



Monday, June 13, 2011

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Photo courtesy of Clare Palo
Discover the high and low points of West Potomac sports throughout the year.



Photo courtesy of google.com
Find out the local hot spots in D.C. Discover the best place to dine and have fun.



Photo by 80millionmovesfree.com
Check out *The Wire's* review of the newest sequel, *The Hangover 2*.



Photo by of www.palmbeachpost.com
Does beach week encourage underage drinking and drug use?

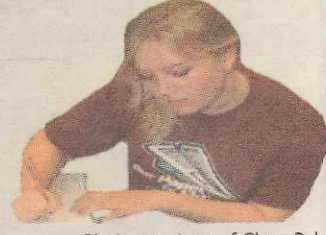


Photo courtesy of Clare Palo
Check out the goodbye interviews with the Editor-in-Chiefs.

Shoutout to SHOUT



Photo Courtesy of Bryan Jacobs

Callie Jacobs prepares to embark for her SHOUT intership at National Geographic by buying a MetroRail ticket.

Clare Palo & Laura Jacobs

Style Editor and News Editor

"You make me want to SHOUT," is a line seniors are singing right about now. With summer fast approaching, students are getting antsy, classes are thinning down, and SHOUT is taking over the senior class of 2011. Students Helping Others United Together (SHOUT) initiated at West Potomac last year and is here to stay. The program, named by parent Jim Fishel, was created to "teach [West Potomac] students a sense of giving back to the community through volunteering," explained business teacher, Marilyn Moore. And an added bonus? Seniors who get approved for SHOUT are granted access to leave school two weeks early as a reward for their warm hearts for community service.

Do not be fooled. This may sound like a sweet deal, but students are required to work fifty hours of community service, or service learning, within the two weeks. However, the program has become more structured in the application and reflection process than last year. SHOUT begins June 3rd and ends June 16th. Calculate it, and that is around five hours per day. This two

week span can include concentrated time or spread out hours. "Students will be able to experience the joy of giving back to the community. This is truly a practice that allows seniors to initiate, to demonstrate, and to complete beliefs that they have," commented Moore. Volunteers are required to satisfy the fifty hours with a proposed application specifying the organization of their choice. Also, a permission slip signed by all seven teachers, counselor, administrator, and parent or guardian. They pledge to fulfill the requirements in a timely and organized manner.

To help them decide on their chosen organization there are a pre-approved list of activities listed on the West Potomac website and on Blackboard. If a student has the longing to build a house for Habitat for Humanity, organize a walk for the homeless, or help relief victims through the Red Cross or Club Red, they can happily do so. In addition, seniors are required to create a reflection piece about their specific SHOUT experience after the community service is complete. This reflection can be achieved in many ways that show their creative and caring side. The application details numerous ideas for students. They can represent their fifty hour projects by You-Tube, a poster board,

Get the Flex out of West Potomac

Leigh Orleans

Focus Editor

"There is nothing wrong with change, if it is in the right direction," said Winston Churchill. There have been many recent developments made to our school in an attempt to make West Potomac a better place for students to get a sufficient education. Now we can add another amendment to that list.

Next year, the administration plans to get rid of Flex or rotating "B" period at the end of every B day. The replacement will be an advisory period in the time slot of fourth period this year. A teacher will be assigned a group of randomly chosen students that will number approximately twenty. The administration's hope is to enable students to remain in this advisory teacher's class throughout their entire high school career. This would allow the teacher to monitor the group of student's progress as well as develop a relationship with them. The tighter bond between teacher and student will allow the teacher to give them more relevant academic advice.

The ninety minute block will be divided into two sections, similar to the current Flex period. The first section will be a

mandatory thirty minute reading or enrichment time, and the second section will be a time in which students can either work or travel into another teacher's classroom. If a student is failing one or more classes, they will be required to visit that teacher or teachers in order to make up their work. There will be a "scheduler" who helps students plan which classes they will flex into each B day.

However, many students believe that the thirty minute required reading time will take away opportunities for them to work with their teachers. Sophomore Sophia Passacantando added, "The required reading block gives us less time to spend on getting grades up, completing assignments, or finishing make-up work." The same opinion was shared amongst students who already take time at home to read and do not need the mandatory block of reading. Students often feel that reading is enrichment that can be completed during their own leisure time and because teachers require class time for lessons; the plan to mix the two into one class period makes students apprehensive about the future.

Other student opposition is entirely against the new proposal. "I think eliminating flex is a bad idea because it is the only time

Eugepae for Latin

Clare Palo

Style Editor

Two hundred and eight students have enrolled in Latin classes at West Potomac for next year, up from sixty-four students in the 2007-2008 school year. Is it because of the beloved Latin teacher Robert Rigby, their desperate need to bring-up SAT scores, or their craving for the toga-gladiator-Roman-Greek life? The answer: All of the above.

The Latin language program at West Potomac, created by Rigby, only launched four short years ago and is rapidly growing. In the first year a mere four sections (classes) were created, and the number of sections has doubled since. The increase in the number of students enrolling has created the need for Jonathon Shev, this year's new Latin teacher. Shev teaches Latin part-time at West Potomac and Falls Church High School, allowing him to instruct beginning students in Latin 1 and 2. Rigby's experience with the program gave him the opportunity to teach higher level classes, such as Latin 3, 4, and AP Latin.

Due to the tremendous increase in enrollment, West Potomac teachers collaborated with Carl Sandburg staff to create a rare opportunity for Sandburg students. "There was so much interest [in the program] that two sections of Latin will be offered at Sandburg next year!" exclaimed Shev. In past years, Carl Sandburg did not even offer Latin. "Most high schools have Latin at the middle schools that feed into them. It was only natural for us to see if there was any interest at our feeder middle school," explained Shev.

The opportunity for Carl Sandburg students to take Latin in middle school gives them the advantage that many language students embrace-- to create a well-rounded résumé for college, or to enhance their knowledge of other cultures. Beginning Latin at the middle school level allows a student to easily complete four or five years of Latin study before continuing on to college. Forty students are expected to enroll in Latin 1 next year at Sandburg, creating two whole sections of eager students. The Latin classes will be open to 7th and 8th graders, a relatively new opportunity for college credit seeking-students. Junior and Latin 3 student, Sam Ludovici, began Latin his freshman year, and would have jumped at the chance to take it in middle school. He specifically chose Latin because of its unique nature, "I am interested in the English language, and although English is a Germanic

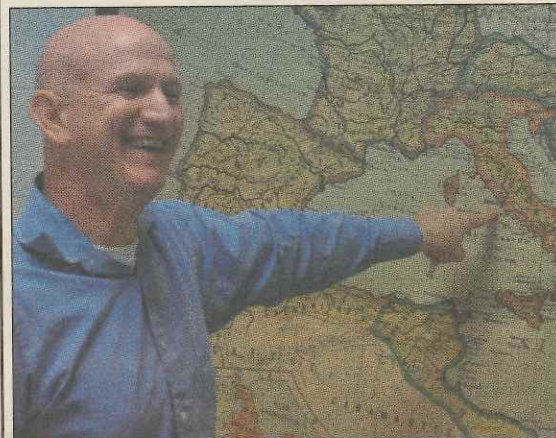
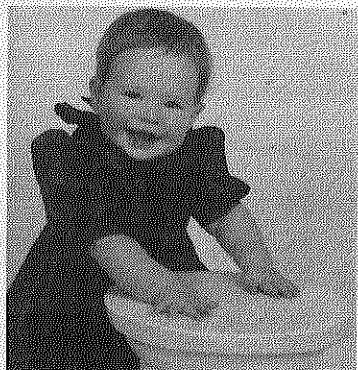


Photo courtesy of Sonia Garkyraghi

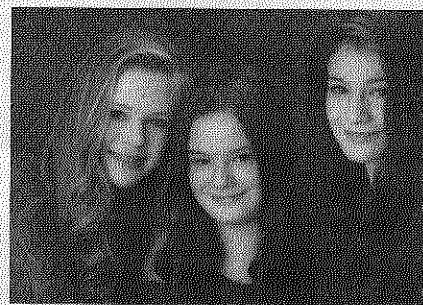
Robert Rigby is known for instructing his Latin classes with an optimistic attitude.



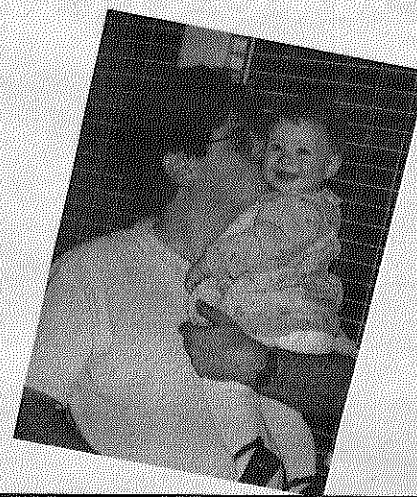
Madeline Rose,



You light up our lives like the bright star you truly are. We have absolute faith that you will do everything you've ever wanted. Thank you for leaving behind a beautiful legacy for us to admire and remember. You are an amazing daughter, an awesome friend, and the greatest sister in the world. We love you so much, and know that we will always believe in you.



