

March 2  
2007

is Month's Focus



I Love the '90s  
pages 8-9

# THE WIRE

WEST POTOMAC HIGH SCHOOL

Friday, March 2, 2007

West Potomac High School  
Library

Volume 22, Issue #7

6500 Quander Road  
Alexandria, VA 22307

## Keeping the Secret: New Website Helps Silent Teens Save Lives

Kate O'Connor

News Editor

Experts say that before school shootings, teen suicides, or destructive activities, students often confide in each other. Although adolescents are hesitant to report threats or suspicious behavior to the authorities by saying nothing, they risk allowing a disaster to occur. New confidential web sites that send anonymous tips to school security offer hope to troubled youth.

According to a *Gallup* youth survey, in four out of five school shootings, the investigation reveals that the attacker told his or her plans to someone. 48% of students admit to hearing a bomb threat at their school. 23% say that they are afraid to go to school because they fear for their own safety. "At our school, you don't hear very many threats, but there are people who joke about suicide all the time," said junior Kinsey Cunningham. "Maybe they're saying it sarcastically, but really mean it. We might regret it if we don't listen." As long as students are unwilling to tell authorities what they see or hear in the hallways, preventing violence or illegal activities is an almost impossible job for security. "It is our job to make school an inviting, welcoming and safe environment," said guidance counselor Kristin Wiley. "I want students to know

that they can come and see me for anything, and it always scares me when I hear them say that they feel they can't."

Luckily, technology is keeping up with growing violence in our society. Ancomm.com is a new web site that works directly with school administrations and counselors so that students can correspond with them through the website. The communication is encrypted to ensure anonymity. Ancomm.com will contact the principal, teacher, or administrator for a student so that he or she can report the problem. The web site's slogan is "Talk about it," in hopes that this medium will give teens a comfortable environment for addressing and solving their problems.

Among the facts and message boards on the website is a list of success stories containing real emails from students to their administration. The emails cover just about every problem imaginable. The student's issues include drugs, date rape, eating disorders, pregnancy, teacher problems, cheating, bomb threats and suicide. "I went to a party. Yup, innocent me went," wrote one anonymous student. "...Well, John said this drink he gave me would take me to heaven. I guess it did because

all I could see was white then pain. It was date rape." The principal immediately emailed her back with advice. The student remained anonymous, but

