

June 17
2005

West Potomac High School
Library

THE WIRE

WEST POTOMAC HIGH SCHOOL



West Potomac High School
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Alexandria, VA 22307
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Rhatican's Pupils Get Published

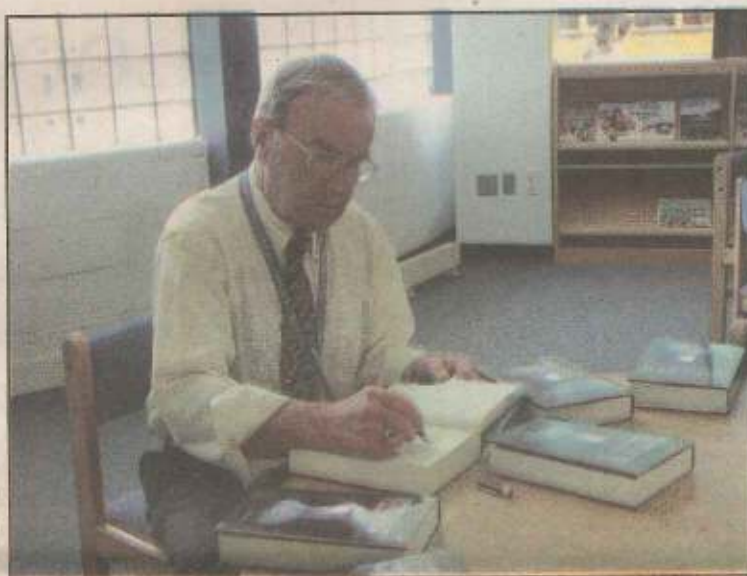
Jocelyn Finfrock

Focus Editor

In our school library on June 1, a book signing was held after school for the recently published book *White House Under Fire*. It has had good success so far with book signings at Sherwood Hall Library and Cold Stone Creamery. It has been released on Authorhouse.com, Amazon.com, and on the Barnes and Noble web site.

White House Under Fire is 558 page book with 40 essays written by Mr. Rhatican's AP government students. From 64 essays he picked the top 40 to go into the book. Each essay is about 20 pages long. Being able to write an essay that long has helped his students continuing on to college. The idea behind this is for his students to receive a reward for their dedication and hard work in writing their essays. Rhatican said, "Reading the papers, I realized they deserved some recognition beyond a grade. I wanted to be able to let others see the work and effort the students put into this assignment and thought creating a book would be the perfect solution."

The book was published by Authorhouse in Bloomington, Indiana. It cost about \$2,000 to publish and the book is on demand, meaning



Rhatican signs a copy of his book, *White House Under Fire*, in the library.

they can publish more once they have sold all the existing copies. The book cost \$17 in paperback and \$25 in hardcover. Mr. Rhatican also received a grant from the PTSA of \$400 to go to the publication of the book.

This has been the second year Rhatican has released a publication. Last year he debuted his first book, *And They Still Come*, a collection

of essays on immigrant groups and how they got here. This year's topic was U.S. Presidents who made important decisions with huge impacts. The book highlights some very controversial periods of American history and the students talk about how presidency has evolved over the years. Harry Truman's decision to drop the bomb on Japan, John F. Kennedy's Bay of Pigs invasion, and George W. Bush's response to the attack of September 11, 2001 are a few examples of essays contained in the book. It shows the readers the perspective of today's youth and their awareness of issues in today's society. Anyone can read

the book and learn about American presidency and the leaders who made critical decisions for the United States.

Rhatican says he is going to continue publishing books in coming years and believes that it inspires the students to work hard so they can strive to become published authors.

Got to Love American Schools

Former African Students Compare Their School in Africa to our School

Robyn Byrd

Wire Reporter

"I remember being a student in Prince of Peace International School; I failed a test and I got beaten," says sophomore Janet Owusu. "I also remember that our nails and hair couldn't grow, and if they did the teachers would take each finger and tap our nails with a ruler." According to Owusu classes here are much more lenient than classes in Africa. There isn't any skipping, being late, or failing classes. If there were, there would be severe consequences such as getting beaten with a cane or ruler in front of the whole school during the morning assembly.

Usually in the morning assembly the students have announcements and they sing their country's national anthem. Classes in Prince of Peace Int. are very crowded; an average class is about thirty to thirty-five students with only one teacher. Switching classes isn't the same in Africa. Students stay in one class and take all six to seven classes in the same room, except foreign languages. Like our schools, African schools require four core classes: math, science, history, and English. P.E. and foreign languages are also subjects in African schools. "English isn't as important to us in Africa as it is here in America," says Owusu. For electives in Africa the students do not have any Academy classes, or classes pertaining to their career when they get older. Here in America students dress out

for P.E. but in Africa they wear their regular day clothes. Their P.E. classes feature the same sports as American schools, such as soccer, volleyball, kickball, and baseball.

"At Prince of Peace, if you curse at the teachers, your parents come to the school and tell them to beat you," says senior Kolleh Karbgo. "I remember we had to

extra-curricular clubs. The only thing they are allowed to have is one sports team, soccer and a dance team for the girls.

Classes are only split by grade level, not aptitude. Students are very quiet and afraid to speak in class. Even the principal is very strict in African schools. The principal makes sure the parents are highly involved in their child's education. At the beginning of the year, papers are given out to be signed, much like our Students Rights and Responsibilities book.

According to Owusu and Karbgo, classes at African schools are not allowed field trips. The only sanctioned trips are forays to other schools.

"School buildings in Africa are much larger than those in America. African schools have one expansive two-storey building," says Karbgo. Teachers in this school are easier to get along with than teachers at Prince of Peace International. In Africa students must be aware of the limits of interaction with the teachers. They also have to watch what they say, because the teachers are very strict. If a student says or does something wrong, her teachers will not hesitate to call her parents. "I think here in this school we get more freedom and broader choices in what we want to do when we get older. I think this school prepares us for our careers more than my last school did," says Owusu, with Karbgo's enthusiastic agreement.



Janet Owusu remembers how schools in Africa used to be.

wear uniforms," Karbgo said. African schools do not offer free or reduced lunch. Students have to pay the full price of 2,000 cedis (less than dollar in America) or bring their lunches to school. In Africa, the lunches are the same as ours, split into three different sections. There are no school dances, proms, homecomings, or

Get Your Facts Straight

Dear Editor,
I noticed that you had an article about the Nationals in one of your past issues. It sucked! First of all, you said that the people of D.C. and Northern Virginia only follow their teams when they're good. Why do you think the Expos even came to Washington? Because no one in Montreal came to see them cause they stunk. That's why they were playing half of their home games in Puerto Rico. Also, your editor said that he'd been a Washington Wizards fan since Juan Howard and C. Webb. were on the team. That's the last time they were good so it doesn't really prove anything. And you didn't have to be a fan back then to know that those guys played for the Wizards. I wasn't a fan of the 1989 Detroit Pistons but I know that Isiah Thomas played for them. Anyway back to baseball, you also said the Nationals would be losing a lot but they're in 1st place in their division and have won 8 games in a row. Isn't the editors job to check over an article to make sure its good before its submitted?

Kenneth Llewellyn; freshman

Summer Worries

The end of the school year. A time of rejoicing. A time of graduation. Also, June 24. I can feel my heart start to fail.

After all, what's the reason that we have to be here for almost the entire month of June? Snow days – and worse than that, unused snow days. Weather that never came in December is hitting us at the end of the year – it's ridiculous. We used to get out two weeks earlier – does anyone even remember that? And it's not like we can just leave early either, because finals are the last week of school – though it could be the last three days of school if we didn't have this half-day nonsense. It's all such a scheme – you WILL stay in school, or you will not pass your grade. What the county should do is start school earlier, like everyone else, and get out after AP testing if finished, not only because everyone knows the material but because no one *wants* to work anymore. On top of that, if the county's true motive is to get us in a year-round school, then they should just do it. Give me liberty, give me peace, give me my summer back! In fact, I'd gladly go to school for three months a pop instead of nine, despite that ominous "year-round" phrase. It's just that I don't think two weeks of cramming – or not cramming – is going to help us learn anything more in the long run. Not only is the whole ordeal absurd, but also completely pointless.

Allison Tse

Fight for Your Right To Run- for SGA

In a school as wonderful and diverse as WPHS, it seems very odd to me that so few students would run for SGA and class elections. Granted: this year the Calendar shifted constantly in May and June so maybe people lost track of the elections. But during the year, the same students who don't choose to run complain about activities that do occur. And the same group of terrific student leaders shoulders the responsibility, year after year. It would be great if some new people would step up and be counted.

Joan Reynolds; SGA Sponsor

Dirty School

As most know, Biology 1 students participated in a full-year science project culminating in a pseudo-science fair. Two of the students in my class tested the school soap along with a few name brands and they found the school soap was far less effective than the name brands. The question is now, do we keep our soap to save money or do we take action and stop sacrificing safety and get stronger soap?

Ashley Miller

Rants and Raves

A Rave for the freshman girls crew team! They finished 6th at Nationals!

A Rant for the short summer we have. We work hard all year and then we get a shorter then usual break.

A Rave for the varsity Softball team! They were division champs



A Rant for the crazy firedrill last Wednesday. We sat outside in the crazy heat for hours.

A Rave for warmer weather! Although it's humid, at least it's here!

A Rant for a pointless last day of school. Grades are already in, and the teachers don't want to be there!

Looking Back...

The end of the school year; a time of rejoicing, but also a time of sadness. Most kids think of high school as being four years of pure bliss, a gateway to adulthood, but what most kids don't know is that high school can also be the worst four years of your life. As the young freshmen walk through the front doors of this school, a sense of excitement runs through them. But alas, it's the end of the school year and those feelings have long since gone, replaced by haggard thoughts of finals and the last push to the end.

This school year has been, like most school years, a roller coaster, filled with ups and downs. With a new principal and new teachers we had to adjust to new rules and policies, some good and, let's face it, some bad. And in addition to adjusting to the new regulations, we had to deal with assignments, friends, enemies, and the all-around hassle that goes along with being a high school student. So all-in-all high school is no picnic. We as students have to try to balance all of these things with out bucking and ultimately collapsing under the pressure. Basically, high school is a journey. You start out as a freshman, at the bottom, and slowly work your way up. Then, the magnificent day comes when you cast off your dishonorable title of "freshman" and become a sophomore. Now, in your tenth year of school, you are basically invisible; not as uncool as being a freshman, but not as

cool as being a junior. You're right under the radar in an unmemorable stage of your high school journey. Now the fun begins.