Love, love, love,
Mommy, Daddy, Molly, Lily, Mark, Grandma
and Grandpa, all the aunts, uncles, cousins,
and all of the furry ones
(Abby, Figgy, Flynny, Pooty, & Squeaker)

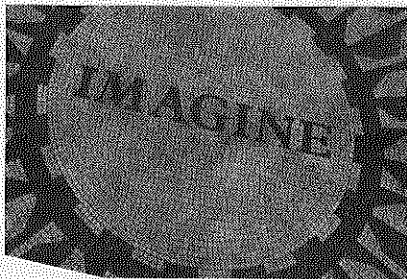


Will

We are constantly amazed at your creativity, imagination and passion. You have the capacity to do great things – never stop believing in yourself & pursuing your dreams. We love you and are very proud of you.

- Mom, Dad, Joe, Katy (and Nemo)

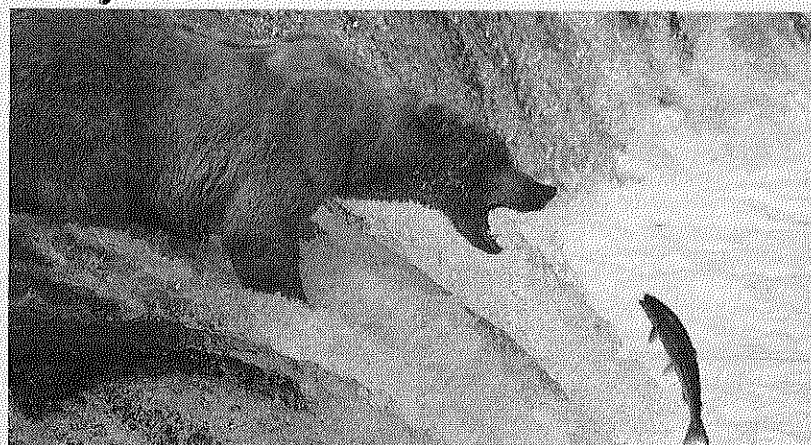
“Imagination is more important than knowledge. For knowledge is limited to all we now know and understand, while imagination embraces the entire world, and all there ever will be to know and understand.” – Albert Einstein



Matt –
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prouder of you! Good
luck at Kent State.
We love you!

Love,
Mom, Dad & Megan

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only the BEST ones!!



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Lena, Snow, and Bella



Congratulations

**Alexa
Sears**

It has been a great
ride. Now on to

Longwood

for more
adventures!

Love, Mom, Dad
and
Michael

SHOUT, cont.

a collage, an essay, an improv skit, a poem, or another approved format. "It's a good way to keep seniors engaged in the learning process and to establish a community link for future service-learning projects," said Adriana Meeks, head librarian, and SHOUT organizer.

The goal of SHOUT is to "take a bold step forward" and experience what helping the world feels like, by assisting the community and making a difference. Sound good? There are already one hundred and fifteen seniors signed up for this year, according to Meeks. Assistant Principal Dale Eaton expects that there will be more applications flooding in close to the deadline. "We are hoping that as the program grows, it will develop into a stronger program each year." Seniors hope the SHOUT experience will be a meaningful one. Many seniors feel that once their final and AP exams are completed, the year is essentially over. "I actually enjoying doing community service and I thought it would be a fun way to be with friends, and more beneficial than just sitting in class waiting to graduate," finished Senior Samantha Niepling. SHOUT is just another great reason to cherish senior year; these hours will impact the community in more ways than imaginable.

Flex, cont.

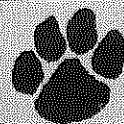
of day that we get a break," stated sophomore Amanda Parker. "While in theory giving us an hour to do work is a good idea, I think it would end up being counterproductive. Students would not be able to work very efficiently because of the distractions by other students and because you had no time to take a break it will be harder to focus. Also, it would make it more difficult for students to find time to get the help they need from teachers because it would essentially force students to go after school to get help, which can be impossible for some people." This is especially true for students who have a hard time completing work that is not enforced by their teacher. The external distractions will make this an even more challenging task.

However, not all students are against this new idea. Freshman Lily Weisblatt commented, "I think the advisory model flex is beneficial for the students because they can develop a stronger bond with an authority figure. Also, the option of thirty minutes of silent reading sounds like a good idea since it allows students who need to complete reading logs or do assigned reading time to get that done during school hours." However, even students that are in favor of an advisory period may still believe it has some flaws. "I do not really mind having a homeroom, but having to go to a whole new class with a teacher that you don't even have is a bad alternative. I'm a fan of homeroom, even in the middle of the day is fine, but with all of the other factors included, I'm not sure it's the very best decision," finished Passacantando. The final plan for what will happen to Flex next year is not yet set in stone and final changes will be made over the summer break in attempt to provide students with the most affective use of their time.



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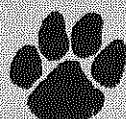
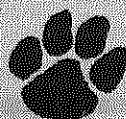
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Latin, cont.

language, most of its words are Latin based," commented Ludovici.

Students across the country take Latin for numerous reasons, whether they think it will be less rigorous than other languages, or because there is no actual speaking component to the class. Eliminating the verbal requirement gives shy students the chance to excel without having to be orally assessed on their knowledge. In addition, some upcoming "Virgilites" take Latin because they want to enhance their vocabulary, which can help them prepare for the Scholastic Achievement Test (SAT). "Latin language exposes students to common terms in English related to science, law, literature, abbreviations, and college and state mottoes. In addition, approximately 70% of the words in English come from Latin," said Rigby.

As students continue on in to the upper level language courses, they find that culture becomes one of the most fascinating aspects of

Latin. According to Rigby, students study Greek and Roman customs and traditions that touch on aspects such as history, mythology, architecture, poetry and daily life. "Familiarity with classical culture helps students evaluate and understand our own modern cultures," added Rigby. Many students, like Ludovici, choose Latin to expand their vocabulary, or use its studies to assist them with English courses. Senior and lone AP Latin student at West Potomac, Jennifer Shearon, has spent years mastering the language. "It's interesting because a book, [The Aeneid by Virgil], that is over 2000 years old, deals with the exact same issues and problems that we deal with today." Rigby believes that the discipline and academic habits required for foreign language study can be applied to many aspects of life. Carl Sandburg students will soon have the opportunity to join in this exceptional area of study. 'Eugepae!' (Latin for 'Hurray!').

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WOLVERINE WARRIORS: Morgan Maniglia

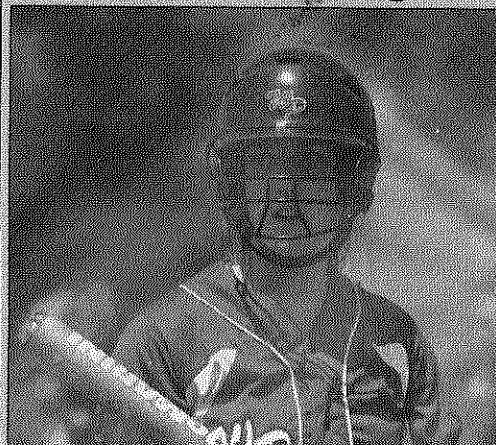


Photo courtesy of Sara Link

Jack King
Editor-in-Chief

It's not hard to turn heads when you can ball as hard as junior Softball player Morgan Maniglia. Starting on the Varsity team as a freshman, Maniglia proved from an early age that she was one of the most dominant players in the area. As a junior Maniglia has been a prime force for the Wolverines on the mound and lead the team to the Patriot District Championship game. With her leadership as a captain and exceptional play on the field, Morgan Maniglia has proven herself more than worthy of the title of Wolverine Warrior.

Maniglia first started playing softball when she was about 7 years old. She was inspired to play the sport after watching her older sisters play all the time. From the first time she touched a softball, she showed a lot of promise and potential even as a young girl. After first playing for the Fort Hunt Federals, Maniglia went on to play for the Tsunami Softball team, whom she still plays with today.

As for her career at West Potomac, Maniglia has shined even more. Playing on the Varsity squad ever since her freshman year, she has proven to be a major threat in both the offensive and defensive aspects of the game. While she considers her main roll on the team to be defense she was no slouch at the plate. This season she had a .405 batting average as well as 17 RBI's.

As for on the mound, Maniglia makes shutting down opposing teams offenses a routine. This year she held an ERA of just 1.3 and her ERA for her career at West Potomac is an astounding 0.83. She struck out 106 batters this season, which is an average of 6 strike outs per game. In addition, Maniglia tossed 95 shutout innings this year and, on top of all of that, had a near perfect fielding percentage with .980. "I think she is probably one of the best pitchers in the district," commented junior Jasmine Piccini. "She has an ability to totally take over a game." One of Maniglia's best games this season came against Stonebridge High School, which was ranked 4th in the Metropolitan area. She batted .500 at the plate and only gave up one earned run on the night.