See School Shootings, page 6

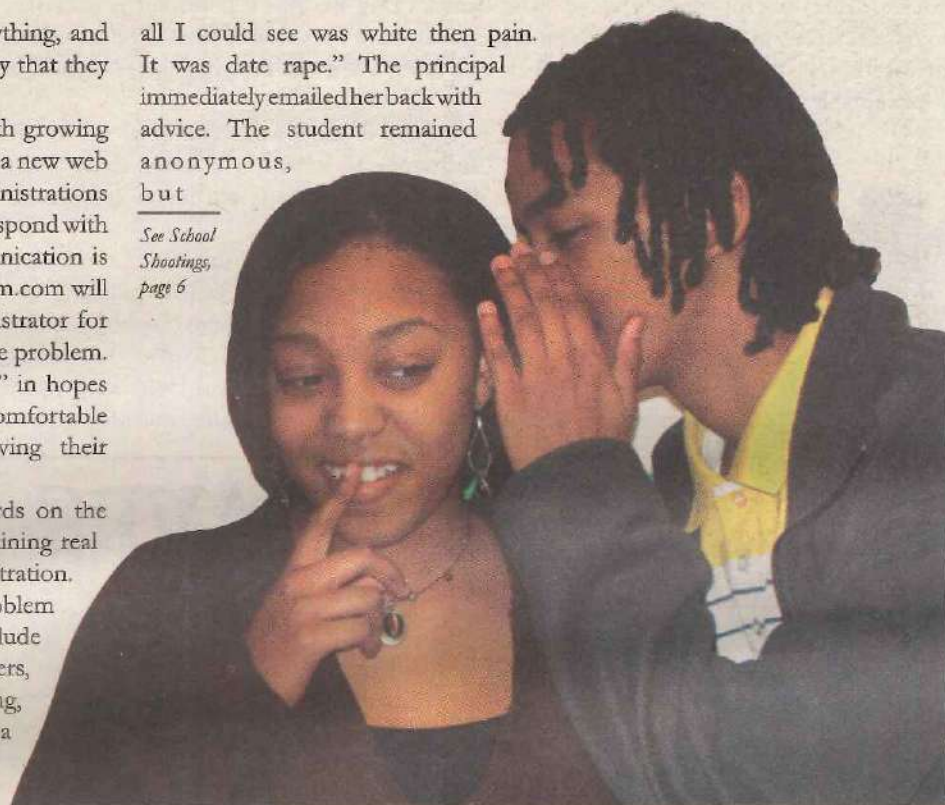


Photo by Lakeisha Langley

Sophomore Daniel Elias is more likely to confide in sophomore Shayla Diggs about a school shooting, rather than telling the proper authorities.

## Girls Protect Themselves with the HPV Vaccine

Devon Cain

Wire Reporter

"I got it because it prevents cervical cancer. It seems like one less thing to worry about," said senior Molly Weisblatt. In June, the federal government approved Gardasil, a vaccine that protects against four human papilloma virus (HPV) types, and suggested that it be given to girls/women ages nine to twenty-six.

There are about forty types of HPV, a common virus passed on through genital contact, which can infect the genital areas of men and women. Some HPV types cause no symptoms while other types can cause cervical cancer in women and other types can cause genital warts in men and women.

Ideally, females should get the vaccine before they become sexually active. The vaccine does not treat existing HPV infections, genital warts, or cancers. This is because the vaccine is most effective for those who have not been exposed to any of the four HPV types it covers. "I think it is a good idea, just to be safe. I have had one dose [of the vaccine], I still have two more to go," said junior Cindy MacPherson. The vaccine is given over a sixth month period in series of three shots at a cost of \$360.

A bill requiring all girls entering middle school to be vaccinated for the sexually transmitted virus passed the Virginia House of Delegates. The bill was amended to give parents the right to review information about the vaccine and exempt their daughters. The Virginia Senate unanimously passed a similar bill, but without the provision of the parental opt-out.

Currently it is not known whether the vaccine is effective in boys or men. However, studies are now being done to find out if the vaccine works to prevent HPV infection and disease in males. When more information is available, this vaccine may be licensed and recommended for boys/men as well.

The FDA licensed the HPV vaccine as safe and effective for females. It has been tested in over eleven thousand girls/women (ages 9-26) around the world. These studies have shown no serious side effects, the most common being soreness at the injection site. Senior Theresa How-Yew-Kin said, "I'm scared. What if there are side effects I don't know about? [The vaccine] has not been around for long." The vaccinations for Virginia middle school girls would not be mandatory until the 2009 school year, so supporters argue that gives sufficient time to study any possible side effects before vaccination becomes required. "My mom wants me to [get the HPV vaccination]. I think it is a good idea," said junior Haley Mertins.

Debate surrounds the bill as opposing conservatives and parents' rights groups around the country say the requirement would condone premarital sex. Weisblatt said, "I don't think the marketing of this drug has anything to do with sex. It is a good way of preventing a



Kurt Strazdins

See HPV, page 7

## Study Shows High Schoolers are Unprepared for College.

Mariya Ilyas

News Editor

It is senior year, and that nasty disease has begun to make its appearance: senioritis. Once in college, students find it hard to worry about anything. But with new studies that show many students are not ready to handle college curriculums or life, slacking off might just turn into a disaster down the road.

"Data from the nation's two leading college entrance exams, the SAT and the ACT, show that many high school graduates are not prepared to succeed academically in college," reported Ray Suarez on August 30, 2005 on *NewsHour*.

Are high schools not doing enough or are colleges expecting too much? "I think that a lot of colleges have come to see that times have changed and some colleges understand that. It all depends on the admissions process," said senior Hasan Fahema.

Teachers feel they are well preparing students for the rigors of college academics. "I can only comment on the students I have seen. I think the majority of the students I have had in my classes as sophomores will be ready for college by their senior year. Certainly, the seniors I have seen in my AP Chemistry classes are ready," said AP Chemistry teacher Garry Relton.

