



Photo by Herman Bustamante Jr./KRT

THE WIRE

WEST POTOMAC HIGH SCHOOL

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Friday, June 1, 2007



Photo by Kelly Wood

School Cashes in on Brand New Budget

Adele Hampton

Special to The Wire

Walk into the office, turn right and go down the hallway. Turn into the second open door on the right. Ask Secretary Susan Wilner to see Principal Rima Vesilind. Vesilind walks into her office; follow her. She reaches to get to a large blue binder. She opens to a page in the binder displaying numbers and figures typed neatly across the page. It reads: \$71,000 for textbooks to be supplied to 2,000 students. This is the school's budget.

With 238 schools and about 164,295 students, Fairfax County has one of the largest school systems in the country. This year alone, the county spent approximately \$2.1 billion with each student costing a projected \$12,917. \$2.1 billion seems like a lot of money, enough to distribute to all of the schools and maybe still have a little extra. However, this is not the case. Even with our county's extravagant budget, students are still going without textbooks and other supplies.

Like any other red tape system, our school's budget goes through a series of trials and deliberations before it can be allocated to each individual school. According to Vesilind, the county's Board of Supervisors determines how much money to give to the schools. This proposal is looked over by both the federal and state government. The school board then takes that money and distributes it to different schools. With the leadership of the principal, the individual school then takes that amount of

money and divides it into categories, assigning it to different departments such as teacher resources and the departments. The department heads are then responsible for determining the resources they need and how much money they need. A proposal is made to the principal for that amount of money. It takes approximately a year for this process to be completed.

Even though the county does its best, it is hard to keep up with the needs of individual schools. Vesilind said, "I think we need to fight more for our school." The most money at our school is being spent on salaries for faculty. She feels more money should be spent on things like teacher training and technology, saying that it is "a big issue," and that it is "the biggest lacking at this school." Additionally Vesilind said, "We have some facility needs also. The front circle was never completed and needs to be renovated."

In the AP Statistics class, some students were left without textbooks for a significant portion of the year. Trying to make up for the lack of resources, teacher Dr. Amy Galitzer,

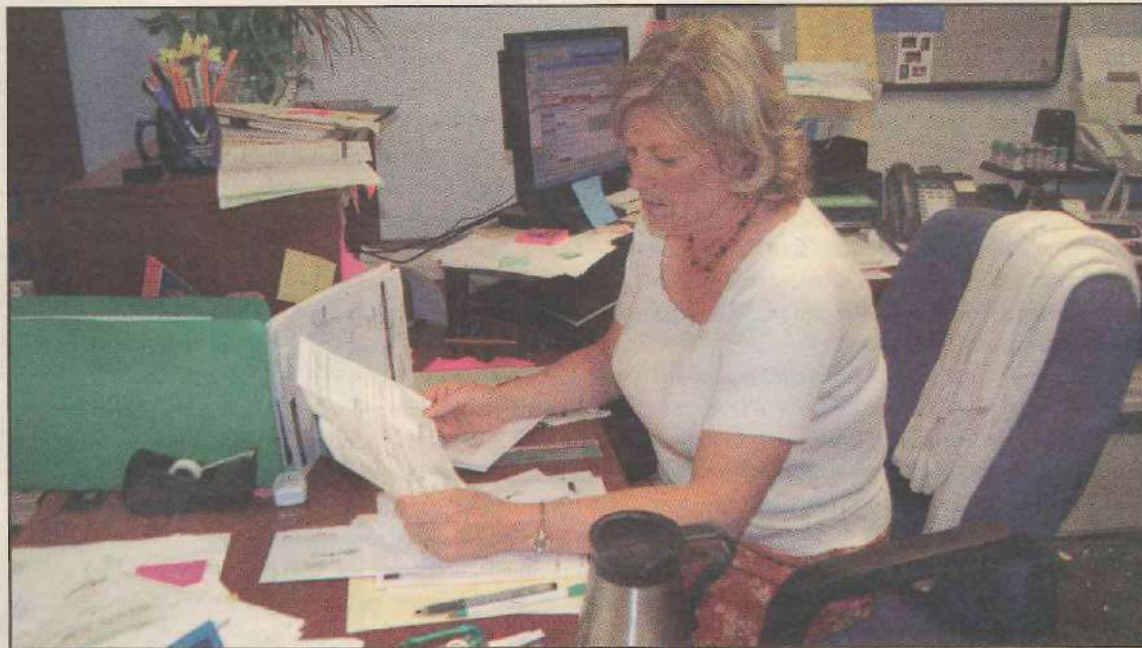


Photo by Adele Hampton

New Finance Technician Jill John reviews the budget and funding needed for our school.

would photocopy the pages of homework for the students without books. "It stifles your ability to develop as a student. Not having materials, especially for an AP class, makes it very difficult to learn and prepare for the AP test," said junior Jessica Dixon. Vesilind recognizes there are times when resources like textbooks are not available, and said, "We just need to prioritize our needs the best we can."

The school's budget remains a controversial topic with many different viewpoints. Foreign

Language department head Dan Fitzgerald said, "You'll never have anyone agreeing on how the principal distributes money." Generally the school tends to give more attention to the departments and classes that have an SOL test. Fitzgerald notes this, but also adds that, "We have received all of the essential things we need. If we need something reasonable and ask for it, we're likely to get it."

According to Vesilind, next year is

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Photo by Sam McCann



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Photo by Drew Smith

Bell Schedule to Get Yet Another Revision

Michaela Accardi

Focus Editor

The bell schedule is changing once again; however, FLEX will remain in effect. The greatest change in the schedule is the movement of FLEX from fourth period to eighth period. The reasoning behind this change has to do with West Potomac's Academy.

The school must align the Academy with West Potomac so that students are no longer waiting around doing nothing and will now have the ability to go to FLEX. This year, Academy students could not Flex into their fourth period class because their teachers were teaching at that time. By moving FLEX to eighth period, these students will now be able to do so.

After hearing that FLEX is becoming eighth period, the first thought that pops into many students' heads is, "Yes! I get to go home early." Ms. Rima Vesilind reassures that skipping and attendance will be handled the same way. Unexcused absences could possibly result in future failure of that class.

Another factor that affected the proposed schedule is students who



Photo by Tyler Wong

Students will get used to another schedule change next year.

eat breakfast in the morning. The majority of these students ride the bus and must rush into the cafeteria to eat breakfast. Most students riding the bus arrive to school around 7:00 AM. But for the few students who have a measly five minutes to buy and eat their breakfast, while still trying to get to class by 7:20 AM the schedule is being changed.

Next year, school will start at 7:30 AM, to give students the chance to eat breakfast since the buses will pick them up and arrive at school at the same time. However, this will not affect the ending time of school. A bell will no longer ring at 2:05 PM, announcements will start at this time and after they have ended students may leave.

Another positive change caused by the new schedule is the ability to have morning television announcements instead of having them on any random occasion or at the end of FLEX. First block on A and B days will be ninety minutes long, which allows about five minutes for the

See Schedule, page 4

Rediscovering History at Freedman's Cemetery

Grace Powell

Focus Editor

Only a few miles away from our school, history is in the making. For centuries, the plot of land located on South Washington Street in Old Towne was deserted. For decades, it was masked by an office building and gas station. However, on May 12, the land was covered with over one thousand brown paper bags, each representing a former African American slave whose memory and grave was largely ignored or forgotten.

The ceremony began with three men clothed in traditional African attire rhythmically pounding on drums, setting the scene for the evening. "This is a ceremony to reflect, to remember, to honor and to inspire us with hope," said the mayor of Alexandria, William E. E. A small crowd witnessed the rededication of the Freedmen's cemetery. The Cofounder of the cemetery, Lillia Flinkea, said, "If we had sixteen [people attend the ceremony], that would be fine because it'd be two more than we had last year!" Nobody really knew about the cemetery that is located beside the Woodrow Wilson Bridge Project and across from the St Mary's

Catholic Church cemetery.

In 1987, historian T. Michael Miller discovered the history of the cemetery through a news article. Author and historian Wesley E. Pippenger also gathered evidence about the burial site through city records. Later, Flinkea gathered information about the unknown cemetery and decided she wanted to uncover the mystery of the grave yard. With a friend, Flinkea researched and collected over one thousand names, each belonging to a former slave thought to be located at the burial site, "It just shows what two old ladies can do on a mission," said Flinkea. Flinkea and her team then formed the Friends of Freedmen's Cemetery foundation, dedicated

See Cemetery, page 4



Photo by Grace Powell

Heritage Drummers kick off the ceremony in traditional attire.

STAFF EDITORIAL

Starting Date of School is So Uncool

Every year Fairfax County Public Schools start the day after Labor Day. At our school, students often wonder, "Why do we start when we do?" Many people have been seeking to change when school begins and ends. However, a law in place in Virginia, nicknamed "the Kings Dominion Law," keeps us from changing when we start school.

Some students would like to begin school in August and get out in May. This would give us ample time to prepare for SOLs and AP exams that all occur during May. A whole extra month of preparation would be allotted to students, and score increases could occur.

Others enjoy the current schedule, like junior Ivania Martinez. Martinez said, "I like to get more out of the sun and summer. I also like to go to Kings Dominion a lot during the summer. I just like starting after Labor Day; it's what I'm used to."

Many teachers also have opinions on the issue. Physics teacher Garrett Hubbard strongly believes we should start in August and end in May. He said, "It would be helpful for AP exams and classes with SOLs. The extra month after these tests are taken feels pointless and like a waste of time." English teacher Kim Thompson had a much less business-oriented approach.

Thompson said, "I want to get out earlier in the year and go to vacations spots when there is better weather."

However, this law was put in place for economic reasons. The lucrative multi-million dollar amusement park business present in Virginia relies heavily on seasonal student workers, summer profits, and big weekends and holidays to make money. Starting before Labor Day would put a dent in their profits.

Labor Day weekend is looked at by many theme parks as a way to send off the summer with a bang of profits. If Virginia schools started before Labor Day, it could reduce amusement park profits by eliminating a big part of the work force. Kings Dominion was one of the biggest supporters of this law because it needs workers in order to supply the manpower for the "high demand" weekend that is Labor Day.

In the end, we have to look at the big picture. A very small percentage of students in Virginia work at these theme parks, and a very small portion of students from our school work at Kings Dominion. The potential increases in test scores and extra time to prepare for end of the year AP and SOL exams would greatly benefit students who will later on move to the real world to contribute to society.

Corrections

On the front page, "lacrosse" was misspelled "lacroxx."

On the front page, it was said that Ndeye Diop had been in the U.S. for nine years, but she has only been here for nine months.

In, "State of the Arts," it was said that May 5th was a Tuesday, but it was actually a Saturday.

In the Focus section, all the photographs were taken by Drew Smith, not Sydney Smith.

In the story "Girls Soccer Looks to Reach New Levels," Maggie Farnin's name was misspelled "Maggie Farnine."

In the story "Reality TV Has Gone Too Far," the show "You're the One That I Want" was mistakenly referred to as "Next Grease Superstar."

If you have a correction for *The Wire*, please submit it to room 418 or e-mail it to kelcy.pierre@fcps.edu

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The Wire is a publication whose aim is to inform, educate, and entertain the student body. *The Wire* will not print any material that is libelous or obscene, or that will invade any person's right to privacy. The ideas expressed in unsigned editorials reflect the opinions of the newspaper staff; however, Letters to the Editor do not. *The Wire* is an open forum for discussion which is printed by Silver Communications.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Wire is on Fire

Dear Editor,

This is my third year at West Potomac as a teacher. I must say, this year *The Wire* has really stepped it up a notch. There are several reasons your periodical has upgraded.

First and foremost, the inclusion of myself in many articles is essential to the success of our newspaper. Articles where I am accused of kidnapping the principal or leading Viking assaults on the school are classic. I enjoyed Mr. McFarland's letter from last issue and agree that I should have an advice column with David Pearce in the background.

I have also enjoyed the clever headlines that feature rhyme and alliteration. I find the rhymes are like fresh limes intertwined with great times. *The Wire* was wise to welcome written wit within its headlines. I hope next year's issues will feature more sweet articles and headlines.

Garrett Hubbard, Physics teacher

If you have an opinion on a school-related issue, please submit your Letter to the Editor of 250 words or less to Room 418 Quander, or e-mail us at: kelcy.pierre@fcps.edu. All submissions become property of *The Wire*.

Poetry in Commotion



The Wire Staff

Staying after school reppin my layouts
Fryin up stories to and fro all about
WePo, the school we go to every day
Hopefully at least, get to class anyway.