You're a junior, officially an upperclassman. You're at the top of the world with your license and cool junior status. Then all of a sudden the mountain that you're standing on crashes and you are drowning in a sea of AP classes, SATs, and college applications. But even though the pressure to succeed is almost unbearable, you still fight to push your way through the days, with the hope that it will get better and you will make it out alive. Finally, you see the light at the end of the tunnel and you make that last struggle and at last you're out. Now you're a senior. It's what most kids dream of their last year of high school. It's a year filled with anticipation, celebration, and sadness. And once you are a senior and the year is winding down you'll back on your high school years and wonder how you made it through. You fought hard and long to get to where you are and finally it's your turn to walk across the stage and receive your diploma. There's no other feeling like it.

That's the journey that high school can take you on. Sometimes that journey varies from person to person, changing like a kaleidoscope. But one thing always stays the same. It's that high school is a learning stage, a time when you get to see the best and the worst of yourself. And it'll be four years that will be hard to forget.

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No One Likes U.S.

Diana Blaszkiewicz

Style Co-Editor

In the Pew Research Center's January 2005 study on Anti-Americanism, the noted global perception gap on American unilateralism is a slap-in-the-face for Americans cocksure of their country's world-wide image. While 70 percent of Americans believe that the U.S. is at best greatly considerate of other countries when executing its foreign policy, in Great Britain only 36 percent of those polled believes so. In Pakistan, the number drops to 18 percent; in France, it's a low 14 percent. In fact, 84 percent of the French nationals interviewed believed the United States considered the interests of other countries not so much, or not at all.

The statistics are shocking, yet they are a sequentially increasing trend in the post-Cold War years of American foreign policy. It's after the fall of the Soviet Union that the United States became especially vigilant about protecting their democracy, saving unstable (yet politically strategic and resource-rich) nations from despots and megalomaniacs say, the Taliban, or Saddam Hussein, in their most recent campaigns. Since the U.S. began their "evangelical" work in Iraq, the once wholesome image of Americana has been degraded even more. Spurned by internal factions and lucid animosity towards U.S. policies in Iraq, American image abroad has taken one of the hardest hits since the start of the War on Terror. Those who oppose the war criticize the United States' detachment from their foreign policy, which can at times be both whimsical, and temperamental.

There is little resolve and respect in the somewhat rash decisions which pass throughout the entire legislative, judicial, and executive branches, leading some to tout U.S. foreign policy as egocentric and

hypocritical. Most recently, the *Newsweek* fiasco, in which one of the magazine's stories claimed desecration of the Qu'ran by U.S. soldiers in Guantanamo Bay prison, and the resultant rioting and deaths in the Middle East, resurrected worries that the U.S., in striving to preserve peace and human rights throughout the world, is in fact, infringing on these virtues. Just last year, accusations of alleged torture of Guantanamo Bay prisoners and misconduct on the part of American soldiers raised a red flag for human rights activists, and significantly decreased U.S. favorability ratings worldwide. Amnesty International, in a May 2005 report, called the U.S. prison the "gulag of our time", comparing it to the infamously brutal Soviet Union prisons for political dissidents and other "enemies of the state".

Former United States' president Jimmy Carter, a man familiar to Middle Eastern conflict (recall the 444 days of the Iranian Hostage Crisis) denounced Amnesty International's criticism as harsh, yet called for the government to shut down the prison, noting that, "the U.S. continues to suffer terrible embarrassment and a blow to our reputation ... because of reports concerning abuses of prisoners in Iraq, Afghanistan and Guantanamo." The actions of the American soldiers at Guantanamo are furthering a stereotype of Americans that has been developing for years: that they are self-seeking and cater solely to their own needs, toppling any un-American regime and disregarding cultural and religious differences in their way.

Some people are beginning to wonder how much more abuse can be endured

before the United States' reputation, those American Walls of Jericho, come tumbling down with the trumpeting of the political and social injustices it has caused. The callousness with which the U.S. treats its campaigns for justice and democracy has given other nations a sadistic thrill in watching their defeats. After the 9/11 attacks on the World Trade Center, another Pew Global Attitudes

survey discovered that 70 percent of the non-U.S. citizens interviewed (a number which reached well into the ten-thousands) felt it was good for the United States to feel vulnerable. Fifty-eight percent believed that U.S. foreign policy caused the attacks.

These types of foreign opinions affect not only the image of the United States, but the image of its citizens as well. It's essential to project to the global market not only a considerate foreign policy, but a compassionate and understanding one. As U.S. citizens, it is our duty to defend the image of our nation, not only its pride. It is impossible to do so without considering the culture and the attitudes of those abroad. It's not a phenomenon limited to our government or the war in Iraq. If traveling overseas this summer, try to acknowledge the cultural differences of the countrymen: respect their traditions, at least try to speak their language, and treat them with the utmost respect. You are, after all, guests in their country, and as current events have shown, no one likes a guest who rudely overstays their welcome.



Photo by Houston Murphy

Keckee's Catastrophe Wondering Where it all Went Wrong



Photo by Houston Murphy

I'll Do It Tommorrow

Alex Keckeeisen

Editor-in-Chief

In my many years in the Fairfax County Public School system, the one craft that I have mastered best over all, would have to be procrastination. Webster's defines procrastination as me being incredibly lazy, watching TV, eating bagels smothered in butter, and waiting until the tender hour of 10 p.m., or later, to finish any work that may be due the next day. Actually that's not what Webster's says. That's just me being too lazy to walk halfway across the room to the dictionary, and having to open it up and actually find the page that it's on. Obviously, that is just way too much work for me.

Look where waiting until the last second to get my work done has gotten me. I'm the co-editor-in-chief of an award winning high school newspaper as a sophomore. I'm on a one way track to any Ivy League school I want. And by Ivy League school I mean entering the work force early!

The great thing about procrastinating is that while you do wait more time to do your work than the average person, you still get it done. And truthfully, isn't that the only thing that matters? In fact, as I write this article, I'm making faces on the door of my nice journalism teacher's office window as she locks herself away from me, scared that procrastination may spread to her like SARS spread in China not so long ago.

It'll hit you like a brick wall when it first gets a hold of you but, like zombies, you get used to it and eventually it'll be kind of like a friend (just keep in mind that you shouldn't talk to Mr. Procrastination because people will definitely start to think you are crazier than you really are). In fact, it might turn into that good buddy of yours that's always telling you to do the fun thing and not necessarily the right thing. It will feel like the right thing when you're not worrying a bit about what you're supposed to be doing, but instead are too caught up in the competitive sport of shuffleboard (the true sport of champions).

So don't worry about those 300 pages of science that you have to read by tomorrow. Don't fret about that massive seven part history project that your teacher has been talking to you about for the last five months. Don't do any of the work that you need to do until the last second, because the great thing about waiting to do it is that it now has your full attention to get your work done by 7:25 a.m. What's that you say? You're already on the bus and have only written three lines of an eight page analysis of the effects of enlightenment on post-classical society? That's too bad for you, because not even I am that bad of a procrastinator. So my advice to you would have to be: better luck next time because you are definitely not getting that done.

But in any case, that is not as severe as the one stated above. Go ahead my friends, procrastinate until you fall asleep face first and wake up with drool and pencil marks on your left cheek, ready to tackle the day ahead of you. Even if you're unprepared.

Is Summer Really a Break?

Hooff Cooksey

News Co-Editor

Summer: In my opinion, one of the best times of the year. You can hang out with your friends, go to the pool, spend time at camps, and relax with no responsibilities. But, this year is different. The final bell of the 2004-05 school year will ring on June 24. That's ten days before our day of independence, July 4th. We then return to school on September 6th, that's two and a half months of much needed, hard earned vacation. To put this in a more realistic perspective, that's a measly ten weeks out of a 52 week year. Students will not only have this short break time, but will, most likely, have some type of assignment thrown at them from one or more subjects. What kind of break is that?



Photo by Houston Murphy

Here at our school, fall sports practices begin well before the start of the school year; football practice starts on August 10th. These practices usually take up a good part of the day, some going from eight o'clock in the morning to four or five o'clock in the afternoon. For those students playing fall sports, that whittles their summer

down to one month and sixteen days. That is not a long enough break for teenagers who have been working their butts off at school for almost the past ten months!

Not only is our summer vacation too short, but the winter holiday break lasted from December 23 to December 31. I know it has been said that the reason our holidays, especially summer vacation, are so short is due to the many teacher work days students have. However, from what I've heard, students don't care about these holidays and would rather have longer summer and winter vacations.

Teachers are also affected, or maybe even more affected by this lack of break time than students. Our teachers work harder than the students at this school. They have to come to school on the teacher work days, have to stay sometimes a week after school has ended, and must come to school a week before it begins. Where's the respect and rewards for the teachers? Even though the teachers get a "Teacher Appreciation Week," they still do not get a break and half the students at this school didn't even know when it occurred.

Students and teachers need breaks from the hustle and bustle of our busy school days. They need to be able to unwind and not have to worry about an end-of-the-year test they have to make the next day or fifty papers that need to be graded by tomorrow. Summer is a time we need and desperately want, but we are not getting it. Students and teachers can only take so much time at school before they begin to burn out. This may lead to a great drop in the performance of Fairfax County in academics testing.

Many Children Left Behind

Taylor Dankmeyer

Co-Opinions Editor

Politics are confusing for me, but lately, I've been hearing a lot of things about the 'No Child Left Behind' law. Many teachers have been complaining about it, and on the news I have seen numerous lawsuits against the law.

I thought it was pretty funny when I first went to the official website for the 'No Child Left Behind Law' (NCLB), and an ad for a student boot camp popped up. Also on the website are pictures of kids forcing smiles. Come on George, you are not fooling anyone with this. You fooled SOME with the idea that Saddam had weapons of mass destruction, but you're not going to fool us with this one.

The NCLB act was made into a law on January 8th, 2002. At the core of it are measures designed to close achievement gaps between different groups of students. The NCLB law focuses on reading and math education, which are the two most important parts of school. However, teachers, school leaders, and community members are coming together across the country to challenge this hastily conceived educational law pushed through Congress by the present administration.

From the outside, the law sounds good. But, hidden within the law are dozens of untested and unproven changes that could do great damage to public education.

Many teachers at this school have talked about this law in disgust. They seem to dislike it very much, but, why?

The law is basically taking a state power and turning it into a federal power. As I looked at the many pages of the law I noticed that it changed the current law; changing just about everything, from how 3rd graders were taught, how Native Americans were taught to changes in standardized testing.

NCLB is also strongly affecting special education. NCLB requires students with disabilities to be tested by grade level. Many people argue that they should be taught according to their ability. Another requirement is that all disabled students be proficient by the school year 2013-14. This is an unrealistic goal which cannot be realized because it removes students from the special education subgroup when they reach the standard for their grade level.

Now there are always hidden requirements in laws, but should someone like George W. Bush really be meddling with such a delicate subject as education? Bush obviously thought something was wrong with the current policy.

On April 8th, the *New York Times* released a story, saying that the current Secretary of Education was being more cooperative in her response to resistance to the NCLB

law. But then in a Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde quick change of personality, her cooperative tone turned harsh when she spoke of the Connecticut Education Association (CEA) law suit against the NCLB law. The CEA was

the only education association involved in the lawsuit. Nine school districts in Michigan, Texas, and Vermont, and 1 National Education Association (NEA) chapters in those three states AS WELL as Connecticut, Illinois, Indiana, New Hampshire, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Utah are also filing lawsuits.