Although students are taking challenging courses to get into college, it seems that they are not really paying attention to the curriculum itself.

Sleeping at one or two in the morning and cramming for tests often gets passing grades in AP classes. Admissions to fine colleges are very important, but even more important is *succeeding* in them. When asked if he was ready for college, Fahema said, "In a sense, yes, because I'm taking AP courses and have a general idea of how courses [in college] will be like."

"[Students] are not with the rigorous course work; they are not with the reading skills. And so while they are ready for college in terms of their attitude, they are not academically prepared in large numbers," said Freeman Hrabowski, president of the University of Maryland

See Students Not Ready, page 6



Photo by Brad Lupton

College work seriously worries junior Paul Disselkoen and sophomore Forrest Wilson.

INSIDE  
THIS  
ISSUE:

News: Page 5



Photo by Jon Yoo

WHO SHOULD YOU VOTE AS OUR  
NEXT MR. WEST POTOMAC?

Sports: Page 11



Photo by Drew Smith

BASEBALL COMES  
BACK IN FULL SWING

Style: Page 12



Photo by Brittany Catina

PURITY WALKS THE  
RUNWAY

Features: Page 15



Photo by Drew Smith

AN ABSOLUTE TURKEY:  
AN ABSOLUTE TRIUMPH



### Leprechauns and Pots of Gold: This Holiday is So Old

Typical. Another forced imposition of Christianity on the people of the world. I am, of course, expressing my utter dislike of Saint Patrick's Day. Because it is absolutely necessary to have a holiday in every month, for retail purposes, Saint Pat's Day causes the entire month of March to be dripping with green and clovers. Since when was throwing leaves around an acceptable decoration tactic?

Saint Patrick was the patron saint of Ireland in the fourth century. He drove out pagan rituals and brought Christianity to Ireland. He would probably be ecstatic to know that his day is marked by disproportionate amounts of drinking, jigging, and general sinning.

Besides increased Lucky Charm cereal consumption, elementary school students everywhere are subject to violent pinching and nightmarish accounts of rich, greedy leprechauns. Sophomore Neil Burke, a definite leprechaun believer as a kid, remembers building leprechaun traps. The lies told to him and children like him about the existence of small green creatures probably scarred

for life.

Senior Nick Spataro was frequently exposed to violence. "Everytime someone pinched me for not wearing green, I would say 'MY EYES ARE GREEN!' I used to fight with people over it," he said.

Among the misconceptions tied to Saint Patrick's Day are the stereotypes that the Irish are pugnacious swaggering troublemakers. "It's sad, actually," said Burke. "I hate how non-Irish people claim they're Irish." He went on to lament the overcommercialization of Saint Patrick's Day. "Valentine's Day commercializes love, Christmas commercializes Jesus, and Saint Patrick's Day commercializes the entire Irish race."

So, have fun this March 17, eating gold coins and wearing ridiculous plastic leprechaun hats. Make sure you search for a pot of gold under a rainbow as well. Who knows, maybe they do exist.



### RANTS and RAVES



**A RANT FOR ADDING ANOTHER SECURITY GUARD.**

**A RANT FOR NO DISCRETE MATH NEXT YEAR.**

**A RANT FOR COMING TO SCHOOL ON MONDAY.**



**A Rave for the winners at the science fair!**

**A Rave for varsity boys basketball for making it to regionals!**

**A Rave for the winners of the Scholastic Art Competition. Junior Jeremy Bogdan won 5 awards, more than the entire state of Utah!**

#### Corrections From Last Issue

In the story "Goofy Girls," it was said that the singer of the song "Girls" was Mario C, when it was actually Ad-rock.

