

THE WIRE

Volume 23, Issue #10
6500 Quander Road
Alexandria, VA 22307

WEST POTOMAC HIGH SCHOOL

FOCUS

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Find out what everyone in the Class of 2008 plans to do after graduation. ←

Wednesday, June 4, 2008

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Photos Courtesy Don Beeby

Our boys spring track team won their 7th district championship in a row, but how did the other spring sports teams do? ←

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Photo by Stephen Howell

More than nine faculty members are leaving at the end of the school year. Find out about their plans and memorable moments inside. ←

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What does it mean to be a feminist? ←

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Photo by Tim Johnson/KRT

Two of our own react to the turbulence in China following the recent earthquakes. ←

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Hardships can be difficult to cope with. Find out how some overcome the odds inside. ←

Case Wins FCPS First Year Teacher Award

Government teacher becomes first in school history to win "Outstanding First Year Teacher Award"

Mariya Ilyas

Editor-in-Chief

Out of more than 250 first-year teachers in Fairfax County Public Schools, Alex B. Case won the 2008 Outstanding First Year Teacher Award.

"The Outstanding First Year Teacher Award recognizes a first year teacher who demonstrates outstanding performance and superior instructional skills during the first year of teaching," said

Kevin North, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources.

Principal Rima Vesilind nominated our AP Coordinator, Assistant Student Activities Director, AP Government and World History teacher Case early in March, after completing an extensive application. "Mr. Case is a young man with a vision and the drive to achieve it," wrote Vesilind in one of the essays. Case was required to write a personal essay to be submitted along with the nomination application. "I believe (and continue to believe) that classroom teachers should focus on nurturing student creativity and

passion for their respective subjects, not simply be teachers and 'premeditators.' The nomination packet was sent on to the Screening Committee composed of coaches/mentors from Great Beginnings, which is an FCPS program providing mentorship and support to new teachers. The Screening Committee recommends top finalists to the FCPS Leadership Team, which then makes a recommendation to Superintendent Jack D. Dale, according to North.

"He won the award because he makes learning fun and enjoyable," said senior

See Case, page 6



Case shakes Superintendent Jack D. Dale's hand at a faculty meeting in the Kogelman theater on May 9 (far left). Case talks to his girlfriend (in red) and history department chair Emily Millions (left).

Photos by Stephen Howell & Nancy Kreloff

'Sealing' Club Creates Controversy

Lucas Alexander

Opinions Editor

Seals and other marine animals are being hunted for their resources and the profits they can provide, but sophomore Bryan Jacobs and a few of his classmates believe that nothing is worth killing thousands of seals every year.

A few months ago, Jacobs thought of a way to help the seals. He and a few friends founded Students Against Seal Hunting (SASH). Jacobs said that, "Seal Hunting is inhumane and cruel" and "The purpose of SASH is for the advancement of animal rights." However, some students feel that the club is not necessary and that club members are misinformed.

Seal hunting, or sealing, is the personal or commercial hunting of seals for their pelts, blubber, fat, and meat. Seal hunting is a cultural practice in five countries: Canada, Greenland, Namibia, Norway, and Russia, as well as Alaska. Seal hunting is an important source of income and food in small coastal communities where other resources are limited.

Jacobs and his friends are trying to make a difference in the way seals are treated. Club sponsor Kathryn McCullohs said, "SASH members are writing to their Congressmen to make them aware of their dissatisfaction with this horror in hopes that changes will be made."

Some students argue that seal hunting is vital to life in other countries while others argue that either way, the club can make no difference. "The problem with it [SASH] is that many of the people in the club are not actually informed on the issue, and join the club because they love the animals or whatever," said junior Alex Snider. He also said, "The real problem with SASH is that the people in the organization are not truly informed. Many think that seal hunting is an inhumane enterprise. It is actually the opposite. He went on to say that I don't think SASH can make a difference, because not only is it on such a small level, but international non-profit organizations have been made, in an effort to end seal hunting, and these organizations have not [made a difference]."

However, club treasurer Brian Linnell disagrees. Linnell said, "I think SASH can make a difference, we've been trying to raise money to send to our

See SASH, page 6

Chorus Members to Travel to Italy

Zach Feinstein

Reporter

During the summer, some students go on vacations or work, but chorus members will travel to Tuscany, Italy, to perform in the International Choral Festival and tour the sites of the Italian countryside.

Chorus members will travel to Italy on Wednesday, June 25 and stay until Wednesday, July 2. While in Italy, the chorus students will be travel to Montecatini Terme to perform for two concerts and visiting the cities of Florence, Pisa, Siena, San Gimignano, and Lucca.

Junior Shayana Oakley, one of the chorus members who plans to go to Italy said, "It's always been a dream of mine to go to Italy. Plus, I'm a huge fan of Italian food."

In Montecatini Terme, the group will perform at the Tettuccio Spa, in the central square of Montecatini, and at the Piazza del Popolo. The group of chorus members includes 41 students and 22 chaperones for the trip.

The International Choral Festival is hosted by

the town of Montecatini Terme and the music travel company Music Contact International (MCI) invited our school's chorus to participate in the event. Johnson has worked with MCI before: they assisted our school's chorus in attending the Gloucester Cathedral Choral Festival in England in 2000.

At the competition, a wide variety of American classics will be performed by our school's chorus, such as "Over the Rainbow" from *The Wizard of Oz*, "Walk in Jerusalem" an African-American spiritual, "Sing Me to Heaven" by Virginia composer Daniel Gawthrop, and "I Thank You God" which was the chorus recently performed by the chorus at the National Cathedral.

Johnson is not planning to teach his singers Italian in preparation for the trip. He said, "Almost everyone in Italy speaks English, especially in the cities we'll be visiting." With most people in Italy knowing some amount of

See Italy, page 6

School Key Club Hosts "Senior Prom"



Photo Courtesy of Kathryn McCullohs

Senior citizens dance at Key Club's annual Senior Prom at Hollin Hall Senior Center. Story on page 15.

Students Need to Get Involved in Community

Despite the political enthusiasm circulating through America's youth, students at our school have grown increasingly apathetic towards their own political process: both class and general elections. In an age where teenagers are increasingly politically active, and becoming politically active means changing your Facebook political status, students are interested in national and global interests more than that of our school.

For next year's school elections, only two races are contested of the eighteen available class positions (President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Historian, and Class Representative, for rising sophomores, juniors, and seniors). Ten positions are vacant and there is only one person running for a position in the Class of 2011. Thankfully, in the schoolwide elections, seven people ran for all four positions.

Maybe our school should take notes from the current presidential primaries. The primaries illustrate the potential of the democratic process and how

the a candidate's presence can change the race, and in time, the future of our county. The entrance of Libertarian candidate Bob Barr into the election, Ron Paul's supporters, and Hillary Clinton's persistence to stay in the race until the convention is shaping the democratic process. Young voters have taken advantage of the opportunities to vote. Young voter turnout (ages 17-19) at primaries is up 5%, showing that many candidates have drawn large youth followings.

However, what makes this episode of our school elections particularly disturbing is the hesitation of politically proactive students have in their own elections.

Many students at our school do not hesitate to support and get involved in presidential and state elections, however, when the opportunity is presented to the very same students, relating to school elections and functions, such as pep rallies and Homecoming, they look the other way. Holding a class or school office is a great way to have an immediate impact on the

school. Holding such a position can serve as practice and a precursor for leadership roles in the future.

What would seem like such a beneficial prospect is simply being overlooked by students who would rather help foreign and nation organizations than make an impact in their own community.

Leading nearly two thousand students is no longer a job that students want; what was once a competitive race has turned into simply singing up for offices.

Lastly, less than a fifth of student body voted in the school SGA elections. The voting took place online and computers were made available to students during lunch. While the excuses for the lack of student involvement may vary, the outcome has become clear: the significance of holding an office is decreasing and the relationship between a student and their representative has diminished.

With summer on the way, and important planning already in motion for next year's school events, one asks: Can you name any of your school or class officers?

Clinic Room Aide Provides Clarification

Dear Editor,

There are two people who work in the clinic. 1- Lee Bejarans, public health nurse, based at MVDO. She travels to four different schools weekly and handles various medical issues which affect student's health. 2- Sheryl Bright, clinic room aide, emergency medical technician, handles daily activities in the clinic. She cares for the sick and injured, responds to emergencies and dispenses meds to those students who have meds in the clinic along with the completed orders from parents or doctors.

The clinic sees an average of 35-45 students per day, or approximately 700 students per month. We have approximately 20-30 emergencies each year, where 911 is called and students are transported to the hospital. Daily events in the clinic range from

broken bones, lacerations, drug overdoses, seizures, broken teeth, loss of consciousness, emotional distress, allergic reactions, headaches, stomachaches, and common colds, just to name a few. You never know what's coming in the clinic door next!

Currently, parent volunteers do not work in the clinic at WP. A trained CRA substitute may occasionally fill in in the clinic. If no subs are available, Ms. Said, AA, will assist in the clinic.

The FC Health Department, along with FCPS, have very specific county wide rules and regulations about what can and cannot be done in school clinics. These guidelines are for everyone's safety, so while there are a lot of things that the clinic cannot do there are so many more that the clinic can do! -Sheryl Bright

*Bright is responding to Emily Smith's article, "Treatment in the Clinic is No Picnic" from May 7 Issue, page 3.

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*.

RANTS and Raves

A **RANT** for Mrs. Pierre and senior staff leaving *The Wire* next year.

A **RANT** for teachers and staff leaving next year.

A **RANT** for country music.

A **RAVE** for getting out of school two days early.

A **RAVE** for Mr. Case winning FCPS' First Year Teacher Award. Great job Mr. Case!

A **RAVE** for Ruby Szlagi's fashion designs, which are going to be on a runway.

CORRECTIONS

On page 7, freshman Emily Griffin was incorrectly listed as a sophomore.

On page 13, the Vampire Weekend article incorrectly stated that the band members are Columbia dropouts, when in fact they graduated recently.

THANKS TO OUR PATRONS!

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Photo by Tim Johnson/MCT

67,000 people were killed and 21,000 people are currently missing in regions hardest hit by the earthquake.

Earthquake Shakes Two of Our Own

Grace Powell

Editor-in-Chief

Freshman Mengdi (Anita) Xie says she comes from a long line of lucky women. Yet, when she heard news of an earthquake in China, she was immediately worried. She has an aunt and cousin in WenChuan and could not help but take notice that the death toll kept rising.

Xie was in class when the images appeared on the television, "I felt it really terrible, I almost wanted to cry out," said Xie. According to the Associated Press, the earthquake that devastated the central region on May 12 was "one of the worst earthquakes in decades."

The number of those who are dead continues to rise. Xie's family tried to reach her aunt and cousin in WenChuan, China, but the phone lines were down. Meanwhile, the media continued to display image after image: towns littered with mounds of bricks and wood from collapsed buildings, pieces of highway jutting out of the earth, mothers holding up pictures of smiling school children.

