each category.

See Class, page 5

New Security Guard Takes Control of Jobs

Jocelyn Finrock

Focus Editor

Recently, our school's Security Department has been understaffed since Bill Haire left for a period of time. Because of this, a new security guard has been hired to help increase the amount of security in our school.

On January 26, Emillio Roberts was hired. Previously, Roberts worked in security for Arlington County Public Schools and Kenmore Middle School. He has enjoyed working here so far and believes that by working here he is getting a great opportunity to work with high school students. "So far my experience has been wonderful," said Roberts, who has only been working here for



Emillio Roberts (right) was hired as an additional security officer to help our school's security.

about one month. Roberts has been a security guard for eight years, so this job is nothing new to him. He knows how to perform to his best ability and knows the county policies. Compared to his last job, Roberts said that they are similar in many

ways, but this school is much larger than the school he patrolled for previously.

Security is a large issue at our school and the other guards need as much help as they can get. With Haire absent from his job at the moment, security was running low, up until Roberts was hired. "We needed the extra eyes and ears throughout the building to be able to patrol the campus and give us more coverage," said security guard Victor Watson, or "Vic" as many students know him.

See Security, page 5

Walking The High Wire

I would simply like to comment on *The Wire*. This is the best school newspaper I have ever seen! It has everything from A to Z in it. My favorite section is *Through the Wire*, especially the horoscopes. It's just so cool. I would like to let the staff know that I appreciate their hard work and to keep it up! I hardly ever read unless I have to, but *The Wire* is a must-read.

Maryam Sajjad, Freshman

Sleep, Who Needs It?

It is 7:25 in the morning and classes have begun. These classes begin whether or not the students received adequate sleep. Some students had major papers, projects or assignments due the next day and sleeping was not an option. It is proven that teenagers need at least eight hours of sleep for a goodnight's rest. The average student most likely wakes up at around six in the morning to catch the bus at 6:35. This means that the student has to go to bed at ten at night. The majority of students have sporting events, jobs, or homework that will take up most of the after school day. This means no sleep. When a student doesn't get enough sleep that means that he or she will not be up to standard the next school day. They will be tired and it will be shown through their schoolwork. The weekend is only two days long. This means that there are only two mornings which students can catch up on their sleep from the previous week. However, many students have sporting events on Saturdays and/or religious obligations on Sundays. Since the weekend is so short, at times we are starting the week off being tired. The average high school student needs more sleep than elementary students. However, we all know that it is nearly impossible to flip their times of school hours because of buses but how about pushing everyone back an hour? With more sleep, students will be more active and eager to learn in classes. They will even be successful. The school hours should begin later, so we can finally have some sleep.

Laura Howell, Sophomore

Rants and Raves



-A Rant for Lake Braddock's buzzer beater over the varsity basketball team.

-A Rave for the Boys' Track Team! They won Districts!

-A Rant for more supervision at Lunch.

-A Rave for actually having paper towels in the boys bathroom.

-A Rave for more students getting into college.

-A Rave for Brett Smith's One Act, which went to Regionals!

-A Rave for Guidance Counselors during Guidance Counselor Appreciation Week.

We Are Not Hicks!

We live in Washington D.C. Ok, technically we live in northern Virginia, but everyone who lives in Northern Virginia thinks they live in Washington D.C. and that is the problem.

D.C. is known for its monuments, annoying tourists, and cut throat politicians. It is not known for its liars. In order to say, "I'm from Washington D.C." you actually have to be from Washington D.C. Many people in the metropolitan area are in violation of this rule. Think about it, when you first meet someone from out of town do you say, "I'm from Virginia," or do you say, "I'm from Washington D.C.?" Chances are that you will say "I'm from Washington D.C." Is it because people from Northern Virginia think they are better than people who live in the rest of the state, or do people just really think they live in Washington D.C.? Face it Northern Virginians, you live in Northern Virginia, and that is not going to change unless you move.

When most people think of the great state of Virginia, let's face it, they think hick. And hick is not something that is thought of in a good light, to put it nicely. Even though we all know that stereotyping is wrong and immoral, we never fail to come up with a redneck joke within a moment's notice. People

just need to grow up and stop being so stereotypical.

Why is it that even though Virginia is one state, it has always been divided up into sections? People are either from Southern Virginia or Northern Virginia. Yes, West Virginia is also in there, but that is a whole different state with a whole different story, so let's just focus on the actual state of Virginia. With Northern Virginians thinking Southern Virginians are back-wood rednecks, and Southern Virginians thinking Northern Virginians are self-absorbed workaholics, there is no unity and our state is submerged in labels. Once again, this problem relates to the issue of respect and working together to become something better. Funny, isn't that what this school is trying to do with the new PBIS policy? Interesting.

We all know that there is nothing better than a good red-neck joke but next time you utter the words, "get 'er done," just think about the people who you are impersonating and how they are probably doing the exact same thing, making fun you and your friends. So even though this new policy maybe childish and elementary, just keep in mind that a little respect, and an act of kindness go a long way, because nobody wants to be a redneck.

Corrections from Last Issue

--In Anum Jaffri's article discussing the SLEEP initiative additional information is needed. The pineal gland is responsible for the production of a hormone that regulates daily body rhythms and the time at which we feel ready to fall asleep. Studies show that there is a change in the timing of this production as we move from childhood into adolescence. Production occurs later during puberty and occurs around eleven p.m. Since we must be asleep for a period of time before other hormones needed for memory are produced, later to bed means later to produce these other essential hormones. The research suggests that since teens need approximately nine hours of sleep for maximum performance, schools could gain an academic edge if they allowed high school students to sleep later and to start school after eight a.m.

--Kaelin Emery's name was misspelled on page three.

--Debbie Armstrong's name was misspelled in a photo caption on page sixteen.

--On Page one, the teaser said the article "Northern Exposure" was on page thirteen. However, the article was on page twelve.

--Ernest Recker's name was misspelled in a photo caption on page sixteen.

THE WEST POTOMAC WIRE

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Can Study Hall be Our Saving Grace?

Hooff Cooksey

News Co-Editor

As you work strenuously on your homework, you think to yourself, "Why couldn't our school have a study hall class during the day that would help me catch up on school work?"

You were not able to work on it earlier because you had track practice, then a band concert and then you had to baby sit. It used to be that you could have this class called "study hall." It had been a standard class in high schools around the country, but now it is almost extinct.

A study hall class would be great to have for students today, who have very hectic schedules and tons of homework. It would allow them to efficiently work on homework during the day to save time during the afternoon and night. When asked whether she would want this class, sophomore Rachel Storey said, "Yeah. It would take pressure off of students who do sports after school or have a job. However, it could add time on to the school day."

A possible solution for this is to make it an elective that students could take. This would be a great class for seniors to take who do not need anymore credits. It would save time in the afternoon for those who have a job or are very serious athletes. "I would take it because there would be no homework assigned in it and I would not have to stay up as late at night due to homework and studying," said Storey. "I know that this would really help me when I have a sports game, tests to study for, and projects due the next day."

You may say to yourself, "Doesn't our school already have a study hall class after school?" From experience, this "study hall"

does not really allow kids to get anything done. This class usually happens after school or before a sports game and is always filled with tons of students because their coach has told them they must be there or there will be consequences. During this period students get distracted due to the number of kids in the room or just flat out do not want to work on any homework so they distract others.



Photo by Lakeisha Langley

The study hall that the school offers, after school is a great feature, but it does not really solve the problem of saving time in the afternoon, because it is already in the afternoon. If this class was during the school day, then students would get to work on homework or studying that they would normally have to do that night. A study hall class could save an hour that the student could use for other things that night.

Some may ask whether some students might just sleep during the class or not do work? This could happen, but there would be a teacher supervisor in the class making sure students are working and the students would be graded on how much they work. And quite frankly, if a student is not going to take advantage of this free time to do work, then it is their own fault.

A study hall class would be a great benefit to the students at our school. It would give kids more time in the afternoon and would take pressure off of them. Students would get to bed earlier at night and be able to relax after a hectic school day. I am all for a study hall class and hopefully it will be put in place.

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Keckee's Catastrophe

Wondering Where it all Went Wrong



Photo by Lakeisha Langley

Lighten Up a Little Bit!

Alex Keckesen

Co-Editor-In-Chief

As our school falls into a deeper disarray of organization and the amount of discontent between students, teachers and administrators is at an all-time high, we as students have tried to make a difference in the way that we conduct ourselves.

Senior night for the boys' basketball team was supposed to be a celebration for the effort that our team has put in all season and just as they have done all season, the students showed up in support of the team. The cheers were louder than ever and the stands were filled but apparently the students had said the wrong thing. After only one quarter, some students had been told that the whole student section would be ejected and escorted out of the gym. Apparently cheering, "you still suck," to the opposing team popped a blood vessel in some higher authorities' heads and made them go insane.

Our final boys' basketball game uncovered some questions. Do they not want us to have school spirit? Do they not want us to come to games? Do our cheers really look that bad compared to the brawls that take place after almost every other game? Obviously, someone is trying to keep us away from watching our school's teams compete and preventing us from even remotely trying to duplicate the frenzy of such college crowds as the "Cameron Crazies" do at Duke University.

At one game earlier in the season, one administrator actually told us that we were, "putting too much stress on the players." Personally, I think we are doing the opposing team a favor by preparing them for what they will experience in college. Sure, it is on a much smaller scale but we do our best to make their experience to the Wolverdome the best possible.

I do understand the administrators' fury at some of the chants that involve cursing (including one that has an interesting similarity to "push it") but why get your panties in a bunch with one that involves the word "suck"? It could not just be about the chants though, it must be something else. Maybe it is just controlling our fun. Maybe it is just another step to putting us in orange jump-suits and spray painting barcodes on our necks.

From all the changes over the past two years in procedure and policy you would think that there would be some sort of increase in grades or possibly even morale.

Unfortunately, grades have plummeted even more, morale is at an all-time low and the possibility of losing our accreditation is high. Something needs to be done and if you, the student, takes a chance, a change for the better is in order.

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Motherhood May Not be so Bad

Sara Mathewson

Style Co-Editor

Ever felt like you were growing up faster than you should or like you were acting so much older than you really were? Watching kids can do that to you.

Spending almost every minute of everyday with smaller children, some of the time having to watch them yourself, can make you feel as though you have aged about ten years. "Parental instincts" seem to kick in, even when you do not notice it. Having lived with my three and five-year old cousins for the past six weeks has given me a little perspective as to what being a "parent" really feels like.

Taking them to the park while their parents are out can really bring out the motherly side of someone. The park has its many dangers, anywhere from falling off of the monkey bars to scraping

your knee while sprinting to the next jungle gym, or even getting sand in your eyes while playing in the sand pit; these are all things that bring out a side of you that you never knew existed. When one of them gets hurt, I feel as though I knew exactly who was hurt, and when they were hurt.



Photo by Lakeisha Langley

I knew straight away to go and see if they were ok. I can pick their cries and their voices out from every other child in the park, even when the park is full of kids getting let out of school.

I know now what it feels like to have to give up things to make it better for the child, even though

they are not my own. I am a nanny and I have authority. Even though it does not sound right, I have power. Maybe that is what makes some feel like a parent, but

once you get over that feeling of having high authority, you realize that is not what it is about. It is about making the children happy and giving them a good life. I spend so much time with the kids, not only are they my own family, but they are, for the time being, part of my home. To have them abruptly taken away from me would be like tearing my home apart.

Throughout this trip and my time being here with the kids, I have realized that being a parent is not about making sure the children eat right, they are healthy, and they have manners, but it is about being there for them, loving them, and making sure they are happy.

Of course, I am not going to be devastated when we part; I am not completely hooked on being with them 24/7. But when I do leave, my life will be changed just a little bit. I will feel more matured having had to care for younger kids and I know just a little how I would act as a parent and will be more prepared when the time comes.

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Did You Know?

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THE LITTLE LUMP OF FLESH JUST FORWARD OF YOUR EAR CANAL, RIGHT NEXT TO YOUR TEMPLE, IS CALLED A TRAGUS.

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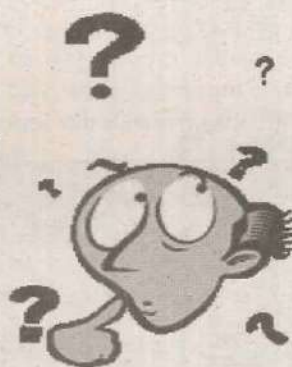
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Clans from long ago got rid of their unwanted people without killing them by burning their houses down - hence the expression "to get fired."