Despite her incredible success in the game, Maniglia manages to stay humble and continues to prove that she is one of the best players in the region. She also expresses a love for her team mates and the game. "I love the fact that I play a team sport and that everyone plays for each other, not themselves," she said. "I also love the pressure of walking on to the mound or up to bat and coming out successful in the end." With her exceptional play on the field as well as her selfless attitude off of it, Morgan Maniglia has proved that she is more than deserving of the title of Wolverine Warrior.

Will Tiger ever return to the wild?

Jack King
Editor-in-Chief

Mike Tyson, Pete Rose, and Marian Jones were all once among the most popular athletes in the world, but they allowed their careers to collapse for various reasons. While the falls of these athletes came as surprises, no one would have expected the fall of the world's most dominant, most wealthy, and renowned athlete arguably of all time. For years Tiger Woods totally dominated the game of Golf. Living up to his name, Woods stalked his competition and attacked other golfers on the PGA Tour in relentless pursuit of winning every tournament he ever entered into. However, ever since Tiger tarnished his public image with his infamous sex scandal, things have not exactly been the same.

Tiger took a leave of absence from golf after the scandal and his divorce and then proceeded to have his first winless season since the year he first joined the tour. Needless to say for someone like Tiger, his performance has been way below par. In fact Woods's play has been so inconsistent that things like simply making the cut at tournaments have become a concern for the previously number one ranked golfer in the world. Most recently Tiger walked off the course after playing nine of eighteen holes at the Players Championships complaining of problems in his knee. In addition, Tiger recently dropped out of the top ten rankings dropping to number 12 in the world. With injuries and Tiger stocks falling rapidly, many are beginning to ask if Tiger will ever be Tiger again.

It is a rather difficult question to answer

considering the mixed public opinion on Woods. Many people do not want to see him make a comeback, hope he loses every future tournament he plays in, and think he deserves to be a failure for the remainder of his career. On the other hand, many want to see Woods back at the number one world ranking and a top the PGA Tour again for the sake of the game of golf. Right now it seems that all factors are against Woods. Time is certainly not



Photo courtesy of worlddailynews.com

Tiger Woods started off playing well at his return to golf in the 2010 Masters, but his performance has been falling lately.

on Woods's side. At 35 years old Woods is rapidly approaching 40; the age at which very few golfers, if any, have won major championships. Injuries and mental issues have also been plaguing Woods for the last two years. Despite walking off the course

at the Players Championship because of a knee injury Woods has said that he will compete in the US Open.

With the way Tiger has been playing recently and the way his luck has been going, it may actually be a better idea for him to sit this one out and take a personal leave from golf. Time is short for Tiger now and if he wants to be able to climb his way back to the top there is no time to waste. For Tiger getting his body and mind healthy will be essential in making a comeback in the often tedious and frustrating game of golf.

While it does seem that all the odds are against him this may not be the end of road for Woods. This drought in his play is surprisingly similar to that of Golf legend Jack Nicolas in 1979. It was the only year that Nicolas did not win a tournament. Woods is coming off a year in which he did not win a tournament and it is possible that, like Nicolas, Tiger simply had a small drought and will return to the top of the Tour sooner than many anticipate.

While he may be falling in the world rankings and has been playing nowhere near his full potential in recent years, Woods still has plenty of life in him. Let's not forget that at the end of the day Woods is only human and most humans are not able to win a PGA golf tournament every year that they are a professional golfer. The real question is not if Tiger Woods will ever be as good as he once was but when and what will he have to do to get himself to the level of dominance he was once at. Unfortunately for the PGA tour and for Tiger fans, only time will tell.

A year in the life of West Potomac sports

Tommy Friederich
News Editor

The touchdowns, the home runs, the game winning goals, and the come from behind wins have been a common theme for West Potomac sports this year. The crowds were large and the school spirit ran high. In a year filled with amazing accomplishments and difficult defeats, we've had it all, West Potomac, and here's your toast to the best highlights of this sports season.

The Varsity football team came into this season with revenge on their hands after a 2-8 record the previous year. Senior's Nik Dimitrijevic and Denzel Hatch lead the team to the comeback year the school was looking for. The highlight of their season came on a cool Friday night when the Wolverines defended their turf on homecoming night against the W.T. Woodson Cavaliers. The Wolverines came out with fire scoring on their first two possessions. "We came out with a boom on homecoming game night. The whole team knew the stadium would be packed so we all went our hardest to make our fans and the community proud" commented Senior Dustin Hess. Brandon Johnson had a career night with 236 rushing yards and 2 touchdowns on route to the blow out the Wolverine put upon the Cavs, winning 52-30.

After winning the 2010 Patriot District Championship, the basketball team looked to bring home the hardware again this season. The Wolverines showed up big in the biggest tournament of the year during the Christmas break. The games were held

at Wakefield High School and the team ended winning the whole thing. Big wins against team such as D.C. Native Elenor Roosevelt and Gleen L County highlighted the talent the 2010 Varsity basketball team had. Scooter Copeland was named the tournament's most valuable player and Jalen Dawson was named to 1st team All-Tournament. "Winning the Christmas tournament has been a goal of mine since I was a freshman. It felt good to finally get the tournament trophy while everyone else was relaxing on winter break" said Senior Karl Grabbi.

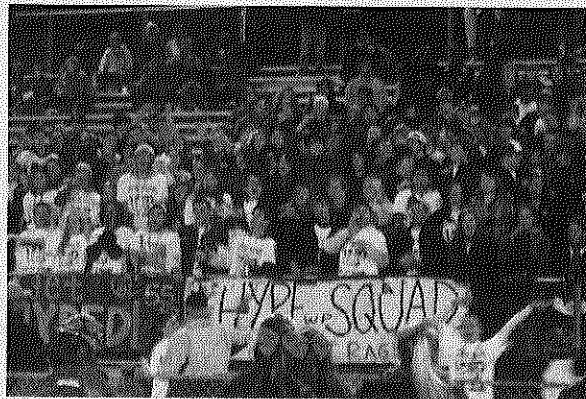


Photo courtesy of Clare Palo

The Hype Squad seniors went to every home game to cheer on the Wolverines.

People can make an argument on the greatest highlight of the year. The biggest augment has to be made for the girls and boys cross country team. Both teams won the Patriot District Championship and the boys went on the win the Northern Region Championship. "It was definitely one of the biggest accomplishments of my life. We trained hard all year round and it paid off. Winning these championships will be something that I cherish for the rest of my life. I know I can count on each and everyone I ran with this year later in life. We were like a family" said Mark Hanak.

Girls lacrosse was filled with young talent and experienced veteran which seemed to be a great combination for the 2011 Lady Wolverines. On senior night the girls played Patriot district rival T.C. Williams. The team exploded winning 21-11 and freshman Kendal Cunningham had 5 goals. "It felt great to win on senior night. It was a great last hooray with my senior girls and I'll remember this night forever" said Adrienne Hampton. The community and school were extremely proud of the hard work the ladies put into the season.