The Wire staff works mad hard
To bring you information, maybe about the new security guard
Features on students letting your voice be heard
Typin the opinions on that Microsoft Word.

Filing through the papers of the past
Documenting the lives of our students, from first to last.
Spreading the word of issues small and large
Helping the students communicate with those in charge.

We are here to inform you of the happenings of our surrounding area
Like the new places on Route 1 or perhaps a new outbreak of Malaria.
This is our last issue of the year, so be sure to read it through
Greet our new staff and bid our old ones adieu.

-Brad "B-rad" Lupton



SIMPLY RAVES



Photo by Colin Mathewson

A RAVE FOR MRS. MATHEWSON'S
ENTIRE 6TH PERIOD CLASS FOR
WEARING PINK SHIRTS TO SUPPORT HER
FIGHT AGAINST BREAST CANCER.

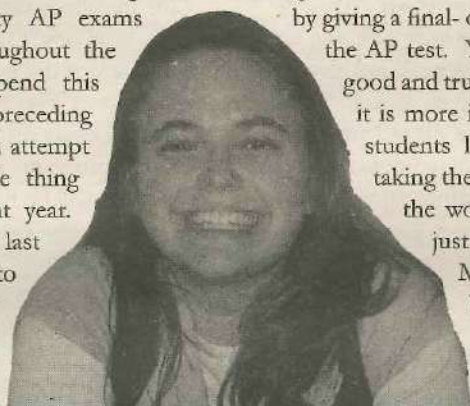
Maddeningly Mandatory AP Tests

Emily Kuhbach
Copy Editor

We have made it through, dumbfounded that we could do it again. Teachers breathe sighs of relief, students look forward to pizza parties and easy A's, and the sun shines. AP exams are over at last.

Every year, we subject ourselves to an overly stressful, frenzied two-week period in which almost forty AP exams are administered throughout the country. Students spend this time, as well as the preceding weeks, cramming in an attempt to review every single thing they have learned that year. This review, which can last anywhere from days to months, is a waste of time. We are essentially learning to pass a test.

Equally disturbing is the fact that some AP teachers, on the first day of class in September, tell us that their job is to get us to pass the AP test. When pitching the classes, teachers and counselors tell us that we should only take the classes if we are genuinely interested in the subject matter. They describe them as a chance to go in-depth with something that interests us. However, as soon as the class begins, we realize that it is really just a chance for the school to gain more accreditation because the more students our school has sit in an AP exam, the better we look. (I am by no means saying that all AP teachers do this; few do. I am simply saying that our focus on the test inevitably



Emily Kuhbach Photo by Brittany Catina

alters the course in a damaging way.) And thus the whole year, not just those two weeks, were about studying to pass a test.

AP classes are designed to give students a taste of college and stimulate higher thinking, and to get the student in the pattern of this thinking so that he or she can make a smoother transition to college. One might argue that the courses follow through with the true college experience by giving a final-ours in the form of the AP test. Yes, well, that is all good and true, but I believe that it is more important that our students learn the skills of taking the class and handling the work, as opposed to just passing the test.

Must everything be about the final product? Hear me out: I have no problem with students taking the AP exam because they want to, whether it be to gain college credit, or to simply test how much they have learned. But, we should not force it on kids who do not want to take it, and who know they have no chance of passing because they have not learned the skills specific to the test. (These are not necessarily useful life skills, keep in mind. Knowing how to write a DBQ essay is not going to determine whether or not one is successful in life.) It is literally a waste of three hours and some pretty little booklets, not to mention money. If the student has learned something at all from the course, does it really matter if he

or she takes the test? Must we measure worth in numbers- how many kids sit for the test, or how many score 3 or higher?

The result of making the AP test not only the final product of the course, but also its focal point, is that it waters down the curriculum immensely. Some classes spend a good deal of time either writing the kinds of essays that appear on the exam and doing practice multiple choice tests. When reviewing the multiple choice questions, they learn why their answers are wrong, and sometimes it is simply because College Board says so. If this is not proof of teaching to the test, I do not know what is.

The first time I heard an AP class described to me was when I was making my course selection for sophomore year. Someone was telling me about AP World History, and she described how much she loved it because she could go home and read history every night, and then come back and discuss it with people equally passionate about it. I envisioned a small group of students sitting in a circle, arguing the benefits of mercantilism, or comparing Chinese schools of thought. I am perfectly aware that this sounds incredibly nerdy, but I thought *that* is what AP classes were supposed to be about: passion for the subject. They were supposed to be an escape from other classes that were taught to the test. Instead, they have become just that, just with a different test. If we make the test optional, it puts less emphasis on it and more on learning the subject, which is what we signed up for the previous year, bright-eyed and anxious to tackle college material we are curious about.

Just Talken

He doesn't see much, he doesn't write about much either

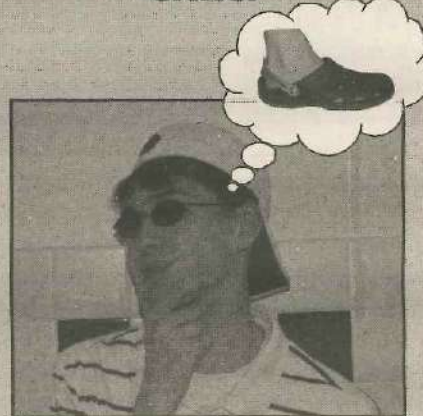


Photo by Hooff Cooksey

Ken Llewellyn
Opinions Editor

What am I doing here, you ask? Well, in case you did not know, Adele is done and there is a new column writer in town. I look forward to filling this space with commentary on current events, analysis of school issues, and entertaining anecdotes. Summer is afoot, so most of you will not hear from me for three months, so I better get right into it.

This school year is ending, which means a new one is beginning. With that thought in mind, I will start this column off with some suggestions to make next year great (or at least not horrible).

Do not raise lunch prices again. Maybe fewer students would sneak out to McDonald's for lunch if the school lunch prices were as good as the ones on the Dollar Menu. I mean, come on, \$1.10 for a chocolate chip muffin? The Yankees got a better price on Roger Clemens.

Stop making these silly policies if you are not going to stick to them. Zero-zeros? That lasted long, which leads to another question: Why did we suddenly have hall sweeps in the middle of fourth quarter? Was the administration just walking through the halls one day and suddenly noticed that there are a lot of tardy people at this school?

Do not make Flex the last period of the day. How am I supposed to do my homework that is due later that day if Flex is the last period of the day? Also, I have a feeling that attendance during Flex will go down a bit, especially on Friday.

Do not mess with the time school starts and lets out. Sure, everyone complains that it starts too early, but if we make it start later than we will get out later too. I do not know about the rest of the students, but I have things to do in the afternoon (Wendy's), and if the Amish can get up at the crack of dawn every day, students should be able to get up at 6:30 a.m. five out of seven days of the week.

Add another urinal to the men's bathroom on the second floor of Quander (the one over by the Psychology room). There is always a line in that bathroom because of the lack of facilities (not to mention that the one urinal that is in there is way too close to the sink, ew).

Moving on to other things, what is up with Dane Cook starring in an action thriller? You can not just go from super funny comedian to serious actor all willy-nilly. Start slowly, starting in an action-comedy like *The Rundown* or *Rush Hour* first, then try a serious action flicks.

So a couple weeks ago, I bought some Crocs (the plastic shoes, not the reptile). So I have worn them to school a couple of times and I have received only negative comments. Sorry, I like wearing comfortable shoes that do not show off my less-than-attractive feet. People have told me they are women's shoes, but it clearly says "Men's 10-11" on the bottom of every pair.

So, that is all of my thoughts for this issue. To recap, the school could use some improvements, Dane Cook needs to stick to comedy, and lay off my footwear.

Big Brother? More Like Your Mother!

Stephen Howell
News Editor

My mom just sent me an email. I thought the cryptic text message she sent me eighth period, telling me to come home for an appointment, was enough to unsettle my stomach.

Naturally, as a teenager, I want my parents to be as far away from my personal life as possible, and I become concerned when they infiltrate a technological pillar that holds up my social life. Many teenagers get angry when their parents go through and invade their room or backpack. My mom has invaded my inbox.

After school, I see my mom's familiar gray minivan approaching. Inside, I see my mom with a stern look on her face. Reluctantly, I plop down in the passenger seat and we exchange hellos.

Shortly after, my mom says, "Mr. Gormely sent me your Latin grade. I am not happy. Your room is also horrible. You're grounded this weekend."

After defending my case, I was sure that a conversation about college and my effort, that I have heard a thousand times before, would ensue. I tune out. The trees of Fort Hunt Road capture my interest until my mom says five words I've never heard her say before: "I sent you an email."

In light of the situation, I laugh. The concept of someone living in the same house, constantly within earshot, sending me an email seemed humorous. I knew offices used email as a primary source of communicating, but I have never heard of it used at home.

However, a growing amount of parents are using technology to their advantage, especially when it comes to parenting. According to a Pew Internet poll, parents are more wired than non-parents of the same age, 70% vs. 53% avidly using technology, respectively. The reasons are clear: parents are online because of their kids. Parents are becoming increasingly involved in their kids' lives through technology. In 2004, 1 in 4 parents emailed their kids' teachers to discuss their kid's education. Once a family disrupter (64% of teens believe the Internet interrupts family time), technology has now brought families closer.

The development of the Internet and technology has appealed greatly to businesses, but parents are not taking full advantage of these. Verizon Wireless's FireFly, a phone targeted at preteen kids, is the latest for concerned, wired parents. The Firefly is a small, kid-friendly phone that features emergency buttons for the police and hospital, as well as one touch that allows for quick calls too. However, its most impressive feature is its ability to track a child's location wherever he or she goes, so long as the parent has a phone in the Verizon Wireless network.

What if you are too old for the Firefly? TrimTracXS offers a tracking device for parents' and kids' cars. Simply installed, the device can transmit a signal to any online computer that shows where the car is. Parents can see where their teenager is at all times and even what street they are on, and how much traffic they are facing. Try lying to your mom now.

The gap between online teenagers and parents is large, but it is decreasing. Our generation has been coined many names:



Stephen Howell Photo by Erin Parker

Generation Information, Generation XXL, but most suitably, Generation IM (Instant Message). The name "Generation IM" does not come surprisingly, according to another Pew Internet Poll, 78% of all Americans ages 12-17, go online (compared to 63% of adults). Of teenagers, 1 in 5 say that IM is the primary way they communicate with their peers. Nearly 3 out of 4 (74%) of online teenagers have used IM programs, such as the popular AOL 'AOL Instant Messenger' (AOL or AIM)

or MSN's Messenger. Not even half of adults have ever used these.

In 2004, 24% more teenagers were online than where in 2000. Teenagers, by percentage, are the largest users of the Internet, and their parents are beginning to join them.

While most of my friends found it funny that my mom grounded me via email, I found it surprising, and the embodiment of a rising trend. Now, whenever I face trouble, I do not expect an awkward conversation and loud voices; I expect an e-mail marked "urgent" with size 36, Caps-Locked font.

Poll Editor

The scam was reported in eleven states, including Virginia, and they all read the same.

"I've never heard of child identity theft. Why would someone steal a child's identity?" said sophomore Sharifa Abbott.

To keep a child's identity safe, the same rules apply as with strangers: do not give them any personal information. Social Security numbers should not be carried on oneself and be wary of any online interactions that seek an individual's information. Destroy

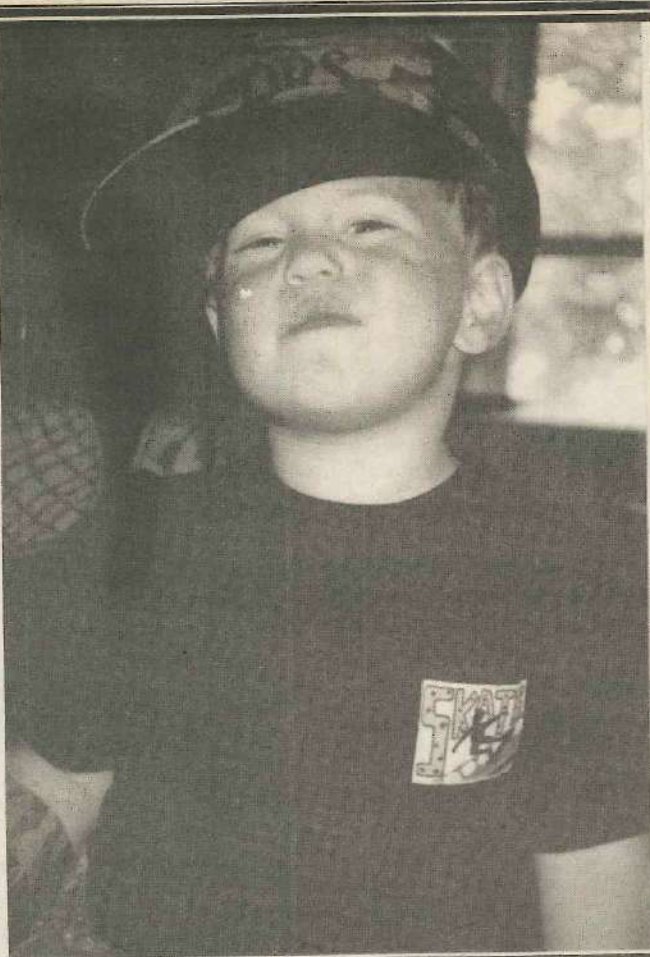
By watching the content of mail, holding social security numbers close to the chest and staying aware of the information schools and other programs require, the consumers' credit score will be theirs and theirs alone.