Playing cards were issued to British pilots in WWII. If captured, they could be soaked in water and unfolded to reveal a map for escape.

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There are almost twice as many people in Rhode Island than there are in Alaska.



OPINIONS

A ROARing Bad Idea

Taylor Dankmyer
Opinions Editor

At least we are not spending any cash on this. That is the first thing that comes to my head after the meeting about Positive Behavior Intervention and Support (PBIS). We have all seen the commercial and laughed (By the way, those were my glasses Brad Dalton was wearing). PBIS is basically the idea that when someone gets an A on his test, the teacher gives him a pat on the back and says, "good job."

Another element of this program is ROAR cards. ROAR stands for R-Respect, O-On time, A-Attitude, R-Responsibility. This is basically



Photo by Lakisha Langley

when a student is respectful and responsible. Teachers will be given a certain number of cards on Monday and they give those cards to students who show good behavior. At the end of the week, everyone turns their cards in. Then there is a drawing. Only one person out of our school's 2,069 kids is going to get a prize, and that prize will be something like pizza, a blockbuster gift card, or food. Boy, do I really want to take the energy at 7:25 a.m. to make sure my teacher writes positive notes about me on a ROAR card so I can get pizza. This school is aiming for a ratio of four positive comments for every one bad comment. I must stop here and ask, did they actually plan this out? I mean do we really need a program for this? Teachers should give support whenever needed not just because the school is forcing them to do it, but because that is part of their job. Some students need this motivation to do well and that is ok but we do not need a whole program devoted to this. I think it is a waste of time and planning. We should be focused on other problems like the parking at this school and the uproar of anger from the removal of honors classes.

Really ROAR should stand for the following: R-Ridiculous, O-Obviously this is the stupidest idea I have ever heard of, A-A horrible idea, R-Ridiculous once again.

Supposedly this system is proven by scholars to work. You have got to be kidding me.

Hayfield Secondary School, Sandburg Middle School, and all schools in Maryland are using this system. However, teachers should already encourage students to do well. Also, students should not have to be rewarded for being respectful and responsible. We are young adults now, we should do this automatically.

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A Million Little Lies

Jon Yoo
Asst. Sports Editor

"Did he really? How could he have?" For a month now, the writing world and beyond has been surrounded by questions and mixed emotions dealing with the lies stated in James Frey's *A Million Little Pieces*. The arguments continue to form and the blame persistently is placed on James Frey himself. We question what kind of man he is, and whether his lies stemmed from his past insecurities or just plain greed. He has been tried and embarrassed in front of the public on Larry King Live and Oprah. Yes, it is a shame that a man would be so pitiful to take advantage of something as pure as writing and use it to better himself, but we must get over this.

The real problem of this outcome is that yet again America, as a whole, has refused to take its responsibility for its own stupidity. Who in their right mind would have actually believed the absurd lies that Frey had stated as facts in his book? I understand that it was labeled as a memoir, and that it is the publishers responsibility, not ours, to make sure that everything, from the authors name to their past, is true. However, has America in general really become that gullible? The answer is yes, and I have



Photo by Lakisha Langley

to admit it is not entirely our fault. With all the hundreds of reality television shows and quick journalism, that now values time over truth, it is totally clear to see how it has blinded and changed our public acceptance to what is real and what is not.

On her show in front of millions, Oprah continued to grill and harass Frey on his lies, however what she should have done was grill in her head, while she was reading this piece of trash, whether the many lies that he stated made sense or if they were even humanly possible. It is upsetting to see that she used her own show to take the blame off her chest and put it on Frey and his publishers. Oprah has a responsibility to not only her fans but herself as well to be able to take the blame of having such a simple fault as being deceived. Just maybe, if one of our countries icons changed in this way, it would lead millions of others to do the same.

America must not be as gullible and ignorant, not only in this situation, but in general. We must not accept everything as fact; we have to incorporate the ability of being critical from things that we read and see. This is the only way that we can change our country for the better in these circumstances. Please tell me that we are capable of this!

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Junk in the Trunk and the Reasons Why

Kevin O'Brien
Wire Reporter

Your body is a temple, but you have freedom of religion, and therefore I believe people should be able to eat whatever they want, no matter how bad it is for you. Unfortunately, the school, an extension of the government, is encroaching on this right.

I don't know haute cuisine, but I know what I like. What I like usually falls under the category known as "junk food." One man's junk is another man's treasure, however. Nothing stimulates the palate quite like a bit of chocolate, nothing is finer than some well-aged cheese, and nothing invigorates me more than some sparkling spring water, so what is wrong with a "Little Debbie" cake, some "Cheetos," and a soda? Nothing, in my opinion; there are those, however, who disagree. Faced with the ever-increasing trend of overweight children in America, some radicals have set out on a devastating crusade against certain foods. Unfortunately, a few "big-boned" children and those who tend to indulge too much in junk food have ruined it for the rest of us.

These pro-crudités crusaders have reached our humble school. The vending machines once stocked enough sweets to cause a heart attack in anyone with enough dollar bills and enough soda machines to keep a narcoleptic awake all night. Now all one

can find is healthy alternative snacks, that is, when the vending machines are on. When asked if he knew why the school kept the vending machines off senior Will Gerig probed the guess that, "it saves electricity?" The school's real motive is to keep us from buying snacks during school. This is not a county policy, however. I recently toured the halls of the brand new state-of-the-art South County School and every hall had fully-stocked, active vending machines with more options than a grocery store.

This goes beyond taste preference though. Junk food snacks and sodas are proven to provide a quick energy burst from the sugars, the kind of energy burst most of us need to make it through the school day. The over-priced "Chillers" and "100 Calorie Packs" we are left with are barely enough to keep a student from starving. "I think we need more high quality, high sugar...junk food," commented Gerig.

My advice: eat whatever you want as long as you stay active, and if you want to eat anything edible at school, you better bring it from home. Tell those health food nuts you will eat plenty of grass and dirt when you're dead. Live for the moment and for what you want, for as Isaac Asimov once said, "happiness is doing it your own rotten way."

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Every Group is an Island

Kaelin Emery
Wire Reporter

While many people may think that there is a lack of diversity at this school, there is, in fact, simple a lack of interaction between the many ethnic groups that attend it.

This school is a melting pot of people from different cultures and backgrounds. In the cafeteria this becomes very apparent. Look around and any student can see the individual groupings of kids from different races. There are tables of Hispanic, White, Asian, and African American students. "I think it is fine as long as everyone is comfortable with each other," commented freshman Odessa Kemp. The lunch room is proof that we are not lacking a diverse population. Last year, our school was 46 percent White, 18 percent Hispanic, 25 percent African American, 9 percent Asian, and 2 percent students from another origin.

There is a problem when it comes to the fact that our school is mildly segregated. I think it is important for every person to have friends outside of their race. Meeting people from different backgrounds exposes you to different cultures and customs. That is interesting, right? Well, apparently not. Of course there are groups of friends that include people of all races, but mostly

groups are composed of mainly one race with maybe one or two people from a different background. "People hang out with who they are comfortable with. It is interesting to associate with people from different races because they have different points of view but sometimes you don't get along as well with them, not because of race but because of their different backgrounds," said senior Jordan Adem. Where the social standard is concerned, I think the bar needs to be raised.

The school holds an International Banquet every year where various cultures are showcased. Students have the opportunity to perform a song, skit, or recite a poem that reflects their way of life. While this is a very educational opportunity, it is more of an informative event than an opportunity to promote diversity. "It could be helpful if we had more programs between the language classes. Hispanic kids could teach kids in Spanish classes. That could be a way to facilitate communication," suggested freshman Brittnay Thomas. There is nothing that the school can do to make students interact with each other. It is a conscious decision and it is one that every person needs to make.

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Questions For Thought

Do Lipton Tea employees take coffee breaks?

WHAT HAPPENS IF YOU PUT "THIS SIDE UP" FACE DOWN WHILE POPPING MICROWAVE POPCORN?



Why do people say "The alarm just went off" when really it just came on?

History, from page 1

hinted that he has a plan for the Art Club to make a tribute our school's Black History pride.

"We're not a minority, we're an opportunity," said Traci Jennings, an active member of the BCA. "And BCA is open to anyone who wants to learn about Black History."

The BCA distributed a calendar of "Little-Known Black History Facts" as well as created a calendar of, "WestPo's Black History Month Calendar of Events." The fact calendar includes facts ranging from birth of Frederick Douglass to the date that political activist Angela Davis was released from jail. There is a wide soirce of events occurring at the school, all of which are delicately laid out by the calendar. Along with calendars, Black History Month facts are announced during the morning announcements.

Before this year, the BCA was not as strong

of a presence in our school's community. They were not around to provide for the music before school and the calendars to layout the month. The tradition is being pieced back together at our school but we are not doing the traditions and the values enough justice. People worked very hard on many different levels to protect and provide for the civil rights of African Americans. It is appalling the lack of respect that is given to the legacy that they set forth. The heroes of the civil rights were martyrs for their cause; doing anything and everything they could to protect their liberties. It is time for high school America to take a step farther to reach out and take what has been given to us, to remember this history. We need to remember not only for posterity's sake, but also for reference to better handle the future.

 KDabmann_wire@yahoo.com

Class, from page 1

You can take different writing courses, such as journalism or creative writing. There are different art classes and many foreign languages to take. "I sign up for classes based on credits but I also sign up for some classes that I want to take," said junior Casey Snyder. There are then all the mandatory classes in the science, history, mathematics, and English departments, which still have many different options for classes. Students will be signing up for classes soon, so put thought into what classes will help you graduate and move on to a great career in life. These classes are meant to be enjoyed so sign up for ones you like, but at the same time take credits into consideration. "First I look at credits to narrow down the class selection, but then I pick based what interests me," said sophomore Brooke Regensburg.

 PCooksey_wire@yahoo.com

Standard Diploma Requirements

Course	Number of Credits	Verified Credits
English	4	2
Mathematics	3	4 more
Science	3	credits of
History	4	choice
P.E. / Health	2	for the
Arts	1	student
Electives	5	



Advanced Diploma Requirements

Course	Number of Credits	Verified Credits
English	4	2
Mathematics	4	2
Science	4	2
History	4	2
P.E. & Health	2	1 additional
Arts	1	credit of the
Electives	2	students
Foreign Language	3	choose




Security, from page 1

The responsibility of a security guard is to patrol the campus and maintain a secure environment for the students. They enforce the regulations and establish a tobacco, alcohol, weapon and drug free setting.

To become a security guard, our school looks for previous military and/or law enforcement. Also, previous working in school settings and the ability to work well with students is also needed.

Now that Roberts has been added to the group of security guards you will most likely be seeing more security in school and around campus. Security was turning low but they are now able to be on top of things. So students, beware.

 JFinfrack_wire@yahoo.com

Science Fair is a Success

Adele Hampton
Managing Editor

It is the beginning of third quarter and half of the year is over. This time of the year students are occupied with improving grades and fighting the bitter cold. In addition to this, students are also getting ready for the Regional and State Science Fairs.

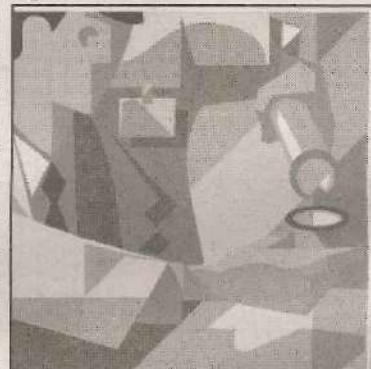
Our school's science fair was held on Saturday, February 4 in the cafeteria. Students taking Honors Physics, AP Chemistry, and AP Biology were required to participate, and students

taking regular physics and chemistry can also participate, but are not required. The students who partook in this event were notified a month in advance. Students had the option of working in groups or alone,

and were given a list of possible topics. They were also allowed to choose their own topic, even those that were not on the list. After participants had chosen their topic they were required to fill out a number of forms. These forms included research plans, regulations, teacher notifications and sign-offs, and an official abstract. An abstract is a basic summary of the entire projects. For help and reference, the students used the official website of the science fair, www.sciserv.org/ises.