BY THE
NUMBERS

4 Number of wins by the girls Varsity soccer this year.

20 Total number of combined wins by the boys JV and Varsity baseball teams.

7 Number of games won by the girls Varsity lacrosse.

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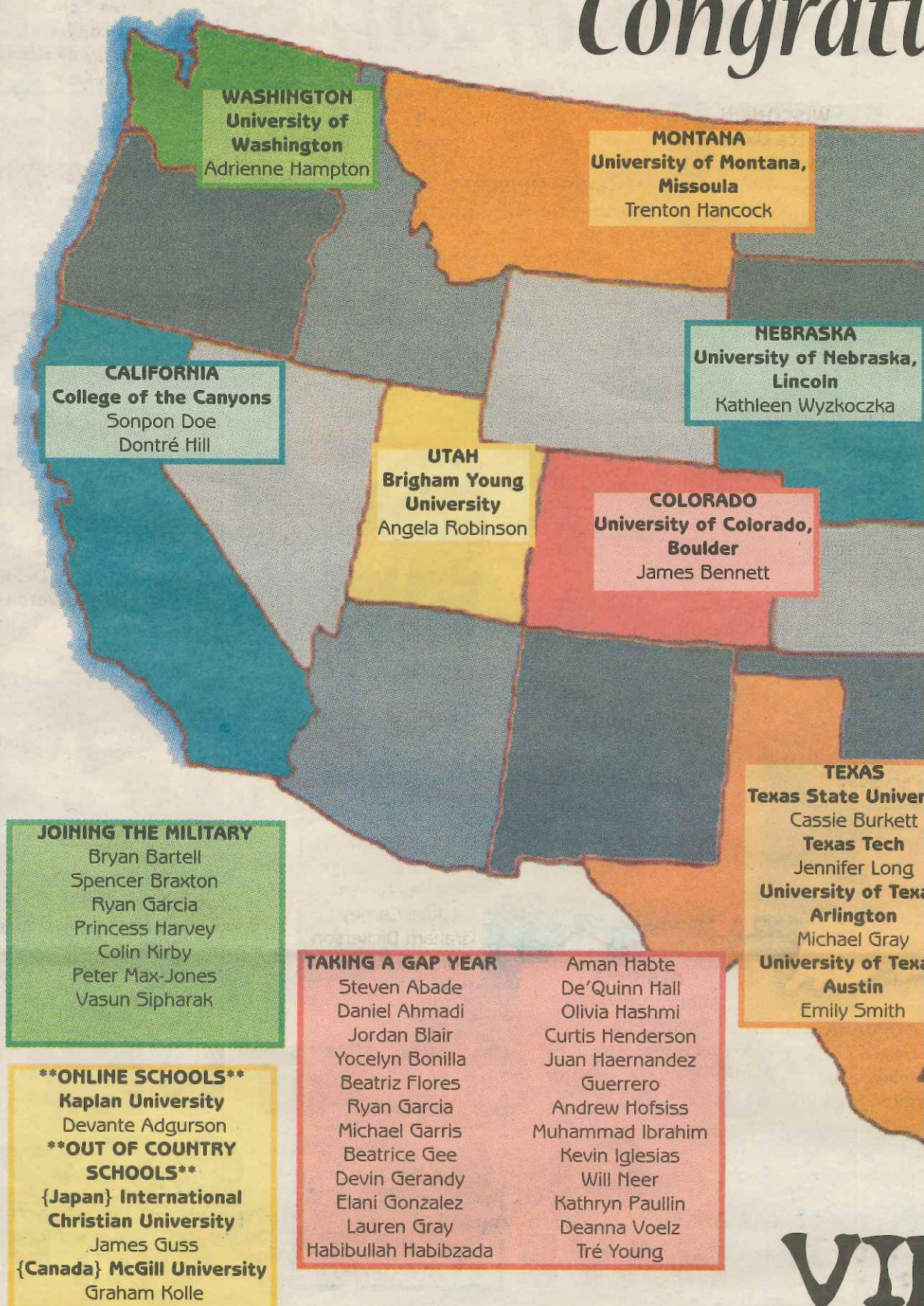
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Muhammad Waqar
Anam Yaseen
Percy Young
Desi Youngblood
Javier Zelaya
Digna Zelaya



Christopher Newport University
Rachael Bennett
Cody Carmichael
Emily Griffin
Katherine Rizzo
Elizabeth Wolfrey
Everest College-McLean
Jamile Fore
Ferrum College
Beza Getnet
Sharehan Telsem
George Mason University
Jarfa Ashrafi
Matthew Bird
Marcela Castro
Veronica Castro
Shahad Houdhury
Paul Coley
Jamison Estandian
Kaitlyn Alexandra
Graybill
Maxwell Jones
Cierra Roessler
Jade Toft

James Madison University
Lillian Addy
Lindsey Boggess
Chris Dynes
Karl Grabbi
Matthew Harper
Matthew Kosanovich
Marcia McCants
Savannah Smith
Matthew Voltmer
Chad Werner
Longwood University
Patrick Haurie
Alaina Miller
Samantha Nielpling
Alexa Sears
Elizabeth Wilson
Lynchburg University
Krista Wallingford
Marybaldwin College
Yohana Asfaha
Theresa Opoku-Ntiamoah
Marymount University
Jacqueline Arthur-Williams

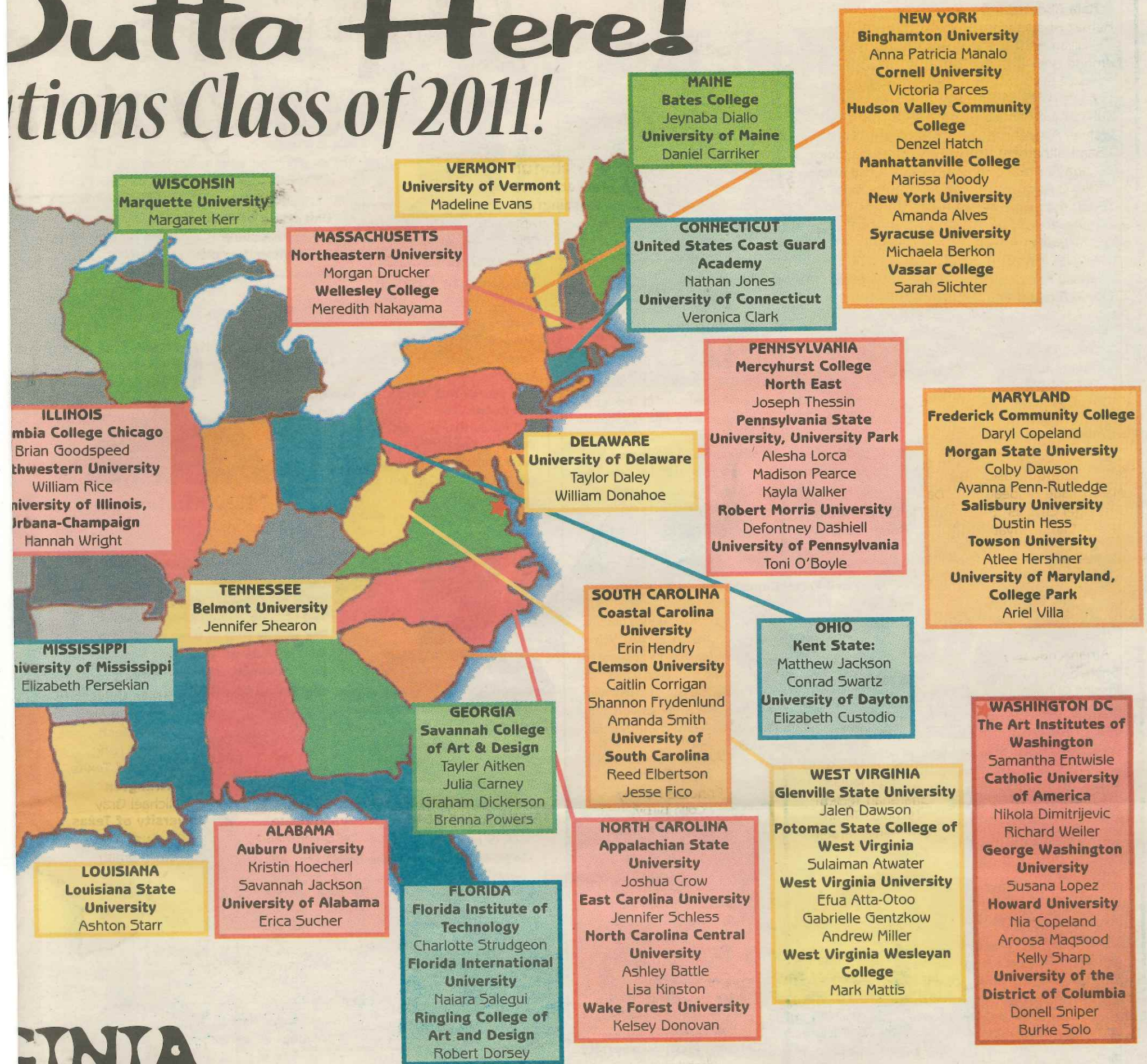
Mariela Mira
Mercyhurst North East Community College
Sulaiman Atwater
Norfolk State University
Antonio Powell
NOVA- Alexandria
Surafel Abebe
Shaheera Amjad
Rita Amoah
Jacqueline Appel
Bilal Asghar
Nancy Ayala-Mendoza
Christopher Breen
Jane Callahan
Martha Cedillos
Cheryl Corbett
Adam Collett
Jose E. Corado
Tambria Currie
Carly Cutting
Tessa Damron
Rachel Davis
Clarissa Degado
Rebeca Diaz

Benjamin Finrock
Edgar Flores
Monique Ford
Jamile Fore
Selena Galeas
Henry Hernandez
Juan Carlos Hernandez
Guerrero
Nick Howe
Josiah Jackson
Alexandra Jones
Breonna King
Roberto Laboy
Brooks Lee
Chanda Liaqat
Ekaterina Lienard
Emmy Loza
Jose Manazan
Karima McDougall-Holmes
Julio Mejia Romero
Beklys Mendez
Eiliana Mendez
Nikolai Merza
Majida Naz
Alexander Noel
Jennifer Odonna

Beatriz Orozco Mariscal
Breysi Pelecios
Vasquez
London Peterson
Jose Pineda
Hannah Plate
Claudia Pleites Morales
Nina Racho
Mehvish Rashid
Saddia Rashid
Demeitre Reiss
Keith Riddle
Jennifer Rivera
Maria Rodriguez De Leon
Raquel Rodriguez De Leon
Paola Rodriguez Hernandez
Fatima Saeed
Johanna Segovia
Valdez
Justin Smith
Ruth Smith
Hamza Soukarno
Destiny Surida
Antenhe Tesfave

Dutta Here!

tions Class of 2011!