"It's like squeezing blood from a stone. They do the best they can," Fitzgerald said. Through the controversy, RCPS continues to increase their budget, trying to facilitate and meet the demands of the everyone.

The time in between classes will also be affected. Transitions between classes will be decreased in length by about two to four minutes, giving students approximately five to seven minutes transition time. Next year, we will see if the new schedule is efficient and the movement of FLEX is a smart change. Whether students like the change or not, the administration has multiple issues to consider.

Period	Time
1/2	7:30-9:00 (including announcements)
3/4	9:07-10:33
5/6	10:35-12:05 A - 10:35-11:05 B - 11:05 - 11:35 C - 11:35 - 12:05 D - 12:05- 12:35
7/Flex	12:40-2:05 (no afternoon bell - school ends after announcements)

The Freedmen's Cemetery is "a project that has united the city," said Flinkea. The cemetery team is working to build a memorial museum at the site of the graveyard. Flinkea said, "We would like to have a wall of names [located in the memorial]." The memorial is hoped to be completed by 2010.



Nick,

Love, Mom, Dad and Tom

Greg, how you have matured!



Good luck at Purdue University
and in all of life's many adventures!

We love you! Mom, Dad, Keith and Ziti

No iPod Left Behind: Theft on Rise

Stephen Howell

News Editor

Because of our hectic days, it is impossible to look after all of our prized possessions at once or keep them locked up. Theft has always been a problem at our school, but in the past months, it has skyrocketed out of control.

"iPods, money, and cell phones are by far the most stolen items," said junior Katrese Hargrove, who had \$100 stolen from her while at school. Students are advised not to bring cell phones and iPods to school, but many students find it impractical to leave the house without those items. "I don't care if [security] tells me not to bring [my cell phone and iPod], I'll just hide it in my backpack. How else would I pass the time after school before soccer practice?" said freshman Ian Cunningham.

Students are told that if an iPod (money or cell phone) is brought onto school grounds and stolen, it is not the school's liability.

"Of course I went to security, I told them straight up what happened, and they said they would get back to me. But, they never got back to me," said Hargrove of her incident.

"[At Bishop Ireton], you wouldn't think twice about laying down your backpack in the hallway while you go to the bathroom, or go talk to

a friend. Nothing ever really gets stolen. We leave stuff on the locker room floor all the time," said Bishop Ireton freshman Megan Becker. "I don't even know our security policy, because I've never had anything stolen," Becker added.

What happens in West Potomac's locker room? Recently, the baseball team had a 6:30 game against West Springfield. Before they headed out to the field, they dressed out and put their remaining possessions in



Photo by Tim Chapman/KRT

By leaving iPods in the open, one runs the risk of theft.

their lockers. Backpacks, clothing, and electronics were all put in locked lockers. However, sometime between the warm-ups and the end of the game, someone came into the locker room and used a foot-long metal pipe to smash open the combination locks on the lockers, stealing over a thousand possessions in the process.

"I walked in and it looked like someone went on a rampage. There were mostly iPods and money

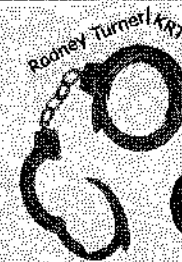
stolen, but [a teammate] got his retainer broken. It was pretty bad," said Cunningham, also a member of the JV baseball team.

While the team did report the incident to the police and school authorities, many people are skeptical about whether or not they will actually catch a culprit. "They won't find out who did it," said Cunningham, shaking his head. "So much stuff gets stolen. If they can't find out who took my friend's [Nintendo Gameboy] DS, how will they find out who did this?" Cunningham added.

Also, during the same evening, the wrestling mats were slashed and two windows boarding the front of the school were smashed, amounting to over \$40,000 worth of damage. "I'm furious, it's just so wrong. I don't understand how this could happen without anybody seeing [the culprits]," said Principal Rima Vesilind. "I don't know why young people don't think it's wrong. In this generation, we need to develop a sense of respect for other people, the community, and the law."

If the security department puts the responsibility of the case in the hands of the student, the result may be horrendous.

The current policy is a lose-lose situation for the school and the student. Theft will always exist, but with aggressive administrative action, it can be brought to a standstill.



Cop's Corner

Mariya Ilyas

Managing Editor

Seniors...

There are exactly two full weeks of school left. For seniors, only eight full school days of their entire high school career remain.

Now that the weather is warmer, there is a greater tendency among students to eat out and leave school grounds during the day. Officer Daryl Davis said, "The security department advised that they will be monitoring students leaving school grounds without permission a lot more with the warm weather approaching."

This is especially a red alarm to seniors. Graduation is only around the corner—you do not want to get into trouble and "jeopardize your college entry

and long term future," said Officer Davis. "Don't mess it up!"

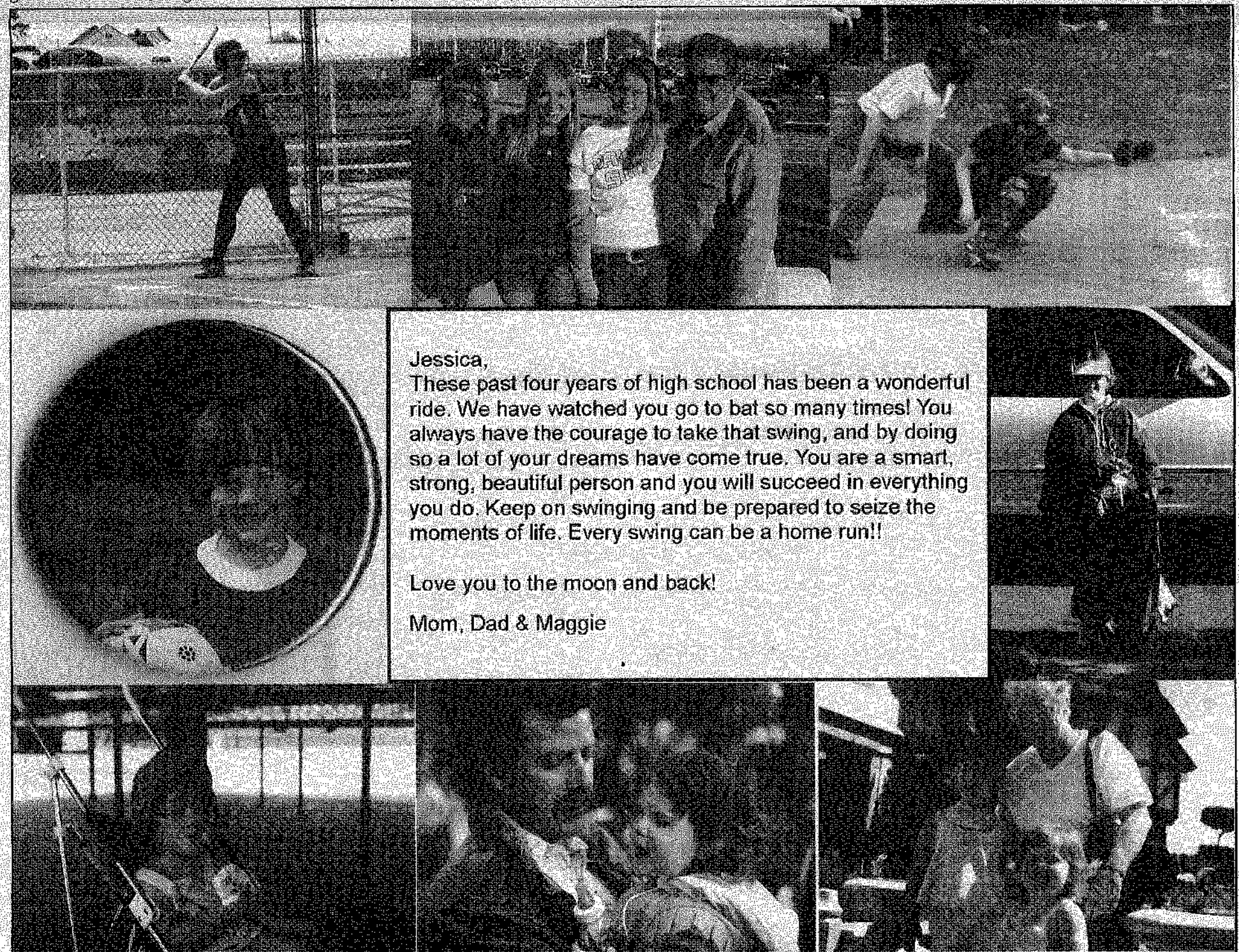
Regarding driving, Officer Davis reports that driving habits are getting a lot better on the property and on Quander Road. However, there are still a few students who get caught for driving fast. "People! This is not the West Potomac 500 Raceway," said Officer Davis. But, on the whole, everyone has done very well this last month.

Welcome Ms. Rife!

The Wire staff would like to welcome our new security personnel, Ms. Rife. "She is extremely efficient and works very well with all students," said Officer Davis. "I ask that all students make time to introduce themselves to her and say hi."

WORDS FROM OD

BUCKLE UP-IT'S THE LAW! It's hard to say that most of you do buckle up. And remember, if you only have had your driver's license for less than a year, you can only have one non-family passenger. If you have had it for more than a year, you can have three non-family passengers. If you need clarification on the law, please come see me.



Jessica,
These past four years of high school has been a wonderful ride. We have watched you go to bat so many times! You always have the courage to take that swing, and by doing so a lot of your dreams have come true. You are a smart, strong, beautiful person and you will succeed in everything you do. Keep on swinging and be prepared to seize the moments of life. Every swing can be a home run!!

Love you to the moon and back!

Mom, Dad & Maggie

Out Of School And Into Uniform

Neil Burke
Online Editor

Many students are talking about what colleges they are going to. Others are discussing their summer jobs, their plans for having fun, and their post-high school opportunities- and a select few have different plans. Though many are going to be celebrating their freedom on graduation day, others are preparing to defend it.

The military has always been an option to consider after high school. There are two ways to pursue it: either one can enlist, or one can take Reserve Officer Training Corps in college (ROTC). ROTC programs, which are available at over one thousand different colleges, provide an education in leadership and strategy, in addition to a full college course load. Those who take ROTC in college will enter into the Armed Forces as a Second Lieutenant. Taking ROTC has a large amount of other benefits, since it reduces the cost of college significantly and ensures that the student has a job waiting for them after college.

Enlistment means that one enters into the military at the lowest rank and goes through basic training before being stationed on a military base with a unit. Many choose

to enlist after high school and use the enlistment pay for college tuition, which is aided by several programs within the military, or continue with their military career. And, as the recruiting ads say, the military does educate one in many skills applicable to other areas, in every field from medical services to mechanics.

Due to the current situation, some students believe that a military career is essentially signing away your life. Also, the decreasing popularity of war in general has caused many to view the military with distrust and opposition.

However, according to senior Ryan Baker, who will be joining the Marine Corps, "I actually wouldn't mind going overseas." Baker said, "I think it would be an honor to fight for my friends and family."

The military's involvement in a controversial war that many find wrong makes a military career a far more profound decision. Students have different reasons for joining the military. For some, it is the college and career benefits; for others, it is the genuine desire to defend freedom. Also, some students are motivated by their parents in the military, and have decided to follow their parents in career path.

For those parents not in the military, a child's decision

to enlist can be a stressful affair. With the situation in the Middle East, and the constant casualty counts on the news, when a parent's child decides to join the military, parents immediately want to protect them.