The fair went from 8:00 am

to 2:30 pm and projects were arranged by category. Categories included Earth and space science, environmental science, engineering, zoology, botany, computer sciences, physics, and chemistry. Parents with scientific background were judges and numerous teachers such as biology teacher Anthony Halteh, and chemistry teacher Garry Relton could be found walking around observing the projects. Judges visited projects asking questions and signing off of on slips of paper that each participant




The Science Fair took place in our school's cafeteria on February 4, from 8:00 am to 2:30 pm.

Photo from Microsoft Word

had. Students were either judged based on a rubric or others were judged based on a discussion group. After each project was viewed, the judges got together, based on categories, and debated and discussed the awards. "In general there were a general growing number of superior projects," said Relton.

First and second place in each category advance to regionals, at Regionals, places are given out and students can advance to states. Prizes include cash and scholarship money, as well as amusing awards, such as rubber ducks. Winners included: Katie staples, Allison Tse with partner Theresa How-Yew-Kin, Diana Bruke, Dan Jachowski, Parker Fishel, and Brett Smith. Each of these students and many more will advance to Regionals.

 AHampton_wire@yahoo.com

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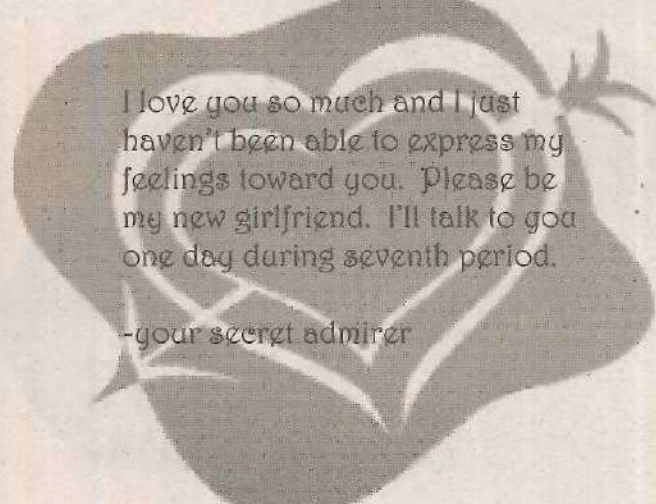
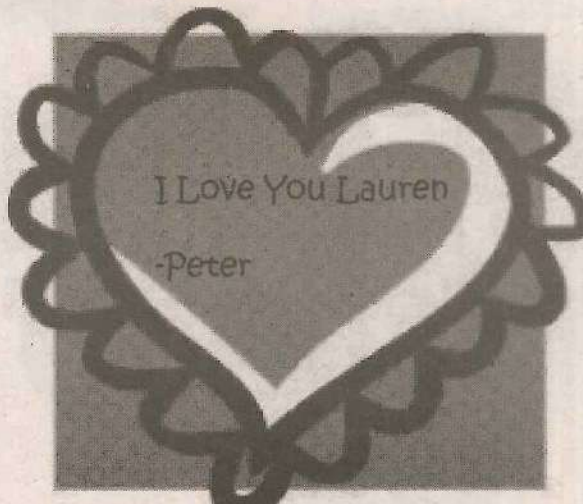
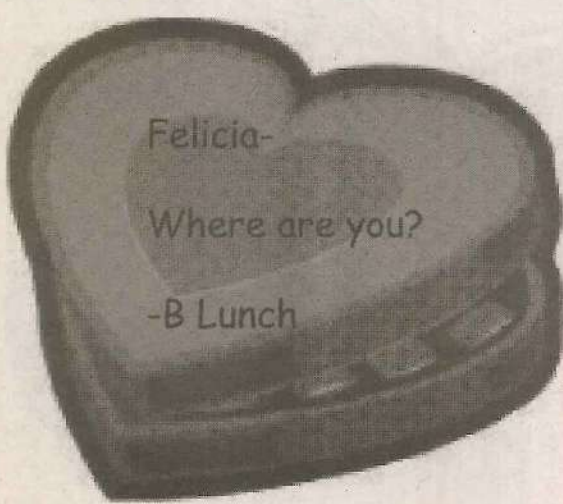
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Political Science Gains Popularity

Kristina Dahmann

Wire Reporter

Over the last semester, students in David Goldfarb's seventh period Political Science class had "an opportunity to tackle a set of fundamental questions of political theory, and also to challenge themselves with the ideas of the leading political thinkers in western history," stated Mr. Goldfarb in reference to the class. Mr. Goldfarb has been teaching at West Potomac for the past four years and has been working in Fairfax County Public Schools for twelve years. He teaches ninth grade World History, AP World History I, and the Political Science class. On top of this he is the chair of the social studies department and the advanced placement program coordinator.

The Political Science class can be taught in all high schools in this county, however, at this time, only seven schools offer the class. Goldfarb has taken a strong belief that it is important to "write in order to learn." The curriculum was writing intense, and filled with daily Socratic seminars. The students read excerpts from a range of philosophers. Over the course of the class there were three units: Plato, Aristotle and Niccolo Machiavelli; John Locke, Thomas Hobbes and Jean Jacques Rousseau; and Adolf Hitler, Benito Mussolini and Karl Marx. With each philosopher, students

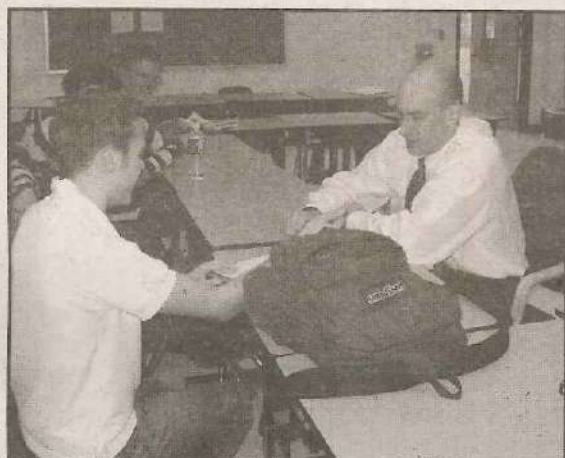
were required to write reading responses that consisted of two parts. First of which was to restate a political idea of the perspective philosopher in thesis statement form. The second part was to do a personal reflection, of their personal beliefs, in the same form. Also, there was a conglomeration of over 20 writings where students were given a prompt to simply write what they thought about, in response, or about whatever was floating through their minds. For example, a writing that was used with the study of Aristotle was: "Defend the proposition that all people are not created equal." Both the personal response in the reading response and the in-class writings were helping students find their own philosophical voice. As the final project, the students were assigned to write their own political philosophy that encompassed the aspects of the philosophers studied over the course

of the semester which they felt reflected their own beliefs, along with other ideas that portray their personal thoughts.

The majority of the students who took the class were aware of Goldfarb's teaching style and the fact that the work load would be nothing short of rigorous, because most had taken his AP World History class. However,

the Political Science class was a chance for Mr. Goldfarb to step back, allow the students to use the readings, and each other through discussion and debate. "All of a sudden I looked up and noticed that Mr. Goldfarb had left the room. It was amazing because the discussion never slowed down. We didn't need a teacher anymore to keep us focused. We came together as a whole class where everyone genuinely wanted to be there. It was exciting," remarked Lauren, a member of the Political Science class. This clearly showed the maturity of the class, which then allowed the dynamics among the students to welcome creativity. This created a bond between the students that made the dynamics of the class different than any other class. The experience by the students and the teacher. As Goldfarb said, "I expect Political Science will always be my favorite class to teach. By the end of the semester, they act like one another as if they are family."

KDahmann_wire@yahoo.com



Mr. Goldfarb focuses on individual students such as: Parker Fishel, Dan John, and Thomas Sullivan during class.

Photo by Lakisha Langley

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UPCOMING EVENTS



Lionel Hahn/KRT

- February 21-22
 - Forms to Sign Up for Classes Distributed
- February 24
 - Black History Month Assembly
- February 25
 - Winter Track Regional Competition

- February 27
 - Winter Sports Award Night (6:30pm - 9:30pm)

- March 2
 - The Wire UNOs day

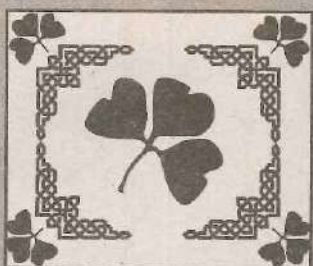
- March 3 - 4
 - Winter Track State Competition @ GMU

- March 6
 - Spring Coaches parent Meeting (7:00pm - 9:00pm)



Lexington Herald-Leader/KRT

- March 8
 - NHS Meeting
- March 15-17
 - The Wire field trip to NYC
- March 16
 - Touch Base with Parents (5:30pm - 8:00pm)
- March 17
 - St. Patrick's Day!
- March 18
 - SGA Spring Dance (8:00pm - 11:00pm)



Ric Thornton/KRT

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LOVE,
WIRE STAFF

I <3 KERNS
- Anonymous

To Becca,
An innocent smile
hides your dirty
mind,

while sparkling
eyes distract from
your beautiful
whole.

<3 Thomas

CLUB BEAT BOX A CLUSTER OF CLUB COVERAGE

Diana Blaszkiewicz
Style Editor

Imagine a resplendent, animated dream world drawn in Technicolor. Insert characters of lost samurai, evil mutants, and the heroic fighters that vanquish them. That is a pretty concise picture of what manga and anime, Japanese graphic cartoons and animations, are. However, if one wants to learn more, hold that thought and head on over to room 452 to talk Japanese animation at Anime Club.

Sponsored by Latin *magister* Mr. Simonson, Anime Club meets every A-day Monday to watch anime music videos (AMVs), plan trips to anime conventions in Washington, D.C., and discuss ideas for and takes on anime. "It's just a whole bunch of fans getting together, being crazy!" exclaimed club president, senior Jackie Fernandez. "It is a very relaxed club; a lot of us are friends." However,

new members are eagerly welcomed, and many find the club's extensive collection of anime and manga especially attractive. "Members own manga together- it's essentially like having a really big library," said senior Sam Stevens, Anime Club's very own Webmaster [check out the club's website at www.wpanime.tk]. Of course, snacks are another appealing aspect of Anime Club. Members indulge in pocky, breadstick-like cookies dipped in chocolate. Stevens asserted "[Pocky is] very good, and some people would even call it highly addictive."

From cookies to comic books, Anime meetings are a celebration of Japanese art and culture, a way to appreciate conventions very different from American ones, but fascinating all the same.

DBlaszkiewicz_wire@yahoo.com

ANUM'S ACADEMICS

Want to get away from the mundane east coast? Head to sunny California... or Washington or Oregon. Going to college on the west coast will mean starting life anew, in a completely different environment.

California State University: East Bay (The Pioneers)

Type of School: Public

Setting: Suburban

Percent of Applicants Admitted: Not reported

Admission Cost: \$13,086



Laine Scheliga/KRT



Steve Ringman/KRT

University of Alaska Anchorage (The Seawolves)

Type of School: Public

Setting: Urban

Percent of Applicants Admitted: 81%

Admission Cost: \$11,354

Oregon State University (The Beavers)

Type of School: Public

Setting: Suburban

Percent of Applicants Admitted: 90%

Admission Cost: \$17,502



Erik Campos/KRT



Steve Deslich/KRT

University of Washington (The Bears)

Type of School: Public

Setting: Urban

Percent of Applicants Admitted: 68%

Admission Cost: \$19,917

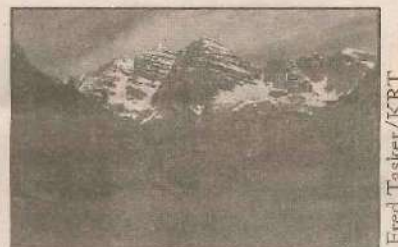
University of Northern Colorado (The Bears)

Type of School: Public

Setting: Suburban

Percent of Applicants Admitted: 82%

Admission Cost: \$12,381



Fred Tasker/KRT



Laine Scheliga/KRT

Hawaii Pacific University (The Sea Warriors)

Type of School: private liberal arts college

Setting: Urban

Percent of Applicants Admitted: 82%

Admission Cost: \$11,630

Though many SAT prep classes can cost upwards of \$1000, there are free resources every student in Fairfax County can use. Our county subscribes to paid services that students can access. It is recommended that everyone spend five to ten minutes a day, five days a week, to practice on a website like this: www.fcps.edu/westspringfieldhs/career/testprep.htm. They have practice questions, word practices, and math practices, among other things.