The law is also costing states a whole lot of money. According to the Associated Press, little Connecticut will have to spend \$41.6 million in state money for staff, programs, and development costs to meet the law's mandates through 2008.

It's obvious that the law is not working and needs to be severely changed, or completely thrown out, but President Cheney, I mean President Rumsfeld, oh whoever rules this country, President Bush refuses to get rid of the law that he frequently backs. There are so many problems with the law, and they must be addressed in the near future.



Photo by Houston Murphy

Stop the Violence

Angie Palma

Business Manager

Gunshots, knives at school, and early deaths. Those are not things that teenagers should have to imagine, much less live through. I am sick of watching the news and hearing about yet another falling-out between kids that resulted in injury or worse, death. Random shoot-outs that take the innocent lives of kids are wrong. And face it, as teens, we are still kids. As kids, we need to do something to put a stop to this. There is already so much hatred in this world it is a poison which seeps into our daily lives and



Photo by Lakeisha Langley

a mob that surrounds a fight. Masses of students run through the halls to see which two of their classmates are pummeling each other. What is so entertaining about people making each other bleed and being hauled off by security? I am unable to find such brutal behavior amusing.

As annoying and immature as I find our school fights, I do find comfort in that so far, all we really deal with is school fights. So far. But what are we going to do if a Columbine incident takes place here? What happens when a fight gets way out of control and someone seeks revenge? By then, it would be too late. Other schools and other counties are very familiar with violence of a greater nature. It's so common that kids don't always cry anymore when a classmate is shot dead on the side of the road. To think that kids of our age have hardened themselves to the point of not showing emotion at a death is very sad.

Brutality among teens needs to stop. The only way it will, is if we stop it. Are we going to allow more viciousness in a world

already so full of it? Stop condoning it. Stop making it ok. It's not. If you know about a fight that is going to happen, don't sit by in silence. Tell someone of authority. Be it a parent, administrator, or a cop, do the right thing to prevent what you can. If you are scared of the repercussions that could possibly come from speaking up, imagine the guilt you could feel if you don't say anything and the results are irreversible. Imagine how bad you would feel if you knew. If you knew and could have stopped it, but didn't. Didn't prevent it because you were afraid that you would be looked down upon. Scared that by saying something you would be sought out. There is no need to flaunt the fact that you are the reason the plug was pulled out of someone's plan to jump somebody else. Keep it anonymous if you feel the need, but don't keep it silent. Not telling what you know is just as bad being the one throwing punches. Both ways, you help hurt somebody. Instead of watching a fight, which only encourages more, walk away to show your disgust toward the immaturity. Take some sort of stand, as simple as walking away, to show that violence is not accepted. It can't be accepted. Next time, I know I'll walk away. Will you?

Questions for Thought



Why do you have to "put your two cents in", but it's only a "penny for your thoughts"? Where's that extra penny going to?

How come we choose from just two people for president and fifty for Miss America?

How important does a person have to be before they are considered assassinated instead of just murdered?



Homework During the Summer?

Jocelyn Frinfrock

Focus Co-Editor

School lasts from September 7th until June 24th. Our summer vacation is only 2 months long yet teachers still feel the need to give us assignments while we are on break. We work hard all school year and look forward to having the summer off to go on trips, get a job, and just spend time relaxing. We shouldn't have to worry about finishing summer assignments that teachers give to us.

Many teachers assign work for students to complete over the break. All students are required to read at least one book, which is not bad. Last summer the AP World History students had about 5 chapters to read with each chapter about 30 pages long and then had to do a chart on the

chapters that were read. Sophomore Bekah Borio says, "After a long year of work, kids look forward to summer. They want to relax and enjoy themselves. It's their time to forget about school."

It is not fair that AP classes get tons of work over break and they are the classes that are working the hardest during the school year. Having summer assignments just makes it feel like you work the whole year and don't even have a summer vacation. Many students get a job over the summer and others are gone for most of the summer and traveling. "You might as well have school all year round", says sophomore Jessica Pope. These students don't have time to do summer assignments and when they get back to school the work that they should have spent their summer doing is due. Summer vacation is given to the students as a time to relax and get a break from all the work they had been doing that year, not working on more schoolwork.



Photo by Houston Murphy

Late Prom Due to '05 Curse?

Milica Wren

Wire Reporter

With prom falling nearly a month late, and school not letting out until the 24th, June is beginning to feel like the longest month yet; longer still for seniors who are facing finals and graduation in addition to prom. But for the class of 2005, this late prom hassle comes as no surprise. The curse of '05, for those who believe, has haunted the senior class for the past four years, beginning with the 9/11 attacks, then inciting the sniper shootings, Hurricane Isabel, and this year the curse rears its ugly head to throw back their beloved senior prom till just before graduation.

This year's prom, which is set to take place June 18 at the Crystal City Hilton, has many students, in addition to the seniors, agitated because of its late occurrence. "It kinda sucks that it [prom] is the last weekend before school's out, I wonder why SGA would make it so late," says junior Christina Gustavsson. The SGA has issued an un-official

statement apologizing for the trouble caused by the late prom date this year. They cite scheduling conflicts and problems with hotel reservations as reasons for the June 18 date. Junior class secretary Sarah Sheya confirmed that the postponement stems from a "failure to actually reserve the intended date." Prom, which was originally supposed to take place on May 21 had to be moved to the now publicized date of June 18 when strings could not be tied together in order to secure the space at the Hilton. The date of May 21 had been approved by SGA and was tentatively slated to be this year's prom, but for inexplicable reasons, the final phone call to the hotel was never made and the date was never actually booked.

In a scramble to resurrect the floundering prom effort, this year's SGA took into account nearly all possible options. The investigation was headed by junior class President Brad Dalton and involved everything from plans to hold the event over Memorial Day weekend to a high winded scheme in

which school would be cancelled on Friday June 10 and the prom would be held then. The latter was promptly shot down by administration, leaving SGA faced with few other alternatives and mounting pressure from higher authorities to settle a date or risk cancellation of the event all together. In the end, student officers worked around SAT testing, SOL's, a choral trip, finals, and graduation to produce the June 18 figure. "All the officers could do was push it back, until all we were left with was the day before graduation and it just physically couldn't be moved any later," says Dalton.

However, some are pleased by the later date. Administration in particular admit that while the poor scheduling is a nuisance, they are hopeful that the later date will decrease the number of legal infractions and consequent disciplinary action that traditionally surface between the prom aftermath and graduation.

Teens Learning Government | Ready for Finals?

Angie Palma

Business Manager

The youth of today need knowledge about our government in order to make the best decisions when choosing our leaders. Girls and Boys States are week-long sessions designed to give teens a chance to better understand America's governmental system.

Approximately 20,000 girls and boys are chosen each summer to participate in these sessions nationwide. Those chosen demonstrate certain requirements such as strong leadership abilities and have an above average academic standing. Originating in the early 1930's, these sessions have grown from one or two days to week long and from hundreds of participants to thousands. These gatherings grant an opportunity to learn about elections and government first hand by allowing delegates to live as self governing citizens. Upon arriving at the assembly, generally held at colleges, the students are separated into two parties. These are typically the Nationalists and the Federalists and while they do not imitate the two major political parties specifically, they do enable everyone to better understand a two party government. Each hall, where the participants stay, is a different "city." In each city,

elections are held in which the students run for offices such as mayor and police chief. There are legislative sessions, campaigns, party rallies, bills are drafted, and there are even mock trials. Those who are elected into "office" are required to carry-out their duties according to their individual state.



Chris Kelly, Brett Smith, Emily Macklin, and Brad Dalton, were some of the juniors selected to go to Boys and Girls States.

In order to attend, you must apply during your junior year. All delegates are selected by the American Legion Auxiliary Unit of your state. This year, they are being held at Liberty College between June 19 and June 25. In the state of Virginia alone, there are 600 delegates attending. However, not many students know what Boys or Girls State even is. When asked

what she knew about it, sophomore Marissa Watt said, "I've never even heard about it."

This year, West Potomac students Juniors Emily Macklin, Molly Turner, Bora Nam, Brett Smith, Chris Kelly, Brad Dalton, and Kenneth Roden will be in attendance. Junior Chris Kelly stated that "Current seniors like Taurin Barrera, Paul Cambon and Kevin Ebberts persuaded me to apply." Hopefully by next year, there will be more students who know about such a wonderful opportunity to learn about their government.

Anum Jaffri

News Co-Editor

The week of June 20th is finals week for the freshmen, sophomores, and juniors at our school. In preparation for the finals, which count for one-fifth of the class's final grade, teachers review everything the students have learned. Teachers make sure that their students remember everything they need to, and the last week of school can be a stressful time for students.

"It's a tough week," says sophomore Chris Markson. "I have seven finals to study for, one after the other." Instead of in elementary school, when students spend the last days of school playing games and cleaning their

desks, high school students are tested right before summer break. Even extracurricular classes like gym have some sort of final that relate to the class. "I usually just



Junior Karin Neal studies vigorously for her final exams.

study with my friends, which makes it less painful," sophomore Kristin McCarthy says.

Many students go through weird rituals when taking finals, like wearing pajamas to school, and bringing pillows. Some use lucky pencils or eat a certain type of food for breakfast. "I eat pancakes," says Markson. The vital preparation is of course, studying.

Some times people go into the last month of June and begin to slack off. "It's best not to study. That way, you're relaxed," says Greg Son. Others stay on task until June 24th.

Teachers expect students to do well and stay focused until that last day of school. For this reason, many feel pulled in two different directions. On one hand they want to enjoy the hot weather, but they also want to ace their finals. The stress is building, and it will only be let go when the last final is over.



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Students in the News

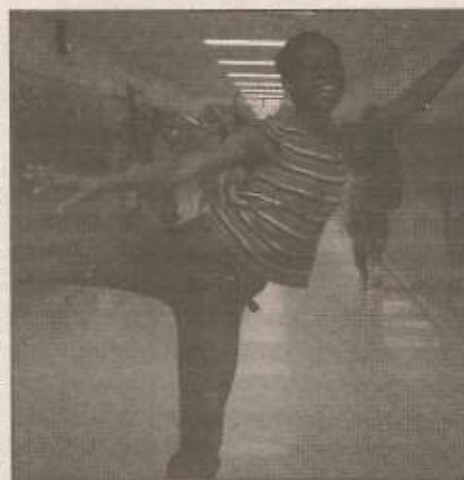
Katie Staples
Editor-in-Chief

Summer is a time for rest, relaxation, and lounging around the pool all day, but one of our school's students looks forward to dancing all day everyday at her prestigious dance academy in New York City. Junior Anaiya Baukman was accepted from hundreds of student dancers to attend a five-week dance academy at the New York City Dance Theater of Harlem. Baukman has been dancing since she was three, and is skilled in several different styles of dance: ballet, tap, jazz, modern, and hip hop. She auditioned with students from all over the county, and she was noticed and selected by scouts from the academy.