Of course, there still are the obvious risks and dangers inherent in the military, but to many of those who are going into that career path, the risks are simply part of their duty. The ones going into the military are aware of these risks and must live with them. "I believe everything happens for a reason," said Baker, "and if anything happens, then that's because it was meant to."

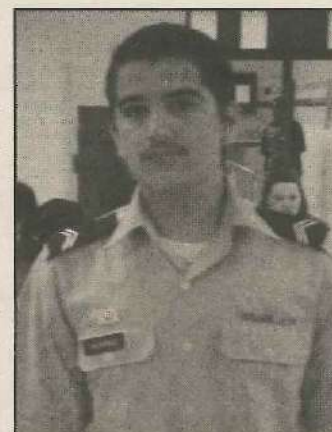


Photo by Tyler Wong
With our JROTC program, students are getting a glimpse of military life.

For More Than Just The Love Of The Game

Sam McCann
News Editor

A common dream of baseball fans is to immerse themselves in the rich history of the sport by visiting all thirty major league stadiums.

For English teacher Colin O'Grady, that dream is fast coming to fruition. He and his brother, Kyle, are about to embark on a cross-country trek to take in a game at each of the thirty major league ballparks. However, what sets their cross-country baseball pilgrimage apart from those of other fans is that the trip is no longer simply about two baseball fans' obsession with the game. It has evolved into a fight against

leukemia, a disease that kills thousands of Americans every year.

The brothers began planning their trip



Photo Courtesy of O'Grady's
Mr. O'Grady's mission this summer is to donate \$30,000 to the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society.

in 2002, without any inkling of where it would lead. Over the course of the next few years, they realized that they could make a real difference through their travels. Drawing inspiration from baseball legends Roberto Clemente and Jackie Robinson, who used their abilities to champion important causes, the O'Grady's decided to raise money for The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society (LLS).

The brothers will spend their entire trip campaigning for LLS, ultimately hoping to donate \$30,000 to the organization. "We chose to donate to LLS for two reasons. First, our mom has been raising money for them for four years by running marathons.

Second, our aunt died of non-Hodgkins lymphoma, and we were very close to her," said the brothers.

The trip is scheduled to begin on June 18 in Oakland, not far from Stanford University, where Kyle will graduate from the day before. From there, the two will shuttle across the country by car, taking in a game nearly every night. In addition to seeing a game at each major league stadium, they will visit several minor league parks and see Game One of the College World Series. After circling the country, the O'Grady's will end their journey in Anaheim on August 10 to watch their beloved Angels take on the Twins for their last scheduled game of the summer. Shortly afterwards, they will hold a silent auction full of baseball memorabilia.

The brothers hope to collect donations in any way they can. They will solicit players, teams, and fans alike, and will spread the word about their cause through the media. They are hoping the baseball community will remember that one of its own, Red Sox pitcher John Lester, was diagnosed with lymphoma just last year, and be more likely to donate. "Baseball has always been something that brought people together, and we hope we can take advantage [of that]," O'Grady added, "To quote Terrence Mann in *Field of Dreams*, 'Baseball reminds us of all that was once good and could be again.'"

Although they do not know exactly how much their trip will help those suffering from leukemia or lymphoma, the brothers hope to use the national pastime to ease the pain of those afflicted.

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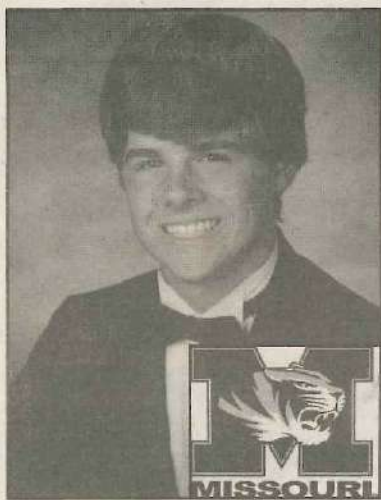
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We, Seniors of *The Wire* leave...



I, Alex Keckeisen, leave my boom box to my brother, the one who always showed me to stand up to him and grow a backbone. To my teachers, I leave all the times I slept in class, but was still able to get my work done. To my friends, who let me have good times, and were there for me through the good and the bad. And to Travers my best buddy, have fun at Tulane and I'll mooch off you when you get famous. Thomas James Smith I will never forget you. Rest in Peace. To Mrs. Pierre (Jensen), who taught me the rights and wrongs of journalism. To my mom, I leave my aspirations for life. And of course, to the future, I leave the rest of my life and how it turns out. Thank you.

I, Adele Hampton, leave a long road, twisting and turning but never straight. People say high school is the best time in life. While I am sure part of that statement is true, based on my personal high school experiences, it does not hold up. So, to all underclassmen, I leave to you my bad memories. This includes the entirety of my AP Statistics class, the always muddy back pathway from Gunston to Quander, and the social drama that comes along with being a female high school student. While I have only a few days left at this school which I have come to know so well, you, underclassmen, have longer. I'm sorry.



I, Jonathan Yoo, leave

my friends a wish to live life to its fullest and be the best they can be. To the wifey, Mija Saracevic, I leave the best time of my life and times to come in the future. You are my rock, best friend, and everything. To my twin brother, Alexander Mounts, I wish for the very best at William and Mary. Lastly, to my little sister Mara Perscheid, who has always been there for me. Remember, we won't settle for anything less than our ultimate goal of the 2012 London Olympics. Go YST! One more shout out to my ma, popz, Jason, and Joy. We have been through everything together. Friends come and go, but



I, Anum Jaffri, leave

to my dear underclassmen the muddy secret pathway from Gunston to Quander, the smoker's corner (revive it!), fluid situations and blackouts and other security anomalies, computer secrets learned in Journalism, staying after school until 9pm, my ability to text with my eyes closed and check my Facebook five times while at school, my lack of ability to speak French on command, going to plays and cheering obnoxiously for anyone I know, my dissected cat from AP Bio (you'll have to dig it out of the trash, though), music, laughter, and general good memories.



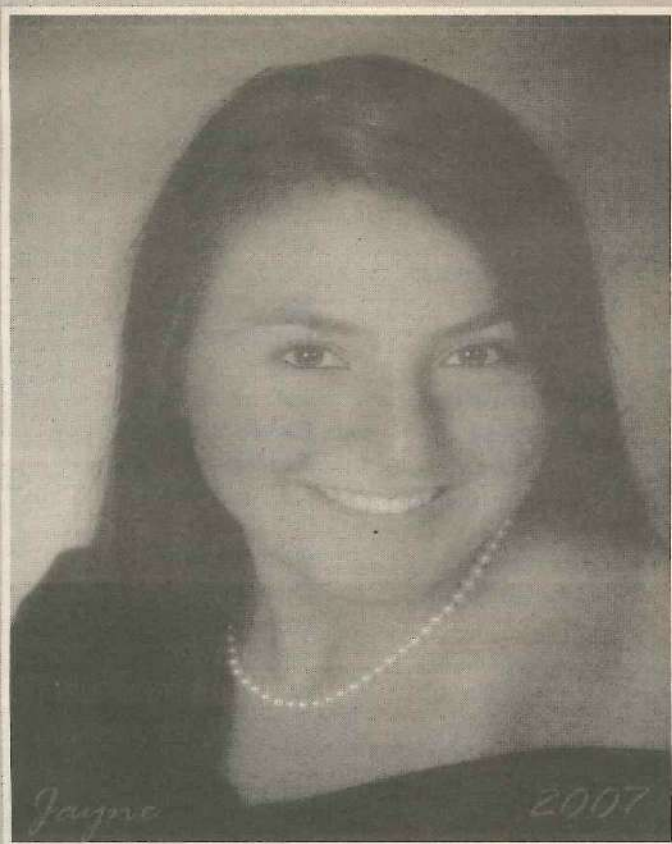
I, Sara Mathewson, leave

my friends with the wonderful memories. To Jana DeCoster, I leave the best of my memories, including field hockey, track, and queso dips at Ruby Tuesday. To everyone else who has been there with me through everything, from the late night parties with dancing and singing, to the day-long snow fights and ice sliding, the pictures will tell it all. One more thank you to my parents, especially to my mother, who made it difficult to be a student in the school. Thank you everyone for everything, good lookin' out and good luck to everyone.

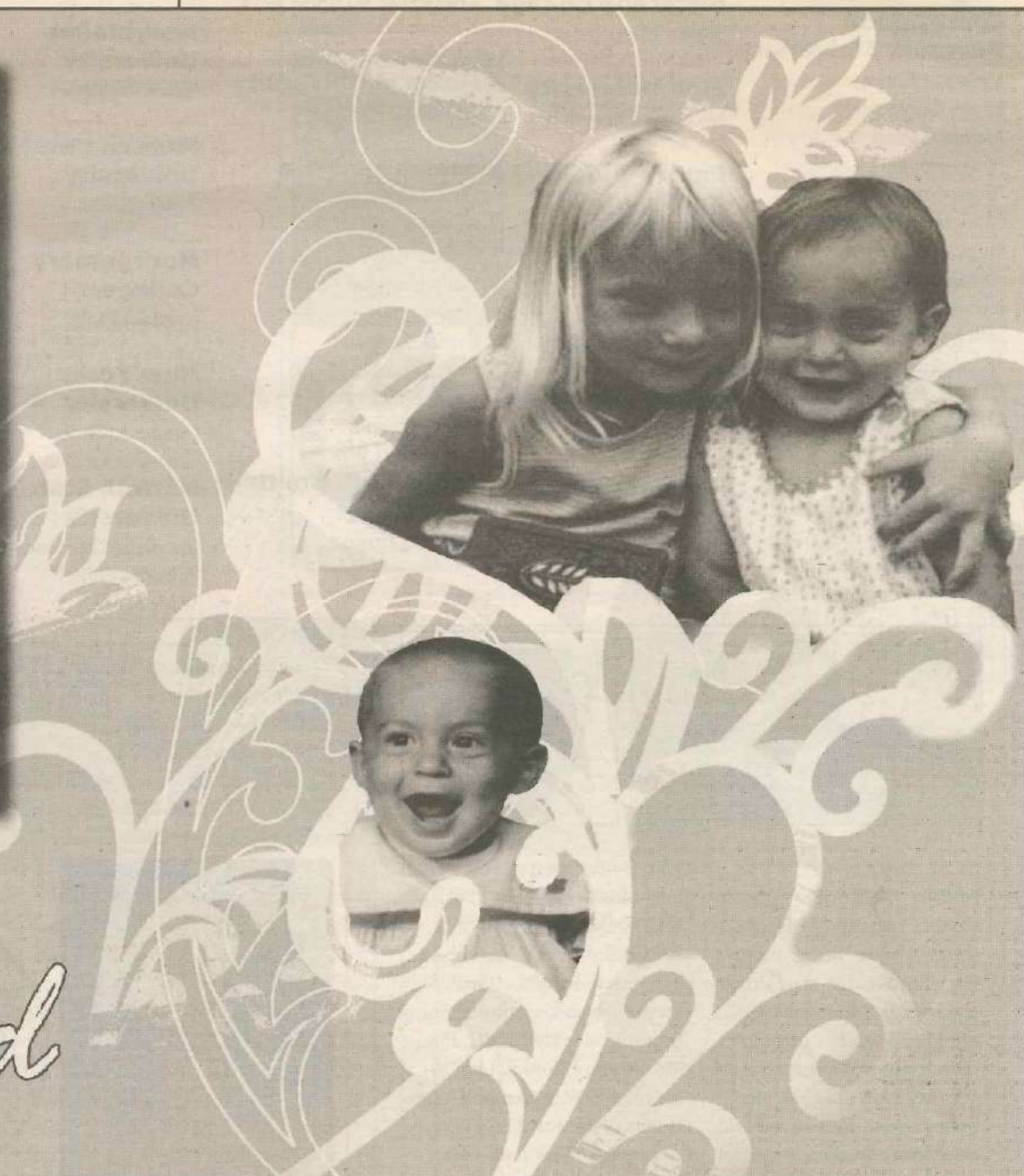
I, Jocelyn Amber Finfrock, leave my friends a hope that in all you do, do it with a smile. To Jayne, I leave my amazing volleyball skills and "Grey's Anatomy" nights. To Sara, I leave our 9th grade outfits and hilarious moments. To Lara, I leave our fun in the sun, and non-stop laughing. To Bekah, I leave all her interesting advice and near death experiences. To Robyn, I leave jamming to country music. To Chelsea, I leave exciting 2nd periods and making fun of people. To everyone who has been there for me, I leave all our fun times and crazy adventures. From crazy nights, to movies and just goofing off, those times will stay with us forever.