Know what lackadaisical means? What about insipid? You might, if you practice your SAT vocabulary on websites like these:

www.wordsmith.org/words/today.html

www.freevocabulary.com

www.m-w.com/cgi-bin/mwwod.pl



Dennis Balogh/KRT

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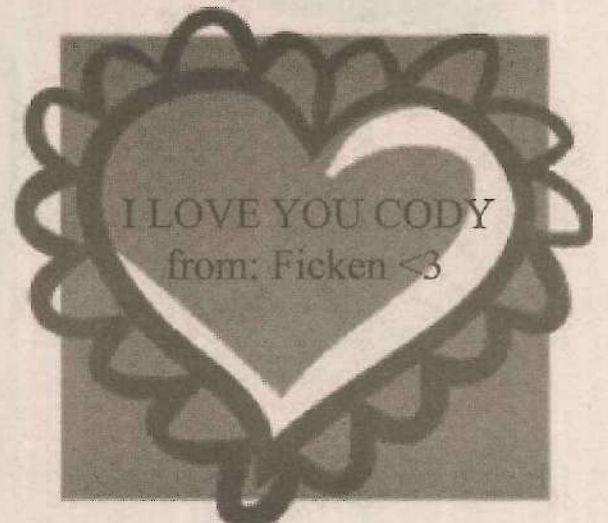
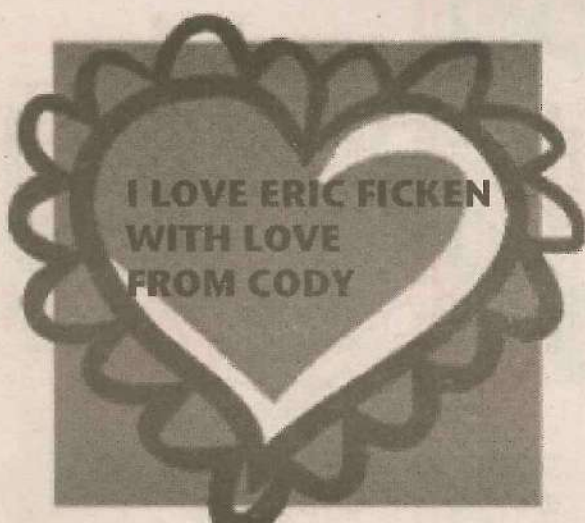
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Sarah, We have something to tell you. You might want to sit down...we love you and like to stare at you because you are hot. Love,
Kristina and Nicole

Kate, We fantasize about you. Please, be our Valentine.
xoxo, Nicole and Kristina

Killa, In times of trouble: you are there. In times of joy: you are there. And everyday you look really pretty and we can't help but stare. <3,
Kristina and Nicole

Lil Poo, Lizzard, BRo;
You guys are hilarious. Track wouldn't be the same without you...even though you're only sophomores.
xoxo Kristina and Nicole

Debbie Ly
The thing is watching everyday.
Thank you
Love, C

Happy Valentines Day to the best student assistants ever! For Mubina, Jenn and Marlo
From Ms. Conner
Career Center

To the love of my life, my wonderful, beautiful lets not forget smart girlfriend Shukura. I LOVE U with all my heart.
- John

Superman,
Thanks for all the "memories of us"
Love you!
- That Skinny Girl

My Lover,
Happy Valentines Day!!
I love you
[and your goods]
xoxo, Emily Anne

Dear Emily,
Look at the people, not at the sky.
Love,
Evan

Mr. O'Grady,
Hope you liked the cookies and cupcake. I baked them especially for you. Happy Valentines Day!
Your Secret Admirer

10 Best Love Movies Staff Picks

1. *Titanic* - Jon
2. *Love Actually* - Hooff
3. *The Notebook* - Kaelin
4. *10 Things I Hate About You* - Kristina
5. *Wedding Crashers* - Taylor
6. *Same Time Next Year* - Anum
7. *Love Story* - Diana
8. *A Walk to Remember* - Jocelyn
9. *Pride and Prejudice* - Adele
10. *Say Anything* - Alex

To Ms. Brady,
Thanks for making WePo a safer place
Love, The Fellaz

Dear Thomas,
I think you are really n
Love, Becca

Dear Patrick Ross
Your eyes are like the Pot River. Your cheeks like clouds. Your hair like the fu minx and I LOVE YOU
- Anonymous

Hello, two people, I care about. Jackie Williams & Rebecca Murphy. Hope you guys know that I will love you two 4-ever.
- Andre A.

Happy ValentinesDay
to the Class
of 2007
Love Always,
Jen

Dear Cindy,
You are one hot chick. I love you. I think about you day and night. You're my everything and I can't live without you. Be my valentine.
Love, Anonymous

Hey baby,
Thank you for all the good the bad times we had. Happy Birthday. Don't forget to your energy!!
Luv ya baby Tiffany xoxo

Hurry Hooff!
I'm Waiting!
- your one
and only

One Love
b.b.h
(Shan, Dan, Man, Kan, Stanley)

Pat and Ben
Forever

Dear Ms. Bobo,
Your smile is as radiating your enthusiasm! Thank you for brightening our lives
- anonymous

Showin' Some Lov

most about you
n in spandex
ens up our live

Kristina

Dear C. Riv.
You are the cutest little
thing we have ever seen,
will you be our Valentine?
We love you,
Nicole and Kristina

Our dearest Bobolicious,
Spending time with you is the best
part of our school day. College
will be meaningless without you.
Hugs and kisses, Kdawg
and Nicole

Coach Beeby,
Long hours at the track
have made us appreciate
how much your humor
really does brighten up our
lives. Long live the Beeby.
Your favorite,
Kristina & Nicole

Dear Lauren Shannon,
Roses are Red
Violets are Blue
Your face is really prett
and we love you TOO!
- Nicole and
Kristina

<3<3 Alyssa <3<3
<3<3 We... <3<3<3
<3 ONLY <3
Like you for your...
<3 SINGING!! <3
<3 Nicole
and Kristina <3

Dear 12 oz. of love,
You mean the world to us. We
promise to love you until we
are old in our rocking chairs.
When life lets us down, you
make us smile. Til death do us
part. West Potomac JUNIORS
Class of 2007!

The first time I saw I know you
was for me. I always remember
you. I never forget you. You
always be in my heart. I love
you -Hector Castillo

I hate Valentines Day
Jeffy
Stop! Pajama Time
Pat <3 Ben

Dear Gatt!
You are soo pretty.
love. Evan!

Elise,
Lunch is amazing
-Evan!

10 Best Love Songs Staff Picks

1. "We Belong Together"-Mariah Carey — Kaelin
2. "Such Great Heights"- The Postal Service — Jocelyn
3. "You're Beautiful"- James Blunt — Adele
4. "Unbreak My Heart"- Toni Braxton — Ms. Pierre
5. "Brighter than Sunshine"- Aqualung — Alex
6. "My Heart Will Go On"- Celine Dion — Jon
7. "Everlong (Acoustic)"- Foo Fighters — Anum
8. "Nothing Better"- The Postal Service — Hooff
9. "As Long as You Love Me"- Backstreet Boys — Kristina
10. "Cactus"- Pixies — Diana

Hey baby,
I know you weren't expecting
this from me, right? Just wanted
to be sweet and remind you
that I <3 you. Hope you like
your little heart gift because
I'm sending it to you with
mucho amor. Lots of Love and
kisses for my baby Joseph Ariel
Gonzales
<3 Always Your baby Vero

Ace,
I wanted to say Happy V-day!
I love you very much!
Happy V-day!

Maija and Lisa,
You + Me + Oasis = <3
Evan

Mike Avery
Happy 15th Birthday.
Because you were born
in 1991.
~ Evan

Dear West Potomac,
Have a wonderful Val-
entines Day. Be loved
and be blessed.

Mr. Duggins

Chelsea, Cingay(Cindy) and
Colleen,
I flippen love you guys! you
mean the world to me. You
guys are always there when
I lose my ground and I can't
thank you all enough. With-
out you guys I'd still be all
shelled up.
<3 Carolina

The History of Valentine's Day

A holiday that has been a mystery, and will remain a mystery.

Jocelyn Finfrock

Focus Editor

When one hears the word Valen-
tine, many people think of choco-
late hearts, roses, cards, and teddy
bears. But why do we celebrate this
holiday? Why is love always on a
person's mind on February 14?

The Catholic Church recognizes
at least three saints with the name
Valentine or Valentinus, all who
were martyred. So which St. Val-
entine are we remembering when
we celebrate this holiday of love?
There are three legends that could
possibly be close to the truth.

One legend argues that Valentine
was a priest who served in Rome
during the third century. Emperor
Claudius II of Rome wanted to
keep his youngest and best soldiers
in the army so he decided to outlaw
marriages for young men. Valentine
disfavored this law so he began to
perform marriages in secret. When

Claudius found out, he ordered that
Valentine be put to death.

Other stories imply that Valentine
was killed because he attempted to
help Christians escape the tortur-
ous Roman prisons where many
were beaten to death.

Another legend contends that
Valentine actually sent the first
'valentine'. It is believed that while
in prison, he fell in love with the
jailor's daughter who would visit
him in his confinement. Before his
death it is believed that he sent her a
letter signed 'From your Valentine',
an expression that we use today.

Though no one is sure of the real
truth behind Valentine's Day, we
can conclude from these stories
that St. Valentine was a romantic,
kind-hearted, passionate hero, who,
even today, we remember every
February 14.

🐾 Jfinfrock_wire@yahoo.co,

At West Potomac

Torino 2006: Expectations?

Jon Yoo

Asst. Sports Editor

This was supposed to be the Winter Olympics where the United States left their mark. However, even though our team did not disappoint in this year's winter games, hardly anything went as expected.

The United States team did not disappoint in this year's Winter Olympics, which was held in Turin, Italy from February 10-26. However, many of the expectations and hype were not met by many of the star athletes in sports that the U.S. had done well in previous games. The other obstacle that many of our teams faced were injuries that continued to pile on throughout the games, including injuries to medal contenders Apolo Anton Ohno and Lindsey Kildow. One injury included three time Olympic hopeful, Michelle Kwan, who was never able to fulfill her amazing career, which included being a five time world champion, with an Olympic gold, due to a groin injury that forced her to bow out shortly after the opening ceremony.

Never the less, star athletes, such as Bode Miller and Jeremy Bloom, never lived up to their hype. Before the start of the games there was a constant spotlight on Bloom and Miller, due to their intriguing but very different paths that they took to reach the Olympics. Bloom was a star football player at the University of Colorado, who was declared ineligible by the NCAA because he accepted sponsorships for skiing. He was a huge favorite for the

freestyle skiing event, but came up empty handed with a sixth place finish. Miller received much of his fame for the comments he made about skiing while he was intoxicated and he also appeared on the cover of Time magazine. It was sad to see that he got credibility for his comments rather than his talents but his performance was even more disappointing. He placed fifth in one downhill event and was disqualified from another. Even after his results, he seemed unfazed and showed no concern at all. In the end, both Bloom and Miller with all their pre-hype, came back empty handed.



Olympic Skater Michelle Kwan is consoled by her coach after a tough performance.

However, with all the substandard finishes our teams did have some pleasant surprises from some young athletes. Sean White and Hannah Tetter both captured the gold in the male and female half pipe for the U.S. and Chad Hedrick and Joey Cheek placed first in their respective speed skating events. Strong play was also seen from both the male and female U.S. hockey teams.

Maybe at the next Winter Olympics, the U.S. will not take its outcome for granted. The media must learn to let the athletes produce first, before giving them so much attention and added pressure. However, Team USA found a way to put athletes on the podium, showing their toughness and desire to win in times when it was easy to turn away.

🐾 JYoo_wire@yahoo.com

What Did They Do?

Bode Miller



2002: Won two silver medals and is a four-time world champion.
2006: Got in trouble with USOC for controversial "drunk" skiing comments. Fifth in the downhill. Disqualified in the combined which was won by American Ted Ligety.

Jeremy Bloom



2002: Placed ninth in moguls. Reigning world champion in moguls.
2006: Did not live up to hype placing sixth in moguls. American Toby Dawson won bronze.