The only student chosen from this school, Baukman is excited to be attending the dance academy this summer. "I can't wait to go to New York City this summer," she said. "I hope to dance and perfect my technique."

Baukman is in Dance 3 at this school and performed in the dance show May. Friend and classmate junior Taylor Mertins, as a cotillion dance teacher, was impressed by Baukman's talent. "It was a complete and absolute pleasure to see Anaiya dance so gracefully and purposefully as she did at the dance recital. She is truly gifted."

Another newsworthy student at this school is senior Nick Jachowski. Known by many as the top dog of the senior class, Jachowski excels in his math and science classes. In



Junior Anaiya Baukman performs one of her routines for The Wire.

Photo by Lakeisha Langley

February of this year, he entered the school science fair with his project "Phytoplankton Response to Nutrient Enrichment," not knowing it would bring him to the international science fair in Phoenix, Arizona a few months later. Competing with kids from Canada, Germany, Japan, China, and The United States, Jachowski was one that won first place. Jachowski won \$5,000 for his award-worthy project.

We obviously have some very talented students at this school. From dance and extracurricular activities to science and academics, our students excel in all aspects on life.

Teachers Leaving West Potomac

Jocelyn Finfrock
Focus Co-Editor

Ms. Dickens

- **Taught:** 13 years
- **Continuing teaching career?** Yes, South County Secondary School
- **Why did you become a teacher?** It's the one job where I can perform/ "be on stage" everyday. I was originally a theater major, but had no desire to have odd jobs between gigs - I wanted consistency. I love literature as much as theater, so I combined the two.
- **Advice to high school students?** As cliché as it sounds - be yourself. Stand up for what you believe and formulate your own ideas/ opinions after learning about a topic.
- **Final Words?** Thanks for caring.



Photo by Houston Murphy

Mrs. Schoolcraft

- **Taught:** 5 years
- **Continuing teaching career?** Yes, South County Secondary School
- **Why did you become a teacher?** I enjoy kids and have a passion for Biology, and want students to enjoy science.
- **Advice to high school students?** Enjoy your 4 years, try and get as much out of the experience as possible, but realize that there's a whole world out there.
- **Final Words?** I'll miss all the students, staff and people associated with West Potomac!



Photo by Houston Murphy

Ms. Piskor

- **Taught:** 16 years
- **Continuing teaching career?** Yes, South County Secondary School
- **Why did you become a teacher?** I love helping students understand my subject and working with young people is very rewarding. I can't imagine doing anything else.
- **Advice to high school students?** Take advantage of all the opportunities you have here. Many people care about you and want to help you.
- **Final Words?** I love West Potomac and have enjoyed my time here. I have had the privilege of working with wonderful people. I've enjoyed the support of an outstanding community and have taught the greatest students. I will miss everyone!



Photo by Houston Murphy

Mr. Bowerman

- **Taught:** 12 years
- **Continuing teaching career?** Yes, as Director of Student Activities at Langley High School
- **Why did you become a teacher?** I wanted the opportunity to work with students in both the academic and athletic realm.
- **Advice to high school students?** Make the most of your high school experience. Work hard and perform to the best of your abilities. There should be no regrets when you walk across the stage to receive your diploma.
- **Final Words?** It has been a pleasure to work with the



Photo by Lakeisha Langley

WPHS students and staff.

*To all the other teachers leaving West Potomac we wish you the best of luck whether you continue your career of teaching, retire, or move on to a new profession. You will all be missed!

Rhatican Reveals

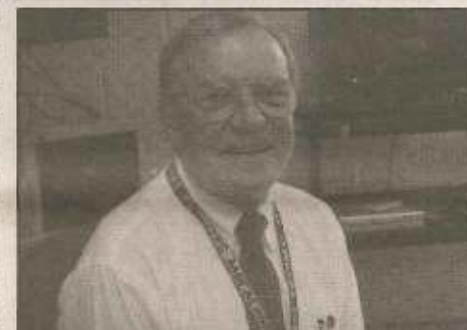
Milica Wren
Wire Reporter

Long time Washington maverick 'Deep Throat' has finally broken his cover. After three decades of silence, the elusive insider has revealed himself in the now widely publicized *Vanity Fair* article, and is confirmed by the Woodward story carried by the *Washington Post* that following Thursday. Now only one secret remains... was Rhatican in on it??

Aside from being a congenial history pundit at our school, Mr. William Rhatican, who teaches AP Government and US History, was at one time a top official in the Nixon White House. Working as Special Assistant to the President from 1970 to 1973, Rhatican dealt with media and certain special interest group relations until shortly after Watergate broke, when he resigned and left Washington.

Meeting at an undisclosed location arranged after a lengthy correspondence of ersatz notes slipped under doors, Rhatican divulged secrets to *The Wire* about his increasingly infamous involvement in the Watergate scandal and its ensuing aftermath.

When the first whispers of scandal surfaced within the White House, the majority of people felt it to be merely a 'third rate burglary', not worthy of substantial attention. Rhatican was among those who initially disregarded the rumors; however, when the lines were drawn to the White House itself and Rhatican was simultaneously instructed to "leave Watergate alone" in his press advisories he began to doubt the sanctity of his superiors, saying he felt "It [Watergate] was being mishandled."



What is the truth about Mr. Rhatican, one of our very own teachers.

Photo by Houston Murphy

In 1973, he resigned from his position officially citing a "dispute over how to handle Watergate" as the reason, and eventually moved with his family to New Jersey, leaving behind Nixon's administration and the poorly orchestrated Watergate fiasco. However, it would take six months of tedious and "unpleasant" questioning before Rhatican could really get away from Watergate. After being served a subpoena by the special prosecutor of the Watergate investigation, he was required to testify in front of a grand jury once a week for six consecutive months until the conclusion of his investigation.

After Nixon's resignation in '74, Rhatican enjoyed a stint as Special Assistant to President Ford and a job as the Vice President of Publishing at the American Paper Institute in New York

before, becoming "burnt out" and "fed up with the political system". Looking for a reprieve, he took the advice of a friend and started working as a substitute teacher which landed him a job at our school, only eight short years ago. "He's a nice gentleman and a good person and really cares about the kids," says fellow history teacher Ms. Elizabeth Grady. Rhatican's commitment to our school and its students has been more than evident throughout his time here. This year he is publishing the book, *White House Under Fire*, which is composed of 40 essays written by his AP government class. From being involved in Watergate, Rhatican seems to have found true happiness in teaching.

WEST POTOMAC UPCOMING EVENTS

June 17	25-9am)
• Pulley Graduation (Auditorium)	• Underclass Exam: Period 3 (9:20-11am)
June 20	• Graduation Rehearsal (Main Gym; 10am-12am)
• Senior Exam: Period 5 (SRs can leave after exam)	
• Underclass Exam: Period 5	June 23
June 21	• Underclass Exam: Period 6 (7:25-9am)
• Underclass Exam: Period 2 (7:25-9am)	• Underclass Exam: Period 7 (9:20-11am)
• Underclass Exam: Period 4 (9:20-11am)	June 24
• Graduation Rehearsal (Main Gym; 1pm)	• Last Day of School
June 22	• Abbreviated Schedule (Buses leave at 9:50 am)
• Underclass Exam: Period 1 (7:	

Congratulations Seniors!

Hana Beckerle



Position: Editor-in-Chief
Next Year: Pennsylvania State University

Ansley LaBarre



Position: Editor-in-Chief
Next Year: Elon University

Ashlee Newcomb



Position: Style Editor
Next Year: Pennsylvania State University

Jeff Snyder



Position: News Editor
Next Year: Virginia Tech

Marissa D'Orazio



Position: Focus Editor
Next Year: University of Virginia



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Allegany College of Maryland
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Art Institute of Washington
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Art School
Marcello Minor
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Boston Conservatory
Edward Curenton
Meredith Richard
Boston University
Canelle Boughton
Bowie State University
Charles Jones
Chris Jones
Bridgewater College
Rodney Morrison
Brooks Institute of Photography
Sarah Jacobs
Brown University
Jessica Stage
Bryn-Mawr College
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Butler University
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Patricia Hoen
Holly Kopecky
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Kyle Mongan
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Taurin Barrera
Emily Crimmins
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Anna Levin
Dustin Smith
College of Southern Maryland
Catherine Posey
Columbia College Chicago
Keonia Lucas
Columbia International University
Natalie Stowell
Coppin State University
Cristina Perez
Davis and Elkins College
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Drexel University
Katherine Ward
Edinboro University of Pennsylvania
Jessica Rexroat

Elon University
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Emerson College
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Andrew Langen
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Theirno Sow
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Kelly Fonseca Delgado
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Wook Jang
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Jennifer Waldman
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Amy Dobson
Jody Wicks
Hollins University
Laura Bieging
Horry-Georgetown Technical College
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Howard University
Ramy Zamzam
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Kansas State University
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Lehigh University
Elizabeth Jenkins
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Sang Ho Nam
Lindsey Wilson College
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Thomas Bennett
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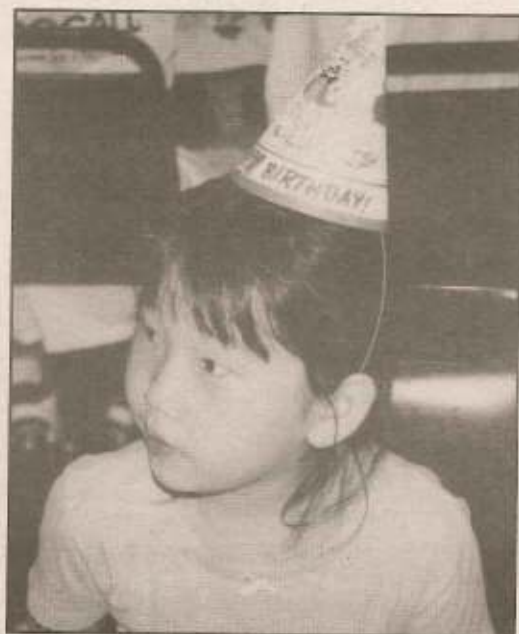
Congratulations Seniors!

Sarah Raser



Position: Wire Reporter
Next Year: Manhattan College

Joy Yoo



Position: Wire Reporter
Next Year: Syracuse University

Jason Yaworske



Position: Wire Reporter
Next Year: James Madison University

Laura Lofgren



Position: Photo Editor
Next Year: James Madison University

No more stories, No more layout,
No more headlines, captions, or quotes.
No more slants, No more leads,
No more late nights, inserts, or notes.
We had good times and bad,
But we know that we will,
Inevitably, Undoubtedly,
Leave Big Shoes to Fill!