Finally, Xie was able to reach her aunt who she said is "a little bit rich," therefore she had a sturdier home. However, Xie said the area surrounding her aunt's home is in ruins.

This is not the first destructive earthquake to strike China. ESOL Teacher Yunian Zhang remembers the earthquake that occurred during 1976 in Tangshan, China. More than 200,000 individuals perished during that earthquake. The Chinese government reported the earthquake had a scale of 7.8, though many believe that the quake was much larger. "At that time China was more controlled and they don't want to release any information to

the outside world...the scale is probably much more severe than they let people know. Now I can see the big difference and change, in the past, the government would try to cover it up," said Zhang.

Change is a recurring theme in current Chinese history. Because of the 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing, China is expected to reemerge as a world power.

"It's a great thing," said Zhang, "It's good for American people to know, for the entire world to know better about China." While, Zhang, who left China after the Tiananmen massacre, had issues with the Chinese government. However, he said, "We shouldn't regard China rising as a threat, I definitely believe that how we engage China will shape that country in the future."

On both sides of the world, countries involved in the Olympics are polishing their image to promote culture and understanding. Xie said the Chinese government is admonishing their citizens to present their country well, "Clean every well, plant more plants, put all the old stuff to recycle."

The region in Beijing is flourishing with citizens, eager to take some role in the Olympics, "A lot of people want to learn how to cook and be a chef," said Xie. Restaurant menus are now rid of what Xie called, "Chinglish" and filled with "English, Spanish, German, French...every country's language." Xie even describes an "army" of beautiful women gathered to smile and welcome individuals to Beijing.

The uniting activity in China is encouraging to Zhang. "Now I suddenly see that China is going on a much more positive track, people's minds cannot be controlled, people are more open minded, spirits are freer, I feel that that's good."

Wendy's Sold For Over Two Billion Dollars

Ariel Maloof

Special to The Wire

Students at our school often eat at Wendy's located on Route 1. However, most students are unaware that Dave Thomas' franchise was recently sold to the parent company of Arby's.

Triarc Company Inc., purchased the Wendy's Corporation for over two billion dollars on April 24, 2008.

A regular customer at Wendy's, senior Liz Hanson "had no clue" that Wendy's had a new owner and she goes to Wendy's "at least once a week." When asked if she noticed any differences in Wendy's, she said, "I've noticed they have these milkshakes now, and they're delicious."

The company Triarc is owned by billionaire Nelson Peltz, who faced at least two rejections from the owners of Wendy's, before a deal was made.

According to stock records, Wendy's shares, before it was bought out by Triarc, were approximately worth \$16.75. Once Triarc bought the hamburger chain, Wendy's shares rose up to about \$33.00 per share in less than a week. Arby's stock went up a small percentage as well.

The CEO, business partner of Peltz is Roland Smith. Smith said, "We'd love to believe we can bring that owner-operator mentality to the Wendy's brand," in an online *.bizjournal* article, dated April 25, 2008.

The family of Dave Thomas, the founder of Wendy's, was discontent with the purchase of the franchise. The late Thomas started the chain in Columbus, Ohio nearly 40 years

ago. "It's a very sad day for Wendy's, and our family. We just didn't think this would be the outcome," said Pam Thomas Farber (a daughter of Dave Thomas) in an online *Cleveland Leader* article, dated April 25, 2008. When he passed away in 2002, Thomas' daughter, Wendy Thomas inherited thirty-two Wendy's restaurants, along with her four siblings.

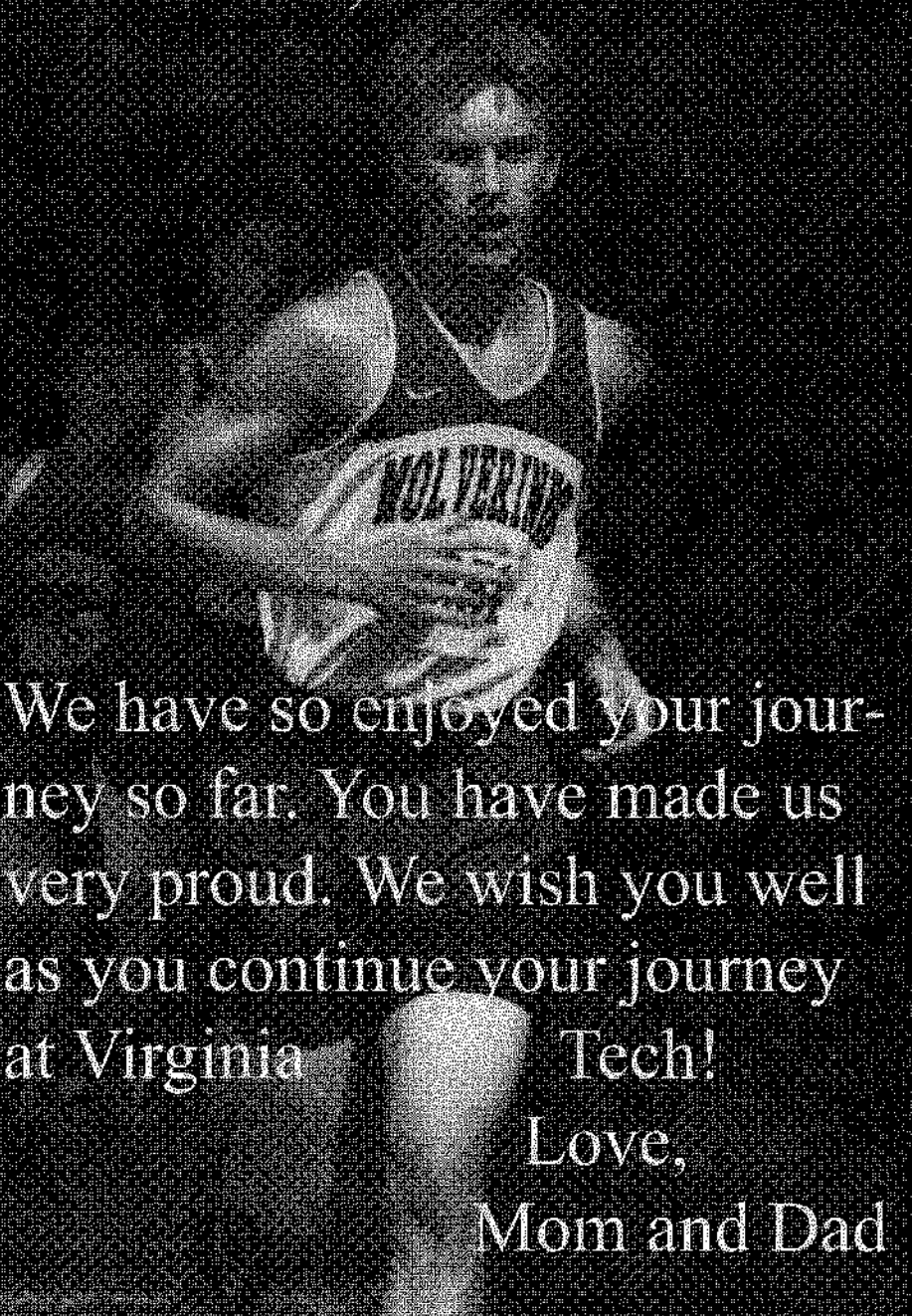
In Hanson's opinion, only slight changes were made to the Wendy's menu. Nothing was significant enough to keep weekly customers away. According to Hanson, "It's all still good."

Junior Abbey Temoshchuk is not a frequent consumer of Wendy's products, and was not aware of its purchase. However, she did acknowledge the fact that many positive changes have been made recently. She said, "Wendy's seems to be moving closer to promoting a healthier lifestyle. Even though it still is technically fast food, the chain is starting to separate itself from its competition. In a way, that makes it seem much more appetizing, fresh, and good for your body."

Some said that Wendy's went downhill after Thomas died because he was what made the franchise what it was, but Senior Katherine Weatherly does not agree. She said, "The commercials kind of suck now, but the menu is still good."

While Wendy's has made changes to its company and menu, some students find it insignificant and many do not care. They still plan to go to Wendy's, just like usual.

Dear Nick,



We have so enjoyed your journey so far. You have made us very proud. We wish you well as you continue your journey at Virginia Tech!

Love,
Mom and Dad

Dear Emily,

Thanks for all the smiles!

Love,
Mom, Dad and Matt



Moving On With Fond Memories

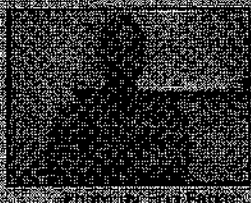
Michaela Accardi
News Editor

Some of these faculty members have served our school through counseling for nine years, while others have been in our community for just a year. Some of these faculty mem-

bers will remember graduations, while others will never forget those they met throughout their years here. Some spent late nights working on theatre sets, while others spent long

days at the track or leading JROTC teams to victory. No matter how or when these individuals impacted our students, they will be dearly missed by *The Wire* and our school.

Officer Daryl Davis



Memorable Moments:

"The students who have not let me down in my career as a teacher and counselor. I have seen them grow up and watch them move past their troubles and achieve and contribute to their colleges and communities to become successful citizens."

Future Plans:

To become one of the two Crime Prevention Officers at Mt. Vernon District Station.

Ms. Kirsten Wiley

Memorable Moments:

"I have loved so much of my time here that this is hard to narrow down a few favs but if I had to pick some they would be the Step Shows, Spring Shows (the music ones), helping Derek Parada ask his date to prom, and all the crazy moments that I have shared with CSPauld."

Future Plans:

"I am returning to my alma mater, Robinson Secondary School to work as a counselor there."



Photo by Tida Johnson

Ms. Lauren Beck



Memorable Moments:

"The relationships that I have with students and co-workers has certainly made my job enjoyable and worthwhile. The wonderful thing about this occupation is that every day is unique and every day has its own memorable moment."

Future Plans:

To get married in July and move to Europe with her future husband, Derek Beck.

Mrs. Kathie McCormally

Memorable Moments:

"Every moment spent with my theatre students is memorable. I will take enough memories with me to keep me smiling for years to come."

Future Plans:

"I plan to do absolutely nothing!"

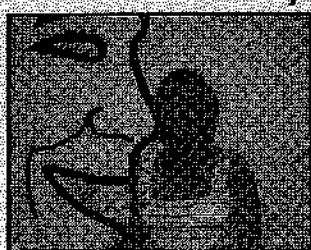
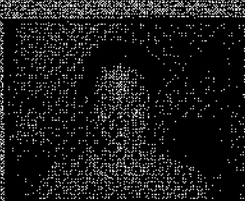


Photo by Tida Johnson

Ms. Molly Perry



Memorable Moments:

"My favorite part is watching my freshmen honors students become capable intellectuals."