Emily Hughes



2002: Did not compete. Sister, Sarah, won gold.
2006: After placing third at the 2006 U.S. championships, Hughes was named an alternate behind Michelle Kwan. Kwan withdrew due to injury so Hughes will take her place.

Apolo Anton Ohno



2002: Won Olympic gold and silver in the 1000 and 1500 meter short track speedskating.
2006: Eighth in 1000 meter. Stumbled in semi-finals of 1500 meter.

Young Girls Learn Hard Way

Houston Murphy

Sports Editor

Young is the operative word when it comes to the girls varsity basketball team. With five freshmen and only two seniors, more than half of the team's twelve players are underclassmen. But with determined play manned by Head Coach Parker Roach and senior veteran captains Brittney Majors and Shanna Richardson, the young Lady Wolverines have just started tapping into their potential.

With a 2-15 record, the team ended the regular season last place in the division, which placed them against powerhouse West Springfield in the district playoffs. They lost the playoff game, ending their rebuilding season after being outscored 26-6 in a dry second half.

With so many underclassmen that had huge roles in the team's game plan, it might be construed that the young players were forced into action a little early. But the skill of this young class of players showed that they have the ability to play. "We have a lot more young players than seniors, but they are here for a reason," said Majors. "We have a team full of young, good players, and right now we are trying to work together to point this young team in the right direction."



Senior Shanna Richardson poses as if she were shooting a jump shot.

With wins over J.E.B. Stuart High and Falls Church and tough losses to powerhouse district teams West Springfield (18-5) and T.C. Williams (18-5), the team has experienced every single emotion throughout the season. "The wins were so special for us because we have to fight for everything this season and nothing at all is going to be handed to us," said Richardson.

In a win against the Stuart Raiders, the freshman combo of Darnell Childs and point guard Danielle Dorsey provided the offense with energy and toughness, contributing eleven points each to win 59-35.

Their win over the Falls Church Jaguars was much closer, playing without the guidance of seniors Majors and Richardson due to injuries. They still played one of their best games of the season, as the underclassmen stepped up and remained poised throughout the whole game, showing that they use their practice time efficiently. "It was tough playing without [Majors and Richardson], but I just play," said Dorsey when asked if the absence of their two most experienced players hindered the team's ability to play their game.

Though in their two wins one was close and one was a much-needed blowout, the ideas brought to the court were always the same. Richardson, Majors, and Roach worked together to teach the young team what it takes to win - effort, teamwork, and passion for the game.

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Students Seize Scholarship Opportunities

Caroline Staples

Features Editor

Every year, high school athletes dream of getting athletic scholarships to play at the college level. This can be accomplished by being a phenomenal player in their specific sport while keeping their grades at an above average level.

So far this year, about 300 students have contacted Barbara Conner, the career center specialist at our school. Mainly juniors and seniors visit the Career Center, but there are freshman and sophomores who also come in. One of these students is Ms. Conner's daughter, Maggie Conner, who does not have a sports scholarship but an academic trustee scholarship to Hollins and Agnes Scott University. Conner said, "In order to receive this scholarship a student must have a GPA of 3.25 or better, an SAT score higher than 1700, and have taken a rigorous course in their high school years."

Conner explained that about eighty-six admission representatives have come to our school so far this year to approach students about where they would like to finish off their education and where they want to pursue their dreams at playing a

sport in college. Some requirements that colleges are looking for in a future athlete applying for a scholarship are either a high GPA or a high SAT score, four years of english, two years of social science, two years of mathematics, one year of an additional course in english, math, or natural/physical science, two years of natural of physical science and three years of an additional course in foreign language, philosophy, or non doctrinal religion courses.

One usual tool to organize yourself when applying for more than one scholarship is the Scholarship Tracker. This tracker lists the name of the scholarships, the amount the scholarship is willing to give you, the deadline for it, date submitted, if you won it, and your notification date.

"It's not hard, that's what I would like to get out to the kids," said Ms. Conner. The only papers a student would have to fill out to apply for the scholarship is a financial paper, the application itself and an essay. If a student were to win the money amount for the scholarship, it would be sent straight to your college admissions office.

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Mr. Sanchez,
Sorry all you
have this year is
your vinyl.
-Evan

Dear Liz,
On this very special day, to
my very special someone.
Happy Valentines Day

Hey Goofball,
Have a Happy Valentines
Day and hope you know
you're awesome even
though you like country.

Houey's Highlights

Arrogance Does Not Pay Off

Houston Murphy
Sports Editor

We all must graduate from kindergarten at one point in our lives. It is amazing that some professional athletes still have not managed to do so.

It is not that they have not earned an education, but professional athletes like Terrell Owens must not have learned to share their Legos when they were little. With such selfish attitudes in their sports careers, these egotistical athletes clearly skipped a step when learning the fundamentals of team play.

There is one main point that every gym teacher, coach, and captain makes as soon as they stand in front of a group of competitors on a team. This theme is simple, and we are all taught to recognize its truth since early childhood. The idea is that there is no "I" in "team," no matter how you spell it. Teamwork is universal, and it applies to many life situations other than sports. But, the idea of "team" in a sports sense is so simple and obvious that it would be ludicrous to think that one could not grasp its value – much less reject it completely.

I would be naïve to think that all professional athletes purely played for the love of the game and that fame, money, and the spotlight had nothing to do with their decisions. But when an athlete abandons their team in the fashion

that Owens did, it is inexcusable. Owens made a choice – a childish choice that he must live with for the rest of his career along with all of his lost fans and endorsements that he could have had, that are now shoved out the door. Once he turned his back on Donovan McNabb and the Eagles, he basically told the world that he was bigger than the city of Philadelphia. Once he did this, he lost all of his credibility in my eyes.

Owens' arrogance set an example for the rest of the sports world. He set a precedent that no athlete is bigger than the team. Though negative for the Eagles, this example of excess fame showed everyone how horrible it is to be on a team with such an arrogant individual. Splurging all of his issues with teammates to the media and badmouthing them to the extent of disgust, the Eagles made the wise decision to dismiss Owens from the team.

It is most teenagers' dream to become the big-time superstar athlete like the ones they

see on television. When we see Kobe score 62 points through three quarters and 81 in one game, it makes a lot of us think to ourselves, "how great would it be to score that many

points, myself?" I have no problem with someone wanting to fantasize about the glory of scoring all the points, except when they feel that they are bigger than the team. But Kobe did not mouth off about his coach and star

teammate, and then whine about not getting recognized when he reached a personal landmark in his career. Players who do things like this, like Owens, do not deserve to embody our country's professional sports leagues such as the NFL or NBA. That is why I hope T.O. gets banned from TV and black listed with every team in the NFL.

Terrell Owens set a bad example for all of us. Hopefully we all learned the negative effects this arrogance can bring upon a team.

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Terrell Owens (left), along with his agent Drew Rosenhaus forced the Eagles to shuffle their depth-charts mid-way through the season because of Owens demand to restructure his contract.

Michael Peretz/KKT

In The Numbers

7

The girls' winter track team finished second in the district, the highest finish by the squad in seven years.

1

Place won by the boys' winter track team. This was first year coach, Dan Lundin's first district title and hopefully many more to come.

3.6

Seconds left after the boys' basketball team converted a basket to go ahead of Lake Braddock in the first round of the district tournament. Somehow, the Bruins converted a miracle three-pointer. The shot ended a much improved 10-12 season for our Wolverines.

Lundin Leads Track Team to Title

Houston Murphy
Sports Editor

In past years, the boys track program was more dominant in the spring season than in the winter. This year, first year head coach Dan Lundin made sure the team started things off right early, capturing the boys' indoor Patriot District title for the first time since 1996.

Coach Lundin, in his first year, knew exactly what he had to do to lead the team to success. "I wanted to focus on strengthening the whole team," said Lundin. "With everyone conditioned, it gives us more opportunity to prepare people for different events, which really helped at districts."

Lundin's strategy paid off at districts, as the team contributed in events across the board. "We scored in every single event, and that is really impressive," said Lundin.

The squad started the meet off strong beginning in the field, led by their spectacular jumps, featuring senior veterans Corey Smith, Josh Rodriguez, and Antwane Minter. The three swept the long jump, with Smith in third, Rodriguez second and Minter first with a Patriot District meet record of 21-10.25 feet. These performances were followed up by remarkable efforts from newcomers Rashon Colbert who placed fourth in the 500 meter dash and senior AJ Febrizio who won the shot put with a career best throw of 48 feet.

The girls' track and field team, also coached by Lundin, won an impressive runner up to state powerhouse Lake Braddock. The girls' team bonded and formed a cohesive unit over the season, which greatly helped them in the post season and showed in their relays, as they finished in the top three places in each of the three relays, achieving third in the 4x200 meter relay, second in the 4x800, and first place in the 4x400, which was anchored by sophomore phenomenon Kat Lee.

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Bummer Ballers

Dan Jachowski
Wire Reporter

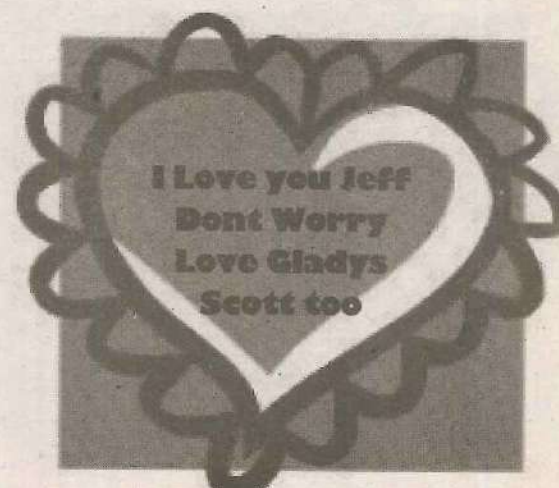
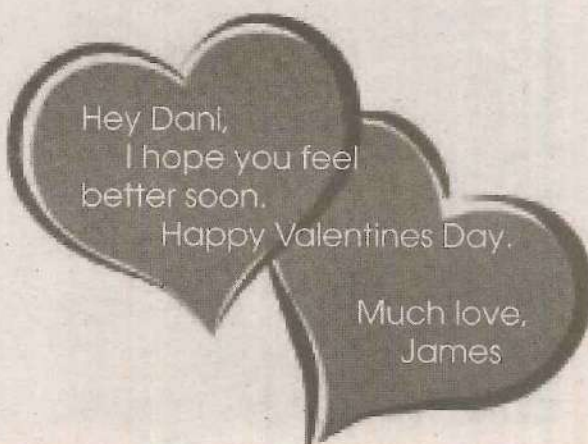
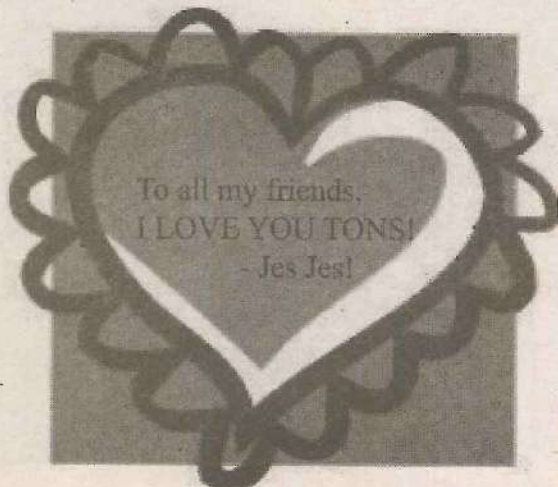
In a season jam-packed with close games, our boy's basketball team has persevered, playing every game as best they can till the very end, which has helped them achieve their 10-12 record.

The players feel the team has had a major improvement between this year and last year. According to D.A. Leigh, they are just, "more of a team than last year." This fact is evident in the scores of every game; they have not experienced a single blow-out this season. Perhaps one of the closest games was in their second to last game against Annandale. The game went into overtime, and they won on two free throws. For Leigh, it was a, "pretty sweet game." Leigh thinks the major differences that have helped them become a better team this year are a more positive attitude throughout the team, and simply by being better players. Even though they placed sixth in the district, Leigh felt the team was the best sixth place team in the region.

John Jordan, a fan who has gone to some of the games, says that they are way more exciting than last year; the team is more skilled, has a better attitude, and the crowd has a lot more energy. When asked how the team looks when they are playing, Jordan responded, "Great. Phenomenal." For Jordan, the most exciting game was not one that our team won. He just liked it because, "everyone was flying all over the place," the crowd was hyped, and the team was great. For the fans, more wins are not what is making this season better than last. Rather, it is the energy in the team and the crowd.