Good Luck to Next Year's Staff!

Drew Macklin

Position: Opinions Editor
Next Year: University of Virginia

Rob Jones

Position: Wire Reporter
Next Year: University of Virginia

Robin Harry

Position: Business Manager
Next Year: Radford University

Wolverine Sports Year in Review

Recap of the highs and lows of our school's sports teams throughout the year

Alex Keckeisen

Asst. Editor-In-Chief

As the last year in the "old" Patriot District comes to a close, this school's teams have, in some cases excelled past expectations, while others fell below where they were projected. As of next year, the Patriot District will have a new look, with perennial powerhouse Robinson leaving to join the Concorde District, and Lee High School and the new Secondary school, South County, joining our ranks.

The fall season proved to be tough for this school's teams as District play proved tough for our teams. The field hockey team strived for wins as they tripled last years win record by three. With new head coach Betty Sixsmith in charge, the team proved themselves as tough opponents as they started off the season 3-0 but fell into slump at the beginning of district play.

While the football team looked promising with their solid defense, the offense failed to find the end zone

during a tough season for the program. The team looked to young players such as sophomore Chris Farquhar who took over at quarterback midway through the season and excelled beyond many expectations. The season ended on a high note with a 24-9 win over Lake Braddock, a huge moral boost for the team.

As volleyball got into gear the team quickly found wins where they needed them. The team found some problems early, but were able to smooth them out in time for the season. "Although there are some minor obstacles to overcome, we are able to work them out as a team and win," said sophomore Jayne Seward. While this season was a

success ending on a 10-3 record, next year looks to be even more promising.

The cross country team surpassed many expectations as they stormed into the state meet and were able to place second. "Individually, we have a lot of runners that competed well at States and we were able to do really well," said co-captain Tyler Gray. The team finished behind Thomas Jefferson, a powerhouse when it comes to cross country. Next year also looks promising because of the amount of juniors on the team.

The winter season came and went as many teams made adjustments with either new coaches or the loss of key seniors. In some cases the teams did well but in others, they struggled throughout the season.

With starters Lauren Arthur and Mary Lawson leading the way, the girls' basketball team finished with an 11-12 record but were unable to capitalize in the district playoffs. "You can always improve. Our goal is to improve everyday," said head coach Parker Roach. The team did improve during the season and did whatever it took to win.

New coach David Houston

provided the spark, along with senior Tim Young, were able to triple the teams win total over last year to finish with a 6-15 record. Probably one of the most exciting games came against West Springfield. Junior Derrick Baker went the length of the court in four seconds to send the game into overtime. The team was then able to hit ten of thirteen free throws in extra time to seal the victory.

Winter track faced an odd situation when former coach Coates stepped down three weeks into the season. Coach Bowerman and coach Beeby stepped up to fill the void and found surprising wins when they were not expected. The 4x200 relay team consisting of Charles Jones, Chris Jones,

Houston Murphy, and Antwane Minter advanced to states and placed fourth. In the process they also qualified for nationals.

The spring sports season was huge for this school as two sports won their Patriot District tournaments and one ended up with a Regional Title after three years of placing second.

Once again the boys' spring track team won the Patriot District with the help of Charles Jones and Antwane Minter but they were also able to capture the Regional Title after three years of coming in second. The well-balanced attack of the team with throwers, sprinters, and jumpers came up huge in both meets. Coaches award winner Charles Jones placed first in the 110 meter hurdles, second in the 300 meter hurdles, and third in the triple jump.

The boys' soccer team looked to reproduce last year's northern region miracle with many key returning players returning. Seniors Wilbur Grady-Garcia, Jay Gutierrez, Patrick Kunz, and David Cairo looked to end their high school careers on a high note but were unable to capitalize in a tough district loss to Hayfield which ended 3-2. Head coach Erich Gunderman commanded the team in his last season as head coach to a 4-7-3 record. He will be heading to South County in the fall to become the first head coach at that school.

Hopefully next year will yield many more victories and district championships with the re-aligned district for all teams at this school.



Senior Charles Jones completes a hurdle during the 110 meter hurdles.

Photo by Houston Murphy



Our school's varsity team faces off against district rival Annandale.

Photo by Houston Murphy

First District Title in 18

Sara Mathewson

Style Editor

Coached by security guard Dennis Day, the softball team has had its best season since the 1980's, winning the District Championship and advancing past the first round of Regionals. They defeated the Lake Braddock Bruins in their district championship game. They also won against Wakefield in the first round of the regional tournament by a score of 6-0. Unfortunately their winning streak ended in the second regional game on Monday, to Westfield.

Head coach Dennis Day is assisted by John Reina and Bill Ambrose. There were high hopes for the team to win the Regional Championship, with 1st team all-District pitcher, junior Becky Boucher, among others on the team. "The success of this team was truly magical. On paper we weren't the most talented but I will put this team's heart up against anyone out there,"

stated D. Day as he is called by some of his players.

The team was confident that they could win the Championship, but being a team that has not won anything for almost twenty years, they did do well. With help from all district players such as Boucher, and Nikki Demmel, they were able to obtain many victories. Boucher is the starting pitcher who helped carry the team to their victories. Demmel, a junior, helped to score the winning runs against the Bruins during the District game by hitting a home-run, scoring two runs. When she hit the ball, it bounced on the top of the fence and fortunately bounced over and out of the field. Senior Neely Edwards was also a vital part of the team, being starting 2nd baseman. Edwards was able to play both tennis and softball at the same time in the season, and dedicated a lot of time and energy to both teams.

Many were counting on the softball team to win, "This team came together and ended the season with one heart beat, they believed in each other and understood their roles perfectly. They have developed a bond and friendship only associated with the closest families" said Day. "Our chances of going farther next year are very good if we stick with our plan and keep our eyes on one goal- Defending our District Championship!"

Eagle Winners Soar

Houston Murphy

Sports Editor

At this year's spring sports banquet, held on June 7 in the auditorium, several athletes and teams were honored for their achievements during the spring season and also for accomplishments made throughout the entire year.

One of the most prestigious awards that is presented each year is the Eagle, which goes to four athletes who are noted as the "athletes of the year." These athletes, nominated by school coaches, must have competed during all three seasons at the varsity level and greatly contribute to their teams. Out of the four Eagle awards, two are awarded to a girl and a boy for the individual sport category, and two go to a girl and a boy for the team sport category.

The Eagle award winners for this year were junior Derrick Baker and senior Neely Edwards for the team sports award and junior Antwane Minter and senior Laura Regensburg who won the individual category.

"A well-rounded athlete does more than just play a specific sport that they are good at; an all-around athlete is able to expand into and excel in different sports, and even more importantly, is a leader at these sports," said track and field coach Don Beeby, stating some of the important criterion for an Eagle winner. Coaches from each sport gather at a sometimes-heated meeting to discuss potential Eagle winners, with each coach

receiving one nomination and one vote for an athlete of their choice. The proud coaches do not always agree on who should be the tri-athlete of the year, as they usually tend to have personal biases for athletes whom they coached. Though the issue is subjective and debatable, at the end of the meeting each of the award winners is indisputably worthy of being named an athlete of the year.

The award winners, competing in a variety of sports for this school, are each captains of their respective sports. Baker played football in the fall as a corner, was the assist and steals leader, as well as a leading scorer on the basketball team, and was known for his speed and good throwing arm as a right-fielder on the baseball team. Edwards is known for her standout leadership in not only three sports, but four, playing field hockey, basketball, and softball and tennis both in the spring. Minter played safety on the football team and was the leading point scorer on the winter and spring track and field teams, anchoring his relay teams to states while qualifying for nationals each season. Regensburg, who also won the award during her sophomore year, competed during the rigorous cross country season, and then went on to run the 2 mile, mile, and 800 in the demanding winter and spring track seasons.

With a school full of exceptional student-athletes, these four tri-athletes stand out through their display of leadership and dedication to their teams.

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Houey's Highlights

Give Them More Credit!

Houston Murphy
Sports Editor

It seems as if some of the athletes at this school have a chip on their shoulder about something. This "chip" doesn't seem to be a good one; it is more like a grudge. A grudge against the other sports programs that are winning at the time. Along with this bitterness comes an obvious feeling of resentment because their personal sport is going through a rough time.

Most, if not all of the students at this school who play sports have suffered at least one bleak losing season or one harsh defeat. But most of these same people know how good it feels to be in a winning situation. When you are winning, no matter how you are winning or in what fashion, a great amount of credit is due to the people involved. Where credit is due, credit should be recognized. The fact is, is that the most successful programs at this school this year have been crew, track and field, and softball.

The crew team, which has had momentous success in the past few years, deserves not only credit from within the school, but the state and the entire nation. In the past three years the team has had boats winning a national title, and the men's four placed an impressive fourth place in the nation this year. It is extremely difficult to produce such a successful program, and to keep it up is a significant feat.

The track and field team, which

has been one of the staples of the school's sports program, has by far been the most successful since this school's establishment. Even with several regional, state, and national champions, several of which have went on to be Olympic athletes, the program still often gets slated as being miniscule in importance among other bigger sports such as



Senior Al Labai completes a high jump at the Scuderi Invitational. Though only a rookie, he was ranked in the state throughout the season in the triple and high jump.

football and basketball. With this type of product it is mysterious as to why the team still receives insignificant recognition and little credit, states by many as to be "not even a real sport." Coming off of a fourth consecutive district championship in one of the toughest districts in the region AND the first regional title since the year 2000, the track team should at least start being looked at as a real sport – if not the sport of the school. I might be slightly

biased towards this sport, but isn't it already obvious that this winning program deserves some more needed recognition?

The final tribute to be made is to the softball team, which has clearly had an outstanding season, bringing home the first district title in eighteen years. Though coming at a surprising time as the underdog

of all of the individual programs. It is inevitable that programs will go through ups and downs and while some teams are winning, other teams will feel miserable while suffering through adversity. But if a certain program is losing, there is no need, better yet, it is crazy, to take out your frustration on other school sports teams that are winning. This is not the Yankees vs. Red Sox here; it is West Potomac Football vs. West Potomac Cross Country, and unlike the aforementioned baseball rivalry, these are two teams made up of schoolmates alike who should be supporting each other along with each and every other sport at this school – no matter who is winning or losing.

There are two routes to take in these situations: the easy course of action would be to isolate yourself along with your team from the rest of the school and complain about the reasons you are losing. This path is chosen much too often. The more difficult approach is to fight through the hard times with an optimistic attitude, but the trick to this is support. With the help and support of other athletes from other teams around the school, it would be much easier to take this positive approach and in turn, improve upon a losing situation.

Not only does this create a better feeling among the teams, but the goal is no longer to see who can score more points or win more events, but to have fun and to feel good doing it.

In The Numbers

32

Number of tri-athletes who competed during all three seasons this year.

2

Number of All-Met athletes on the crew team. Congratulations to seniors Jessie Stage and Luke Urban.