GINIA

Via	Chavez	Lucy Regnell	Mary Langan	Julianna LaBelle	Catherine Royka
Wyatt	Madeline Stern	Saint Paul's College	Jonathan Lazenby	Christian Marchant	Sasha Spriggs
Zamzam	Joseph Williams	John Clinton	Anna Leonard	Callan Memo	Emma Swaney
nnandale	Anam Yaseem	Shenandoah University	Sara Link	Bonnie Morgan	Kaleabe Teshome
Andrews	NOVA-Medical	Elizabeth Levey	Caitlin Moniz	Yaw Owusu	Larissa Whalen
scencio	Yocelyn Bonilla	Amanda Whetzel	Leah Naidorf	Lauren Pak	Virginia State University
anza	Astrid Castaneda Tovar	Stratford University	Evan Rajadhyaksha	Kristen Pfister	Dequan Leak
na Aziz	Bre'Anna Richard	Jessica Clark	Laura Reynolds	William Pike	Bria Roberts
Baker	NOVA- Woodbridge	Megan Elliot	Matthew Rhoads	Ashlie Richardson	James Taylor
Behnam	Jephtah Boahen	Sweet Briar College	Linda Ruamthong	Emily Sedlak	Virginia Union University
Boateng	Claudia Vigil	Mary Washington	Andrew Sanders	Emily Tompkins	Peter Max-Jones
houdary	Old Dominion University	Muhammed Ahmed	Kyle Skudlarek	Aaron Tran	College of William & Mary
o Alvarenga	Davis Gaddy	Connor Chilton	Caitlin Stewart	Jennifer Wilder	Zeinah Adawi
ummins	Jonathan Harrell	Paul Edemobi	Lauren Wilmot	Cristina Wilson	Jack Edgar
Dickson	James Hayes	Cierra Everette	Valley Forge Christian College-Woodbridge Campus	Virginia Tech	Amanda Gunderson
Douglas	Heather Murphy	Elizabeth Gunggoll	Evans Labossiere	Sarajin Ali	Isabel Hardee
Elbashari	Christian Tassew	Lorraine Hausen	Virginia Commonwealth University	Khoki Bernier	Michal Harmata
Galeas	Connor Tufford	Scott McPeck	Sarah Argot	Alexander Cheng	Kaitlyn Kincannon
Grandy	Radford University	Kristen Powell	Maureen Boster	Margaret Corum	Kathleen Sullivan
e Hilbert	Daniel McCray	University of Virginia	Carolyn Johnson	Olivia Frizzell	Alexander Tyson
Johnson	Randolph College	Benjamin Aleixo	Victoria Jourdan	Jacob Glaser	Madeline Weisblatt
Masood	Fiifi Atta-Otoo	Julia Bolger	Suzanne Kirby	Andrew Hicks	
ewbraugh	Christopher Hollingsworth	Emily Dell	Rexford Koduah	Tracy Laux	
n Newton	Roanoke College	Camille DiFolco	Hilda Kvem	Alexa Marinello	
sei-Hwedie	Elizabeth Haque	Mark Hanak		John McDonald	
o Rainey		Katherine Jacobs		Janna Murphy	
Robalino				Kyle Parker	

Top Things to do in D.C.

Anna Dreyfuss
Opinions Editor

1) Spy Museum

Learn the life of a crime scene investigator and the exciting life of being a spy. Don't worry, it is not a "kiddy" museum. The museum actually holds many real-life artifacts and stories of unexpected and double-crossed agents. The museum is also very hands-on. When guests arrive, they are challenged to a cover identity and memorize details about keeping their cover. It also has many programs for people to go more in-depth into the world of spies.

3) The National Zoo

Yes, when one thinks of Zoos, they think of a second grade class trip with melted ice cream and disposable cameras. However, people often forget the beauty of animals. See every animal from an Asian Elephant to a Great Ape and even come to special events including the Fiesta Musical which celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month.

5) Georgetown

Looking for a hot spot to take a little shopping break? Look no further, Georgetown is a young, lively street, chock full of clothing stores, boutiques and restaurant. Splurge a little money in designer stores, like Chanel or shop around in modern ones, like Urban Outfitters. Visitors can also feast on possibly the world's best burger at J. Paul's or nibble on a yummy crepe at Crepe Amour. For a chance to relax, this is definitely the place.

7) DC Skyline

This sight is the most breathtaking view of DC. Although we are not tourists, do not be ashamed to cherish in its beauty, even if it is just for a second. Drive, picnic, or even boat along the river to see DC's skyline at night; it may just change your opinion of the city altogether.

2) Tidal Basin

Float along the chilled water and relax. The 107 acre basin offers paddle boats that enable a choice of two or four people to enjoy. It is also a focal point for people to view the cherry blossoms and the Thomas Jefferson Memorial.

4) Chinatown

One of the best things about DC is the diversity and Chinatown definitely celebrates it! Indulge in Asian culture by eating at authentic restaurants and participating in Asian traditions. Chinatown offers around 20 restaurants and is famous for its annual Chinese New Year festival and parade. The parade starts at the Friendship Arch, a traditional Chinese gate that welcomes all.

6) Red Velvet Cupcake Shop

DC is not only the best city for heated politics, but also the best city for cupcakes! Red Velvet sells delicious treats that range from coconut to peanut to devil's chocolate with even a piece of real gold on top! Or people can just stay with the classic red velvet flavor. At around four dollars a pop, these do not come cheap, but they are definitely worth it.

8) P.O.V lounge

Take a break from walking and stop off here to grab a fruity drink and a bite to eat. This cool indoor lounge and outdoor terrace exhibits some of DC's most incredible views, such as the White House and Pentagon. The lounge, located on the top floor of the W Hotel, is a hot spot for young adults.



*Lindsey,
I am so proud of
you. You make
me smile and
brighten my
everyday,
Love you
Sweets,
Mom*

A farewell to the teachers

Emily Griffin
Special to the Wire



Jacqueline Livelli

Position: English teacher
Been at West Potomac: 8 years
Going to: teach at interagency schools in Fairfax County
What was your most enjoyable time teaching at West Potomac? "Ironically, the best time I had at West Potomac was when I was undergoing chemotherapy. My students, my colleagues and the community as a whole really stepped up to support and help me. I saw the best parts of human kindness during that time."



Mary Mathewson

Position: English teacher
Been at West Potomac: 8 years
Going to: start up an educational consulting business
What would you like to say to your students? "I love them even though they are all crazy!! I will miss seeing them every day and look forward to hearing about all the amazing things they do in the future."



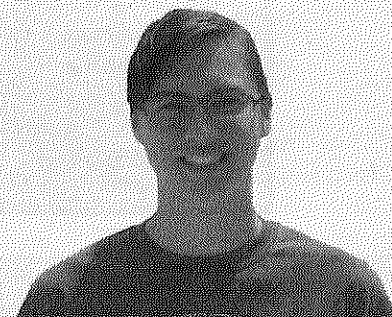
Kimberly Thompson

Position: Science teacher
Been at West Potomac: 25 years
Going to: retire
Do you have any words of wisdom for the teachers still here? "This too shall pass."



Garry Relton

Position: Attendance Officer
Been at West Potomac: 1 year
Going to: go back to school in Colorado
What would you like to say to the students? "Everybody dies, but not everyone lives, so make good choices."



Erin Whittaker

Ashley Dubinskas

Position: Science teacher
Been at West Potomac: 1 year
Going to: relocate to New York City, actually Hoboken, New Jersey
Do you have any words of wisdom for the teachers still here? "I do not have words of wisdom to share, but I would like to say thank you to the Biology team for making this year so much fun. I was so lucky to join such a great science department!"

Robert Marston

Position: History teacher
Been at West Potomac: 2 years
Going to: transferring to Robinson Secondary School
What would you like to say to your students? Put the "O" back into "ROAR" next year; work on this as a student body; student leadership should make this the focus of everything you do next year; make it fun and tie it back to school spirit.

Suzette Henry

Position: English teacher
Been at West Potomac: 5 years
Going to: teach at Thomas Jefferson High School
What was your most enjoyable time teaching at West Potomac? "I enjoyed working with my students-especially as an advisor for Key Club and Latino Leadership Coalition."

*To all of the other
staff and faculty
members leaving
West Potomac, thank
you so much for your
time and dedication.
You will be missed!*

Photos by Sonia Garakvaraghi and Clare Palo

THE FINAL COUNTDOWN: SEASON FINALE RECAPS

Anna Peck

Entertainment Editor

It is that not so wonderful time of the year when everyone's favorite television shows air cliffhanging season finales, leaving fans groping for replacement programs to fill that 9:00 slot. Did this year's season finales bring the drama, humor, or were they a letdown?

Vampire Diaries

Airdate: May 13th

Three shocking deaths, two attractive brothers, and one werewolf bite sums up the stellar finale that rocked Mystic Falls, Virginia. *The Vampire Diaries* is infamous in plot twists and the season two finale was no exception. Following the deaths of her father and aunt, Elena and the gang continue to find a cure for the deadly werewolf bite that is ailing bad boy vamp, Damon. The good vs. evil relationship between brothers, Stefan and Damon, seemed to pull a switcheroo, when Stefan joined the dark side of were-vamp Klaus and Damon finally got the girl. This show gets high praise for its acting and writing, which awakens all the storylines. The experienced writers know how to keep the audience guessing. This episode was the quintessential finale, providing important elements, but also the beloved cliffhanger. Season three cannot come fast enough.