The team took their momentum into the post season as they travelled to face Lake Braddock in the first round of districts. In a grind-it-out game that went down to the wire, we took the lead by two points on a bucket scored by senior George Johnson. With only 3.6 seconds left, the hard-fought season was ended by a miracle three pointer at the buzzer by the Bruins.

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Hairy, Scary Horror Movies!

Katie Staples

Co-Editor-in-Chief

The fear an audience experiences both during and after a horror movie is like an adrenaline rush but what else makes them so appealing? Teachers and students at this school have different standards for horror movies. Older movies used graphics and cinematography that do not compare in the least to movies of today. The suspense and mystery of the 70's and 80's has been replaced with serial killers and gore. Junior Mike Richards believes unexpectedness makes a good scary movie. "Not knowing and curiosity of what's going on and thinking if this is possible to happen to you," is scary to Richards. Junior Robin Kim thinks suspense, a scary antagonist, gore and music add to the fear factor. Horror movies of today and decades ago have been popular movie choices for years. These are the top six horror movies, past and present, of students and teachers at this school:

1.) *Saw* - (2004)

In this horror flick, Adam and Dr. Lawrence Gordon wake up in the lair of a serial killer named Jigsaw. Jigsaw has taken Gordon's family hostage and tortured several people in his utility room. He puts his victims through several elaborate obstacles as they try to escape the house. The victims must kill or hurt themselves and others while trying to break out. The twist is the "killer" never does any of the killings. Sophomore Nabil Awwad said *Saw* is his favorite scary movie, "because the killer was so smart and crazy."

2.) *Texas Chainsaw Massacre* - (1974) and (2003)

As they are coming back from a trip in Mexico, five teenagers meet a disturbed hitchhiker. After she kills herself in the back of their van they attempt to unravel her mystery. This leads them to an isolated farm house, settled in acres of fields at the edge of woods. One by one the kids are killed off by a crazed man known as Leatherface as they try to escape the town.

3.) *The Ring* - (2002)

In this thriller, young journalist Rachel Keller tries to find the mystery behind the unexplained movie her teenage niece died from watching. This mysterious tape kills whoever watches it seven days after finishing the film. After she and her young son watch the movie, her search for answers becomes a race against time. Her hunt leads her to a demented girl named Samara.

4.) *Sixth Sense* - (1999)

A young psychiatrist, Macolm Crowe is shot one night by a patient who has broken into his house. In the next few months, he becomes the psychiatrist of a young boy, Cole, who claims to see dead people who do not realize they are dead. As Cole's mother grows worried about his behavior, Crowe tries to help Cole and finds out he really is seeing dead people. English teacher Mary Mathewson's favorite scary movie is *Sixth Sense* because, "I was so surprised at the ending," she said.

5.) *Carrie* - (1976)

This horror movie is about a girl named Carrie who is constantly taunted by her peers. Carrie is asked to the prom by the school

hunk but a classmate who has been banned from the dance plans a devious arrangement to embarrass Carrie in front of the whole school. That night, terrified teens and teachers, discover Carrie's mental powers. That dance turns into a night no one will forget.

6.) *The Exorcist* - (1973)

This thriller follows twelve year-old Regan as she exhibits demonic behavior. Her desperate mother finally blames her behavior on paranormal circumstances, and desperately turns to a priest, who has recently doubted his faith, to do an exorcism. The priest must use his faith to cure the girl, however, the exorcism turns out to have horrible consequences.

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Photo by KRT/Orange County Register

The Sixth Sense set a precedent for intelligent horrors with surprise endings.



Ski, snowboard, or just plain relax at one of the area's premium ski resorts!

Powder Fresh!

Katie Staples

Co-Editor-in-Chief

Skiing, snowboarding, and tubing are some of this school's students' favorite things to do on weekends or snow days. Sophomore Stuart Robinson loves to go tubing. "It's safer than snowboarding but just as fun. It doesn't take much athletic ability," he said. Junior Jesse Torbert disagrees; he thinks snowboarding is more exciting. "It's exhilarating because you go so fast," he said. Fortunately, we live in an area surrounded by inexpensive, yet high-quality, ski resorts. Virginia, West Virginia, and Pennsylvania are home to some of the best ski resorts on the East Coast. Here are some of the most popular in our area:

1.) Wintergreen Resort in Wintergreen, Virginia.

The resort is situated on a 3,515-foot mountain and boasts 24 slopes and trails. The 125 ski-able acres and over 300 villa-style condominiums and rental homes create a huge winter retreat. Wintergreen has very inexpensive rental prices; \$33 for a day of ski rentals or \$43 for a snowboard and boots. Lift tickets range from \$26 to \$59. They are equally popular with tubers of all ages. On "The Plunge," a 900-foot, ten-lane hill, tubers can reach speeds of up to 40mph on the 100-foot vertical drop. When asked what her favorite ski resort is, sophomore Erika Jones replied, "Wintergreen. [My family has] a good time on the slopes and hanging out in the lodges."

2.) Massanutten Resort in Harrisonburg, Virginia.

This modest resort hosts only fourteen trails, but great skiing, snowboarding, and tubing can be promised. Adult slope use cost runs between \$42 and \$69 for one day and \$26 to \$32 for a night, depending on the session (weekday, weekend, and holiday). Two-hour tubing sessions at Massanutten Resort run from eighteen dollars to \$22 on what they call the, "most awesome, family-fun-loving, Snow Tube Park in the mid-Atlantic region." Massanutten Resort has several condominiums, townhouses, and hotels available. Hotel rooms run about \$150 per room per night, and condo/townhouse rates must be acquired by phone or online.

3.) Canaan Valley Ski Resort in Davis, West Virginia.

Canaan was voted one of the, "50 Great Places to Stay for a Dream Weekend" in *Washingtonian Magazine*. This mountain and resort boasts some of the most economical prices in our area. One day of ski and pole rentals runs \$24. Depending upon the time of year, lift ticket prices range from \$27 to \$60 for a full day. Snowboard rentals are \$36 for a full day or \$22 for an evening session. There are two terrain parks for snowboarders featuring rails, boxes, etc. For the less proficient snowboarder, \$25 group lessons are available every day. The resort also has a covered, outdoor ice rink open from twelve p.m. to nine p.m. most days. Canaan Valley Ski Resort has a great, 850-foot tubing hill along side the ski trails. The resort has 250 guest rooms as well as 23 private cabins and cottages on the mountain. A double room at the Canaan Valley Ski Resort costs only \$80 to \$130 per night.

Wherever you decide to go, each of the tens of ski resorts on the East Coast promise a great experience. Hurry and enjoy the cold weather and snow while its still here!

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The Best Romance

Just Senior

Drama Blazkiewicz

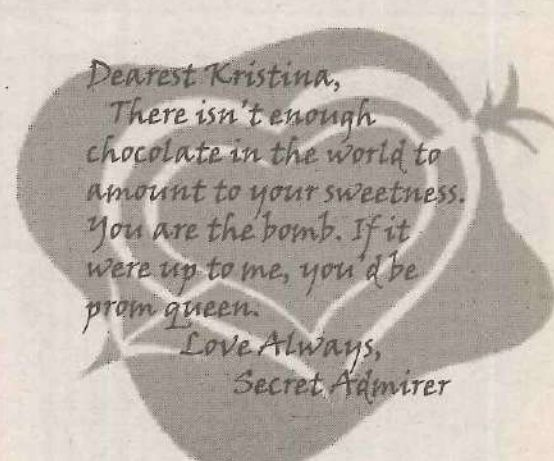
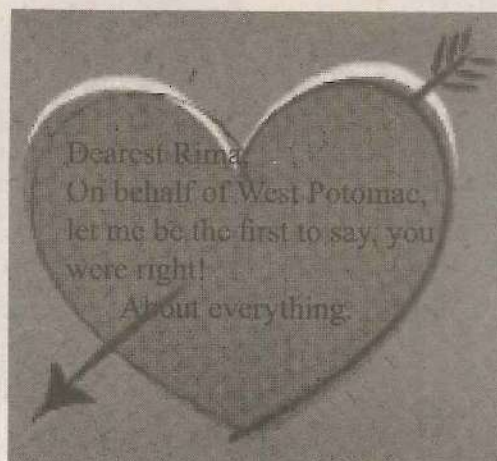
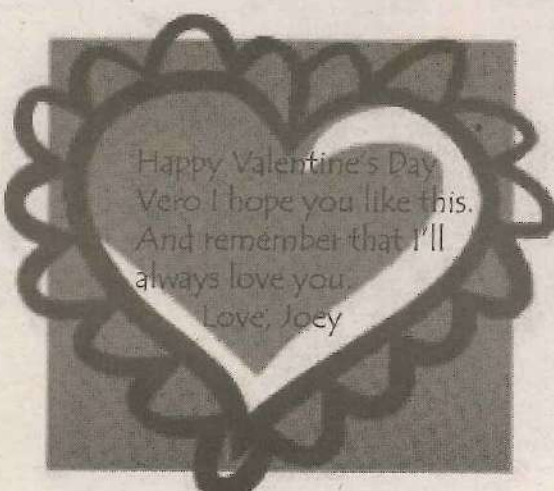
She's back, next issue!

Movie: Sofia Coppola's sweetly romantic *Last in a Series*, a tale of a misguided affection set in an absurdly modern Tokyo, is a perfect post-A-day love story.

Book: I think I was my first-time love, and *You, the Owners Manual* by Michael F. Roizin and Mehmet Oz tells me exactly how to keep my body healthy and in check.

CD: *High School Musical*, the soundtrack, is a genius, comic, heartwarming musical odyssey about overcoming social barriers in the pursuit of amore.

TV: Wow, *Grey's Anatomy* is full of heartbreak, both figurative and literal! Buy the first season DVD and experience the best ER drama since... well, ER.



A Day in the Life of... An Audacious Austrian

Anum Jaffri

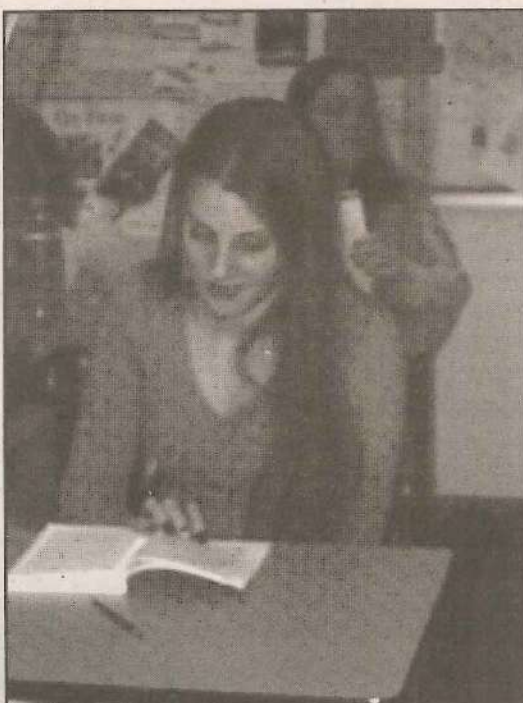
News co-Editor

Junior Steffi Steuer lives out her life like a normal student, only she is living roughly 4,240 miles away from home. She is an exchange student living with a host student in a country she has never visited before, across an ocean from her home in Austria.

On a typical day, Steuer gets up at 6:15, eats breakfast and heads to school with her host, junior Emily Echols. She goes through her school day normally, staying after to make up tests, or going to volleyball practice. However, this Austrian is going through the experience of a lifetime.

Echols decided to host an exchange student after a student in her ninth grade biology class was one. She brought it up with her mom, who found out all the information. "My brother was an exchange student five years ago," Steuer said, which is why she wanted to be an exchange student as well. Plus, "I always loved America," she added. She always wanted to do something that would expose her to more languages. As a career, she would like to be an interpreter or a flight stewardess and both require one to know multiple languages. Upon arriving here, Steuer was surprised to see how nice everyone was. "In Europe, people usually only talk to their friends," she said.