Photos courtesy Fair Use



Jayne
Seward



CONGRATULATIONS

2



American InterContinental University - Los Angeles
Malika Radzhabova

Art Institute of Atlanta Geroriga
Capri Dixon

Austin Community College
Nora McMullen

Banner College
Alexis McFarlane

Bentley College
Jayne Seward

Berklee College of Music
Emily Allen

Blue Ridge Community College
Angela Shriver

Boston College
Nathaniel Oak

Boston University
Kimberly Schreiber

Canterbury Prep
Shane Sixsmith

Cape Fear Community
Jena Rexroat

Christopher Newport University

Jonathan Baker
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Angela Palma
Jeremy Rocke
Jack Soule

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Angela Giles

Coastal Carolina University
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Kristin Massey

College of Charleston
Chelsea Hylton
Delynn Woodman

College of William and Mary
Aaron Harris
Michael Isani
Alexander Mounts
Katherine Perkins
Benjamin Pryor
Andrew Taylor
Allison Tse
Molly Weisblatt

Davidson College
Anum Jaffri

Davis and Elkins College
Eyerus Meteku

Delaware State University
Lynnette Green

DeVry University
George Hamlett
Alma Robles

Drexel University
Christopher Farquhar

East Carolina University
Jonathan Alderson
William Ford

Eastern Nazarene College
Steven Minson

Elon University
Nicholas Friederich

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University
Nicholas Spataro

Emory and Henry College
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Emory University
Michael Graham

Ferrum College
Zaid Brooks-Saahir
Alexandra Napoli
Sarah Pahl

Florida State University
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Sydney Smith
Dana Vance

Fort Valley State University
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Buchi Akpati
Immel Amaya
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Aubrey Nesbitt
Carrie Urban
Regina Washington-Almanza
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Sujin Yoo

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High Point University
Skylar Galayda

Hofstra University
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Howard University
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Erin Shumate
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Patrick Trimble

Johnson C. Smith University
Kenyant Brooks

Johnson & Wales
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Police Cadet
Tatiana Mills

Purdue University
Gregory Bechtol

Radford University
Michael Castellon
Jocelyn Finfrock
Amy Zurndorfer

Randolph-Macon University
Ana Coleridge-Taylor

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Brittney Boyke

St. John's University
Christopher W

St. Louis University
Jana DeCoster

State University of New York
Lindsay Rosen

Sweet Briar College
Corey Latta

Trinity College
Rayan Abdelg
Theresa Meech

University of Alabama
Nicole Clayton

University of California
William Klein



Some stuff-
Molls: Bad 80s music,
Etienne/plans, inside-out
shirts, always being there...
Em: Impeccable taste, knee-
squeezing, strained OJ...
DEM: Indian princesses,
blood sisters, "Where DEM
girls at?"...Will: The "clock"
hole (a great idea in theory),
chocolate warfare, spiders,
picking trees...Candaka:
Biscuits, crashing your
mansion when you hit it
big...Rico: Big brother...

Nater: My sister, if you want
her @...Sounders: C=L...
NLT: "Nooo... YESSS"...
WPGVS: "If you can dream
it, you can do it"... Tha UN:
Stayin' hood, nutmegging
(not me, nice try)...MC, Fitz,
Ms. Pierre, PRuss, J. Litz, Ms.
Kennedy: You changed one
student's life for the better...
Amanda: The up-club...
Home dogs: Love, gratitude,
and Amanda (good luck with
that)...
I love you, Devon

My Family-
You are the rock of my life.
I will miss you so much
when I go to college, but
I promise to call and visit
often. Thank you for making
every moment a memory and
for making everyday filled



Photo Courtesy of Sydney Smith

with love. I love you so much
Mommy, Daddy, Brett, Drew,
Hilarie, Straton, Grandma
& Grandpa Smith, and
Grandma & Grandpa Jo. My
life means nothing without
you.



Photo by Adele Hampton

I leave my memories to
the individuals who have
influenced me the most.
To the underclassmen:
Always work to do even
better.
To all of my friends: It
was a great ride...it will
be difficult to leave. Your
lifetime is my three years.
To Coe, Rice, Pierre,
Kennedy, Conrad, Kerns,
Reynolds: You have

expanded me a
you.
To Band: You
me alive...it wa
To Percussion:
(and last) time
"Fritzgerald"...
be forgotten.
And to Yeti:
capable of grea
realize it.
Thank you Wes
Evan Fritz

IONS CLASS OF

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GOOD LUCK!



ge of

Univeristy of California, Santa Barbara

Carolyn Gibson

University of Colorado

Melissa Laitner
Emily Wisniewski

Univeristy of Georgia

Kristen McCarthy

University of Mary Washington

Melinda Allen
Erin Burke
Jennifer Davenport
Evan Fritz
Matthew Motley
Casey Snyder
Zachary Tillett
Victoria Wong

University of Maryland

Adele Hampton

Univeristy of Michigan

Katherine Stone

University of Missouri

Lara Davidson
Alexander Keckeisen

University of North Carolina at Greensboro

Kyle Rosenkranz

University of North Carolina at Wilmington

Katherine Clubb

University of San Diego

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University of Scranton

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Virginia Wesleyan College

Rebecca Vonada

Wake Forest University

Devon Cain
Michael DeMar

Military Services

Felipe Rivera-Navy
Gentry Rogers-Marines

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Vedran Capin
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Shaza Syeda
Alba Tamayo
Soumphit Tay
Yasmeen Telsem
Christopher Todd
Minh Tam Tran
Thai Tran
Evelyn Tuffour
Ana Udaeta
Kerbin Umanzor
Brian Venevongsoth
Santos Villatoro
Andrade
Martha Wormeley



Photo Courtesy of Jayne Seward



I, Jayne Seward, leave the 07' Table Dancers the memories of the many nights of mayhem we have caused in the '703'. To Jocelyn, I leave my collection of Grey's Anatomy. To Robyn, I leave crazy memories from WMZQ. To Sara, I leave my ability to talk like Donald Duck. To Lara, I leave all of the crazy fun memories from this summer and journalism. To Christina, I leave my

sanity. To Bekah, I leave a box of plastic forks. To Chandler I leave my spectacular computer graphic skills. To Chelsea I leave four years of memories full of chaos and fun. From crosswords, to the BSB concert, home-made music videos, label makers, roaming the streets of London, "creeks", drive by's (stalking), and the hours and hours of laughter that I will never forget.

I, Kate Sigety, hereby leave my memories, both good and bad, to all of those who helped shape me into a stronger person. Whether you were my friend, family, teacher, or coach, just know that you pushed me when I needed you to, but also knew when to take a

step back. Through your efforts combined with my own, I have gained what I need to move on with my life. Last, but not least, to my younger brother, no I will not be leaving you my room.

I love you and will miss you,
Kate Sigety



Photo by Adele Hampton



Photo by Adele Hampton

I, Erin Burke, leave behind these memories and possessions:

To Neil, I leave George. Keep him clean and full, and keep Sharpay happy.

I leave my glitter and smiles to the Guard ladies. Be pretty!

To Pat Dunford, I leave my running shoes. I am *clearly* not a runner,

so I will not need them in college.

To Ms. Reynolds, I leave the Cliffs Notes I used to survive your class, and my seminar paper.

Thanks, WP, for all you have taught me; useful and pointless. It was one wild ride I will not soon forget.



Photo by Adele Hampton

I, Kyle Rosenkranz, being of sound mind and body, hereby leave the following: The legacy of the Rosenkranz family to my brother, Will. My past films to TV Production teacher Nancy Mantelli. My creativity and movie knowledge to Nathan Baer. My friendship to Nick Young, Miguel Ventura,

Hooff Cooksey, Sarah Coggins, Paris, and Corey Jones. Most of life has been dedicated to the values of film and filmmaking and my friends who enjoy the same things as I do. I hope to be a great filmmaker and I am very grateful for my friends. Along with all these things I leave some of my legacy to West Potomac.

Our Final Farewell to You



I, Lara Davidson, leave all my friends with the best memories anyone could possibly ask for. To Bekah, Christina, and Robyn, thank you for sticking with me through it all. I know that wherever our lives may lead us, we will always stay close. From long hour chats, food dates, late night parties, crazy car rides, cheerleading, ridiculous pranks, concerts, sleepovers, ear piercing, recreational afternoons, stair sliding, sumo wrestling, and all our other laugh out loud moments. I leave Jayne with all her words of wisdom, and our journalism jams. To Jocelyn, I leave my common sense. To Chelsea, I leave our summer fun and a plastic fork. To Brittney, surfs up bro, I leave a can of shaving cream, and a finger splint! "Softball '07! Wool!"

We, Angie and Marissa, leave Trevor, the only guy to come between us, our love. Zack, we leave our love for little Jewish bears. Forrest, we leave our posters- Remember: Run Forrest, Run! Franchise, we leave our #1 Fan titles, crazy cheering, and TINY signs! *The Wire*, I leave behind my OCP and "deep breaths." To the business department, I leave my three years of color-coding, and major stress... enjoy! To Mrs. Pierre, I leave Diet Pepsi, Post-Its, and hand sanitizer. N.P. and I.W.- take care of the good names that we worked so hard to obtain. Mark and Mike- A&F, you know what that means. Our sisters we leave our love and memories of fun nights. Never Forget-*Ninja*Goobers*Ci-Ci*Flip*Liz-Bit*



I, Drew Smith, leave the following behind:

1. To my sister Sydney, you can have my parking pass and clothes. But you must keep my room intact and build it as a shrine to the great person I was.
2. To my other family members, you may divide up my artwork, school papers, and reports cards, because I know you will fight over them anyway.
3. To my good friends Allie, David, Katie, Jamie, Amanda, Jeremy, Tommy, Elizabeth, Scrumptious, Jon, Ryan, Sam H., and Chris, I leave you my uncanny ability to tell a really bad story, or make a really bad joke. I also leave you with all my memories of the shenanigans that we got into throughout our long years as friends.



I, La Keisha Langley, leave my smile to everyone who made that smile possible. You love my smile, but you guys were the ones who made it. Whenever my day was not going so great someone always brightened my day, so in return, I brighten yours with a smile. I know I seem bi-polar at times. Snapping on people at random times and all, but I'm working on that. Loll To Fairfax, my dark chocolate girl, my Friday's girls, my chicas, my dance family, all my peers of class of 2007, and last but not least, Gregory, I love you guys and whenever you need me, I'll be there to put a smile on your face just as you did to me. Love, Sunshine

Photos courtesy Fair Use



I, Brittany Catina, leave behind the following memories:

To Mr. Litz, I leave behind the four years in which I've known you, and the countless times you shocked me with your ninja skills! Ms. Reynolds, I leave you with baked goods for all of your students getting into college. Mr. Henderson, I leave you with the memory of Powder Puff Day which I will NEVER forget! To Caitlin Dougherty, I leave you the many mornings we went to Starbucks, and our adventure to Chipotle that one day during lunch. Underclassman, I leave you the advice to NOT slack off until your senior year.

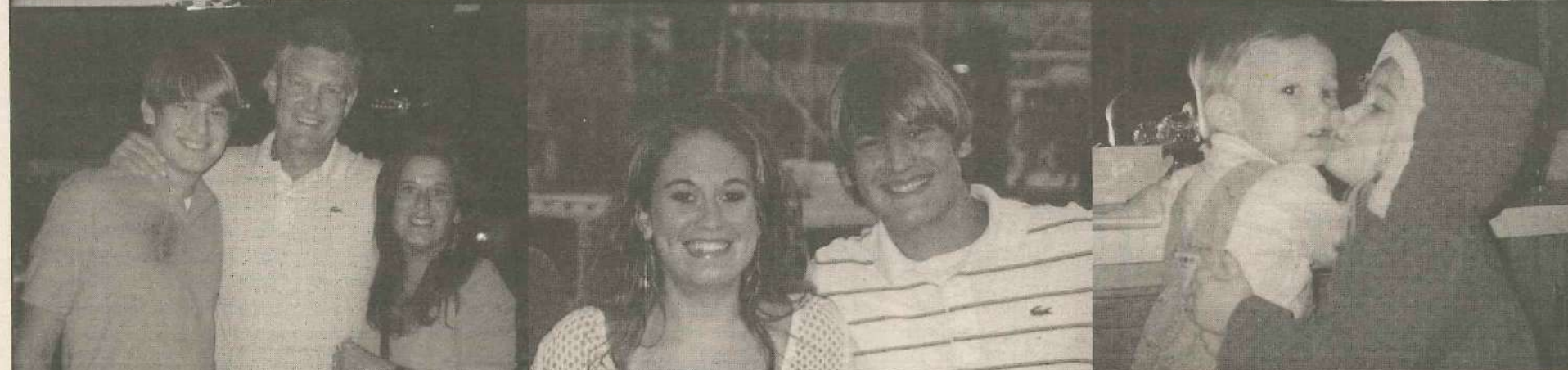
Thank you West Potomac, I will miss you.