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

### Making a Difference in D.C.

Dear Editor,

I recently participated in the annual lobby day concerning a woman's right to choose in Richmond. For most of the day, we went around and spoke to Virginia's delegates, senators, and their aids. We also attended both the student rally and the main rally. Afterwards, two friends and myself were invited to the NARAL *Roe v. Wade* 34<sup>th</sup> anniversary dinner. It was an astounding experience! Speakers included U.S. Senators Ben Cardin, Debbie Stabenow, Kirsten Gillibrand, and NARAL president Nancy Keenan. For an even greater honor, after the speeches were finished, Nancy Keenan came over to our table and thanked my friends and I for coming. After spending the day talking to the elected officials who will be making these important decisions that concern us all, I really felt like a true citizen. It isn't that hard to make a difference. You just have to take enough time and care to see what you can do and get out there. People tend to be pretty impressed when they see young people like ourselves who care enough to make an effort. I find that when I show that it matters to me, people tend to listen. Anyone can do it. We are so lucky to be living so near the capital, where so much is going on! There is always something that all of us can do. We just have to do it.

Freshman, Alison Stevens

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*.

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

### CARTOON LAGOON

Day 1- No School



Day 2- No School



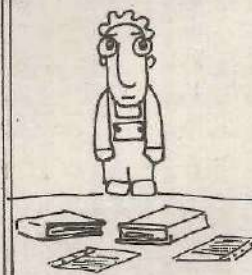
Day 3- No School



Day 4- Weekend



Day 5- Weekend



Day 6- President's Day



Illustration by Allison Tse

Have a cartoon for *The Wire*? Submit it to room 418. All submissions become property of *The Wire*.



## The Left Hand Shall Rule the Land

Taylor Dankmyer

Managing Editor

Left-handers are the best in all the land. However, only eight to fifteen percent of the adult population is left-handed. People wonder why there are not more left-handers. Well, it is simple. There only can be so many great people in the world.

Look at the left-handers of the past. Babe Ruth, the greatest baseball player of all time, was left-handed. Then there is superstar president Bill Clinton; yes, he is left handed too! So is Osama Bin Laden! Ok, maybe that was not the best example.

Alan Searleman from St. Lawrence University found that there were more left-handed people with IQs over 140 than right-handed people. Isaac Newton, Albert Einstein, and Benjamin Franklin were all left-handed, point proven.

"The anomaly is left-handed people make up the extremely gifted and the extremely compromised, the rest of us make up the middle ground," said William Hopkins, a psychologist at Emory University.

Not only that, but we are obviously good fighters. Because most people are right-handed, they are used to fighting right-handers. This gives lefties the element of surprise. Watch out for that left hook.

The other great thing about being left handed is because we have to use our right hand a lot, we are a lot better using our right hand

than righties are at using their left hand. Advantage: Lefties.

Like it or not right-handers, left-handers are so much better. Being right handed is no fun. I would rather cut off my right arm than be converted to right-handedness.

Still skeptical huh? Jay Leno, Bruce Willis, Jerry Seinfeld, Paul McCartney, Keanu Reeves and Oprah Winfrey are all left handed as well. Oprah is the goddess of talk shows, McCartney is the lead singer of the most popular pop rock band of all time, and Seinfeld was the main character of one of the greatest sitcoms of all time!

And Bruce Willis' left-handedness combined with glaring stares cause his enemies in fictional movies to fear him. Heck, even the two editors in chief of this award winning paper are lefties!

Even left-handed batsmen in cricket have an advantage. Scientists who studied the cricket World Cup found left-handers players hit more runs, and batted longer.

However, we have been discriminated against in the past. Throughout kindergarten, I always had to use the right-handed scissors. The result was

horrible cut-outs posted on the walls of our classroom for all to laugh at.

Also, the desks in our school's Kogelman Theatre are made for right-handers. For left-handers, this is incredibly uncomfortable and hard to use. I demand equality for the left-handers of this nation!



Photo by Kenneth Llewellyn

## Foreign Cars Are Raising the Bar

Alex Keckeisen

Editor-in-Chief

Back in 1995, a movie called *Tommy Boy*, starring Chris Farley, was released in theatres. The basic plot is Farley's character going across the country selling brake pads to auto parts stores to help save his late father's company, because without the company, the whole town of Sandusky, Ohio goes under.

What was then a comedy is now a reality for U.S. automakers, as they struggle to compete for sales. The movie teaches great lessons to today's American automakers, and with these valuable quotes from the movie and explanations, they may be able to get the hint to get back in the game.