Future Plans:

To begin a new year teaching at College of St. Mary and Marymount University in Washington, D.C. and then to move to the college level.

Mr. Greg Koons

Memorable Moments:

"Most memorable would have to be the tragedies that we have had to endure here at West Potomac. But I will remember most the positive, caring way that our students and faculty have pulled together to support each other through each loss. West Potomac stays strong."

Future Plans:

To use his real estate license to team up with Weichert, Realtors of Old Town.

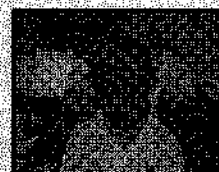
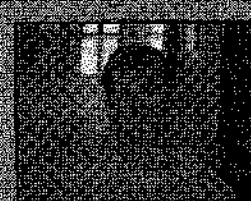


Photo by Tida Johnson

Mr. Daniel Lundin



Memorable Moments:

"There are many moments that I will carry with me."

Future Plans:

To return to school for a Masters in Business Administration and a small school called the John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York City.

Ms. Sarah Smith

Memorable Moments:

"I was so proud to be able to announce the names of my first graduating group of seniors. Luckily I pulled it off without butchering too many names."

Future Plans:

To be an elementary school counselor at another Fairfax County School.



Photo by Tida Johnson

Mr. Andrew Lang

Memorable Moments:

"Seeing students who did not think they could make it as students and go on to become productive citizens."

Future Plans:

To work within the Federal Government in the field of Information Technology (IT) and teach IT at institutions of Higher Learning.



Photo by Tida Johnson



The West Potomac High School All Night Graduation Celebration Committee would like to thank the following members of the community for their support in creating a fun, memorable and safe event for our 2008 graduates:

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Trish Fineran & Nicholas Wasilewski
Dr. Richard D. Fiorucci
Connie & Frank Gerow
Grove Elementary School PTA

Diane Kelly Hill
Virginia & Thomas Holian
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Mary Ellen & Frank Kane
Jackie Lahiguera
Kathleen & Dave Moniz
Mt. Vernon Civic Association
Mount Vernon Country Club
Allison & Thomas Niedbala
Rosanne & Eric Penningroth
Margie & Ralf Perscheid
St. Mark's Episcopal Church
Sisterhood of Olam Tikvah
Karen Soto
Glenda & Dave Toth
United Community Ministries
Beverly & John Weatherly
Terri & Al Young

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

County Recognizes Case with Award

Case, from page 1

Hunter Link

On May 9, Case was told to attend a staff meeting, which turned out to be a surprise party. Dr. Dale and Assistant Superintendent of Cluster IV Brian Binggeli appeared from behind the stage curtain and congratulated Case. "He was very surprised," said history teacher and department chair Emily Millians. What came as a shock to Case was seeing both his parents, who are divorced not in the same room in years, together, at this recognition ceremony.

"Your selfless dedication to your students, your leadership within the school community, and your commitment to the West Potomac High School are commended," wrote Dr. Dale in an award letter to Case.

At the reception ceremony on Wednesday, May 21, at Luther Jackson Middle School, Case was formally recognized with a plaque from the School Board. Case's girlfriend and parents were present along with the other 22 finalists. The ceremony also recognized the Teacher of the Year, Michelle Ohanian, from Mountain View Alternative High School.

"[It] really is a great honor," said Case. "I am very honored and humble[d]." One new teacher is nominated for this award by the principal from each Fairfax County Public School, including elementary and middle schools. Over 250 teachers were nominated and 23 made the final cut. The finalists were then invited to the reception ceremony at the Board of Supervisor's headquarters. As

the winner, Case received a \$2,000 cash check.

A teacher must meet three criteria to win this award. Nominated teachers must exhibit superior instructional skills, interact well with students, and demonstrate excellent ability to communicate with faculty, staff members, parents, and the community. "He is truly outstanding, natural teacher, but even more, he has that indefinable quality of being willing to step up and help in every area of need," wrote Vestlund.

E-mails bombarded Case's inbox after news of the award had spread. "Most touching thing was the number of e-mails I received," Case said. Even his elementary school teachers e-mailed to congratulate him.

Case is a product of Fairfax County, having attended Lee High School and raised in Fairfax County. Case pursued his post-secondary education at the University of Mary Washington where he triple majored in political science, history, and secondary education social studies.

Before coming to our school, Case worked for the U.S. Civil Seal for seven years. He also won a Defense Superior Civilian Service Medal in April 2006.

"While some would say it is a Herculean task to equity in student achievement, especially given our students' socio-economic and development diversity, I believe the FCPS mission - building the future, child by child - is quite attainable," said Case.

Chorus Students Head on Overseas Trip

Chorus, from page 1

English, it will be easier for all of the chorus members to communicate with the locals.

As with traveling to any foreign country, both Johnson and the singers are nervous and excited for the trip. Quiley said, "I'm so nervous about performing at a huge international festival with thousands of people." Her best prediction for the upcoming trip is that it would be a life-changing experience.

Where the choir's trip will take them in Italy.



Graphic by Grace Powell
Images courtesy of Italy 2011

New Organization Raises Issue of Sealing

SASH, from page 1

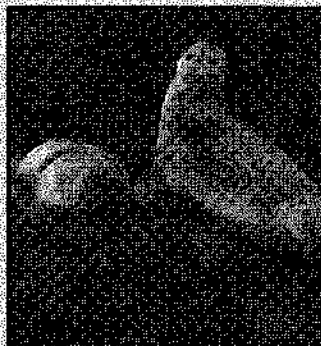


Photo by Dean Coppola/KRT

A new club aimed at protecting seal's rights raised controversy.

senators, who can hopefully use this money to raise awareness or give to private anti-sealing groups."

Jacobs said, "I think people should understand the facts before attacking an

animal rights group. Some people come up to me and say 'Are seals tasty' or 'Seals aren't worth the effort,' which is completely wrong. Not only is SASH trying to promote seal rights, but the rights of all animals. This is a legit group that was started by a dedicated group of people."

Club sponsor McCulloh's duties are to oversee

the meetings. She decided to be the sponsor so she could help the student body in their efforts of trying to make a difference. During club meetings, the students have talked about how to organize the club. They have talked about raising money, electing people to positions, and making an overall difference.

"As we are still a very new club, a lot of planning goes on during our meetings," said the club's Director of Public Relations Charlotte Hickok. "We discuss group aims and ideals, as well as fundraisers and ways to raise awareness about our cause to the student body."

While many students are taking sides, not everyone is a participant in the debate. "Seal hunting is not important to me, because it doesn't really happen around here," said sophomore Colin Mathewson. He also said that he doesn't "think SASH can make a difference, because they are only kids."

However, SASH participants will continue on with their cause, and hope to spread their beliefs throughout our school.

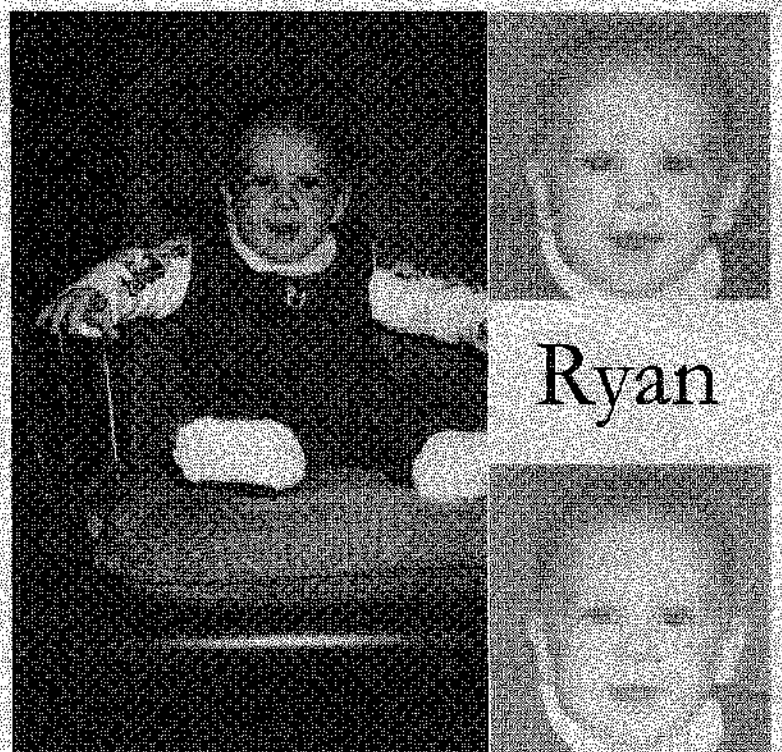
CONGRATULATIONS!



PATRICK DUNFORD

We're proud of you!

Love,
Mom, Dad, Joseph
and Kathleen



Ryan

Ryan, you made it!
Remember to always reach for
the stars. Best wishes as you
move on to college!
We Love You.
Mom, Dad, Jennifer, Becca
and William

Wire Seniors Say "So Long"

Shannon Bowdring

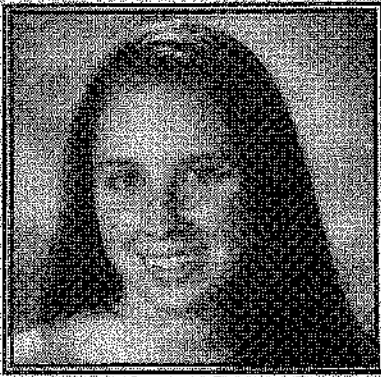


Photo Courtesy Shannon Bowdring

Position:
Features,
People Editor
Years on Staff: 1
Stories
printed: 10

"The Wire was great fun, I will miss my computer."



Position:
Reporter
Years on Staff: 1



Photo by Erin Parker

"Try to strike a medium between the wisdom of Ghandi, Yoda, and Confucius. If individual happiness is what you truly seek. If that fails, then merely live for tomorrow, and keep a safe distance from school lunches."

Devin Clarke

Paul Disselkoe

Position:
Sports,
Entertainment, &
News Editor
Years on Staff: 1
Stories printed: 7

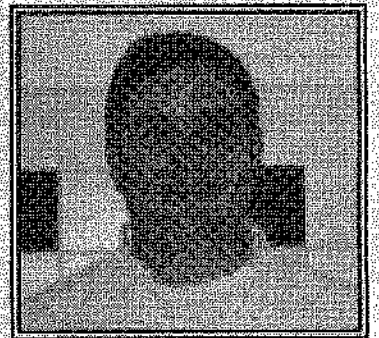


Photo by Erin Parker

"Do what you love, love what you do."