**High school is now a thing of your past,
The memories you've made are sure to last.
Some days you felt like letting go,
Look where you are now: at the final show.
Life is waiting for you,
So go out and show the world what you can do
Good Luck Class of '07!**

Poem by Brendon Cummiskey



Joey,
What an incredible young man you have become - creative, witty, respectful, and mature. You've brought us joy, laughter, love and great memories. We are so proud of you and know you will succeed in your very bright future. Enjoy LIFE! Congratulations!
We Love You, Mom, Dad & Christina



Summin' Up Spring Sports

Cha'Vais Summers

Sports Editor

Spring sports at our school usually bring in the biggest, most enthusiastic crowds, and this year's sports did not break the tradition. Our teams put forth their best efforts and finished in positions that left them optimistic about next season.

Boys' lacrosse: The team ended this season with a 6-6 record behind senior captain Chris Farquhar and goalie captain John Falvey. "The most exciting part of the season was when we beat defending champs West Springfield 9-5 in the regular season," said Falvey.

Girls' lacrosse: The team finished this season with a 14-2 loss to Annandale in the first round of the Patriot District Tournament. They finished this season with a 3-11 record, a two game improvement from last year's campaign, when they won only one game. Team captain Leslie Kerr was named to the Patriot District first team, senior Nora Dickert received honorable mention, sophomore Catherine Bradley was named to the Patriot District second team, and sophomores Emily Hylton and Kerianne Condon received honorable mention.

Boys' baseball: The team closed their season last Friday with a 2-1 win against Lee to improve to 8-12, 5-9 in district play, on the season. This is a 3 game improvement from last year, when they went 5-16. Catcher Phil Cast, shortstop Hunter Lord, and pitcher Danny Peterson were named Honorable Mention All-District for the season.

Softball: The team is among the most successful teams at our school with a 13-

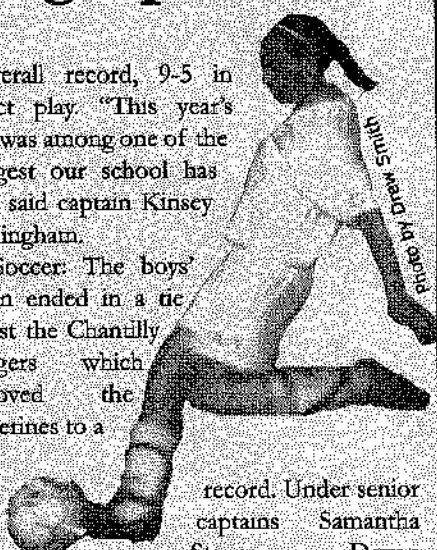
7 overall record, 9-5 in district play. "This year's team was among one of the youngest our school has had," said captain Kinsey Cunningham.

Soccer: The boys' season ended in a tie against the Chantilly Chargers which improved the Wolverines to a 3-5-1

record. Under senior captains Samantha Strong, Devon Cain, Teresa Caro and Rebecca Vonada, girls' soccer team had a 4-4-1 record with the district tournament approaching.

Girls varsity crew is still going on as a good performance in Stotesbury will them to advance to nationals. The boys finished their season very optimistically but did not reach their goal of making nationals.

Track: The boys' track team won the district championship for the sixth year in a row with the senior leadership of Neal Hardie and Arthur Williams. The girls' team won a respectable second place to a tough Lake Braddock team with the leadership of junior Kat Lee and senior Kelly Jemison. The girls and boys team finished fourth in the Northern Region. The track team sent a total of thirteen runners to the state meet in Newport News (seven from the boys team and six from the girls team).



Taking it to the Next Level

Hooff Cooksey

Managing Editor

The class of 2007 is nearing the end of their long journey starting with kindergarten to grade twelve. Not only have academics been on these students' mind for the past thirteen or so years, but many have also dedicated a part of their lives to perfecting their skills at a certain sport or sports. Many of our graduating seniors will be attending colleges and universities not only for a good education but also to play a sport. From football to track and field, and all in between, we have many athletes already preparing to play on the collegiate level.

Already, senior athletes like Neal Hardie and Chris Farquhar have received workouts from their schools. Hardie, who will be attending Shepherd University to play football, received his first workout

list last week. Farquhar, who will be playing Division 1 lacrosse at Drexel University in Philadelphia, has made numerous visits to the university to watch practices, scrimmages and live amongst the players to get used to his next for the next four or five years. "I may play on a summer team with some other Drexel players," said Farquhar. Senior

Kelly Jemison will be running track at James Madison University, a school that is home to a Division 1 girls track and field team. With letters, phone calls and emails streaming in daily, these athletes have a lot more on their minds than just graduating from our school on June 14th.

Some athletes, such as Hardie, are playing a fall sport which begins official practices in the spring of the previous years. The practices progress over the summer until the season begins in the fall, so Hardie will travel to school earlier than most rising freshmen to begin football practice.

Senior Rashan Colbert will be making history as he is playing on the first ever men's soccer team at Randolph College. Many other athletes from our school will be making the giant step into the NCAA to continue their athletic careers.

The Class of 2007 is taking with it many successful students athletes who will continue their success on the collegiate and professional level. However, there is no break for these young adults; schools are already calling upon their young recruits to step up to the plate.



Collage by Hooff Cooksey



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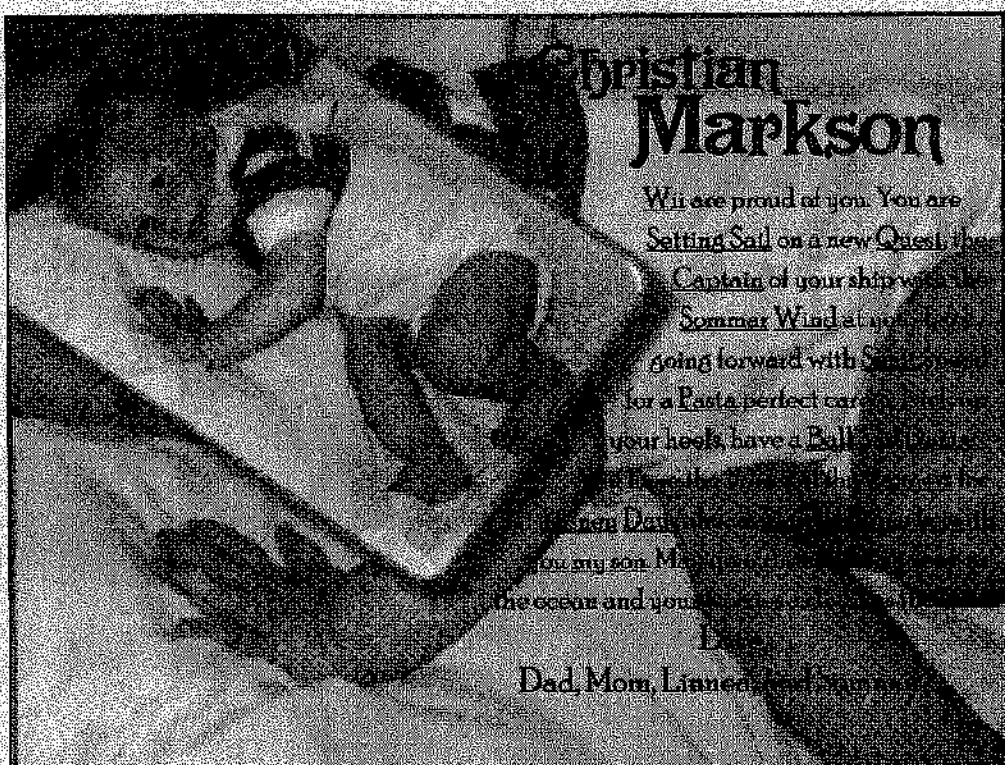
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Tarantino, Fincher, Forster...Boyce?

It could happen!
Congratulations, Charlie

From WPHS Class of 2007 to the inaugural
Cinema Study Program at Virginia
Commonwealth University

Love,
Mom and the Coyle Clan



Christian
Markson

We are proud of you. You are
Setting Sail on a new Quest, the
Captain of your ship with the
Summer Wind at your back,
going forward with Spirit and
for a Perfect career path.
Your heels have a Ball and you
are the star of the show. You can be
a man. Dad, Mom, Linn and Sam are
proud of you. May you find the
ocean and your dream.

Dad, Mom, Linn and Sam

THE WIRE STAFF
INVITES YOU TO OUR ANNUAL



SATURDAY, JUNE 9

9am-3pm at
Bellevue Elementary
School

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Laughing from the Bench

Taylor Dankmyer

Editor-in-Chief

Welcome to your new home, page twelve of *The Wire*. This column is going to talk about anything I want it to. In addition, my column will also take random hits at the sad, pathetic Washington Redskins.

Now, if I ever attempt to be funny in one of the articles and it is not funny, feel free to email me at idotcarewhatyouthink@gmail.com.

And no, you will not gain frequent flier miles by reading this column.

So, as I sat down to think about what I would be writing to my 13.5 billion readers nationwide, I thought I would make some comments on the draft for you to "enjoy," because everyone either loves or hates the draft in their own ways, and the NBA Playoffs are way too long to keep my attention.

Mel Kiper

Why all the bashin' on Mel Kiper? Sure, he seems to come out of TV hibernation around February once the NFL season is over, to make appearances on ESPN, and then is not seen again until next "draft hype up" time. And sure, he seems to always be yelling at his listeners, and making ridiculous predictions, and was separated at birth from Quentin Tarantino... okay, so there is a lot to hate. But if someone simply listens to Mel Kiper as a person who knows about every player from pick number one to pick number 255, you will surprisingly appreciate his knowledge.

Grading the Draft

This is obviously the most idiotic thing anyone can do. How can you possibly give a team a "grade" or even a player much of a grade before any of the players have played a snap in the NFL? So, instead of giving out "grades," which would be pointless and make me look dumber than I already have made myself, check out these picks that I found strange and questionable:

Pick #6- Redskins: LaRon Landry: Any time the Redskins make a pick, you gotta question it, 'nuff said.



Photo by Johnny Crawford/Edit by Taylor Dankmyer

Pick #2- Lions: Calvin Johnson: First of all, the Lions should not be drafting a wide receiver. They have drafted plenty of first round wide receiver busts before (including one of the biggest, Charles Rodgers). The greatest WR to ever play in the NFL, Jerry Rice, was the third WR drafted in the 1985 draft. It is no mistake that guys like Kiper and other analysts mention that projecting wide outs is harder than it is at most other NFL positions. All I am saying is, Detroit has drafted a lot of wide receiver busts in the past, and the NFL is known for screwing up on projecting wide receivers. I will withhold judgment on Calvin Johnson for now.

Pick #7-Vikings: Adrian Peterson: Just look at the stats- 2004: 1925 yards, 2005: 1108 yards, 2006: 1012 yards. He was injury-prone back in college, and he may need to get surgery on his collarbone, resulting in missing most of training camp. If he can stay healthy, he could be really good, but in my book, this pick definitely gets a question mark next to it.

Pick number 255 (the last pick in the draft): If you are the last team in the draft to pick, pick a player with a really cool name like Pago Togafau from Idaho State, not "Ramzee Robinson." Togafau was later signed as a free agent by the Cardinals last month. At least one team in the league has some common sense.

At this point, you probably think I am a little crazy, but insanity makes for good entertainment: Why do you think Bill O'Reilly is still going strong on the radio and T.V.?



Photo by Cha'Vais Summers

Junior Emanuel Lewis lifts weights in the weight room staying fit for the upcoming 2007 season of varsity football.

Summer Shape-Up

Paul Disselkoen

Sports Editor

The bell rings, students cheer, and high schoolers prepare themselves for the summer ahead.

The summer is marked with days of waking up late, heading to the pool, and laughing and joking with friends. Some students, however, have to think ahead to the fall when summer vacation is over, and student athletes head back to school for another season of sports. When these athletes return, the coaches cannot be bothered with an extra week of trying to get kids back into shape and competing readiness.