18

Number of years for the Wolverines to take back the Patriot district softball title.

1

Rank of the Washington Nationals in the National League East division through June 11, riding a 10 game win streak to a record of 37-26.

Wolverines Ready to Strike

Strong core of athletes look to improve with a winning attitude

Jon Yoo
Asst. Sports Editor

With a crushing defense, led by junior stars Darnell Williams and Josh Rodriguez, our school's 2005-2006 season is starting in the right direction. In their first season as varsity



Junior Darnell Williams takes a snap from the shotgun formation.

starters last year, both Williams and Rodriguez surpassed their coaches expectations with their talent, desire to succeed, and pure dominance, all while becoming the two key defensive leaders on the team. This success has as much to do with the mental side of football as it does the physical. The two are relaxed and laid-back making their teammates feel comfortable, however they never slack, are committed to their team, and hate to lose. These mental attributes are what motivate them to succeed,

and give them the edge to be on top.

Williams' and Rodriguez's styles are different yet effective. Williams, the powerful strong side linebacker, demands one's respect with his physical presence and ferocious play. He causes constant problems for opposing offenses with his quick decisions, tremendous strength with a bench press of 260, and crushing tackles. He is the complete linebacker and he has the stats to prove it. After converting to linebacker from quarterback midway through last season, Williams finished with fifty tackles, two sacks, and two forced fumbles in only five games. The six foot and one inch Rodriguez has a totally different effect on the team. Rodriguez is a tremendous athlete who has the gift and ability to change the momentum of a game in a heartbeat. After a slow start, he finished the season with thirty tackles and one interception. Unlike many cornerbacks in the district, Rodriguez has the perfect size and strength to match up against anyone. With a 4.48 forty time and a maximum bench press of 230, he's extremely quick and shifty for his size, but he can easily bully his man and contain the run.

The talented two have been dubbed by many as "thunder and lightning". Williams brings the thunder rocking ball carriers and rarely missing

tackles, and Rodriguez with his lightning quick moves and running ability has his eyes on the ball every play. However they are not the only bright spots on the team, who is trying to rebound from last year's one win and nine loss season. Fellow junior starters, running back Cory Smith, middle linebacker Richie Math, and strong safety Antwane Minter provide great depth and leadership to the team. With this fad five group in tact, among with many of the other core members of the team, they will continue to thrive under second year head coach, John Henderson, his staff, and his new offensive system. With Henderson's motto, "A New Beginning" keeping the teams focus sharp and on point, and off-season workouts and conditioning underway there is no telling to what kind of success is due next fall. However, with our role players set and ready for action guaranteed success is almost definite.



Juniors Darnell Williams and Josh Rodriguez will provide a spark on the defensive side of the ball next season.

Itchy, Scratchy, Sunny Summer

Caroline Staples

Features Editor

Every summer, children, teens, and adults are faced with getting too much sun and getting burned. Many make the mistake of stepping in poison ivy and getting rashes. Take control of the pesky bugs and sun beams this year, and stay safe.

Many people can't distinguish poison ivy from other plants. Poison ivy sprouts as a reddish leaf which then turns green as it matures splitting into three separate leaves. Watch out for poison ivy in the woods on trees, fences, walls, and the ground. If you go hiking, wear long pants and long sleeves so the ivy does not brush up against your body. If you get poison ivy on yourself you can't really do much except for wash your skin multiple times a day with plenty of soap and water. The redness and swelling will appear in about twelve and forty-eight hours and then the blisters and rashes on your skin.

Although poison ivy gives you

rashes and burns, the sun can have a much worse effect on your skin. If you don't wear sunscreen for long periods of time in the sun you may increase the risk of skin cancer and



Freshman Alex Protosevich's itchy poison ivy.

Photo by Caroline Staples

even photo damage wrinkles and sun spots. Even worse, you can start to peel and have dead skin all over your body. To avoid burns, wear sunscreen; use SPF 45 if you burn easily, and SPF 15 if you tan and rarely burn. Students from the University of Copenhagen studied sun burns on people and concluded that about 91% of sunburns

occurred on a person's day off of work, 79% occurred while partaking in risky sun behavior like sunbathing and exposing the shoulders, and 90% occurred during May, June, and July.

What most people don't realize about the summer is it's the perfect time for young people to get kidnapped? Parents are away at work, and kids are wandering aimlessly near pools and in parks by themselves. For example, if you go running out two miles away from home, you become very vulnerable to get kidnapped or harassed. Take a friend to go running in neighborhoods you don't know and instead of taking the short-cut somewhere, go the longer route that is friendlier.

This summer is a perfect opportunity for you to get rashes, get sun burned, and show up to school in September with a red face, or get lost or scared by unfamiliar people following or looking at you. Stay safe and don't do anything that could possibly put you in harms way.

Seniors, Seniors, Read All About It!

Milica Wren

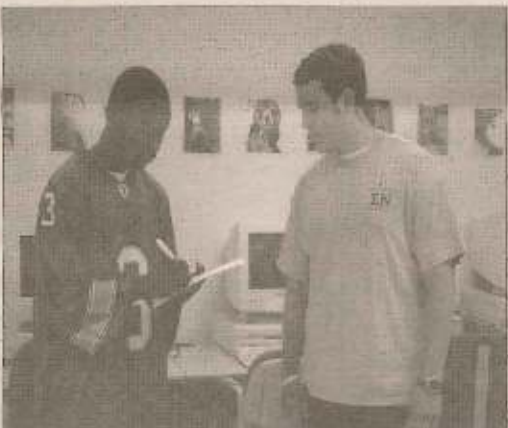
Wire Reporter

Every year, as the senior class dons their caps and gowns for graduation, a new group of young adults begin their journey into adult hood. They will face new experiences, learn invaluable lessons and make choices that will impact the rest of their lives. Whether 2005's graduates continue on to college, seek employment, travel abroad or just keep on chillin', we offer some last parting words of wisdom from students who have been there, done that and are still alive to tell about it. Instead of giving advice to high school freshmen on how to survive school, we offer some time-tested advice from several high school graduates to the senior class on how to survive college, work and life as newly independent young adults.

"Time management really is important; ten times more so than in high school because college is so much faster. You get the luxury of having a lot more time on your hands, but with that comes the responsibility of keeping up with what you are supposed to do. Once you get behind it's impossible to catch up, so you just have to get together with a friend or roommate and set aside time to study or do work, then just

get it done. You'll find that no matter where you end up going to school, there will be things you want to do seven days a week. So just get your work done, your life will be so much easier."

Adam Kessler, Rising sophomore at Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, North Carolina



Junior Karamocho takes notes as West Potomac alum Adam Kessler doles out college wisdom.

Photo by Lakeisha Langley

"You'll find that you have a lot more time on your hands, but you need to be careful with that because it can be dangerous. Since mommy and daddy aren't there to bail you out, you have to fend for yourself and really keep on top of your own life. Don't let yourself get too out of control; everything in moderation."

Ryan McCarron, Rising sophomore at Savannah College of Art and Design, Savannah, Georgia

"Keep an open mind about people you meet. You'll find that the most interesting people are often the most unlikely or unsuspecting. Especially

people you've already met because they are often really different from how you knew them before since now they're living on their own and are really allowed to be themselves."

Mike McCusker, Rising sophomore at University of Dayton, Dayton, Ohio

"Don't take morning classes."

Ms. Gretchen Alemian, West Potomac High School teacher

Arts Around Town

Diana Blaszkiewicz

Style Co-Editor

Oh, Summer! The first few days lead one to an ecstatic feeling of liberation, a frenzy to do, see, and experience. Yet the wanderlust quickly wears off, and those last, lingering weeks find one at the pool, roasting under the jaded eye of lifeguards disdainful at the sight of even the most gruesome third-degree burns. Thankfully, the local arts and culture scene provides a variety of outdoor and indoor events to revel in during summer's balmy days and nights. However, finding entertainment that is both fun and wallet-friendly can be an issue. Good places to start looking are the Arts and Style sections of *The Washington Post*, and the Sunday Source section in the Sunday paper, which spotlights the week's upcoming music, art, and movie events. *The Washington City Paper*, a free local weekly, includes extensive lists of movies and art show openings, as well as plenty of advertisements and information for local venues. Online, AOL City Guide for Washington, D.C. provides a comprehensive, easy-to-navigate, and searchable database of D.C. happenings. Some of these highlights provide an alternative to the figurative wake-and-bake of summer:

The 24th annual Alexandria Red Cross Waterfront Festival at Alexandria's Oronoco Park held June 18th through 19th features music from has-been headliners Jack Diamond-Jim Steed Band and Lifehouse, as well as arts and crafts and food from Alexandria city vendors. Adults party for ten dollars, children for five dollars. For more information on schedules and tickets, visit www.waterfrontfestival.org



Monday and Thursday at Tenleytown's Fort Reno Park mean free concerts of local alternative bands against the striking background of one of D.C.'s oldest military forts. Some past bands to play here include vintage D.C. hardcore favorites Fugazi and the politically charged Q and Not U. This summer's lineup is available at www.fortreno.com.

Art buffs disheartened at the news of last month's resignation of David C. Levy, the Corcoran Gallery of Art's former art director and chairman of Board of Trustees, will be happy to hear the gallery's 48th biennial exhibit of American artists is still going strong. The exhibit, entitled "Close to Home", will spotlight local artists' artwork, and will feature sculptures, photography, and multimedia works as well as the requisite paintings up until June 27th. Visit www.corcoran.org for more information.

Come to the U.S. National Arboretum and celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the World's Largest Herb Garden, going on all summer. While there, check out the Botanical Art Exhibit, on display until June 30th, take a stroll through the magnificent gardens, lazily picnic on some canapés, and gaze at the landscape, its arbors and ardors. For more events, go to www.usna.usda.gov, or the Arboretum itself, located at 3501 New York Avenue, NE Washington, D.C.

Now in its seventh year, the HBO and America Online sponsored Screen on the Green showcases American classic films. This year starts out with "The Way We Were", the 1978 Barbara Streisand and Robert Redford heart-wrencher on July 18th, and continues every Monday night until August 15th. The showings are free and start at dusk, right in front of the Washington Monument. There's nothing worse than sitting on itchy grass in shorts, so bring a blanket and plenty of homemade popcorn.

The above are merely suggestions. There is so much to do and see during the summer. Never forget that we live just a few miles away from the nation's capital, a city millions from all over the world visit every year. There's a museum, an organization, or an event for every interested party, no matter what your hobbies or interests may be. Sometimes, it takes a little bit of creativity and a lot of organizational motivation on your part. Try to get some friends to rent a sailboat for a day, or drive out to Shenandoah National Park and go hiking. In general though, all it takes is a Metro ticket and a sunny attitude to bear those monotonous middle months of summer. And, if all else fails, there's always the pool.