Patrick Dunford

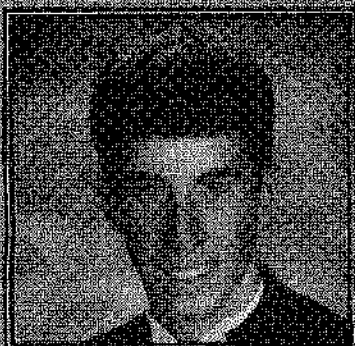


Photo Courtesy Patrick Dunford

Position:
Full Editor
Years on staff: 1
Stories printed: 6

"It's been a great four years with friends and teachers, and I can't wait to see what the next four will bring. Out the gate in '08"



Position:
Reporter
Years on staff: 1
Stories printed: 8



Photo Courtesy Laura Howell

"Have fun. Be true to yourself. Be accepting to new ideas and cultures. Try something new. Enjoy high school while it lasts."

Laura Howell



Emmanuel Koduah

"People of mediocre ability sometimes achieve outstanding success because they don't know when to quit. Most men succeed because they are determined to."



Position:
Business
Manager,
Sports Editor
Years on staff: 2
Stories printed: 17



Photo Courtesy Emmanuel Koduah

Emily Kuhbach

Position:
Copy Editor
Years on staff: 2
Stories
printed: 22



Photo Courtesy Emily Kuhbach

"From investigations to hearings to late night editing, this has been a hectic year on staff. I had a great time, thanks for everything."

-Hermstein

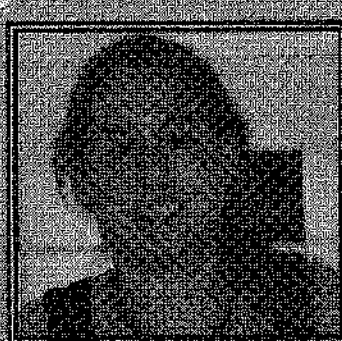


Photo by Erin Parker

Position:
Reporter
Years on staff: 1
Stories printed: 2

LONGWOOD UNIVERSITY

"I had fun getting to work on The Wire. Everyone was great. And good luck to the staff next year."

Allison Leisner

Ken Llewellyn



Photo Courtesy Kenneth Llewellyn

Position:
Opinions Editor
Years on staff: 2
Stories printed: 17

"Go Listen Up 'Cause You Can't Say Nothin' You'll Shut Me Down With A Push Of Your Button But I'm Out And I'm Gone I'll Tell You Now I Keep It On And On"



Our seniors are on to Higher Learning

OVERSEAS
American University in Cairo (Egypt)
 Devin Clarke

ILLINOIS
Columbia College Chicago
 Nathan Baer
 Graham Jenkins
 Akeem Applewhite

OHIO
University of Akron
 Kat Lee

Kenyon College
 Elizabeth Dahlburg

Xavier University
 Lawrence Ross

Youngstown State University
 Peter Doku

MONTANA
Montana State University
 Josh McFarland

Southern Illinois University of Edwardsville
 Chase Grafton

WYOMING
Wyoming Technical Institute
 Charles Rattigan

WEST VIRGINIA
Marshall University
 Christopher Newkirk

Shepherd University
 Christina Spataro

West Virginia University
 Abbie Maelaf

CALIFORNIA
California Institute of the Arts
 Jeremy Bogdan

MISSOURI
University of Missouri
 Taylor Dankmyer

TEXAS
University of Texas at Austin
 Hooff Cooksey

Students Going Out of State

23%

Seniors Entering the Military

Marines
 Joe Arleth
 Greg Hancock
 Tom Matthews
 Eduardo Moreno Pílares
 Mana Rhadbhajan

Navy
 JC Diaz
 Cory Sokolowski

Air Force
 Jessica Richardson

LOUISIANA
Louisiana State University
 Joseph Bradley
 Allen Cambon
 Robert Straus

Louisiana Tech
 Jake Szlenker

MISSISSIPPI
University of Mississippi
 Mark Henshaw

Art Institute of Washington
 Chantelle Hill
 Miguel Ventura

Averett University
 Aunjrealisha Williams

Bridgewater College
 Sarah Warfle

Christopher Newport University
 Hunter Bales
 Colleen Gottlieb
 Christopher Newport
 Jeremy Rezendes

College of William & Mary
 Stephanie Gerow
 Elizabeth Hanson
 Andrea Jensen
 Faith Le
 Alexander Protosevich

DeVry University
 Jason Brede
 Simon Rychlik

Ferrum College
 Ben Brandt
 Thomas Cleary
 Marian Richards
 Ryan Schless
 Clifton Smircina
 Johanna Vanness
 Natalie Weathers-Austin

Fairfax Police/Fire and EMS Academy
 Justin Jackson
 Hector R. Perez

George Mason University
 Lillian Antezana
 Iqra Afzal
 Abdul Ahmadi
 Pierina Battifora
 James Custodio
 Elizabeth Ellis

Wendy Hernandez
 Attia Ilyas
 Rebecca King
 Madeline Miller
 Karim Parham
 Jessica Poole
 Samuel Gearing

Hampden-Sydney College
 Nick Leggieri
 Dereck Parada
 Kevin Sidney

Hampton University
 Cha'Vaïs Summers

James Madison University
 Tuba Ahmed
 Margaret Amos
 Jacob Cochran
 Jamie Coder
 David Delano

Paul Disselkoe
 Jessica Dixon
 James Dressing
 Marinos Droussiotis
 Patrick Dunford
 Allen Frazier
 Alex Grant
 Ashleigh Gunderson
 Jayne-Marie Haley
 Haley Mertins
 Sam Nowak
 Andrew Reese
 Johanna Salas
 Andrew Swinson
 Alexis Vlasho
 Nicholas Young

Longwood University
 Allison Leisner
 Addison Swaney
 Amanda Willis

Liberty University
 Jamie Hollins
 Joshua Wells

Lynchburg College
 Paul Devor
 Edgar Reyes

Mary Baldwin College
 Mayra Almendarez-Guevara
 Nancy Amaya
 Mayra Vanessa

Marymount University
 Jocelyn Garay

Norfolk State
 Delonte Exum

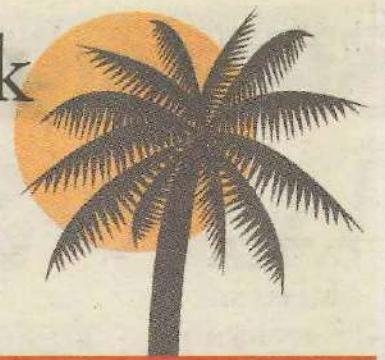
Northern Virginia Community College

Omar Abanto
 Mauricio Aguilar
 Wahab Ali
 Amira Alsayyad
 Blanca Alvarez
 Cindy AmayaSosa

Belinda Appiah
 Semab Asghar
 Jason Arias
 Maritza Avalos
 Brittany Barnett
 Sarah Bartell
 Somayah Behnam
 Fabiola Bonilla
 Zachary Boocks
 Alfred Boye
 Jodi-Ann Bucknor
 Victor Branch
 Shannon Childress
 Le'Tia Clarke-Venzen
 Michelle Cockayne
 Elvira Cole
 Nancy Coreas
 Jalecia Davis
 Fredis Delcid
 Genesis Delcid
 Anna-Marie Dimitratos
 April Erique
 Melih Ertekin
 Fakhria Farhadi
 Michael Fijalka
 Ieshia Ford

VIRGINIA
 Rania Fusisi
 Luis Garcia
 John Glenn
 Joseph Gonzales
 Juan Gonzalez
 Elizabeth Gya
 Vatisa Hamle
 Timothy Hayne
 Carolina Hill
 Jose Huaman
 Afshan Ifrikha
 Andriane Jones
 Rida Khan
 Zarmina Khan
 Cameron Krize
 Jeffrey LaBelle
 Aracely Laguna
 David Ledbetter
 Vanessa Loara
 Christina Lopez
 Brian Loyet
 Trent Mahla
 Tra'Mel Morris
 Temesghen Neg

... and beach week



PENNSYLVANIA
Gannon University
 Mohamed Bangura

University of Pennsylvania
 Aaron Dantley

Muhlenberg College
 Sandy Slippen

Pennsylvania State University
 Kinsey Cunningham
 Marcus Ng

NEW YORK
Cornell University
 Warren Davis

Culinary Institute of America
 Daniel Penningroth

Ithaca College
 Sam McCann

Rochester Institute of Technology
 Amanda Schmick

Wells College
 Craig Gaylord

MASSACHUSETTS
Berklee College of Music
 David Montesino

Franklin W. Olin College of Engineering
 Erika Swartz

Phillips Andover Academy
 Forrest Cox

RHODE ISLAND
University of Rhode Island
 Teresa Mackey

CONNECTICUT
University of Connecticut
 Jimmy Bennett

United States Coast Guard Academy
 Cameron Piontek

MARYLAND
Bowie State University
 Danielle Barringer

Columbia Union College
 Melody Kamara

Frostburg State University
 Cassandra Tabarini

Prince George's Community College
 Alexis White

University of Maryland Baltimore County
 John Falvey

NORTH CAROLINA
Barton College
 Miguel Perez

Duke University
 Laura Howell

East Carolina University
 Shannon Bowdring
 Olivia Gross
 Mary Grotos
 Casey McGee
 Jessica Overcash
 Cory St Clair

Elon University
 Blair Bernstein
 Catherine Elmore
 Caroline Kunz

Johnson C. Smith University
 Keenan Willis
 Trevor Mayfield
 William Floyd

NEW JERSEY
Rutgers New Jersey State University
 Mary (Paula) Dodoo

DELAWARE
Wesley College
 Christopher Hendry

SOUTH CAROLINA
Coastal Carolina University
 Jimmy Toth
 Drew Longlott

Midlands Technical College
 Corey Gray
 Preston Glass

University of South Carolina
 Elizabeth Heath
 Brooke Regensburg
 Jess Dunn

Johnson & Wales University
 Tanisha Robinson
 Katherine Weatherley

Methodist University
 Ashley Evans

North Carolina Central University
 Alisha Jackson

Queens University of Charlotte
 Baillie Hunter

University of North Carolina Pembroke
 Jill Soto

University of North Carolina Wilmington
 Kelly Carmichael

WASHINGTON, D.C.
Howard University
 Andy Arias

University of District Columbia
 Daniel Minah
 Tara Sullivan

ALABAMA
Burn University
 Adam Richelieu

University of Alabama
 Evelyn Thacker

FLORIDA
Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University
 Thomas Johnson

Full Sail University
 Michael Dewey
 Cedrick Sharp
 Eric Vargas

New College of Florida
 Ilene Gillispie

University of Central Florida
 Alishia Hemingway

GEORGIA
Fort Valley State University
 Gregory Jones

INDIANA
 Shaniqua Newells
 Charniece Padgett
 Nathaniel Palma
 Angeline Palmer
 Fredy Paz-Rivera
 Ueimi Perez Castillo
 Johnathan Polk
 Alisha Prier
 Mahmoona Rahman
 Amanda Ramsey
 Charmay Reyes
 Cody Rhea
 Stuart Robinson
 Francisco Robles
 Maryam Sajjad
 Yuri Salguero-Castellanos
 Rena Segovia-Valdez
 Asmeret Solomon
 Dominique Terault
 Jennifer Voile
 Jenny Ven
 Brandy Waldron
 Carressa Watt
 Jacqueline Williams