**"That'll keep up the re-sale value."**

One of the reasons that Japanese brands are winning over American buyers is their reliability. Honda was rated as having one of the best re-sale values by *Forbes* magazine, and continues to take that rating all the way to the bank. Yes, American car parts can be found dirt cheap just about anywhere, but who really wants to repair their car every other week when a Honda requires little maintenance?

**"A guarantee is only as good as the man who writes it."**

Warranties, warranties, warranties. They are what make a buyer want something. This ties into the reliability issue, because when consumers have reliable cars, repairs for dealers to fix vehicles drop like flies on a black light. They give the consumer a sense of security knowing, when something breaks, it will not be coming out of their pocket book.

"If this company goes under, this whole town goes under."

With the big three American car companies (GM, Ford, and Chrysler) looking like the dumb brother, American automakers will most likely have to cut thousands of jobs, in turn hurting the economy. Without these

companies, our country will no longer be a dominant figure in the world of business. I am in no way implying that the country will cease to exist, but it will hurt the economy. "I have a guarantee to the American worker."

Back in the heyday of American cars, when competition was between the three giants of GM, Ford, and Chrysler, these companies offered amazing retirement plans. Back then, it looked to be the best idea ever, but now it is costing these companies. A few thousand dollars out of each GM car sold last year was lost to the retirement plans, showing that they obviously care about their employees. If there is one thing that makes someone want to buy a car that does not actually have to do with the car itself, that is it.

"I've been buying parts from Callahan since I hung up my shingles, but I don't like you, probably never will. You're a smug, unhappy little man, and you treat people like they were idiots."

Plain and simple, people do not like American cars. It is their engines, their design, their dealers, and their reliability. A lot of people just do not like the brands being sold today

because of these problems. Shaping up and redoing the brand as a whole could be the only way to save these ailing companies.

The now defunct Oldsmobile brand, owned by General Motors, was hurting primarily because of their name. When they began creating a new car, the Aurora, they removed all Oldsmobile brandings from the car. When they let consumers test drive the car, potential buyers were satisfied with the vehicle and many said they would buy it. But when told it was an Oldsmobile,

many of these test-drivers who liked the vehicle changed their minds. And now, that particular brand is extinct.

**"Watch and learn."**

Recently, Ford and Toyota met in Tokyo to discuss possible cooperation of the two

brands. One thing that could help the struggling Ford Motor Company is consultations and oversight from the

now dominant Toyota. This may seem awkward to some, having the number two and three global leaders in auto sales helping each other, but it comes as no surprise to the auto industry. Toyota has already ventured into this arena, helping stabilize Porsche in the 1990's. Now, Porsche is one of the most stable car companies in the world, thanks to Toyota consultation.

**"Fat guy in a little coat."**

The American automakers are simply hurting themselves by moving into car classes that they do not belong in. They are straying from what they are good at to level out the sales field and using their great ideas in the all wrong places. Truck chassis do not fit onto sedans, so why are U.S. carmakers trying to make it work?

**"Made by the American working man, for the American working man."**

Toyota currently touts their Camry as the top selling car in America. This is fact, but Ford owns the crown for best selling vehicle with the F-series, an American classic. This truck is almost double what Camry's sales numbers look like. By sticking to selling what they sell best while still competing in other areas, such as sedans, Ford with the F-150 and Chevrolet with the Silverado will be able to keep a leg up on the competition.

**"I've got a plan."**

American automakers better have a plan for 2007, or the future will look even worse than 2006.

**"Holy schneikes, it worked!"**

Yes, it did, Tommy, yes, it did.