★★★★★

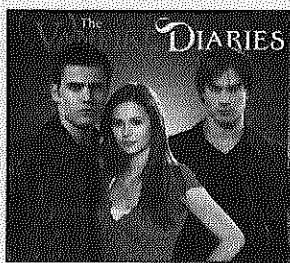


Photo Courtesy of mankabros

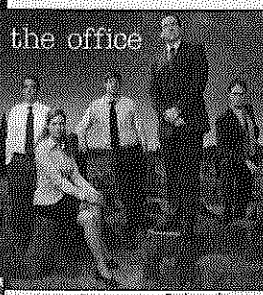


Photo Courtesy of cinevin.org

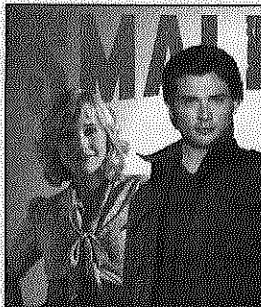
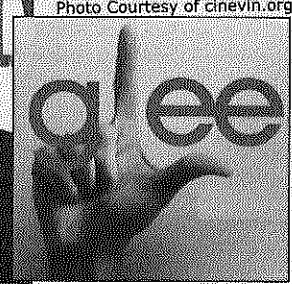


Photo Courtesy of sciscop.com Photo Courtesy of Blogspot.com



Smallville

Airdate: May 14th

"What are you, man or Superman?" This question plagued Clark Kent for the past ten seasons on the hit CW show. The question was answered during this heart-pounding series finale. The two-hour finale dealt with Kent's mission to defeat the darkness, his wedding to lady love, Lois Lane, and of course, his flight in tights. The climax to this epic was the return of Kent's arch nemesis, Lex Luthor. The relationship between the two shaped the show during its entire run. The episode was fast-paced and provided tons of memorable moments, even though some of the scenes seemed to be added to fill time. Ultimately, the show finished with Clark Kent fulfilling his destiny, which delivered a great ending. After ten years of watching, waiting, and wishing, fans were left with this one antidote: It is not easy being Superman.

★★★★★

The Office

Airdate: May 17th

Confusion rocked the cubicles at Dunder Mifflin Paper Company. During the season finale of this popular comedy, Jim and the committee interviewed several unique applicants to fill the role of Michael Scott. With the departure of Steve Carell, it was the cast's time to shine. Unfortunately, they all did not get the memo. Fan favorites, Dwight, Kelly, and Andy continued to steal the spotlight, while the multiple guest stars (including Ray Romano, Jim Carrey, and James Spader), fell short. *The Office* always provides laughs, but overall, the finale episode was boring. While the writers tried to utilize their all-star guests and cast the best they could, it did not work. Despite the hour long episode that was crammed with chaos and celebrity, the role of the big boss was not filled. It is either sloppy and indecisive writing, or an attempt to get viewers to tune in to season eight.

★★★

Glee

Airdate: May 24th

Let's hear it for New York! Our favorite band of gleeful misfits hit the Big Apple, in their season two finale, for Nationals. New York became the city of love with the inevitable reunion of Finn and Rachel, the 'aww'-inducing Kurt and Blaine, and the shockingly amazing Sam and Mercedes. The talented actors of the hit Fox dramedy contributed excellent vocals and strong acting. Unfortunately, the suspenseful finale did not live up to the hype. The Glee club continued to face defeat when they placed twelfth at their competition with their lackluster original songs. The possible redemption failed when Quinn Fabray's big plan was not as monumental as expected. The Queen Bee got a sassy haircut and revealed she just wanted somebody to love her. Fear. Before season three approaches in the fall, the writers need to work on one key factor: continuity. This would make tons of fans gleek out.

★★★★

Bridesmaids VS. HANGOVER

Sada Khan

Student Life Editor

For richer or poorer, in sickness or health, *Bridesmaids* will produce everything from chuckles to laughter during this two hour flick. This comedy is about Annie Walker (Kristen Wiig, Saturday Night Live) who learns that her best friend Lillian Donovan, (Maya Rudolph, Saturday Night Live) is engaged. This makes Annie her maid of honor and four other women bridesmaids. Lillian selects Helen Harris (Rose Byrne) the wealthy wife of her fiancée's boss; Becca (Ellie Kemper, NBC's *The Office*) a girl in love with marriage and criticizes Annie for not being married; Megan (Melissa McCarthy, *Gilmore Girls*) the aggressive sister of the groom and Rita (Wendi McLendon-Covey from Comedy Central's *Reno 911*) a family member with an unhappy marriage and three bratty kids.

As the wedding plans and preparations start, Annie's personal life begins to crumble. The cake shop she owns goes bankrupt, forcing her to find work at a jewelry store, where she barely makes any money. And if that isn't enough she is also evicted from her apartment, and is in a horrible relationship with her supposed boyfriend, who thinks of Annie as a friend with benefits rather than as his monogamous girlfriend.

This movie really emphasizes the comedic side of Wiig, who, with the help of the other brides-

maids, shines on screen. As the movie progresses, the personalities of the four women start to emerge. Because of its predominately female cast and open conversations about different careers, lifelong goals, complicated relationships and sex; this movie is often referred to as a female version of *The Hangover*. The movie does differ from most chick flicks through its use of vulgarity and crude jokes among females. The purpose of this movie is to make people laugh and

have a great time. CNN reviewed *Bridesmaids* stating, *Bridesmaids* is a stiletto-sharp, raunchy, no-holds-barred yuk-fest that stands as a worthy female counterpart to the likes of *Wedding Crashers* and *The Hangover*.

This comedy might be the funniest movie I have seen since the last *Hangover*. So, maybe the two movies getting constantly compared to each other, is a compliment to *Bridesmaids*. From the commercials and the advertising this may seem like a strictly lovey-dovey

picture about a wedding, but when you dig deep down you realize it's a movie about something much deeper than that. This flick is about friendships, love and two very different best friends.

Whether girls want a night with their friends, or plan on dragging their significant other to this "chick flick", *Bridesmaids* will have the entire audience spilling their five dollar soda on the poor guy in front of them in laughter.

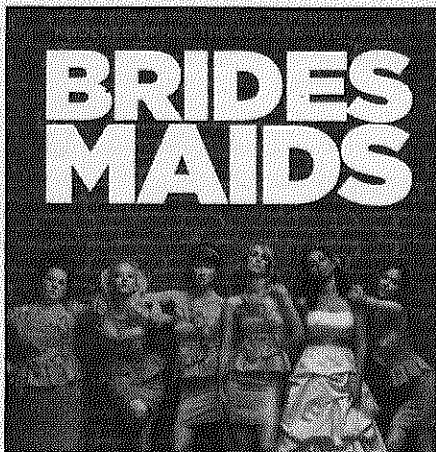


Photo Courtesy of MovieGoods

Josh Belanger

Reporter

The Wolfpack is back. Phil (Bradley Cooper), Stu (Ed Helms, *The Office*), Allen (Zach Galifianakis) and Doug (Justin Bartha) are all reunited, this time for Stu's wedding. The wedding is taking place in Thailand, in Stu's fiancée Lauren's homeland. At dinner, Lauren's dad makes an announcement showing his hatred for Stu and afterwards the Wolfpack goes to the beach with Teddy, Lauren's brother. After a single beer on the beach everything goes black and Phil, Stu and Allen wake up in a Bangkok hotel, along with Leslie Chow (Ken Jeong) and a monkey. The only problem is they cannot find Teddy.

The Hangover part 2 takes on a similar conflict as the first movie, however the story takes place in a much more dangerous city, Bangkok. The people they meet and problems they encounter are more crazy and ridiculous. Director Todd Phillips still delivers the same laughs and jaw dropping scenarios as he did in the first *Hangover* and this sequel is sure to be one of the funniest mov-

ies of the year. *The Hangover* had a great set of characters, worthy of plenty awards for their performances. None better though, than Zach Galifianakis' performance with the character Allen. Allen immediately became a fan favorite and in the sequel he continues to be an awkwardly weird guy that makes random, childish comments. Leslie Chow was also a fan favorite and in part 2, his role is elevated. Chow is actually with the Wolfpack in their late night partying and somewhat helps them find Teddy.

The Hangover became an instant classic with the original story and unforgettable quotes and scenes. Part 2 is a hilarious movie with some outrageous, laugh-out-loud moments worthy of one of the funniest movies of the year. However, it does not compare with the first movie. It lacks the comical quotes that the first one delivered and the second *Hangover* started to be-

come a little farfetched. Still, a great movie and worthy of a big screen viewing, *The Hangover* part 2 is good sequel that is sure to have you laughing hysterically in your seats.