Brittany Winslow
 Baura Zia

Old Dominion University
 Henok Amenu
 Virginia Armstrong
 Michael Ashton
 Beimnet Bekele
 Aaron Bowles
 Katherine Chalfant
 Nicholas Collett
 Le'Trell Davis
 Blessing Egbulem
 Saboor Farhadi
 Carly Hosse
 Trevor Johnson
 Kenneth Llewellyn
 Harun Maydane
 Moyatu Moseray
 Muhammad Muhammad
 Maxwell Owusu
 Chelsea Roberts
 Heather Slaven
 Manahat Thomas
 Michael Randolph

Derek Valero
 Aisha White

Radford University
 Robert Long
 Ivania Martinez
 Michael Sears
 Erin Spence
 Forrest Thola

Shenandoah University
 Caroline Staples

Sweet Briar College
 Molly Johns
 Danica Hawkins

University of Mary Washington
 Phillip Cast
 Mara Cate
 Elizabeth Crowe
 Danica Hawkins
 David Hoen
 Laura Page

Sarah Watson

University of Virginia
 Beth Belt
 Dever Carney
 Tamrat Gebremichael
 Emily Kuhbach
 Hunter Link
 Natalie Lord
 Cindy MacPherson
 Bess Crimmins

University of Virginia at Wise
 Derek Barrera
 Joseph Coggins
 Jeremy Devalle
 Kerem Ertekin
 Savvas
 Hadjichristodoulou
 Dante Johnson
 Brandon Williams
 Emanuel Williams

Virginia Commonwealth University
 Velkin Alvarez
 Amar Al-Saadawi
 Maja Blaszkiewicz
 Emnet Bulti
 Rachel Curzon
 Norman Hu
 Ransford Kyere
 Benjamin Legare
 Zeshan Mahmood
 Ariel Maloof
 Meredith Maple
 Matthew Marinello
 Ahmed Minni
 Sean Price
 Jessica Spring
 Fletcher Walters
 Marquise Wilkins

Virginia Intermont College
 Delonte McDaniel

Virginia Military Institute
 Erick Funes

Virginia State University
 Reema Sikander

Virginia Tech
 Michael Adu
 Travis Batchelor
 Jeremy Bernier
 Kerianne Beyer
 Andrew Blacker
 Alex Chong
 Mohamed Chouat
 Megan Cleary
 Amanda Griffin
 Calvin Hentges
 Jennifer Hofman
 Matthew Husband
 Elliot Jernigan
 Emmanuel Koduah
 Justin Kremer
 Christopher Lazenby
 Brad Lupton

Jamie McDonald
 Kathleen O'Connor
 Kwabena Owusu
 Boateng
 Nicholas Schaum
 Zachary Swasey
 Meaghan Wilson
 Chelsea Zabowski

UNDECIDED
 Adrian Waugh
 Melvin Urrutia
 Martin Smith
 Jazmyne McFail
 Nick Leggeri
 Kendra Garriv
 Griselda Galdamez
 Elizabeth Nath

WORKING
 Scott Sweet
 Norman Soto
 Robert Castro

TRAVELING
 Cory Sokolowski
 Julia Magill
 Mohamed Mohamed

Wire Seniors Moving On

Bradley Lupton



Photo Courtesy Brad Lupton

Years on Staff: 2
Position:
Opinions
Editor
Stories printed: 15

"Chill A Lot.
Don't work too hard.
Try to relax sometimes.
I had fun."



Years on Staff: 1
Position:
Reporter
Stories printed: 4



Photo Courtesy Tess Mackey

"Being part of The Wire staff was
a great experience this year. I will
never forget our infamous lightning
rounds and entertaining
discussions. I will truly miss Mrs.
Pierre and all of the staff next year.
Have a great summer and good
luck on all the upcoming issues!"

Teresa Mackey

Samuel McCann



Photo Courtesy Sam McCann

Years on Staff: 2
Position:
Sports Editor,
News Editor
Stories printed: 23

"I spent an unholy amount
of time in 418, but it was
worth it. Thanks for a great
year, and good luck!"



Laura Page



Photo by E.H. Parker

Years on staff: 1
Position:
Reporter
Stories printed: 2



"It wasted youth is by far
better than a wise and
productive old age."

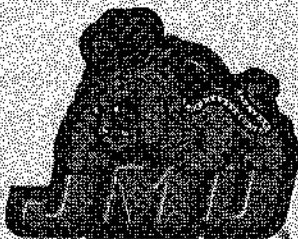


Photo by Caroline Staples

"Take pride in
yourself.
Take pride in
your school.
Live Blue.
Cry Blue.
Bleed Blue."

Years on staff: 1
Position:
Reporter
Stories printed: 5

Andrew Reese

Sandy Slippen

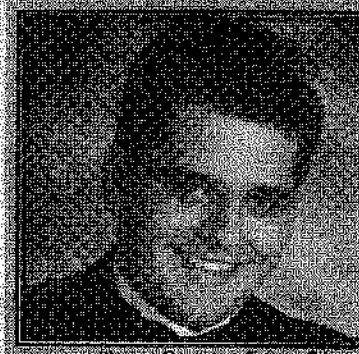


Photo Courtesy Sandy Slippen

Years on Staff: 2
Position:
Copy Editor
Stories printed: 16



"My years on The Wire were
always unpredictable, but
always
exciting. I'll miss all the
staff bonding. Thanks for all
your hard work Mrs. Pierre."

Caroline Staples

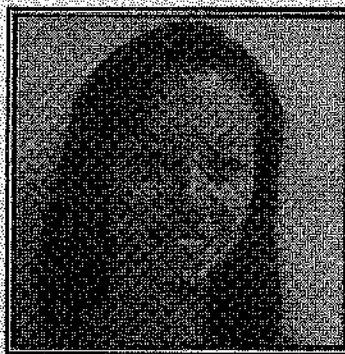


Photo by Kelsey Pierre

Years on staff: 4
Position:
Features
Editor,
Focus Editor,
Style Editor
Stories printed: 24

"I could not have
asked for a better
high school
experience,
especially
being on *The Wire*
staff. Thanks Mrs.
Pierre for a great
four years."

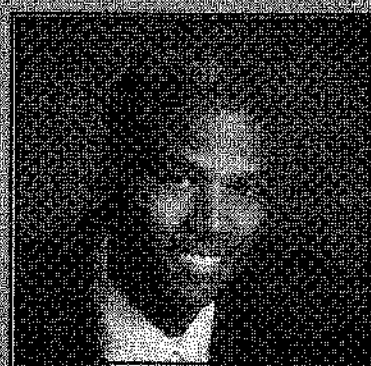
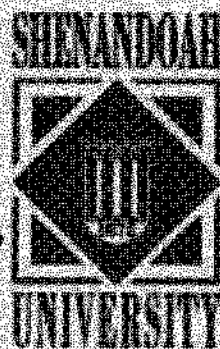


Photo Courtesy Cha'Vais Summers

Years on staff: 1
Position:
Sports Editor
Stories printed: 8



"My Final Words
Are Final. I
Came, I Saw, I
Conquered. Chavy
Boy™ Is Exiting
The Building."

Cha'Vais Summers

Baura Zia



Photo by Erin Parker

Years on staff: 1
Position:
Reporter
Stories printed: 4



"My Senior Year was
the most memorable
year during all my high
school years. I learned
the most this year
about not just school,
but life in general."

What to Do When Sports Overlap?

Lucas Alexander

Opinions Editor

With the NBA (National Basketball Association) playoffs finishing up and the MLB (Major League Baseball) season in full swing, both are still competing for time slots and viewers on television during prime time television.

Both sports appeal to students at our school. However, many of the students have their own opinion as to which sport they actually prefer to watch.

Basketball may be at a disadvantage, as our home team, the Washington Wizards, have been eliminated from the playoffs while the Washington Nationals season is still in effect.

Sophomore Matt Cunningham said he prefers the "NBA playoffs because they are much faster and more intense than baseball." Cunningham believes that basketball more action packed than baseball, which he said dull.

Sophomore David Burns disagrees. Burns is an avid baseball fan and said, "I'd much rather watch baseball game than a basketball game. There's no excitement in the NBA, all you see is one 'superstar' control the game for his team. Every year I seem to hear this guy's the next Michael Jordan, but they

fail, yet there's that one chance and it's every year. No one ever talks about someone being the next Babe Ruth or Nolan Ryan because there are so many more aspects to the game of baseball."

Burns also thinks that the MLB has much better announcers than the NBA.

He said, "NBA broadcasters hardly talk about the current game but what happens off the court. In the MLB, retired Hall-of-Fame players do play-by-play and color commentary. They talk about the game being played, the players, and analyze their fundamentals and progression through the season and their career incessantly."

However, there is a clear middle ground. Many students do not watch either sport, like sophomore Tyler Wong. He said, "Neither sport appeals to me because the players don't have the intensity you see in [other] sports like college basketball."

On the other hand, students like sophomore Michael Brandt enjoy both sports. He said, "I like watching both, because the NBA playoffs have excitement. But with the MLB you get a longer season and a more in-depth analysis."

Basketball is seeing one of the

most exciting playoffs it has ever had, with the emergence of better teams, and new players like New Orleans Hornets point guard Chris Paul. There is also the resurfacing of old dynasties like the Los Angeles Lakers and the Boston Celtics. Basketballs ratings are higher than they have been in recent years, mostly because it is having one of its most intriguing and exciting years as well. This season has brought the surprise ascension of teams such as the Florida Marlins, Tampa Bay Devil Rays, and Chicago Cubs. These teams have greatly improved their records from the 2007 season.

However, this year has also seen the disappointing struggles of teams like the New York Yankees and the Colorado Rockies. These teams have had good records in the past, but are starting off slow this year.

Baseball and basketball are gaining more viewers than other years. Students and faculty, along with other "lovers of the game" are becoming more intrigued with these sports, although football remains an American pastime.

The support of high school students is a cause in this ratings leap for both baseball and basketball.

NFL VISITS OUR SCHOOL

Colin Mathewson

Reporter

Every kid, who plays football as a child or in high school, dreams of receiving a big time scholarship from a good college and playing in the NFL. Students in the West Potomac area can experience a taste of both.

The NFL sponsored a camp at our school for five days, with top NCAA coaches from all over the country coming to scout players for their college team.

The camp started on Monday May 5th, with students from West Potomac, T.C. Williams, Lwake Braddock, Mount Vernon, and Thomas Jefferson attending.

The first day of camp was an orientation where coaches from different area high schools were given a topic to talk about with the players. Topics included setting goals, confidence, school habits, etc. Players were also given planners to help them balance their academic schedules with after school sports practices.