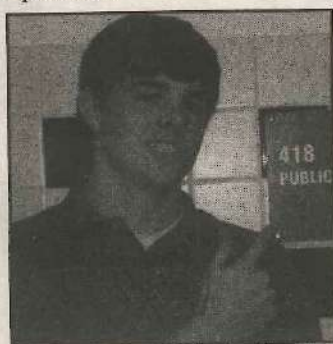


Photo by Ken Llewellyn

### American automakers better have a plan for 2007.

## Adele's A-B-C's

Getting You Through Life One Letter at a Time



Photo by Lakeisha Langley

Adele Hampton

Editor-in-Chief

The pain, the anguish, the horrifying excruciating ache of the bikini wax has been a favorite tool of women to attract the male species. I have not tried this because I am too much of a sissy, but it is amazing what teenage girls are willing to do in order to wrangle in that special someone. We curl our hair, we pluck our eyebrows out, we drench ourselves in overwhelming powerful scents, and we color our faces like the pages of a coloring book, resulting in Teenage Mutant Barbie.

**O**strobogulous: bizarre, unusual, interesting

It is all about the morning, the time between waking up and going to school; this is where all the magic happens. And by magic I mean a total transformation, beast to beauty. The outfit is one of the most important parts of this alteration.

After various undergarments are put on, a girl must go through an ancient tribal ritual dance the Dance of the Jeans. Because of the tightness of jeans these days, girls must do a special dance to get into them. Only the dance will ensure that the girl will fit into the jeans properly. If you do not have this particular problem, but still want to try the dance, it is very simple. First step: remove all fragile items to a safe location, i.e. nowhere near you. Second step: place legs into the legs of the jeans. Third step: pull up as hard as you can while wiggling as if you were covered with bugs; you may roll on the floor if you have to. Grunting and yelling at the jeans may not help fitting into them, but may help relieve anger.

**P**erissology: redundancy of speech, pleonasm. Basically, girls talk too much.

"Oh my gosh, so I was walking down the street and like, oh my gosh, there was this kid who like, totally almost got hit by, like, this truck and, like, oh my gosh, I, like, totally freaked out oh my gosh, like, totally." To be linguistically challenged is like a serious disorder, like resulting in being ostracized by, like, other eventually leading to, like, being homeless with no, like, friends, eating from a, like, dumpster (ew). So, in order to evade this future, just shut up. Take a moment to breathe and think.

The phrase previously stated can easily be summarized in six words: "Kid, almost hit car, ahhhhhhhh!" It is that simple. Girls these days, myself included, waste so much time talking. Precious minutes, sometimes hours, lost to story time. In the time it takes one girl to recount a story one could microwave three bags of popcorn, go grocery shopping, or create a Facebook account. So many productive things could be accomplished.

We do not have to spend countless hours getting ready or waste countless tears at the getting a bikini wax. We could buy pants that fit, we could speak in concise sentences, we could do all of these things to make the world a better place. We say being a girl is such hard work, when in reality, it is us girls who make it so hard.

**Lackluster Laws of Virginia**

**DRIVING WHILE NOT WEARING SHOES IS PROHIBITED.**

**No animal may be hunted on Sunday, with the exception of raccoons, which may be hunted until 2:00 AM.**

Children are not to go trick-or-treating on Halloween.

It is illegal to tickle women.

**CITIZENS MUST HONK THEIR HORN WHILE PASSING OTHER CARS.**





## Next Year, Take Some Chances

Emily Kuhbach

Wire Reporter

It is that time of year again, when bright-eyed counselors invade our classrooms, arms loaded with important-looking papers and booklets, smiles plastered on their faces. They tell us it is time to make some decisions about next year and, more importantly, our futures- all in the next few days. They speak of options and choices, plans and preparation. In a flourish, they have distributed all the information we need to plan out our next year of high school.

We open the main attraction: the course selection booklet. Our eyes widen at each turn of the page; for the myriad of options is overwhelming. Next year will be the year, we think. It will be the year we finally sign up for that elective we have always wanted to take, whether it be Human Relationships or Current Affairs, Auto Shop I or Sociology. In other words, a fresh start.

Some of us enter the course selection process budding with hope that the next year will be the year we finally take what we really want to. This sense of limitless options makes us feel as if we are in total control of our destinies. Imagine it: the power to take any class that our school offers (and it does boast a wide variety.) We are very much on top of our educational worlds.