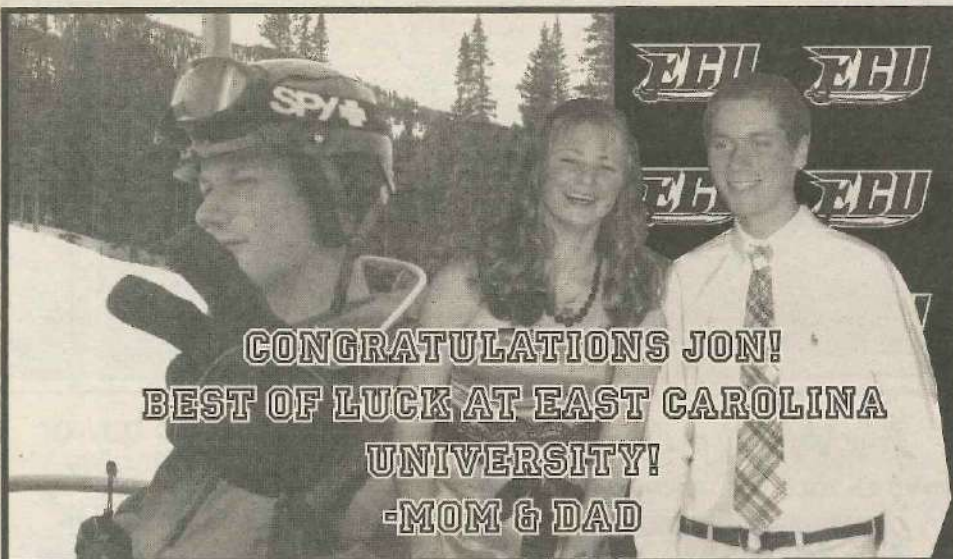
Garrett Hubbard, physics teacher and coach of the girls' varsity soccer team, feels strongly that athletes need to keep themselves in shape. "For soccer, we have two weeks between tryouts and our first game. It is ludicrous that the athletes should think that they cannot come to tryouts in game readiness," said Hubbard.

To solve this problem, student athletes must take it upon themselves to take time out of the busy days of lounging around to work and stay in shape. Junior Jamie

McDonald said that he works hard during the summer to stay in shape. McDonald said, "I like to do a mix of things to keep it interesting. I run, swim, and do other types of cardiovascular workouts, as well as weight lifting at the school over the summer." Freshman J. P. Marinelli also likes to keep himself in shape. "I try to get friends to work out with me," said Marinelli, "That way I can have fun and work at the same time."

In the midst of all of this working out, how do these athletes balance the fun of summer and exercise? Both Marinelli and McDonald said that they like to work out in the mornings in the summer, so that their evenings are clear for hanging out with friends.

The question still lingers. Does this exercise prepare them enough for the season? McDonald said that the "exercise does not exempt you from getting killed the first day of practice, but it does help you not completely die." Marinelli said, "The first day of track practice, I'm always still tired but the workouts help me stand it." The athletes at our school still work hard and take time to make sure that the sports teams will keep up with our immaculate record.



Best Wishes,
Corey,
as you ride off
into your future.

We Love You,
Mom, Dad, and Joe

The big question is
whether you are going
to be able to say a

HEARTY

yes

to your adventure.

JOSEPH CAMPBELL

"Yes, Melissa."
Love, Mom



CONGRATULATIONS!!
JONATHAN
We are so proud of you!!
Love, Dad, Mom, Nia
and Andre

Thumbs Up for 42nd Street

Zach Feinstein

Online Editor

42nd Street, our school's most recent drama production, has received a record number of nominations for this year's Cappie Awards.

The Cappies are the highest awards given to high school productions and, within the theater community, they are a huge honor to receive. This year, the Cappie awards were held at the Kennedy Center on May 27th.

42nd Street is the story of a young girl trying to make her way on Broadway. The cast of 42nd Street was nominated for eleven individual Cappie awards including junior Paul Disselkoe for Male Lead and senior Kathleen Wheeler for Female Lead in a musical. Senior Candace Scholz was nominated for Featured Actress, junior Graham Jenkins for Male Dancer, junior Cliff Smircina for sound, the band for Orchestra Ensemble, Rachel Lear for Props and junior Ashley Evans, senior



Photo Courtesy of Kathy McCormally

Seniors Kathleen Wheeler, Steven Minson, and junior Paul Disselkoe perform enthusiastically.

Rachel Lear, sophomore Rebecca Walker, senior Laura Smith, junior Haley Mertins, and senior Megan Gough for Principal Female Dancers. The musical number "42nd Street" was nominated for Best Song, and the production itself received a nomination for Best Show.

Drama teacher Kathy McCormally said, "[42nd Street got all of these nominations] because it was an outstanding show." The 11 Cappie nominations set a new school record, beating the nine Cappie nominations our school's production of *Les Miserables* received.

McCormally said that Cappie awards are "critics and awards program." This year's Cappie Awards had a total of 46 schools who performed at the Kennedy Center in May.

Our Senior Artists Shine

Victoria Narine

Style Editor



Photo/Edit by Taylor Dankmeyer

Just one of the many wall murals in the Springbank building.

Art is the most unique form of expression. Ranging from intricately detailed realism to subconscious surrealism, our art scene is thriving in expression. It is so thriving that the artists have a whole building dedicated to them. Springbank, a secluded building detached from the main campus of our school, is home to our art enthusiasts.

The dramatically diverse styles of our artists are present in the murals on the walls of Springbank. Visitors to Springbank are greeted by Andy Warhol-esque portraits of teachers in bright, fluorescent colors. If they take an immediate left, they will see an enlarged portrait of the iconic Holly Golightly, as played by Audrey Hepburn, gracing the far wall. Further down the main hallway is an expansive work of graffiti, possibly the most noticeable piece of artwork in the building. The graffiti art, which spells out "Springbank," depicts students with differing styles of dress and personality.

Visual art, the main focus of our art scene, is "a quiet art form," stated Art Department Chair Amy Stoll. "It is often overlooked within the public schools." As a result, various art shows displaying the works of the artists are held throughout the year, the most recent being the Art Auction, Pyramid Art Show, and the Senior Art Show (May 21 - 25).

As portrayed in the graffiti mural in the hallway, the differing styles of artwork also have contrasting personalities. Spanning from painting and drawing to computer graphics, sculpture, and photography, the artists are able to "develop knowledge of techniques

and skills ... that will help them to communicate ideas and emotions through art," said Stoll.

Art work, known to have a high impact on one's emotional well-being and perspective on the world, is profoundly expressive and moving. "Students can express themselves through art and develop self-confidence," said Stoll. "An artist's thought processes never shut down... Waking up in the middle of the night with so many ideas that you cannot go to back to sleep is a common thread with artists."

This rather enviable capability allowed notable senior art students to achieve greatness in their fields of expertise. Advanced students Allison Tse, Colin Jones, Rashan Colbert, Silvia Baptiste, Drew Smith, Amy Zurndorfer, Will Klein, and Nora Dickert have done just this.

Art students preparing to begin the strenuous college search next year are slightly relieved to learn that colleges actually embrace artistic ability. Senior Drew Smith will be attending Virginia Commonwealth University's School of the Arts while Silvia Baptiste will be attending the School of Visual Arts in NYC. "College admissions look very favorably at a transcript with progression in the visual arts that demonstrates in-depth study," said Stoll.

Furthermore, our art scene involves students with a large amount of creativity and self-reliance. Stoll said, "We know that the process of creativity is the highest level of thinking, period. [But] it is such an important skill to develop in order to be successful in life."

The All Night Graduation Celebration Committee would like to thank the following members of the West Potomac community for their support in creating a fun, memorable and safe event for our 2007 graduates:

Silver Patron - \$500 to \$999

Stratford on the Potomac
The Weisblatt Family
West Potomac High School PTSA

Patron - \$250 to \$499

Dick and Debbie Alderson
Don Beyer Volvo & Subaru
Dominion Surveyors, Inc.
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Fort Hunt Sportsmen's Association
Hollin Hall Automotive
Elisabeth Lardner and Jim Klein
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Mt. Vernon Nursing & Rehab Center
The Scoop Grill & Homemade Ice Cream
Sun Sew Vac
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Stratford Landing Citizens Association
Todos Market, Carlos Castro
Dr. Peter Verdin, Commonwealth Orthopaedics
The Wong Family
Steve and Pat Zurndorfer

Friend - up to \$99

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Bush Hill Presbyterian Church
Paul & Susan Cambon
Christian Science Reading Room
The Christmas Attic
Marfe & George Delano
Dr. Richard D. Fiorucci
The Ford Family
Fort Hunt Animal Hospital
The Funk Family
Frank & Connie Gerow
Hairvisions
Hayfield Animal Hospital
Eileen Houser, Coldwell Banker Realtors
Hughes Orthodontics
Mary Ellen and Frank Kane
Karau Orthodontics
Cindy and David Krohmal
The Laverdy Family
A.R. Legare & J.M. Martin
Jon & Grace Link
The McPeck Family
Mount Vernon Civic Association
Mt. Vernon Travel
Anthony & Chris O'Connor
Mark & Carolyn Pierce
Senator Toddy Puller
Diane & Alan Schaum
Dr. Schwartz & Nicholson, P.L.C.
Sisterhood of Olam Tikvah
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The Swinson Family
Tippy's Taco House
The Trouton Family
Villamay Women's Club
Williamsburg Manor North Citizens Association

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Dawn Scholz
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Sally Smith
Beth Vance
Sheree & Terry Watt
Kathy & Eric Weisblatt

Please accept our sincere apologies if your name or business is missing! This list reflects the contributions received by press time.

Summer TV Shows Sizzle



Sandy Slippen

Copy Editor

Students clearly look forward to the beginning of summer for obvious reasons. However, one thing some decry is the descent into rerun oblivion for many favorite shows. Although some will not be around to watch television during the summer, those who have nothing to do will end up with plenty of options.

New Series

- "Hidden Palms" (CW, Wednesdays from 8-9 PM, premiering May 30) – In the vein of "The O.C.," "Hidden Palms" follows the life of a teenager transplanted into the luxurious, upscale community of Palm Springs. However, while everything may seem shiny and beautiful on the outside, there are secrets waiting to be discovered in this soapy new drama from the executive producer of "Dawson's Creek."
- "On the Lot" (Fox, Mondays & Tuesdays from 8-9 PM, premiering May 22) – Described by some as "American Idol" for movie lovers and aspiring filmmakers, "On the Lot" is a new reality competition airing two nights a week this summer. Sixteen aspiring filmmakers are divided into teams and progressively create their own films, which the American public votes on to determine who stays in the competition. Steven Spielberg and Mark Burnett ("Survivor") are executive producers.

Returning Series

- "So You Think You Can Dance" (Fox, Wednesdays 8-9 PM & Thursdays 9-10 PM, premiering May 24) – Also returning for a third season, those who find themselves rhythmically blessed attempt to make a name for themselves on a national scale by displaying some sweet dance moves.

Bands Flock to the D.C. Area

Taylor Dankmyer

Editor-in-Chief

"You walk through these giant gates to get onto the track and the first thing you see is this monolithic edifice of a stage, and it makes you want to cry, it's so gnarly," said Chris Silva, a junior who attended the Virgin Festival last year. The "track" he was referring to was the site of last year's Virgin Festival, the Pimlico race course in Baltimore, MD.

The 'V Festival' has been held every year in London since 1996. However, last July, Richard Branson, founder and chairman of Virgin, introduced the first American version of the festival to be held that September. The first U.S. 2006 Virgin Festival featured the Red Hot Chili Peppers, The Who, Wolfmother, The Killers, and many more. The lineup seemed to be unbeatable.

But this year's lineup may be just as good, featuring headliners The Police, The Beastie Boys, and the Smashing Pumpkins. It also includes artists such as 311, Modest Mouse, TV on the Radio, Spoon, Velvet Revolver, Incubus, the Fratellis, and many more. Along with plenty of rock bands, "Virgin Fest" features some reggae (Matisyahu) and rap (Wu Tang Clan) too. As for Silva, he is attending the Virgin Fest again this year, and is most looking forward to seeing "The Police, fool!"

But the Virgin Festival is just one of the musical venues to check out this coming summer. There are many other bands coming to the D.C. area as well.

Band: John Mayer (with Ben Folds and James Morrison)

Venue: Verizon Center in Washington, D.C.

Date: Wednesday, July 25, 7:00 PM

Tickets: Currently on sale at ticketmaster.com (xrl.us/

wadx). If you are a fan of John Mayer, Ben Folds, or James Morrison, this is a show you cannot miss.