On the second day of the camp, coaches from small universities such as Shenandoah and Shepherd University came to watch the players. Players on the offensive line performed

throwing drills which consisted of fades (running straight up the field), slants, and 10 yard inches.

Overall, the warm up drills were pretty successful.

Sophomore Will Rosenkranz seemed to think otherwise. He said, "I thought the whole day was good but warm ups were not fun for me because there were only three quarterbacks who could actually 'throw' a football, some of the others ones could not even get the ball to me on a line, but overall, the two days we were there, it was fun. I loved it and definitely will do it again."

Players on the defensive line had different drills, which included more running. They did not do as much work "together" as a group, but split up into position groups: linebackers, corners, and linemen.

The corners and linebackers began jumping drills and agility drills, which were essential for these positions.

Linemen participating in the camp, along with some coaches, began drills full of pushing and shoving. This was the most physical part of the camp.

Some were impressed with these drills, while others seemed completely unsatisfied.

Freshman lineman Dan Carriker said, "I thought it was fun finally getting some contact in before the season actually started, because all we do now is lift weights, so getting out there and pushing someone else was a good feeling....finally."

Unfortunately, for the attendees, there were only three days of camp instead of five. Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday sessions went well, but Thursday and Friday sessions were cancelled due to rain.

Many players hope the camp returns next year.

“There were only three quarterbacks who could actually throw.”

Michael,
We always knew you
had special talent! Now,
go show those High-
landers your stuff!
We love you,
Mom and Dad

Michael,
Roses are red,
violets are blue,
You're headed for Bradford
and I'm so proud of you.

The stars down the line
are the stars of my life,
that's only because
I'm proud you're my
big bro!

Love,
Mom & Dad

Stephanie,

We always knew you'd be a star! You've grown from a Power Ranger-Buzz Lightyear-karate-dirt bike kind of girl into a beautiful young lady.

We're so proud of your many accomplishments in life so far and know you will continue to add many more successes to your already long list. Your time has come to be that star at William and Mary. Just know that we will continue to stand by you and help you when you need it. We love you very much and we wish you all the best!

With much love,

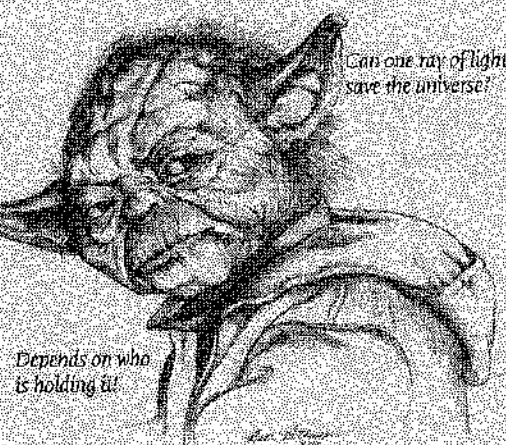
Dad, Mom, Missy and Little Man

Do, or Do Not – There
is no Try!

We are so proud of you
grasshopper,
because you always
"Do."

Congratulations on all
your successes!

Love, your 3 faves.



Wrapping Up Spring Sports on High Notes

Julie Ruamthong

Special to The Wire

It is the end of another year and another great sports season. There were many champions and district, region, and state qualifiers.

Boys Soccer 5-9-1 (V) 1-9-1 (JV)

Boys Soccer placed fourth in the district and represented our school at Regionals. They ended the season with five wins, nine losses, and one tie.

Girls Soccer 7-6 (V) 4-7 (JV)

Girls Soccer had a .500 season with seven wins and seven losses. They lost to Lake Braddock in the first round of districts 2-1.

Girls Lacrosse 3-8 (V) 5-5 (JV)

Girls lacrosse had a team full of talent and much improvement was made this past season. Captains Catherine Bradley, Kerriane Condon, and Laura Howell were proud of their team. They placed seventh in the District.

Girls Tennis 12-2 (V)

Girls on Varsity Tennis team were tri-district champions with South County and Lake Braddock—the first time this has occurred in the Patriot District. Captain Lexi Vlasho described her team as a close family. Freshman Linda Ruamthong and Vlasho made it to Regionals for singles and doubles. Every member of the team made either first or second in All-District.



Courtesy of Julie Ruamthong



Photo by Sam McCann

Boys Tennis 12-2 (V)

Boys Varsity Tennis had an amazing season, beating out many tough competitors and placing second in the Patriot District. Freshman Alex Chang made it to Regionals, along with junior Forrest Allen.

Baseball 7-15 (V) 2-12 (JV)

Members of the Varsity Baseball team were happy to end their season by winning four of their last five games before the district playoffs.

Track and Field 4-0 (B) 4-0 (G)

Many Spring Track and Field athletes qualified for Districts. "I think the best[memory] would have to be when the boys team made states for the 4x800m and 4x100m relay," said junior Brandon Cornfort.

Softball 12-5 (V) 13-1 (JV)

Softball had a large turnout at their tryouts with many new freshmen. "We were first in our district and won 15 out of 16 of our games," said sophomore Cara Yaworske.

Crew

The crew team had several several new additions this year, including a number of incoming freshmen. Despite the fresh faces, the team managed a particularly strong finish to the season, sending both the Men's Varsity 8 and Women's Lightweight 8 to the SRAA Nationals in Tennessee.

Boys Lacrosse 1-11 (V) 0-9 (JV)

Boys Lacrosse had many seniors who were happy to spend their last year on a competitive team. They "worked together like a true team," said manager Meredith Maple.

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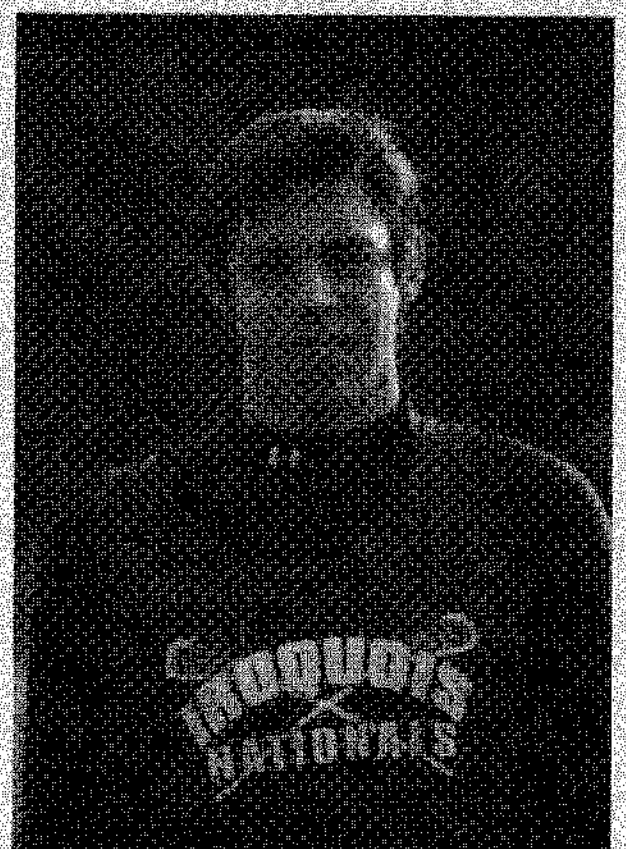
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Congratulations Forrest!



We're very
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Love,
Mom, Dad
and Hunter



Surf'n' Sand You Can Really Dig

Ariel Malouf

Special to The Wire

Some of the best places for beach vacations are on the East Coast.

Outer Banks

Senior Donna Cutting tries to "go to the beach every summer" with her family in the Outer Banks, because she absolutely loves the sun. Some of the best places for a vacation are along the Atlantic Seaboard; the housing is generally affordable and accommodations range from simple to luxurious.

The Outer Banks in North Carolina is a good place to look for vacation spots because it offers different beaches on the Northern and Central Beaches such as Kill Devil Hills, Kitty Hawk, Corolla, Nags Head, and Duck. There are also many places to stay on Hatteras and Roanoke Island in North Carolina, Myrtle Beach and Pawley's Island in South Carolina, and Virginia Beach, here in Virginia.



Photo by Susan Sharp/KRT

Visiting lighthouses are an optional activity done while visiting the Outer Banks.

Not only do these beaches offer nice housing, but also have hotels and condominiums that are affordable and beach-front.

Myrtle Beach



Photo by Randall Hill / MCT

Water-front houses are a extreme luxury in Myrtle Beach.

Myrtle Beach is a fabulous beach location in South Carolina. Located on the oceanfront, a hotel there can range from \$39.00 to \$140.00 per night. Villas usually cost \$189.00 to \$239.00 per night. There are not many houses available within a reasonable distance from the beach, so a prospector may be better off looking at the other numerous hotels available there.

Pawley's Island has wonderful housing in off-ocean and oceanfront locations. An off-ocean home for a family may be about \$1,800.00 per week. Oceanfront views are slightly more expensive, but for a decent location and a short walk to the beach, paying \$3,360.00 is not bad in the long run.

Virginia Beach

Not only does the East Coast have the Outer Banks and Myrtle Beach, but it also offers something even closer to us, Virginia Beach. The best homes on the beach range from \$1,500.00 to \$10,000.00 per week. The higher the price, the better the view. Condos run at about \$1,500. It is best to find a house near all of the shops at this particular beach, because there's always a place to go and something entertaining to do.

Ocean activities are a must at the beach because you can try something new, exhilarating, or even something that you do not get to do often. You could go parasailing, banana boating, jet skiing, boogie boarding, surfing, or swimming. When you are at the beach, the atmosphere should make you believe that the possibilities are endless.



Photo by Valerie Reed/MCT

Horseback riding is an activity that could be done in Virginia Beach.

The Cuppies are Coming

Emily Griffin

Special to The Wire

The Cuppies of the "Cuppy and Awards Program" is a school program where students in theatre and journalism classes enter their own theatrical productions for review. They are awarded in local newspapers.

At the end of the year, the winners that performed at various area plays are awarded by the judges. The judges are composed of local theatre and journalism professionals. The winners are awarded a trophy and a certificate. The winners are also invited to perform at the Cuppy Awards ceremony. The ceremony is held at the Cuppy Awards ceremony. The winners are awarded a trophy and a certificate. The winners are also invited to perform at the Cuppy Awards ceremony.

Senior Jessica Pools, a Cuppy Award winner, says "It's awesome to get a Cuppy Award because it means people like your work." She also says "It's a great honor to be awarded a Cuppy Award." The Cuppy Awards ceremony is held at the Cuppy Awards ceremony. The winners are awarded a trophy and a certificate. The winners are also invited to perform at the Cuppy Awards ceremony.