Slowly, over time, however, this feeling starts to go away. The first test: parents. Some recommend that we take that fourth year of band, because consistency looks good to

colleges. And we want to be doctors, right? So, obviously, AP Biology is the right choice over something frivolous like Film Study- something we might really be interested in now. Some parents promise us that all our options are open, but they do not really mean that. It would look better for the future, they say, if we took this over that. But of course, it is our decision, they claim. After all, it is our future (and consequently our funeral.)



Then the counselors come into the equation. (Obviously, I like math. Why can't I take calculus next year? Why should I take a language instead? Who cares if it gives me a better shot of getting into... oh, nevermind. That is another story.) We have private meetings with our counselors to discuss The Future: what we want to do when we get there and how we plan to get there. But it would be nice if we went kind

of fast, since we are on the clock and everything. So can we outline our plans in the next three minutes? That would be great.

For those of us who plan on going to college, and who, more specifically, plan on going to a *specific* college, this is where those "endless options" turn out to really be quite restricting.

They tell us that a fourth year of a language, music, etc. looks better on a college application than pursuing something new. Sure, you liked Spanish two years ago, but now you are a little bit jaded. Is this your chance to finally take American Sign Language? According to most advisers, do not even

think about it: "It's much more beneficial to be consistent. It's risky to take a chance on a new elective senior year... Spanish is so useful!" What they are really saying: Stick with Spanish because it gives you a better chance of getting into college. Better yet, take AP Spanish. After all, nothing puts the application like another AP course.

Where does this madness begin? That day the counselors walk into our classrooms, promising us boundless freedom in picking fresh courses for the next year. But they cannot fool us; we know it is not true. If we want to get a certain place, there is only so much we can choose ourselves. The rest is really decided for us before we even open that course booklet. So what is the point? We all say it is unfair, yet we subscribe to it because it is the only way we will get where we want to be.

But that is all about to change. It is easy to say take whatever you want, regardless of the consequences. I am quite aware that it is a lot easier said than done; after all, you still want to go to a good school, right? You have to schedule in fighting the system along with all those extracurriculars you stacked up on. But I hope we all strive to do one seemingly small thing, and that is to take at least one course purely because it interests us. As long as we are studying at least one subject we are truly interested in, any unbearable classes we are taking become a little easier.

Now is the time to make some changes. Let's make the process truly an individual one. We cannot continue to take what other people think we should take, because in the end we are the ones stuck doing the homework.

## Falling Off the World's Pedestal

*The United States has become a target of opposition and discontent among other countries.*

Grace Powell

Opinions Editor

America is not as popular as it used to be. In some countries, America is now the target of hate and contempt.

A poll released by BBC in late January, taken by 25 countries including the U.S., said, "The number of those who said the US was a positive influence in the world fell in 18 nations polled in previous years." The statistic is due to many factors, one being our country's handling of global affairs, in that we cannot stay out of them. The BBC poll found that 73% of the people polled were not in favor of the Iraqi war. Many nations felt the Iraqi war was simply too deep of a problem to dig into. In early February, Russian president Vladimir Putin expressed his disdain for some of U.S. policies, and said, "Primarily, the United States has overstepped its national borders, and in every area." Frankly, reasons as to why anti-American vibes are circulating could fill a library. However, the BBC poll sums up the controversy and said, "Across the 25 countries polled, 49% of respondents said the US played a mainly negative role in the world."

The root of anti-Americanism stems from a history of opposition towards the U.S., starting with the foundation of our nation in North America. As our nation has risen to be one of the most powerful in the world, people have resented the grip America has on world affairs.

Many people have a love-hate relationship towards America. For example, some people who claim to hate America actively try to enter this country and

receive the benefits of freedom and opportunity. Furthermore, Anti-Americanism is not limited to the foreign nations who bash our country, it thrives within America amongst its own people. However, there will always be something about this country that we dislike. Our allegiance lies underneath a nation founded on the promotion of freedom, freedom to wave our flags boldly if we want to.

Though the 9/11 attacks clearly show that America is not favored by some people, does the occasional protest or burning of the American flag paint an overly done picture of the issue? An article in the Boston Globe said, "First, fewer people around the globe hate the United States than might be imagined...What's more, even where anti-American sentiment is high, people often express appreciation for aspects of American society."