(Rising)

Junior / Senior

Sarah Mathewson

Diana Blaszkiewicz

Book: *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini explores the relationship between two young Afghan boys torn apart by Taliban rule.

CD: *Toots and the Maytal* is the top rated reggae CD of the year, with great dance beats and guest singers including Gwen Stefani and Shaggy.

TV: "8 Simple Rules" is one of the funniest TV shows of the year, but undercuts its humor with serious plot lines dealing with death, separation, and other real-life issues.



Movie: *The Phantom of the Opera*, the cinema version of the Andrew Lloyd Weber musical is filled with Victorian-era drama and romance.

Book: *The Mysterious Flame of Queen Loana* by Umberto Eco is equal parts *The Adventures of Cavalier and Clay* and *The Da Vinci Code*.

CD: The White Stripes' *Get Behind Me Satan*. So Renee may have Kenay Chesney, but Jack White holds his own with a new supermodel bride, as well as a not-so-subtle country-tinged album.

Movie: Called by some the greatest movie of all time, *Wet Hot American Summer* recalls that epochial awkward event of summer called "the sleep-away camp".

TV: "The Real Gilligan's Island" proves that not all reality TV is trash by featuring not one, but two of that minx Ginger.

The Best of Both Grades!



A Day In The Life... of a Jubilant Junior

Katie Staples and Evan Dobbs

Editor-in-Chief and Focus Co-Editor

Blasting Coldplay through his speakers while driving to school, Patrick 'Pedro' Ross rushes to school at 7:20 A.M. Even though Ross is not a morning person, he always arrives at the parking lot geared up for a fun-filled day. "A-days are my favorite days out of the two" said the junior.

After winning Mr. West Potomac, a typical day for Ross has never been constant. "Random girls I don't know say hi and talk to me... So do guys," said Ross.

First period, computer graphics, is his favorite class of the day, where he works on his artistic side. "I would like to pursue this kind of career when I'm older," Ross said. He enjoys expressing his creativity through computer graphics.

In second block, Spanish 3, Ross furthers his knowledge in Spanish culture and the language itself. Off to lunch, he catches up with his friends and gets his second meal

of the day. After feasting with his fellow students, he sits down for a whole 90-minute honors pre-calculus class. Ending another school day, Ross goes to his seventh period history class. School is important to Ross; one of his goals is to maintain his 3.5 GPA.

Ross has an active social and extracurricular schedule, and depending on the season, participates with different clubs and organizations after school. The recently inducted Thespian is active in the drama department, and acted in plays like the winter One-Acts and Taming of the Shrew. Although Ross might be shy when first talking to him, there is nothing timid about him on the stage. Ross swims on the swim and dive team during the winter season, and pole vaults and runs on the Varsity spring track team.

In the average nine hours Ross spends at school a day, he loves to be with his friends. Whether it's just sitting, or helping to play a practical joke on a buddy. Once school is over and all of his activities are finished, Ross leaves for home. He then does his homework, which is usually so time-consuming that he doesn't go to sleep until one in the morning on most nights. Then he is ready to start another great day at school.



Photo by Lakeisha Langley

Patrick is known for his great sense of humor.

City At Peace

A theatrical performance for
teens going through hardships

Caroline Staples

Features Editor

City at Peace is a ten-year old youth development organization which serves as a guide for young people to go through the pressures and struggles that happen to teens every day. Asking the hard questions in their plays really bring out the story board and what goes on in ten's lives.

Teens from the Metro area come together between twelve and fifteen hours a week to unite and produce an original year-round show. Many of these teenagers have never been on stage or have never taken any acting classes before joining this program. This year's show is called *Am I There Yet?* that depicts racially segregated classrooms where nearly all white classes are bound to engage in racial profiling in a school where few students fear for their lives. Their program toured after premiering at Lisner Auditorium in March to local high schools and conferences including NOW's Women of Color and Allies Summit.

The overall performance deals with abusive dating relationships and rough scenarios that the actors work out that could change their lives, their families, and their communities forever. Youth worker Jeane Garcia of the D.C.-based Young Women's Project calls the show "...fiercely powerful, creative, dynamic, energetic, innovative, heartfelt, genuine, intriguing, real, willful, brave..." These groups of teens are not afraid of asking the hard questions that arouse your mind, talking about issues that severely affect many lives, and responding to them naturally in the well-developed plot. Nila Natarajan, a junior at Richard Montgomery High School in Maryland said, "We don't want to be just cute or good. Our audience should walk away thinking about the heavy pressures on teenagers, thinking about their own lives, reevaluating everything."

The closing performance of *Am I There Yet?* appears at Arena Stage, at 1101 Sixth Street SW, D.C. on Saturday, June 11th, one at 2:30, and the other at 7:30. Tickets are \$25 for ages 20-64 and ten dollars for all others. You could also call 202-319-2200 for tickets or further information.



www.cityatpeace.org

Congratulations to The Wire Staff of '05-'06!

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State

Dave Matthews Band
Nissan Pavilion
Bristow, Va.
June 26

Gavin DeGraw with Howie
Day and Michael Toller
Wolftrap
Vienna, Va.
June 29

Toby Keith
Nissan Pavilion
Bristow, Va.
July 9

Ozzfest
Nissan Pavilion
Bristow, VA
July 24

American Idols Live
Nissan Pavilion
Bristow, Va.
July 27

the

Destiny's Child
MCI Center
Washington D.C.
July 31

Eminem
Nissan Pavilion
Bristow, Va.
August 5



Arts

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Nate Wilson
Business Development Officer

Make Believe Weezer

Adele Hampton
Opinion's Editor

Weezer, known for their "cool geek" look and their songs about hash pipes, took the music scene by storm when they first came out with their major hits such as *Undone (The Sweater Song)*, *Holiday*, *My Name is Jonas*, and *Say It Ain't So*. Now with their highly anticipated CD, *Make Believe*, out in stores, fans are eager to hear what this power guitar band has up their sleeves. Unfortunately, their album is not what you would expect. It's actually somewhat disappointing. There are only a few songs on the record that actually sound like Weezer, the rest are just these dull slow songs that just seem to go on forever and ever. It's not that the CD is bad, it's just that it's different; sometimes different is good, but in this case, different is bad.

The album starts out with the already popular song, *Beverly Hills*. And you can rock out all you want to this one. It's classic Weezer with its heavy guitars and smart lyrics that appeals to just about everyone. *I wanna live a life like that I wanna be just like a king! Take my picture by the pool Cause I'm the next big thing.* It's a great start to the CD, gearing you up for what you would hope to be an incredible album. The next song, *Perfect Situation*, also keeps the momentum going with its classic Weezer sound. Then the unexpected happens.

Techno! This is the point when you stop your CD player and check to make sure you're still listening to the same album. It's like the record is Weezer until the third song, then it's like, "You lied to me! How could you?" I was drying a few tears when I thought to myself, most CDs have one or two bad songs on it and therefore it wasn't that big of a deal. So, I threw my tissues away and clicked the skip button and sure enough my faith was restored with a nice little song called *Hold Me*.

For the next two songs I was pretty happy, then, for the next four songs it was like someone hit the slow motion button. The middle section of *Make Believe* was like walking through molasses with the occasional up beat song, but it just wasn't the same. My faith was lost and I was forsaken, between the sappy, upbeat, almost "too happy" song, *The Other Way*, and the never changing and never ending *The Damage In Your Heart* I thought I was going to lose it. The last song was a feeble attempt to bring back the greatness of the band, but it just wasn't enough. The power and magic of Weezer was gone, and I was seriously depressed for about two days.

Even though the CD was somewhat of a disappointment, always keep in mind that there will hopefully be another and, with any luck, it will live up to the greatness of the band. Also take into account that there are some good songs on the record, but just not enough to make it good or even substantial.

Pants on the Move

Evan Dobbs
Features Editor

While leaving the movie theater I had two sudden urges. I'm getting magic pants and a one way ticket to Greece. *The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants* is a great summer movie to see with your friends. A warning to the guys, this is a huge chick flick. Unless you are trained to watch a movie of this caliber, I recommend seeing the *Z Boys* movie or *Madagascar*.

Sisterhood is packed with emotion and a story for every person. The story opens with the girls taking a stroll to the local vintage clothing store to prepare for their first summer apart from each other. Before we learn about the past, we meet the perfect group of friends. Lena, a late-blossomed beautiful girl who is waiting to go on her trip to Greece to visit her family she hasn't seen since she was a child. Bridgett, the leader of the group is leaving for a soccer camp in Mexico. Tibby is the Socratic film producer who stays home for the summer, but learns the biggest lesson and Carmen, the misfit of the group who discovers the people she holds closest change the most.

It opens to the girls all talking about their plans for the summer. The girls try to pick Tibby out a nice bathing suit, but she is too insecure to wear anything revealing. Carmen comes across a pair of jeans she thought would be perfect for Lena and after a few minutes of whining, all four of the girls try the pants on and realize its 'potential'. They decide it's an omen, and come up with ten

unrelated but conveniently thought-up rules. Each girl is to take the jeans for one week, and then ship it off to the next girl in line to document everything that happened in her jeans. One rule that I was curious about was that the pants may only be removed by the person who is wearing them, which Bridgett clearly violated.

First with the pants is Lena who takes her trip to Greece only to find the forbidden fruit and is saved after almost drowning by a gorgeous suitably English-speaking fisherman. This fisherman also goes to school in Athens and has the prettiest face a girl could fall in love with.

Bridgett, the next to wear the pants, arrives at her soccer camp with the game in her mind. Two seconds after walking on the field, she forgets all about soccer and emotionally clings onto her extremely attractive coach. After breaking the removal of the pants rule, she falls to pieces.

Tibby, the only one to stay home for the summer, gets a job at the local Wal-mart rip-off store. On her first day, she befriends a girl who collapses in the middle of the aisle after shooting her documentary on how 'lame' life can be; she learns that life is something that should not be taken lightly.

Finally Carmen, who grew up in a broken home, is leaving for South Carolina to see her father for the longest period of time

since her parents divorced. When she first arrives, she is shocked to see that he has a family of his own. After being stunned, she feels left out while her dad is distracted with his wedding plans.

This movie is a one of the kind. Never before has the picture been better than the book. "It was a bit more childish than the movie," said sophomore Lindsay Rosenfeld, while saying why she preferred the movie over the book. "The only thing I didn't like was that Eric, the soccer coach was supposed to be Mexican; he definitely had blonde hair and bleached skin." Although the book had little changes from the movie, it benefited from it.

"The only thing I didn't like was that Eric, the soccer coach was supposed to be Mexican; he definitely had blonde hair and bleached skin."

~sophomore Lindsay Rosenfeld

Some of her previous books for young adults are, *That Summer*, *Keeping the Moon*, and *Dreamland*.

Sometimes you just have to let life take you by the hand and lead you blindfolded through its twists and turns. And sometimes it's nice to have someone right there by your side letting you know that everything's going to be alright.