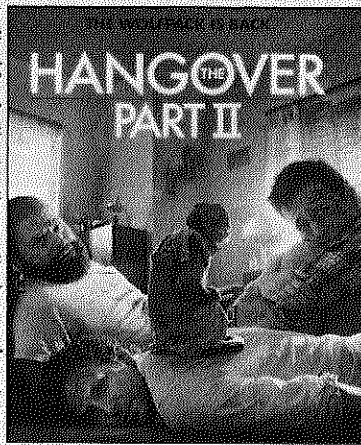


Photo courtesy of Celebs.com

Students take well-earned naps

Caitlin Schroeder
Copy Editor

2:00 am study sessions, hurriedly scribbling through practice tests, reviewing the textbook until your vision is blurred, and repeat. This is what the schedule for the approximately 1,845,006 Advance Placement (AP) students across America resembles in the weeks leading up to the AP exams. But what happens after these infamous test dates? The AP material has been taught in its entirety, the information has hopefully been mastered, and the final test that determines whether or not the student receives college credit for the rigorous course is finally over. So what's left? Nothing.

Once AP testing is over the majority of West Potomac High School's AP teachers give their students a break from the constant classwork and allow them to watch videos during class, some educational, some not. Many teachers also assign final projects to students that review the material covered throughout the year, therefore the students have the opportunity to remain busy and productive during class, but still feel the decrease in their stress levels only brought about by the promise of summer vacation on the horizon.

With the increasing popularity of AP courses, AP students deserve some downtime once the exams are over. After an entire

eight months of homework hell, deadline crunches, and sleepless nights that define the AP course, the exhaustion and need to veg becomes overwhelming for both students and teachers. There is nothing wrong with teachers allowing their students to catch up on the latest 'educational films' or even old Disney reruns (The Lion King is always a crowd favorite) especially considering students haven't reached that sacred finish line date yet. General education classes are still in full force work mode with final exams, Standards of Learning (SOL) Tests, and often course units that won't be completed until the last full week of school. Cliff Hardison, West Potomac High School Principal, believes that the level of course engagement after the AP exams depends on the teachers. "The more innovative and exciting teachers do plan special units of learning and discovery that are exciting to students but not necessarily connected to the AP exams," Hardison states, "This is a wonderful opportunity for teachers to really pull courses together as well and make sure that all students understand the significance of the course in relation to their lives and the world."

To concerned parents, overachieving students and certain critical columnists the post-AP test lull may look like a waste of valuable class time. But considering the exhausting year both the students and teachers have endured, the fact that the material is finished and learned, and the trademark bags under the eyes of testing students, this is not a waste. It's a well deserved break.

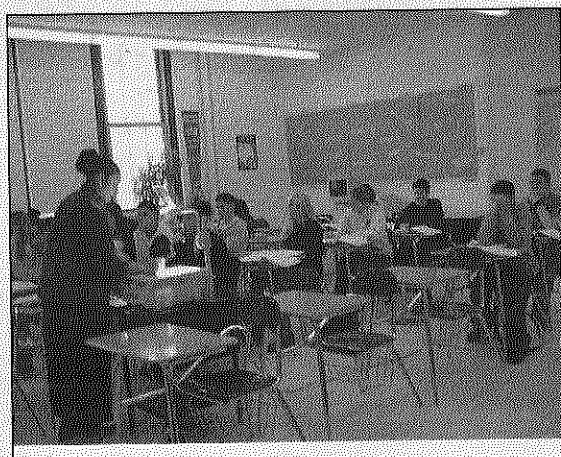


Photo courtesy of Ya Reviews

Students spend most of the year working and want a break at the end of the year, which inspires a big controversy.

You know what really grinds my gears?



Jacob Alexander
Sports Editor

This year the junior parking spots were hard to get. In fact, the spots sold out quickly, and many people wound up without one. This became a big deal and many people complained about it, searching for a solution. These students were willing to pay the money like everybody else, but still had the misfortune of being without a spot. With a situation like this, it is extremely unfair to these students when others, who did not even attempt to pay for a spot, decide to park in the junior lot anyway.

Some students seem to think that just because they got their license after everybody else, they get to park anywhere they want without paying for a spot. Every student with a spot had to pay 200 dollars, and many of them had to use their own money. It is selfish and unfair when people who did not buy a spot think they can park anyway. Some students have found other solutions, such as parking on Cavalier Street. "It is not fair for those who do not have spots to park on cavalier when others who do not have spots are parking in the junior lot, because nobody wants to walk down the street to their car," commented junior Matt Kuhbach, who was one of these students. "It's frustrating." Why should the selfish students be able to park in the junior lot, punishing the other students who have taken initiative and thought about others?

This problem has not been taken care of for a number of reasons. First of all, there are a few spots that nobody ever parks in, so people without parking tickets can park there without stealing someone else's spot. Secondly, when security checks for parking passes they do not always take the time to look up close at each car and make sure they have the West Potomac parking pass for the number of the spot that they are in. These students never get a ticket because it is easy to make it look like they have a pass.

The worst outcome to this behavior is when a student without a spot steals someone else's. The other person has paid the money for the spot and this should not be tolerated. Many times the student who actually has the pass either does not know what to do about the situation or decides it is not worth their time to complain, and they just park somewhere else. It is not fair to try to force these students to solve this problem when all they did was show up later than the person that took their spot. If a student does not have a spot then they cannot park in the school parking lot and this rule needs to be enforced more.

When students decide that they can park in a school spot when they did not buy that parking spot it is unfair to the students who paid for a spot, to the students who tried to get a spot but could not, and to the other students without spots that have taken the initiative to find an alternate way of parking. Students who park without a spot are simply rude and selfish, and they need to find another of getting to school each morning.

Drinking trends rise during beach week

Emily Woods
Editor-in-Chief

For most unmotivated second semester seniors, a common goal drives them to finish out the year: "beach week." A glorified tradition in the mid Atlantic states, "beach week" is a post-graduation celebration in which high school students rent houses nearby coastal beaches to party with their peers. However, with the thrill of independence comes the inevitable increase in drugs, sex, alcohol, and the possibility of legal consequences that may jeopardize college acceptances and scholarships. Beach week is only one example of the many trends in risk-taking behavior that accompany the end of high school. It also sheds light on the question: when does celebrating graduation go too far?

Although the appeal of "beach week" is enticing, its perils are frightening. In 1996, the National Archives of Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine got female suburban high school graduates to fill out a confidential survey profiling their behavior at "beach week." The results were far from shocking. 75 percent were drunk on a daily basis, 54 percent engaged in daily cigarette smoking, and 46 percent had sexual intercourse. Even more upsetting, however, was the reported aftermath of this week of celebration. 32 percent of the girls who completed the survey months after the conclusion of "beach week" claimed to have persistent negative feelings. 12 percent felt a sense of worthlessness and/or depression, 18 percent were concerned about getting a bad reputation among high school classmates, and 15 percent were worried about the possibility of being pregnant.

"Beach week" is not the only issue that stems from graduation season. In 1987, Northern Virginia Project Graduation created an event with the aim to change what had become an annual tragedy of drugs, alcohol and driving on graduation night. Fairfax County now hosts an All Night Grad Party every year in order to keep this rite of passage safe. High schools are quick to

portray this event in a positive light, and although its benefits are undeniable, few recognize its flaws. For example, this year's West Potomac All Night Grad Celebration ends at 2am. This end time opens up the possibility for after-parties, ones that will more than likely include teen drinking and promiscuity. Also, Virginia State Law prohibits drivers who are under 18 from driving between the hours of 12 am and 4 am. This would mean that for a considerable amount of West Potomac seniors, commuting home from All Night Grad will be essentially illegal. Not only that, but students who are 18 are allowed to leave All Night Grad early if they have a signed note from parents. This simple loophole allows seniors to hastily forge a note, leave a safe celebration whenever they please, and go off to binge drink with their friends, thus putting themselves in grave danger and misleading their parents about their whereabouts.

On the other end of the spectrum, the start time of All Night Grad provides a window after the graduation ceremony ideal for "pre-gaming," or for consuming alcohol beverages and drugs prior to attending the All Night Grad Celebration. One tragic and outstanding example of this hit West Potomac directly in 2007, when four underage girls were killed in a brutal car crash on graduation night. Two of the girls had just graduated from West Potomac that afternoon and were allegedly planning on attending the All Night Grad celebration. Police found alcohol and marijuana in the car. This incident does not stand

alone. According to The Loudoun Times, graduation night is one of the two highest risk nights for teen drinking and driving.

Parents and the school administration are not ignorant about the overwhelming trend in teen drinking when graduation season arrives. Instead, several choose not to enforce rules and limits that could be potentially life-saving. Just because a teenager receives a high school diploma does not automatically mean they are responsible and trust-worthy. If anything, a diploma will only act as a trigger for a teenager, evoking feelings of invincibility and freedom that will lead to poor judgment. Open communication and increased awareness about the risks associated with the thrill of graduation is the only way to even begin to remedy the sticky situation that our public schools have gotten themselves into.