Steuer was also surprised to see the amount of patriotism Americans have. "There are flags everywhere," she said. It was one of the first things she noticed upon coming to this country. "I thought people would be fatter; I don't want to say it in a mean way," Steuer remarked when asked about what else was unexpected about America. "People here do eat vegetables," she exclaimed with surprise. Austrians frequently think of Americans as fat junk food



Language is no barrier for studious foreign exchange student Steffi Steuer. Even though she is in a completely different country, adjusting to the United States has been relatively easy. When calling her friends back home in Austria, Steuer often mocks her friends for not knowing the language as well as she does.

lovers. "Personally, I love America," said Steuer. "But a lot of people don't like the president and the government."

American weather and the school system here have just not impressed Steuer, however. "I love snow; we get a lot more snow in Austria than here." Steuer believes schooling is better in Austria because, "the teacher comes to your class, and you don't have to walk around all day." In her high school, BG und BRG Perchdoldsdorf, students enjoy not being jostled while trying to make it to their next class. She does, however, like how we can choose from a variety of different subjects and academy classes like dance.

Steuer thinks having school sports is a remarkable idea because schools in Austria do not have them. Her school had volleyball once a week but games were for fun, not competition. Since Steuer already had volleyball experience, she decided to join the team. "Everyone was really nice, even though I had just come to America and didn't always understand what people were saying," she said.

"I miss my friends, my family, skiing, and my house," said Steffi about her home in Austria.

By five or six p.m., Steuer goes running, and then does homework. Her favorite T.V. shows are *Desperate Housewives*, *The Simpsons*, *Seinfeld*, *Malcolm in the Middle*, and *That 70s Show*.

A strong soul, a great person to know, and someone not afraid to try new things or live a new life, Steuer will definitely be missed by every life she has touched when she goes back home in June.

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An American in Paris

Sara Matthewson

Style Co-Editor

As I got off the plane in Paris with my family, I thought to myself, "This will be easy." I spent almost two months with my Uncle, Aunt and two cousins in Europe, away from my parents, my brothers and my friends.

My first day in Paris, New Year's Eve, was spent in a hotel. I tagged along with my family to Disneyland the next day, so it was not too bad of a start. The language barrier was not troublesome because there were so many English-speakers there. However, once I got away from the big tourist traps, the language became one of my biggest obstacles. I had taken Spanish through high school but I knew absolutely no French. I could not talk to anyone and I just wanted to be with my friends.

Being in a foreign country is hard enough, even if you are with your family or friends. You do not always understand the language and you do not know where anything is. When you are not with people very close to you, or that you can talk to, you do not feel the usual safety and comfort you feel in your hometown. It was hard sometimes.

My clearest memory is the first time I got lost. I went out in search for a baguette, a type of bread, and ended up about two miles away from my apartment. In Paris, *patisseries*, or bakeries, are everywhere. Of course when you are looking for one, there is not one in sight. "Just go out and you'll hit one eventually," I said to myself. I walked and walked and walked. It was nighttime and I did not keep track of where I was. Once I found a

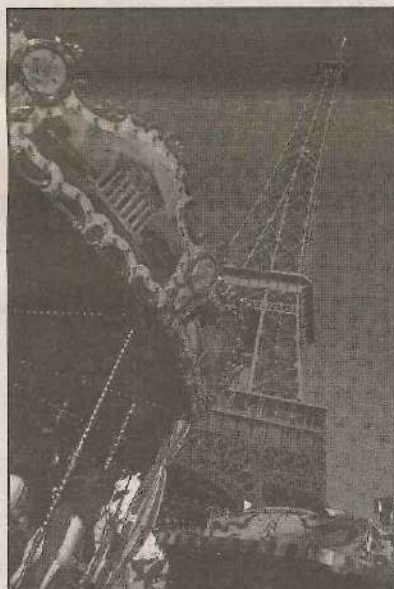
patisserie, I realized that I did not know where I was! I walked down countless streets, trying to find one that I recognized. Finally, I recognized St. Germain Blvd. Now, which way was I supposed to go? I went right. I looked up after five minutes and saw the Notre Dame Cathedral! It would take two metro stops to get there from the apartment. So I got on the metro and back to my stop, scared, tired, frustrated and *sans baguette*. I found out that there was a *patisserie* about one block away from the apartment, the opposite way from where I started walking in the first place.

After my little adventure, I was very reluctant to go outside on my own. I enrolled in a French class, to learn the basics. This helped a little but I learned the most through interaction, ordering food, and translating menus. After seven weeks of being in France, and pretty much being forced to speak French, words came naturally.

After getting over the whole shock of being, "on my own," I finally got the nerve to go out by myself and take my cousins to the Louvre and different museums. I also was able to speak enough French to get by. Being able to go out by myself was the best thing that happened on the trip. Of course, I wish that courage had exhibited itself sooner.

Although I cannot stand the excitement of going home, I am also a little sad to be leaving. I love Paris, the shopping, the excitement, all there is to do, everything. I know for sure that I will come back to the City of Lights and maybe bring some friends and family along.

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Katie,
I miss you sooo much

KTHX

Evan

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE
BETWEEN WEARING YOUR
UNDERWEAR AND WEARING A
SWIMSUIT?
NOTHING!
WePo SWIM/ DIVE
TO LIFE!

Jamie~

I love you the way you
make me laugh and how
you look in that cute little
band uniform.

I'll be at your concert;
look for me in blue.

- Anonymous

No 'Hard Times' Can Hit This Cafe

Alex Keckeisen

Co-Editor-in-Chief

With great food and service, Hard Times Café in Old Town Alexandria includes all of the ingredients for a great restaurant: phenomenal food, service, and to top it all off: atmosphere.

Old Town has often been known for its somewhat expensive, but delicious restaurants, especially the ones scaling King Street from the waterfront to the Masonic temple. Some establishments stand out while others remain hidden on the brick paths that wind through the low-rising but bustling business sector. The Hard Times building may stay out of sight, but the old pick-up truck with a hanging American flag does not.

As you first walk in, you may find yourself wondering about the style and set-up in the restaurant, with a narrow dining room and varying sized tables, mostly booths. The size, layout of the tables and dim lighting adds to the awesome atmosphere provided. "It has a great family atmosphere," commented sophomore Blair Bernstein. "I liked the history of Hard Times too. The truck parked out front is genuine and original," she added.

With four nationally renowned types of chili, Hard Times' food is even better than its atmosphere.



Photo by Alex Keckeisen

The Hard Times Café is conveniently located in Old Town with attractions that you can not miss.

The chili is tasty with many choices such as Chili Changa, Chili Bubba, and Texas Chili. Frito Chili is also an enticing choice on the menu. Dating back to the 1940's, this awesome bowl of food adds a little crunch to the traditional chili that you are accustomed to.

Chili Mac, which is spaghetti smothered in chili, lets you decide exactly what you want with three, four, or five way chili Mac. The ultimate chili Mac consists of spaghetti, chili, cheese, onions, and beans that will fill you up halfway through the bowl but keeps you craving more.

Overall, the menu lets you decide how you want your chili, a very different approach than the average diner is used to. You can choose your toppings and whether you want jalapeño peppers, sour cream, beans, and more. With great food and a great atmosphere, Hard Times Café provides the perfect dining experience no matter how you are feeling.

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Harvey Hits the Stage

Kevin O'Brien

Copy Editor

"POOKAH - Pookah - from old Celtic mythology - a fairy spirit in animal form - always very large. The pookah appears here and there - to this one - and to that one - a benign but mischievous creature - very fond of rumpots, crackpots, and how are you, Mr. Wilson?"

A pookah is the focus of a Pulitzer Prize winning play, an Oscar winning movie and the latest of our school's dramatic productions. *Harvey*, as both the pookah and the play are known, is a huge white rabbit and a huge success respectively. Luckily, the over six foot rabbit does not hog the stage, he is invisible. The "real" stars of this play are all thespians and are all in a drama class, allowing them to go all out with quality performances all around. "The cast clicked at the very beginning," said senior Brendan Haley, which certainly helped with an "excellent production."

Elwood P. Dowd, the only one who can see Harvey, was immortalized in film by Jimmy Stewart. Our Elwood, played by senior Randy Wallace, certainly doesn't shrink in the shadow of Stewart. Wallace took the stress head on, even though earlier in the same week he was also playing the lead in Brett Smith's One-Act "Ink/Oil/Muse (circle one)" in the Regional One-Act competition and, "didn't have much time to rehearse," for *Harvey*. Wallace's approach to Elwood is what really brings the audience into *Harvey*, what really makes them think about human nature, and what really probes the questions about what is right and wrong, sane and insane. His manner of speech invites just as many imitations as Stewarts does as well.



Elwood P. Dowd, played by senior Randy Wallace, answers the phone in our school play, *Harvey*.

Photo by Lakeisha Langley

Mary Chase, the author of the play was born in 1907 and was 43 by the time the movie of *Harvey* came out in 1950, so performing the play in 2006 presents some challenges. They didn't modernize the play at all; all the clothing and sets are period (the very elaborate sets, with very elaborate set changes). Some elements are hard to capture in earnest these days though. The inter-sex relations of the 30s and 40s are starkly different from today but this relationship came out strangely too well in some hot Disselkoe-on-Disselkoe action. Due to some

"creative casting," sophomore Paul Disselkoe ends up soliciting his real life sister and fictional love interest, senior Bailey Disselkoe. Also, if taken exactly in the 50s style, the role of Dr. Chumley does not have that many great memorable lines, but senior Pierce Allen uses his own personal brand of spice to make Chumley a highly entertaining character.

Though attendance was low on opening night, it certainly moved what audience members were lucky enough to attend. "I thought the play was very well done," commented senior Patrick Ross, an audience member and experienced actor at our school. "As a fellow actor I like to see other peoples' performances," Ross

explained before the show, and said after that, "[he] enjoyed all the performances and was impressed by how well it flowed." If you missed your chance to see it on either February 16, 17, or 18 then I still highly recommend you see the film and you enjoy the work of as many of these thespians as possible in the upcoming spring musical.

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It is Official: *Pink* Stinks

Brett Smith

Wire Reporter

Director Shawn Levy, famous for *Cheaper by the Dozen* and *Just Married* has lowered the bar for destroying classic films in *The Pink Panther*.

Pink Panther reintroduces moviegoers to Inspector Jacques Clouseau—a role that once redefined comedy in the hands of genius Peter Sellers—which now falls into the hands of zany legend Steve Martin. *Panther* follows Clouseau's attempt to track down the murderer of Yves Gluant (cameo by Jason Statham), as well as the concurrent theft of the Pink Panther diamond. But wait! The twist is that Beyonce plays deceased Gluant's love interest, so she becomes the prime suspect in the murder! Awesomel Beyonce's in it!

In fact, the cast boasts an impressive ensemble of actors, whose integrity should've told them to stay away from this movie: Clive Owen, Kevin Kline, Jean Reno, and Emily Mortimer. Despite the ensemble of A-list actors, however, Levy's *Pink Panther* was an absolute

abomination of filmmaking.

Martin's comedy appeal ends up being his own undoing; his humorous French accent may have a life of its own, but Martin neglects to pull the zany stunts that made him a legend in the first place. His impression of Sellers' Clouseau was intentionally different, but it didn't excuse



Kevin Kline, Beyonce Knowles, and Steve Martin attend a press conference at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel.

Nicholas Khayat/Abaca Press/KRT

Panther diamond—there are no leads, there are no real suspects, there are no real clues, there are no real characters with no real emotions or motivations other than "greed" or "ignorance--stupidity-as-a-result," and worst of all, no one cares. No one really cares who murdered Gluant, or who stole the bright

pink diamond, and no one wants to see Beyonce trying to sell her music through the film (on two occasions the film simply becomes a Beyonce music video, and her annoying "Check On It" curses the ending credits).

With so many great actors with so much talent, it's an amazing feat for Levy to create such an awful film—for that, he should be applauded.

But for wasting two hours of the viewers' lives, for contributing to Martin's dwindling career, for bombarding people with more and more Beyonce music, and for dumbing down the movie audience, Levy should be flogged. Shawn Levy is the reason Hollywood is the way it is—Shawn Levy is an enemy of the revolution.

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HO-All systems go. Commencing operation cookie dough. Awaiting further instruction.
over and out
Agent Z

Unheard Voices... A Bosnian Battling War

Tina Svalina

Special to The Wire

My name is Tina Svalina, and many of you probably do not know me. I am from Bosnia along with a couple of other people who attend this school.