Lullaby and Good Night

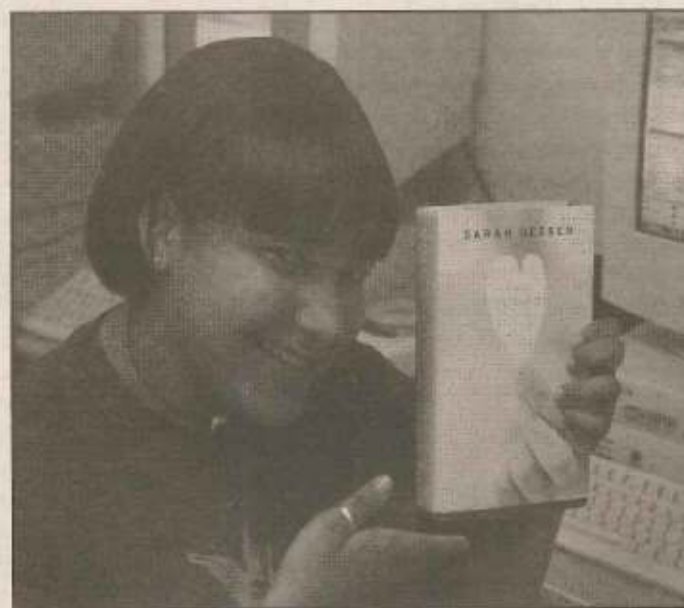
Adele Hampton
Opinion's Editor

The perfect guy. Many of us think that he is something that only dreams can make up or someone we will never find. We also tend to plan out life, making a note of every step we take and mapping out where we're going to go. But what happens when something unexpected happens? Do you keep going, leaving it behind never knowing what it might hold? Or do you stop and take a chance, letting it lead you down an unknown path? These are some of the questions author Sarah Dessen explores in her book, *This Lullaby*.

Meet Remy, a girl who has her entire life planned out; a reformed party girl and ultimate heartbreaker. Now meet Remy's mother, who is totally dependant on Remy and who is about to get married...for the fifth time. Because of her mother's lack of luck with love, Remy has learned not to trust anyone but herself, creating an iron curtain around her that prevents her from ever falling in love and making her heart cold. Just like any girl she has her best friends, Lissa, Jess, and Chloe who provide comic relief, support and advice. Remy thinks she has it all, her mom might be a little clingy, but after this summer she'll be on a plane on her way to Princeton leaving everything behind and getting on with her life.

Dexter, he is her complete opposite; he's messy, he's the lead singer of a band (musicians are strictly off limits), he's the most uncoordinated person to stumble upon this earth, and most importantly, he takes risks. He is everything Remy despises and yet she can't get rid of him. Everywhere she turns he's there, it's like fate. Even as she tries to push him away he gets closer until it comes to the point where she has to make a decision, a decision that could change her life. He came crashing into her life (literally) leaving a wake of joy, heartache, and self-discovery.

Other things you can expect from *This Lullaby* would be lots of Diet Coke, songs about potatoes and other various vegetables, crazy wagers, and a cameo of a character from Dessen's previous book, *Someone Like You*. Just like other Sarah Dessen's books, everyone can find something or some one to relate to. She develops these characters so then you can't help but fall in love with. This is her fifth book and was a finalist for the Los Angeles Times Book Prize.



Adele holds Sarah Dessen's new book, *This Lullaby*, about a girl named Remy, who is very untrusting of others, but soon finds otherwise.

Photo by Laquisha Langley

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Hana Banana

Houston Murphy

Sports Editor

If there were a Miss Congeniality award at this school, the winner would have to be Hana Beckerle. The first word that comes to mind when considering Beckerle's personality is congenial, as her kind demeanor shows that she is the epitome of compassion.

It was apparent that her peers agreed with this, since it was revealed that she was the consensus pick among

people skills to use each day in journalism class, providing leadership at the Editor-in-Chief position. She is greatly respected by her classmates, as she is understanding, yet demands the attention and respect of the class whenever she approaches the podium. "Hana was an awesome leader and I know that I have truly learned from her guidance," said Katie Staples, who will be her successor as Editor-

In-Chief. "I know it will be hard to fill her shoes, but with the skills she has left me with, I will be able to work hard while following in her footsteps as Editor-In-Chief."

Beckerle will be taking her strong presence to Penn State University next year, where she plans to pursue a position on the newspaper staff. Her hard work throughout her high school career has helped her to achieve a 3.8 GPA while serving as president of National Honor Society this year, which has given her several options when applying for college. With her options wide open, Beckerle ultimately stayed with her childhood dream of studying at Penn State University. "My mom went to Penn State and I have wanted to go there ever since I can remember," said Beckerle. "I can remember going up to

watch their football games with my family and I have loved the feel of the campus for a long time."

Beckerle has enjoyed each of her years in high school, but says her senior year was definitely the best. "People really seem to find out who they enjoy hanging out with during their senior year. This made my last year of high school so enjoyable because I met some of my best friends this year," said Beckerle.

Beckerle leaves her adolescence looking forward to a very bright and exciting future. "I'm really looking

"If someone is having a bad day or just not in a good mood, Hana always goes out of her way to make them feel better,"

~ senior Caitlin Coggins



Hana Beckerle poses for the camera in the journalism room.

the senior class to be "best to take home to parents" in the senior superlatives. "If someone is having a bad day or just not in a good mood, Hana always goes out of her way to make them feel better," said one of Beckerle's best friends, senior Caitlin Coggins. "She never fails to have a smile on her face and she is the best at keeping her cool in any situation."

Her genuine smile and one of a kind laugh is enough to make anyone feel welcome, which is something that truly compliments her kindness. Beckerle puts these

forwards to meeting new people and enjoying the whole college experience, even though there are a lot of people I will miss. I think college will be really different, and it'll be exciting to do something new."



Photo courtesy of the Beckerle family

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Active Ansley

Katie Staples

Editor in Chief

"She surely deserved her senior superlative, Best Hair, and I can honestly say that matches her personality," said senior Alison Arberg about friend senior Ansley LaBarre. LaBarre, the bouncy, curly-haired bundle of energy, is well known in this school for her laugh, as well as her journalistic expression. Her *Wire Opinions* column, *The Labarrometer*, features her vibrant, open-minded point of view.

Psychology teacher Annica McKenney said, "Upon first meeting Ansley she appears to be quiet and reserved. Then without warning, you are introduced

classes such as AP Statistics, AP Government, AP Psychology, and AP English, is in line with the care-free senior schedule, yet is impressive. Hardworking and dedicated to her schoolwork, she has maintained a 3.6 GPA throughout high school, and was accepted to and attending Elon University in Elon, North Carolina.

Friendly and outgoing, LaBarre enjoys working with children.

Her junior year, she took a Teacher Cadet class, which allowed her to interact and teach a second grade class at Hollin Hills Elementary School. She loved working with the children, who called her "Miss Ansley", so much that she took up an after school job at Browne Academy, working with five year-olds. She has continued her job through this year. Her favorite part was when, "The teacher let you take over. The children learned to love you, and seeing them brightened my day," she said.

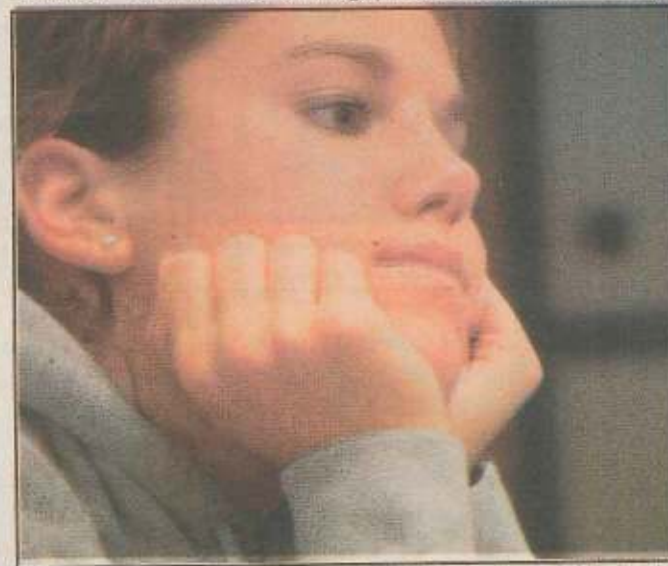
LaBarre has been an active person for years, and excels in many sports, including swimming, field hockey, and lacrosse. Since

she was five, she was an avid swimmer and competed year-round. However, after suffering an injury to her back, she had to quit her life-long passion. It was then LaBarre decided she needed to remain a physical

person, and took up lacrosse. The fall of her freshman year LaBarre took up another new sport, and made the junior varsity field hockey team. That spring, she tried out for lacrosse, continued her other two years, and truly found her niche as one of the team's lead players this year.

"She is a true friend who is always there when you need her. She's a very sweet and genuine person."

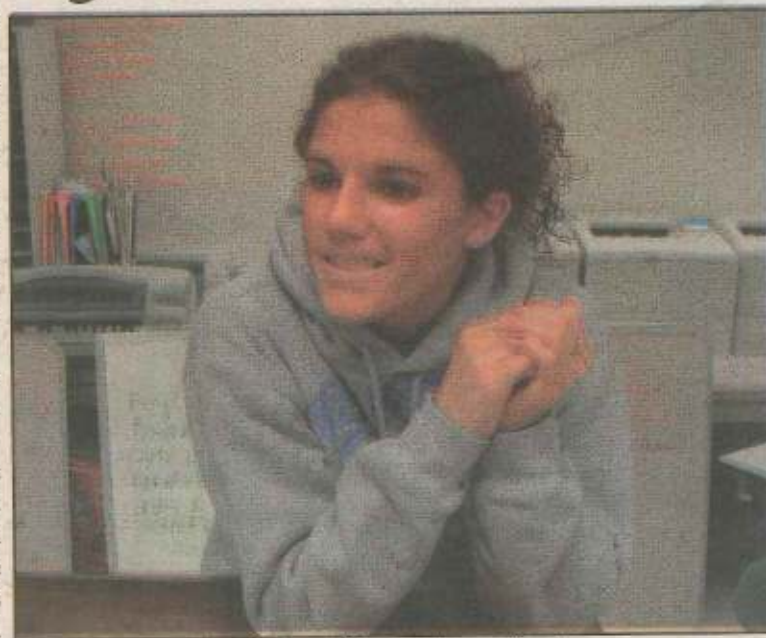
~senior Jenn Coyle



Ansley LaBarre stands at the front of Mr. Jensen's class as Editor-in-Chief of the newspaper staff.

to the real thing; a person who is fun-loving, curious, sensitive to others, confident, reliable, and independent."

LaBarre's cumbersome schedule, consisting of



Ansley LaBarre stands at the front of Mr. Jensen's journalism classroom.

Photo by Evan Dobbs

Photo by I am a media Langley