Photo courtesy of Restaurant Owners

Beach week is an event that seniors look forward to, but there is also a heightened risk for danger.

Top 3 OF SUMMER 2011

Movies

1. The Hangover Part 2
2. Kung Fu Panda
3. Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides

Songs

1. "Rolling in the Deep" - Adele
2. "E.T." - Katy Perry ft. Kanye West
3. "Give Me Everything" - Pitbull feat. Ne-Yo, Afrojack & Nayer

Movies Rented

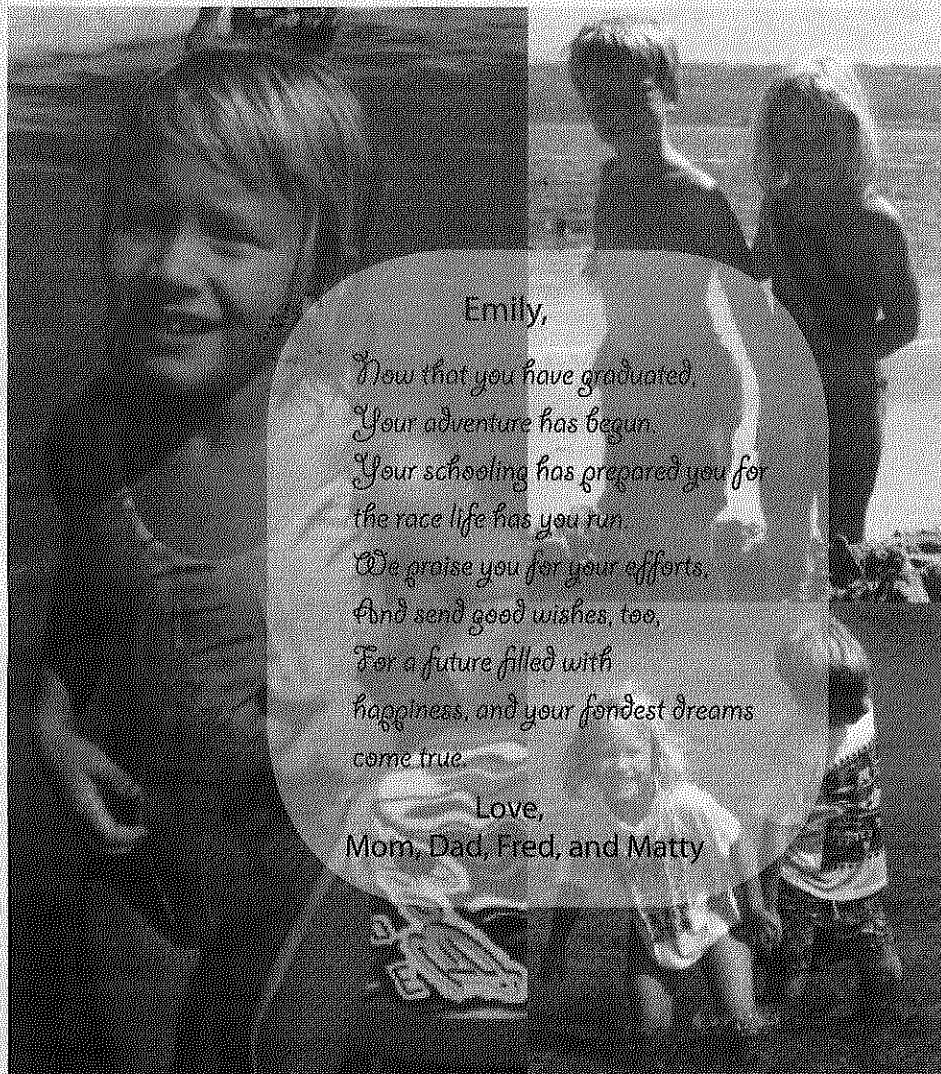
1. No Strings Attached
2. The Roommate
3. The Green Hornet

Shows coming back this June

1. Pretty Little Liars
2. True Blood
3. Keeping up with the Kardashians

Concerts this summer

1. Taylor Swift
2. Britney Spears
3. Maroon 5



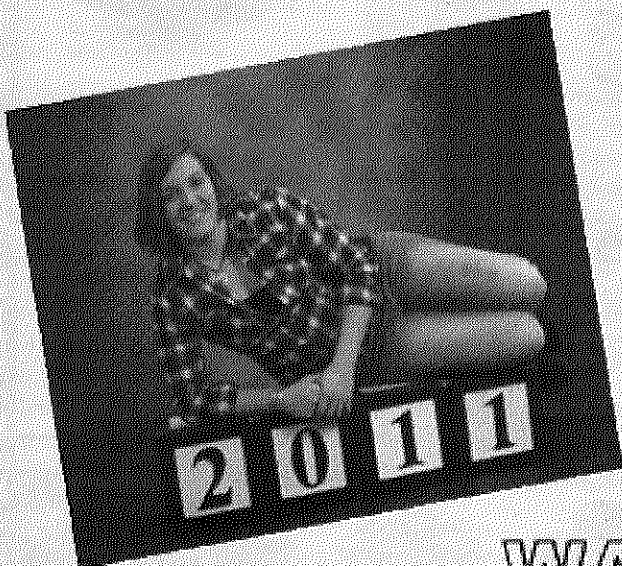
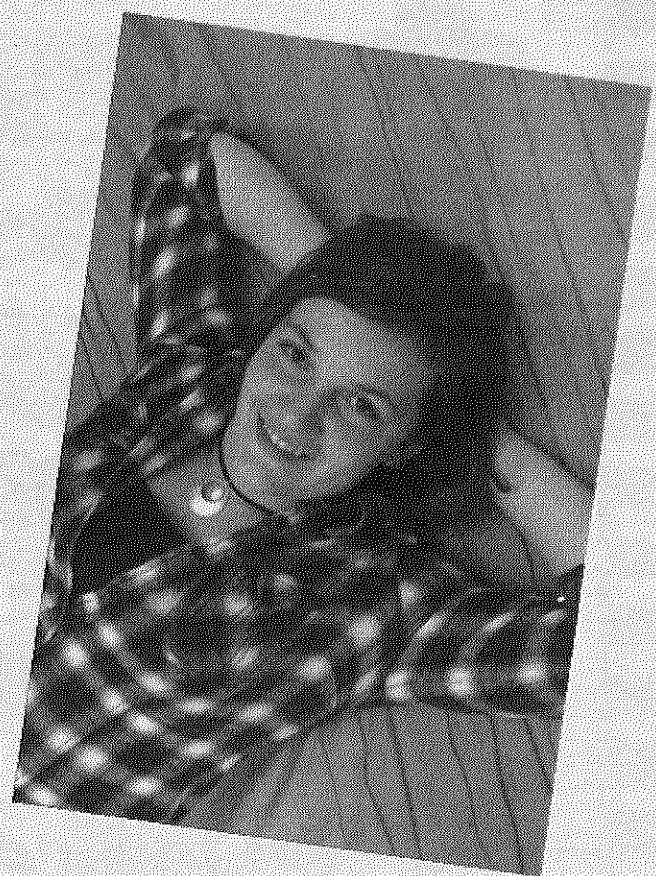
Emily,

Now that you have graduated,
Your adventure has begun.
Your schooling has prepared you for
the race life has you run.
We praise you for your efforts,
And send good wishes, too,
For a future filled with
happiness, and your fondest dreams
come true.

Love,
Mom, Dad, Fred, and Matty

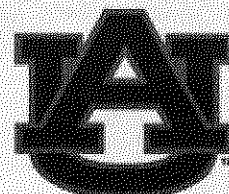


What a fun journey it's been!
Kristin
We are SO proud of you!!



Love,
Mom, Dad, Kevin,
Gma & Gpa

WAR EAGLE!



Chattin' with the Chiefs

Senior EICs reflect on their time on the Wire Staff



Emily Griffin

3
YEARS ON
STAFF

2
YEARS ON
STAFF



Camille DiFolco

A: Hahaha.

A: Hanging out with Emily Smith and Alex Fabrizio.

A: Knowledge about writing.

A: I am looking forward to the independence and the fast food.

A: I was constantly called Elizabeth because I look more like an Elizabeth than I do an Emily.

A: Learn how to speak up and say what is on your mind.

Q: Describe your high school experience in one word.

Q: What is your favorite Wire memory?

Q: What is one thing you plan on taking to college?

Q: What are you looking forward to most about next year?

Q: Describe your funniest moment at West Potomac.

Q: If you could give the underclassmen one piece of advice, what would it be?

A: O-V-E-R

A: Getting takeout food at layout.

A: Emily Woods and Norris Brooks.

A: I'm looking forward to

everything about college: the classes, the people, living away from home.

A: Watching Mr. Feinstein perform a sound-poem. Ask him about it.

A: Walk on the right side of the hallway, play nice with others, and follow me on Twitter!

@justbeingdillo

WP SGA

HOME COMING 2011

Casino Week

September 26th-30th

**What happens at
West Potomac...**

Dance is on October 1st