Juniors Sandra Cerni and Mija Saracevic, and senior Olja Ivanic are a few of my friends and we all have a similar past. I was born in Bosnia, and before I was two years-old a war broke out which changed my life completely. My family was very close, only living a walking distance away from one another. Once the war started my whole life changed. My parents packed everything they could into one small suitcase and left for Germany, hoping to build a better future for me. Most of my older family members stayed and eventually died from direct and indirect effects of the war. Although it was devastating for my parents who went through such a great loss, they coped with what they were given so I could live a decent and normal life.

Fate brought us here to America where I met my Bosnian friends. Their parents also moved to America about six years ago like me. Not too long ago my parents opened a restaurant where our community meets and socializes while enjoying the native food and festivities. My life is the unfortunate proof of how, "you never know what you have got until it is gone," but the experiences have taught me to be thankful for all of the little things I did not appreciate before.



Tina Svalina was born in Bosnia, a beautiful but war-torn country. A war broke out when she was two years-old, her parents moved to Germany to avoid the conflict.

KRT/Seattle Times

Horoscopes by Kristina

Pisces (Feb. 19 – March 20)

Throughout the next few weeks, you will find new opportunities opening up. Do not be picky, take a chance.

Lucky Days: March 2, 14, 26

Aries (March 21 – April 19)

This is your time for love. There is a certain someone who has been trying to get your attention, but you have casually been ignoring them. Let down your walls and let them in.

Lucky Days: March 7, 11, 29

Taurus (April 20 – May 20)

Over the past few days you have been wrestling with your identity. It is time to reanalyze who you are. First, think about who your friends truly are and then what they want to see in you to help you find the answer.

Lucky Days: March 8, 16, 29

Gemini (May 21 – June 20)

This is your time to shine. There are many good things in store for you but beware: do not take everything laid in front of you for granted. Keep trying your hardest, no matter how small something may seem.

Lucky Days: March 1, 5, 19, 22, 30

Cancer (June 21 – July 22)

This is a busy time. Many people will

be calling upon you for help. You may want to help all of them, but you cannot handle the work load. You must try hard not to offend anyone.

Lucky Days: March 2, 18, 23, 24

Leo (July 23 – Aug. 22)

You will be tested on many different levels. Socially, you will struggle with an embarrassing situation, physically you will have to cope with a cyst-like structure, and economically you will find yourself in a tight squeeze.

Lucky Days: March 3, 7, 15

Virgo (Aug. 23 – Sep. 22)

This will be a time of both ups and downs. Be ready to roll with the punches and take the praise humbly. Some will show you pity and others will express jealousy. Make sure you do not get them confused.

Lucky Days: March 22, 23, 27

Libra (Sep. 23 – Oct. 22)

Day in and day out, you will experience new emotions. Internalize how you are feeling and funnel these new expressions into something constructive. Be creative and try to enhance your lifestyle.

Lucky Days: March 20, 26, 29, 30

Scorpio (Oct. 23 – Nov. 21)

You have gone through many changes

over the past month. It is now time to settle down in to a regular schedule. This will not seem normal at first and you will be restless, but relax, and enjoy the time off.

Lucky Days: March 4, 16, 23

Sagittarius (Nov. 22 – Dec. 21)

You have been feeling down lately but you must not let this cloud of gloom bring down your whole year. A rainbow is coming, prepare the way and buy sunglasses.

Lucky Days: March 11, 12, 26, 27

Capricorn (Dec. 22 – Jan. 19)

You have been crushing on this person for a very long time. It is now time to let them know how you feel. Take a chance; you might get dirty, you might make a mistake, but in the end you will feel much better.

Lucky Days: March 1, 7, 22, 30

Aquarius (Jan. 20 – Feb. 18)

Some things you will find take a lot longer to figure out than others. The time something takes has nothing to do with its value; do not let the value of something time consuming deface it. Remember everything is worth while, no matter how long it takes.

Lucky Days: March 3, 12, 18, 28

✉ kedahmann_wire@yahoo.com

Do You Know These Faces?



Photo by Kate Staples

Trevor Normyle, 9th Grade

Sign: Scorpio

Favorite Movie: *Billy Madison*

Favorite Class: History

Saying: "Ahhh yeah."

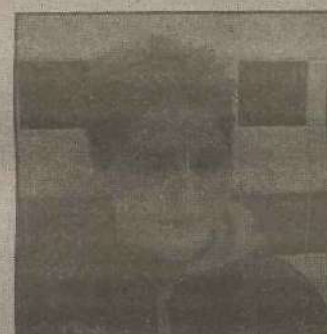


Photo by Lakeisha Langley

Samantha Davis, 10th Grade

Sign: Aries

Favorite Movie: *Speak*

Favorite Class: English

Saying: "Okie dokie chili smokie."



Photo by Kate Staples

Jon Mulligan, 11th Grade

Sign: Scorpio

Favorite Movie: *Animal House*

Favorite Class: AP Statistics

Saying: "I don't know."

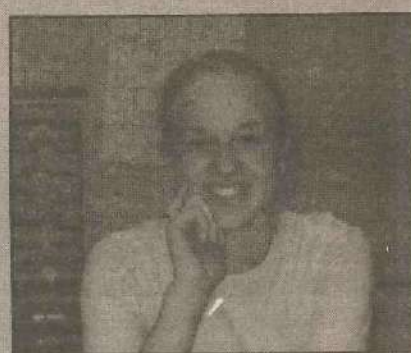


Photo by Lakeisha Langley

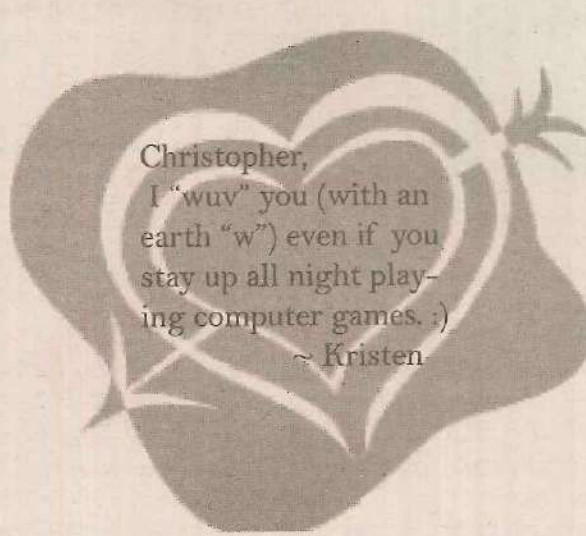
Jennifer Hicks, 12th Grade

Sign: Virgo

Favorite Movie: *Finding Nemo*

Favorite Class: AP Psychology

Saying: "Fancy."



The E-Mac Attacks

Kaelin Emery

Wire Reporter

It is not usually normal to be able to describe one person to be athletic, pious, family oriented, and intelligent, but when it comes to Emily Macklin, the impossible becomes possible.

Athletic Macklin has played on the varsity level throughout her entire high school career. Her first time ever playing field hockey was when she tried

out for the team her junior year and her innate athletic ability pushed her to the varsity echelon. She has also done soccer, cross country, track, and plays golf outside of school. "I have gotten eleven varsity letters throughout high school. Sports have taught me that dedication is important in athletics and all other aspects of life," said Macklin.

One of Macklin's well known qualities is her unwavering devotion to her religion.

An active member of her church youth group and Young Life, she spends a great deal of her time surrounded by others who share her faith. "Religion has played a big role in my life; it has shaped who I am today," said Macklin. Every year she attends the annual ski trip with her youth group and at one point she was involved with her church youth choir. She has traveled to various places all over the country doing mission work. "I take pride in sharing my faith with people from all different backgrounds," divulged Macklin. She

does a bible study every night before she goes to sleep to keep her faith alive.

Family also plays a huge role in her life. She became extremely close to them after their many moves. Since her father was in the Army, she has lived in her birthplace of Columbus, Georgia; Panama; and Virginia. Her older brother, Drew, attends the University of Virginia where Macklin will also be attending in the fall. She applied early decision after falling in love with it the first time she went to visit it with her brother. "My family and I are very close and it will be nice to have my sibling there when I go to college. I am looking forward to all of the great experiences I am bound to have," speculated Macklin.

Macklin has worked hard during her four years of high school. She has taken eight AP classes and maintains a 4.02 GPA. She is also involved in many extracurricular activities such

"I have gotten eleven varsity letters throughout high school. Sports have taught me that dedication is important in athletes and all other aspects of life."

~ senior Emily Macklin



Photo courtesy of Emily Macklin

Macklin looks gorgeous on a daily basis and can always be seen with a smile on her face.

as the Winter One Acts, and Spanish Honor Society. She is the president of Teenage Republicans, and the treasurer of the National Honor Society.

"Emily is one of the sweetest people I know and she always tries her best at everything," gushed senior Beth Grady. Whether you know her because of her athletic talent, religious commitment, or intelligence, Emily Macklin should be at the top of your list of people to meet this school year.

✉ KEmery_wire@yahoo.com



Emily takes time for herself after a long, hectic day at school to relax and reflect on the stairs of our school.

Photo by Lakeisha Langley

EMILY
MACKLIN

THOMAS
SULLIVAN

Scholastic Sullivan

Kristina Dahmann

Wire Reporter

Have you ever wanted to get into a heated debate that you are bound to lose? Well then, you should spark up a conversation with Thomas Sullivan.

A native of Manhattan, modest, charismatic, intelligent, and funny Sullivan always has something to say. Senior Maggie Connor remarked, "[He is] committed and very sure of his beliefs and is very proactive in accomplishing his tasks."

Sullivan moved to Northern Virginia when he was eight years old and now is an active member of the our school's community. He takes a wide variety of classes ranging from Political Science to Advanced

Placement Literature, with Mrs. Joan Reynolds. "Tom always comes to class ready to learn and takes personal interest in subject matter. He also keeps very current national and global affairs, and is often able to make connections between class discussions and the outside world," stated Mr. David Goldfarb, Sullivan's AP World History teacher and Political Science teacher.

A typical day for Sullivan includes going to school, perusing local cuisine, and going to the library. His favorite foods are buffalo wings, burgers from Five Guys and any, and all, types of pizza.

One of Sullivan's fondest memories is participating in Mock Trial this year. He was originally supposed to be a juror, but through extraordinary circumstances, he was called on to be part of a team. Along with fellow seniors Dan John, Thomas Luhring and Elise Bender, Sullivan took on a case in which they had done no preparation for. Both Sullivan and Luhring were prosecutors and did a remarkable job, especially considering the circumstances.

Sullivan plans on attending the Northern Virginia Community College next fall and then transferring to a Virginia college. His ideal school is William and Mary because both of his parents went there. However, in the long run, Sullivan wants to be president.

Sullivan is an amateur music fan. He finds himself interested in all different genres of music. For example, he can perform the Chronicles of Narnia rap from start to finish and is not afraid to do so in front of fellow classmates.



Photo by Lakeisha Langley

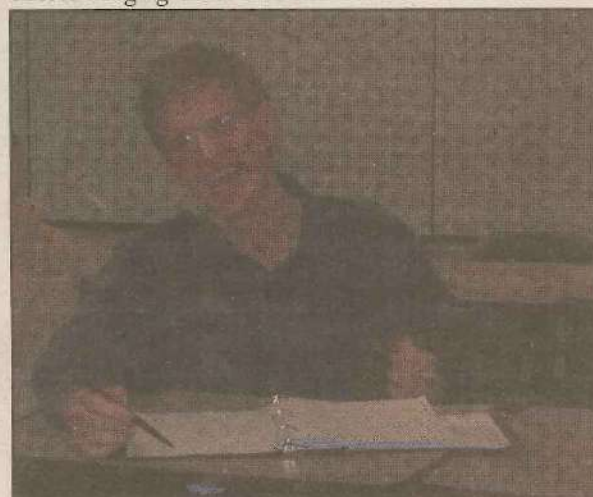
Thomas Sullivan's initial reaction to the camera is to smile his biggest and not hold anything back.

Sometimes thought of as a chatter box, Sullivan's first impression is of a very giving person. This impression does not change but as you get to know him, Sullivan's free-spirit emerges.

✉ KDahmann_wire@yahoo.com

"Tom always comes to class ready to learn and takes personal interest in subject matter."

~ teacher David Goldfarb, AP World



Sullivan enjoys learning so much that he is frequently seen grinning every time he opens his books.

Photo by Lakeisha Langley



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