Band: Bloc Party

Venue: Dar Constitution Hall in Washington, D.C.

Date: Sunday, June 3, 7:30 PM

Tickets: Currently on sale at ticketmaster.com (xrl.us/ wady). Do not miss this English indie rock band touring right off the February release of their newest album, *A Weekend in the City*.

Band: White Stripes

Venue: Patriot Center in Fairfax, Virginia

Date: Saturday, July 28, 8:00 PM

Tickets: Currently on sale at ticketmaster.com (<http://xrl.us/> wadz).

The White Stripes is a band featuring Jack White and Meg White, former husband and wife who introduced themselves as brother and sister, confusing the public for years until the Detroit Free Press leaked a marriage license that showed they had once been married. Despite their unusual relationship, they have released five albums already and are releasing their sixth studio recording, *Icky Thump*, on



Photo by Piper Ferguson/KRT

Modest Mouse can be seen at the Virgin Festival on August 4th and 5th.

June 19.

Band: Dave Matthews Band (with Toots and the Maytals)

Venue: Nissan Pavilion in Bristow, VA

Date: Saturday, August 11, 7:00 PM

Tickets: Lawn seats: \$36. Currently on sale at ticketmaster.com (xrl.us/ v98t).

Band: O.A.R.

Venue: Merriweather Post Pavilion in Columbia, MD

Date: Friday, August 17, 7:30 PM

Tickets: All tickets under \$40. Currently on sale at ticketmaster.com (xrl.us/ wcku).



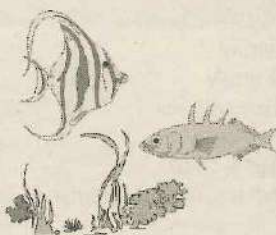
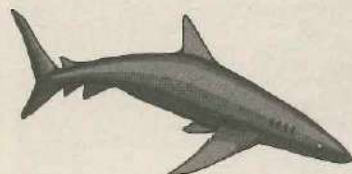
The Dream began when you were 3, as a Little Mermaid for Halloween...



... And now you're on your way to California to study Marine Biology!

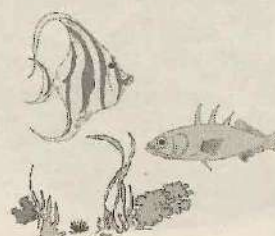
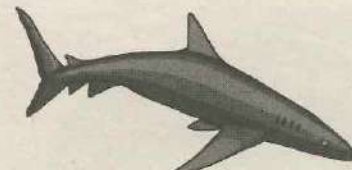


... It continued at 16 as you became a certified SCUBA diver...



May all your dreams come true, Carolyn!

With so much love and pride, Mom, Dad, and James



Shrek Comes Back for Thirds

Sandy Slippen
Copy Editor

It is difficult to dispute that the *Shrek* films have done a more effective job connecting to youths and adults alike than any other animated film.

With enormous box office grosses (\$268 million for *Shrek*, \$441 million for *Shrek 2*, and now a \$122 million opening weekend for *Shrek the Third*), DVD sales, and awards proving the popularity of the films, *Shrek the Third* arrives in theaters amidst a swirl of hype. While the film is not as much breezy fun as its predecessors, it still delivers the goods and provides a solid evening of entertainment.

Shrek (Mike Myers) and Fiona (Cameron Diaz) are living happily ever after when they are presented with a new series of predicaments. Fiona's father, the frog King Harold (John Cleese), is dying and announces his desire for Shrek to be the new king of Far Far Away. Shrek, in addition to being troubled by thoughts of starting a family with Fiona, balks and searches out the only possible other replacement, a teenager named Arthur (Justin Timberlake). While Donkey (Eddie Murphy) and Puss 'n Boots (Antonio Banderas) accompany Shrek, the

disgraced Prince Charming (Rupert Everett) returns to Far Far Away to seek vengeance on those he believes wronged him. To do this, he holds Fiona, the queen (Julie Andrews), and several other characters, such as Snow White and Cinderella, captive.

Shrek 2 seemed to end the series rather effectively, so *Shrek the Third* does not have an extensive amount of room to create a plotline. Because of this, the third film is not always as interesting to watch as the first two films, which boasted more interesting plotlines. However, the

screenplay is just as sharp as before, and the actors invest as much energy in their characterizations.

In addition, *Shrek the Third* might contain some of the most astonishingly beautiful animation ever observed in a feature film. The first two *Shrek* films also contained impressive animation, but the technology is such that it is better than ever in this film.

While *Shrek the Third* is not as memorable as the first two films, it still provides plenty of enjoyable fun.



Handout by KRT

Shrek, Donkey, Puss n' Boots and their newest accomplice Prince Charming prepare to seek vengeance.

Landini Brothers for Lovers, Not Groups

Shannon Bowdring
Features Editor

Bringing in both tourists and locals for over twenty years, Landini Brothers is a busy Italian restaurant tucked into lower King St. in Old Town, Alexandria.

The warm paintings and colors attract crowds; however, it is recommended to make reservations for a romantic date rather than a large party. The waiters appear to have difficulty remembering for whom they have taken drink orders and which table asked for extra bread.

It also seems a stretch for them to drop by the table, fill up water, and check on their paying customers.

The small, cozy atmosphere is better suited for a one-on-one dining experience. For those wishing to try their luck, an upstairs room is available for group reservations.

The food, while satisfying, is slightly overpriced. The pasta entrees would not be hard to find at any Italian restaurant.

The menu includes the usual Fettuccini Alfredo and branches out to offer seafood pasta topped with scallops, shrimp, and lobster.

For the lighter eater, a selection of soups and salads is available.

Overall, Landini Brothers is an average Italian restaurant with a warm atmosphere and classic touch. However for those trying to save a few dollars, try Faccia Luna just down the road from the pricy Landini Brothers.



Handout by KRT

The two stars (Tobey Maguire and Kirsten Dunst) of the recently released movie *Spider-Man 3* lie together.

Spider-Man 3 Sits Steady

Forrest Wilson
Special to The Wire

The highly anticipated *Spider-Man 3* was released to millions of fans on Friday, May 4 2007.

Spider-Man was like a water fountain to a wanderer in the Sahara. On day one, box office records were broken; *Spider-Man 3* sold twenty-nine million dollars breaking the record previously held by *Pirates of the Caribbean 2: Dead Man's Chest*. The records were broken again when 22.5 million people saw *Spider-Man 2* in the first weekend.

In his third chapter, Peter Parker (Tobey Maguire) is forced to balance his love life with young Mary Jane Watson (Kirsten Dunst) and his duties as Spider-Man.

New York is finally appreciating Spider-Man. Mary Jane has fallen deeply for Peter, who is head over heels for her.

Everything seems to be going great until some new large scale villains are introduced.

Flint Marko (Thomas Haden Church), the real killer of Peter Parker's Uncle Ben, escapes from prison. In the rundown, Marko gets caught in a science experiment that transforms him into Sandman. He can change his bodily form to any shape in sand that he wants. Spider-Man will stop at nothing to stop his uncle's killer from doing any more damage.

As if this task was not hard enough, Spidey's suit is taken over by an alien substance from a meteor that brings out all hate, revenge, and agony in Peter. Peter quickly starts losing all the ones that he loves to his new jet-black suit. Peter's previous best friend, Harry Osborn (James Franco), also has fallen into his father's legacy after finding the Goblin Layer behind the mantle.

The new enemy, Venom, adds just one more problem for Spider-Man to solve. Spider-Man has to find a way to defeat all of these new villains, as well as the problems within him.



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Dude, Maryland, You're Getting Adele

Mariya Ilyas

Managing Editor

One day, everyone will be buying the book *The Life of Adele Hampton*. Allow me to introduce her to you.

Pesto pasta, football, model cars, and the color purple. This is Adele Hampton.

Hampton enjoys rock music, although she does not really have a favorite band. Her biggest hobby is the newspaper: she likes reading it, writing for it, creating it, and especially laying it out. Hampton wrote for the very paper you are holding for three years. Starting out only as business manager during her sophomore year, she managed to take the position of Editor-In-Chief, along with her companion, senior Alex Keckeisen (see profile below), during her senior year. She admits being an Editor-In-Chief was "awesome." What she will



Photo Courtesy of Adele Hampton
Senior Adele Hampton poses with her friends. Hampton's friendly personality makes her easy to get along with.

miss the most about being on *The Wire* are "the people, late night layout, and free music," she said.

Hampton is a typical teenager—or now, a young adult entering the *real* world. She takes pleasure in sleeping and spending time with her friends and younger sister, Adrienne. Mostly at the theater, Hampton enjoys movies with good plots and nice scripts—her favorite one being *Gladiator*.

Academically, Hampton is smart, hardworking, and enjoys challenges. Not to swagger, but during her senior year, she took four (core subject) Advanced Placement (AP) classes, French 5, Anatomy, and of course, Journalism 4. "Adele has a really ardent belief in journalism and the intelligence to go with it. Adele has all the tickets to go as far as she pushes herself," said her AP Literature teacher, Joan Reynolds. Throughout her high school career, she has challenged herself to her fullest potential, taking Honors and AP classes

as well as participating in extracurricular activities.

Outside of school, Hampton enjoys playing her piano. One of her happiest moments in life is when she got her own piano—a six-foot Kawai Grand.

Who could know Hampton better than her closest friends? Senior Carolyn Gibson said, "She is outgoing, caring, and happy." When Hampton goes to the University of Maryland next year, Gibson will "miss being able to see her every day."

Everyone's had their moments—that is, embarrassing moments. Stepping on a homeless man and being smacked by a three-year-old were Hampton's. "Laugh if you want, it's okay," one of Hampton's direct quotes from her column this year.

With an outgoing personality and big smile, Hampton is one of the most enjoyable people to be around—this is coming from personal experience. As a colleague of Hampton on the newspaper, I have learned to love Hampton—every day, she has made me smile, whether through jokes or crazy stories. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank her for everything she has done for me—including giving me rides.

Keep an eye out for Hampton's full biography—it will definitely be worth reading.

The Risin' of Alex Keckeisen

Ken Llewellyn

Opinions Editor

Pink flamingo. That is senior Alex Keckeisen's answer to the question, "If you could be any animal, what would you be?" That kind of answer is just a brief glimpse of the Editor-in-Chief's great sense of humor. However, Keckeisen is so much more than the Editor-in-Chief of the newspaper.

April 21, 1988, known by most as National High Five Day, is also the date of Keckeisen's birth. "A day that will live in infamy," said former President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, of course, he was not talking about Keckeisen's birthday at all, but that is another story. Some interesting facts about Keckeisen are that he is the only member of his family to be born in the state of Virginia and he has been the starting goalie for the boys' soccer team since his sophomore year. Keckeisen enjoys doing normal American teenager activities, playing soccer, and burning things, but the thing he enjoys most of all is to jump around, jump around, jump up jump and get down. His most valuable possession is his 1997 Volkswagen Jetta GT, complete with leather seats and a "my fast" dashboard ornament.

He may seem like an average soccer playing, thing-burning teenager, but Alex Bruno Keckeisen is as unique as a bass-playing zebra. He once broke his hand by punching a soccer goalpost, and claims he has broken the world record for speed shoelace tying, although there is no evidence to prove it.

Keckeisen is a valued member of our school's community. His former teachers have only wonderful things to say about him. "All he did was cut class," said history teacher George Coe. Math teacher Cheryl Larsen said, "He's definitely one of the funnier students I've had, and I really admire the way he plays soccer." Wherever you go, you can hear only positive things about Keckeisen.

After he graduates, Keckeisen will be attending the University of Missouri, where he will double major in Journalism and World Affairs (watch out, Katie Couric).

When asked what he will miss most about our school, Keckeisen replied, "You." Whether he was talking about me, you the reader, or former staff member Jon Yoo is something we will never know.

Next year will feel like an empty shell without

Keckeisen around, but by second quarter, most will be over it. Our school is losing a goalie, a good student, a funny guy (who can be a little strange sometimes), an Editor-in-Chief, and a mentor for underclassmen (okay,



Photo by of Jayne Seward
Keckeisen and Cooksey enjoy a tender moment at Planet Hollywood in New York City.

maybe that last one does not apply at all). Our school will continue on without Keckeisen, just like a Taco Bell quesadilla must be eaten without that spicy sauce, but that spicy sauce was still one helluva a guy.

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We'll Miss You All.



Candace,
We love you
Kiddo!

Love always,
Mom, Dad
And Ken



CONGRATULATIONS
LADS AND GOOD LUCK!
Allen, Mary and Christian Ford