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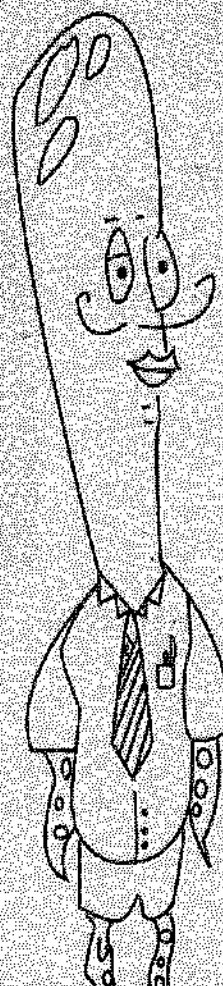
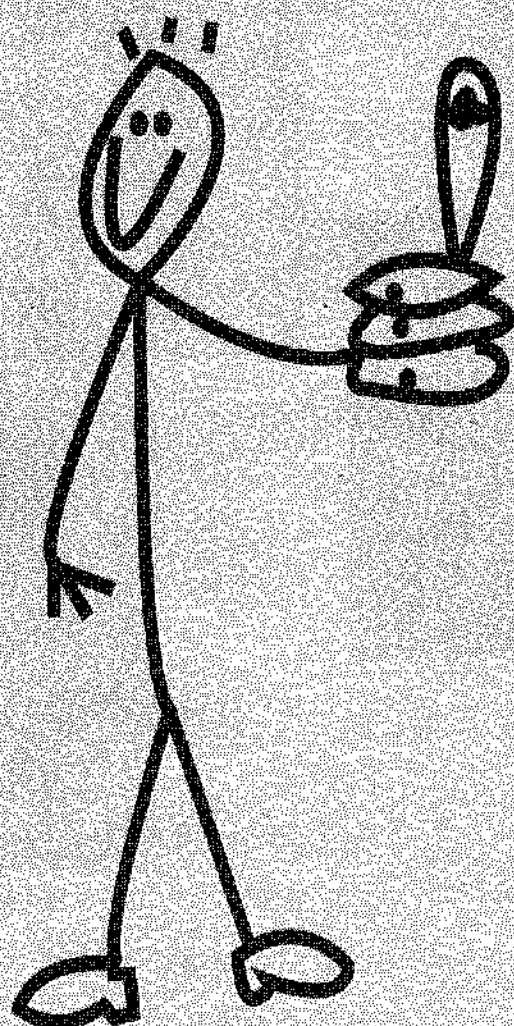
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- "and the picklesssss"

- "HEY YOU GUYS!"

- "WOW! a real live rainbow"

♥ U
-Ralph

Fight Like A Girl, Fight for the Cure

Beth Belt

Special to The Wire

English teacher Mary Mathewson plans to walk this summer for her health, for survival, and for the fight against cancer. I know why she walks; I've been down that road.

My mom and I were sitting in the doctor's office when we heard those life-changing words: Lymphoma. T-Cell Non-Hodgkin's Stage 4. I did not know what it meant, but figured it was serious. After all, there was a huge lump on my neck.

Eventually, I found out that lymphoma is a form of blood cancer that spreads through your lymph nodes and inhibits the immune system from working properly. Because I had tumors in my adenoids and in my neck, my breathing would have been cut off within a few days. I was told it would take two years of chemotherapy to reverse the damage the cancer had done.

Gradually, I began to lose the hair, the weight, and the strength to fight. My head was spinning—spinning into a jumble of medical terms and procedures and stress as I tried to understand all of the nonsense.

I was thirteen and still going to school in Washington State when I was diagnosed. Three months into chemotherapy, my family and I moved to Virginia for my dad's job. At first, I did not know how to handle everything. I slowly slipped into depression and felt like I did not have any control over my life. I felt alone, anxious, and scared, and eventually I reached the point where I simply did not care anymore and did not want to fight back.

After a while, I got sick of feeling helpless and depressed. I knew that I could not control the fact that I had cancer, so I decided that I had to change what the one thing I could control—my attitude. Ultimately, I had to choose between self-pity and helplessness or perseverance.

Perseverance is reflected in how one deals with life's obstacles. Just as I refused to let my circumstances bring me down, Mrs. Mathewson fought back with the same venom. Many students may remember how energetic and strong she was when she returned to teach after her treatment.

Mathewson decided to get involved in the fight for the cure by walking sixty miles on October 3 through 5 in Washington, D.C. The race, called the Breast Cancer 3-Day, is sponsored by the Susan G. Komen Foundation, which raises millions of dollars for breast cancer research. "It is in the best interests of my sisters and our daughters for good research to continue," Mathewson said.

The months leading up to the walk will be spent raising funds and awareness for breast cancer. "Our first effort is to sell t-shirts that say 'Fight Like a Girl,'" said Mathewson. In addition, she plans to hold a yard sale and car wash to reach her goal of \$6,660. The minimum is \$2,220.

Mathewson is also busy training for the sixty-mile trek through D.C. She is taking a "boot camp" exercise class two times a week in addition to walking on her own three to

four times a week. She has not quite reached the recommended three miles a day yet, but she said, "I'm getting stronger every day. I expect to be caught up soon!"

Mathewson's strength and commitment to activism and awareness demonstrate that enduring hardship builds character. Above all, Mathewson hopes that people will learn "that cancer is survivable; that research is crucial; that vigilance, education, and research are the key to the cure." As a survivor myself, I am able to fully appreciate being "normal," healthy, and alive. I also appreciate the importance of friends and family; and like Brimley Spears said, I am "stronger than yesterday."

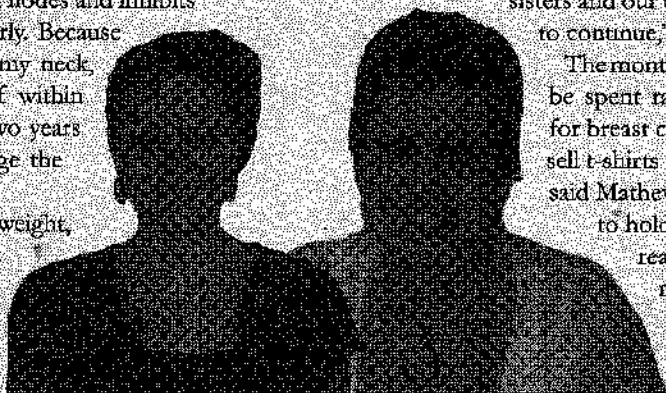


Photo by Gwen Fisher

Photo by Grace Powell

Senior Beth Belt (left) overcame Lymphoma and helps others deal with hardships. Belt and English teacher and cancer survivor Mary Mathewson, continue to raise cancer awareness.

Fight Like a Girl

English teacher Mary Mathewson and her two sisters all battled breast cancer and survived.

This October, my sisters and I, along with my daughter Sarah, will walk 60 miles over the course of three days for the Susan G. Komen 3-day breast cancer walk. I've agreed to raise at least \$2,200 in donations, but I set my personal goal at \$6,600. So I need your help.

Mary Mathewson

Donate online at www.the3day.org, then click "Donate Now" and enter "Mary Mathewson" as the participant.

Or...

Email Mary.Mathewson@faps.edu to purchase a "Fight Like a Girl" T-Shirt for \$20.

Ilene

Congratulations on your Graduation!

We're so Happy for you!

Love,

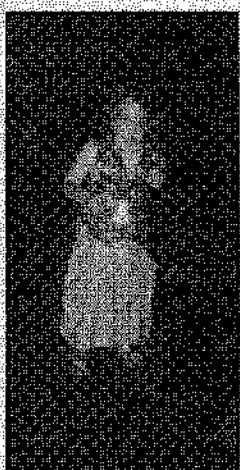
Erika, Conrad, Christina and Tom

All your life, you've had your own style...



...daring and determined—take no prisoners....

...with a wonderful gift for artistic expression.... (and a real smart mouth!)



Congratulations, dear, sweet Ariel— you are ready to fly!
Love Mom, Jesse, Tamara and Pop

...a tremendous sense of loyalty, a great love of family....



...and an old soul's understanding that time cannot fade love's memories.

NARROW STAIRS ALBUM GETS SWEET

Kayleigh Palmer

Special to The Wire

Death Cab for Cutie guitarist Chris Walla promised fans a completely different sound, with the release of their sixth album, *Narrow Stairs*.

Narrow Stairs revisits the similar style of older Death Cab albums like *We Have the Facts*, *And We're Voting Yes* and *The Photo Album*. This similarity might just be what older fans are for, but may leave new fans enthused and wanting more. Regardless of its classification, *Narrow Stairs* is a emotional and moving new album that will take listeners on a ride they will never forget and will enjoy it.

The album is excellent, but is nothing surprising or dramatically different from their past recordings. The first single, "I Will Possess Your Heart" is the rather lengthy. It blends a catchy piano melody and a relaxed rhythm to create the right feel for an emotional song.

The album is produced by Walla. It is a typical "indie" CD: background music involving synthesizer, piano, and hypnotizing drum loops. Lead singer and writer Ben Gibbard's memorable vocals pull the songs together through heart aching lyrics.

Songs such as "No Sunlight" and "Long Division"

include repetitive guitar riffs and a upbeat feel. However, these songs are the only fast paced tracks on the record.

"The Ice is Getting Thinner" uses moderate guitar chords to coincide with the song's gloomy meaning. The song lyrics utilize straightforward analogies of comparing thinning ice to deteriorating relationships.

The song "Grapevine Fires" revolves around the wildfires that raged in California during the summer and fall of 2007.

The sound generated in *Narrow Stairs* isn't tough nor completely up-beat, but is relatively soothing and laid back.

For a first time listener, *Narrow Stairs* may not be what was expected due to its differing sound from other records. Still, it is extremely stirring through its profound lyrics and background

arrangements.

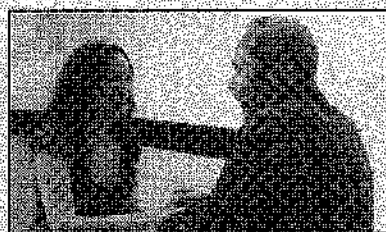
Other songs are slow paced and full of emotion, whether one understands what the lyrics are about or not. Returning Death Cab fans may appreciate its older and more mature sound, which is completely different from their previous more mainstream albums.

Overall, Death Cab for Cutie has given listeners a good CD that is easily a contender for one of 2008's best new albums, and is most definitely Death Cab for Cutie's best record.



Photo Courtesy of KRT

Death Cab for Cutie's new album, "Narrow Stairs", utilizes unique stylistic techniques to create a new sound.



Photos Courtesy Kathy McCullohs

Senior citizens from Hollin Hall Senior Center, who paired with students from our school, enjoyed a Fiesta "Senior Prom" on May 19.

Partying "Senior Style"

Asima Ahmad

Online Editor

Flower corsages were pinned to colorful shirts, Spanish posters framed the windows, and sombreros floated through the air as the senior citizens at Hollin Hall Senior Center attended their annual prom.

The Key Club at our school organized a memorable prom for the senior citizens of our community on Monday, May 19. This year, there was a Hispanic theme.

Students from our school joined the Key Club in an effort to dedicate some time to give back to the community. By doing so, they were not only completing community service hours, but also learning to be "competent, capable, and caring leaders through the vehicle of service," as stated in the Key Club vision statement.

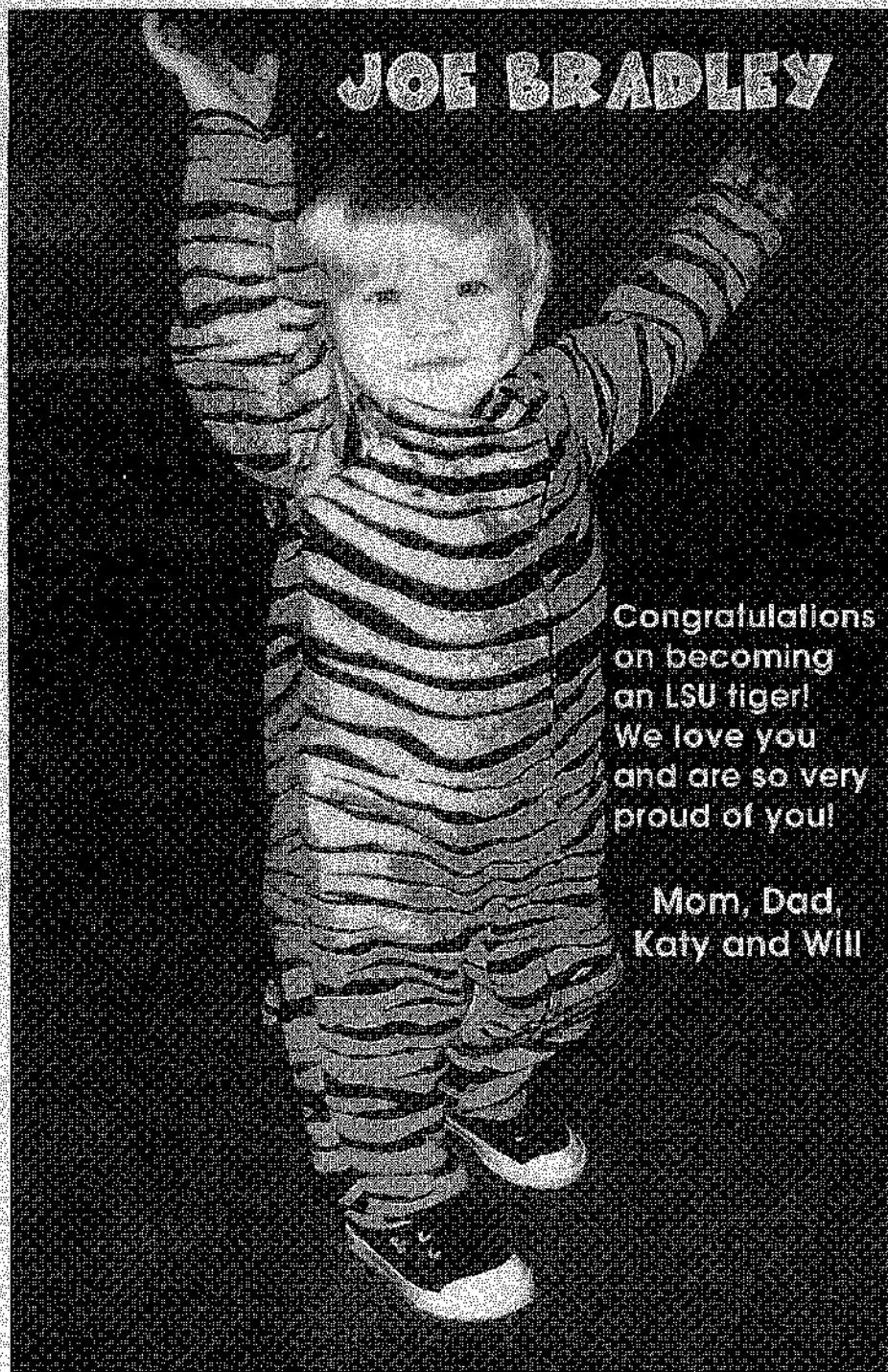
The aroma of fresh Hispanic food cascaded everywhere, while Key Club members kindly asked the seniors to dance.

"The theme was great and everything got started right away. I am glad that all the students were involved and having a good time," said Marie Sharpes, a senior

attende. Though it may seem obscure, the senior prom was actually quite similar to our school's prom. Instead of fancy gowns and hip hop music, the seniors danced to *chacha* and *merengue* with sombreros on their heads. The overall turnout was great and the seniors thoroughly enjoyed the prom.

The students involved in our school's Key Club strive to lend a hand to the community whenever possible. President of the 2007-2008 Key Club, junior Taylor Smythe said, "It is great for members of Key Club to be able to work with all kinds of people in our community and help bridge the gap between generations." Smythe has worked hard all year with her fellow officers and sponsors Kathryn McCullohs, Suzette Henry, and Kimberly Summers. Smythe will serve a second term as president of Key Club next year and hopes to keep the tradition of the Senior Prom.

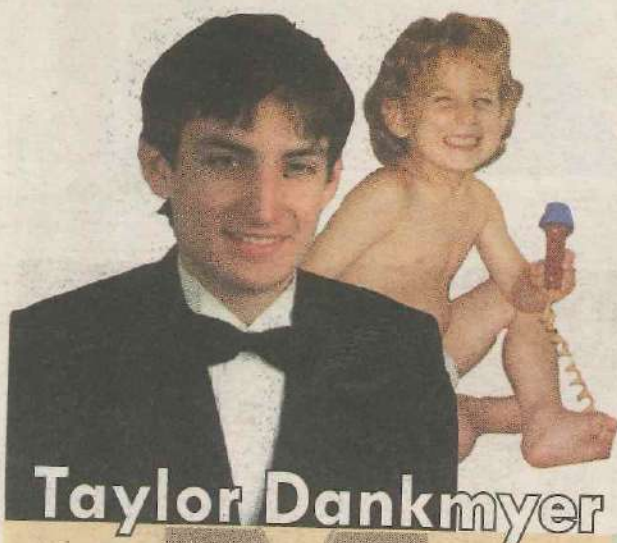
Overall, the senior prom organized by the Key Club at our school went very well. Key Club members also hope that the tradition of proms at Hollin Hall Senior Center continues into the future.



Senior Session

Chiefs of Leadership, Layout, Organization and Pizzazz

Shannon Bowdring
Special to The Wire



Taylor Dankmyer

I enjoy jam sessions with Jimmy Totb in his Suburban, going skiing, music, sports, politics, and anything technology related. As for West Potomac - a lot of the teachers at this school are very special, and I thank all of them for enhancing my education! But I AM happy to be moving on from West Potomac and The Wire.



Kate O'Connor

I was the 2007-2008 Wire Editor-In-Chief. I joined The Wire staff in 2006 as a News Editor. I am also a dedicated artist. Next year I am going to Virginia Tech. The Wire was the family I needed to get through high school in one piece, and I will really miss this paper and the people who made it happen.



Hooff Cooksey

I was a three year editor on the newspaper staff and one of the Track and Field captains my senior year. This fall I will be attending the University of Texas and plan to major in communications. Working on The Wire was an amazing experience and has opened many doors for me. I would not trade the late night layout sessions, deadline stresses or the staff members I worked and bonded with for anything.

WHAT IS YOUR PROUDEST HIGH ACCOMPLISHMENT?

I hope my proudest accomplishments are ahead of me... but, as for high school... getting to be Opinions Editor of *The Wire*.

It is a tie between being voted "Most Artistic" and winning a gold medal in the National Scholastic Art Awards.

Besides graduation, I would probably have to say either making it past the District track and field meet to advance to Regionals or being accepted in the University of Texas at Austin.

WHAT DO YOU FEAR MOST AFTER HIGH SCHOOL?

Not liking my roommate or not knowing what to do after college.

Not being able to maintain a 3.5 GPA (I have to in order to stay in my dorm and keep my scholarships).

My biggest fear is probably having to manage all of my funds. From bills to taxes, it is going to be difficult, but once I get the hang of it, things will work out.

WHAT IS YOUR MOST MEMORABLE WIRE MOMENT?

Just simply writing stories for the paper. Besides layout, management of stories, annoying slackers and all that comes along with being Managing Editor or Editor-in-Chief.

My favorite Wire memory happened during my sophomore year on the New York trip. I felt like a kid in a candy store with all those fake purses around me while in Chinatown. The magic wore off when the fake Chanel I bought fell apart less than a week later.

My best Wire memory, or memories, had to be blasting loud music during layout once everyone had lost all patience and travelling around China Town in New York City; finding the best deals on knock-off t-shirts.

Photos Courtesy of Taylor Dankmyer

Photos Courtesy of Kate O'Connor

Photos Courtesy of Hooff Cooksey

LAURA ELIZABETH



For Sale: One intelligent, hardworking, naturally curly-haired blonde female who likes to hit with a lacrosse stick. She's energetic, LOL, hobbies include shopping and text messaging, has a slightly messy room, has improved driving skills, and is totally loved by her family. Her name is Laura Howell. **Asking price: PRICELESS**



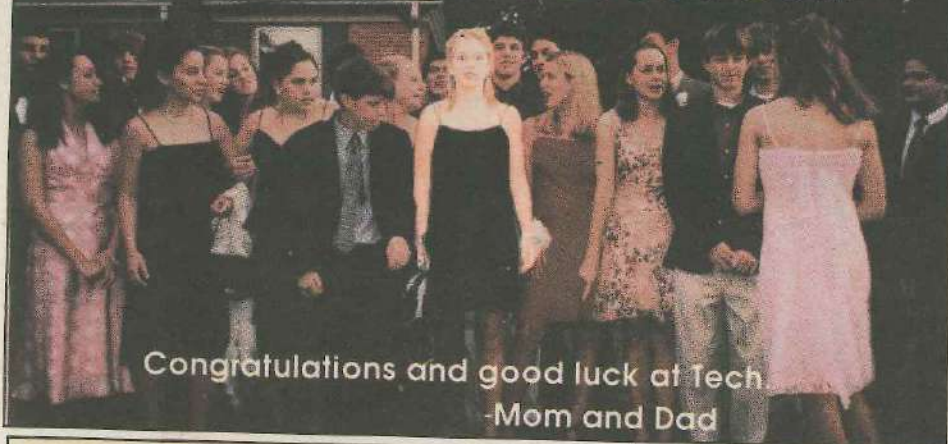
Congrats! GO DUKE!



CLASS OF 2008



Kate, You Survived.



Congratulations and good luck at Tech
-Mom and Dad

The Lumberjack Club Congratulates
Kenneth Jewelllyn

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I read that eating too much
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