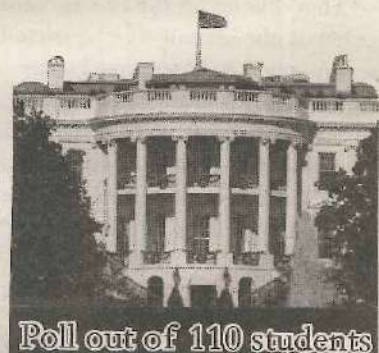
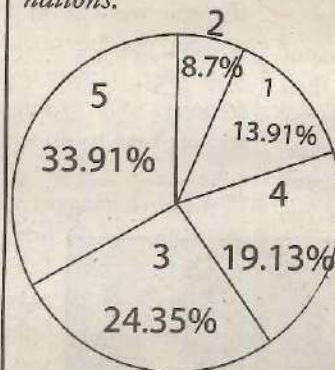


Photo by Brittany Catina

In essence, the reason why some people hate our country comes down to the lives we live and the politics our government is governed by. People seethe at the American culture. Our philosophy is, "I can get what I want, when I want it, and I dare you to try to stop me." They look at the cars in our driveways, the food in our refrigerators, and the "trash" we throw away as a prime example of our materialistic lifestyles. This misconception of the United States is understandable, but unfortunate. Yes, the United States is a place of wealth, greed, and sometimes corruption. But this country has also seen poverty, misfortune, and heartache. Yes, our government can make poor decisions, but don't we all? America is disliked for many reasons, some reasonable and some not. The issue comes down to something we all learned a long time ago, don't judge a book by its cover.

## How Popular is the United States?

On a scale of 1 (least popular) to 5 (most popular), students rate our country's popularity among other nations.



Poll out of 110 students

Bill Auth/KRT

I think that America has always been one of the world's most powerful and well-known nations.  
~Sophomore Erika Primdahl



Photo by Brittany Catina



Photo by Brittany Catina

America's entrance to the war has taken away the whole respect of the nation.  
~Sophomore Sam Gearing



Photo by Brittany Catina





Photo By Lakeisha Langley

Students Maddie Dahl (right) and Carly Matson (left) learn a unique and silent form of communication in American Sign Language class.

## Learning to be Heard Without Words

Erin Burke

Wire Reporter

Walking down the language hallway, a student can hear the many different languages that our school offers. That is, until one walks past the American Sign Language classroom. All that can be heard from the room is the air conditioner unit because all the students are silently communicating with their hands.

Sign Language is a non-verbal language that is taught to those who are hearing impaired or deaf. Students in the class, however, are not necessarily disabled in their hearing. For example, sophomore Carly Matson took the class because her classmate recommended it. She said, "I like it because it is different. Everybody else is talking, and we get to be completely quiet and nobody knows what is going on."

Over the past few years, the American Sign Language (ASL) class has grown and developed into a serious program, complete with its own Honor Society, club, and t-shirts. ASL teacher Ashley Hall said, "It may surprise many, but ASL is more frequently used than many would anticipate. It is actually one of the most common languages in America, ranking right up there behind English and Spanish."

Just like any language, ASL is not universally used, it only works in America. Other countries use different forms of sign language. For example, there is different grammar and vocabulary in Britain and Australia.

American Sign Language was derived from the French Sign Language by Thomas Gallaudet. Sign Language is a completely visual language, where eye contact is key to understanding a conversation. The students learn these concepts through classroom activities, such as games and projects. For example, students learn how to sign figurative or metaphorical language by signing to songs.

The class also allows students to learn about and get involved in the deaf community around our school and in their neighborhoods. Additionally, Gallaudet University, which is a college for people with hearing disabilities, is just twenty minutes away in Washington, D.C. Hall said, "This University provides us with an abundance of opportunities to interact with the Deaf community and learn about the Deaf culture."

One such way students can become involved in this community is through programs sponsored by the ASL club. For example, once a month, the club holds a silent dinner or ASL centered trip. During these events, the students are expected to communicate solely through their signing skills. Hall said, "...these silent dinners help my students improve their fluency and build their vocabulary." A student does not even need to be enrolled in the class or be in the club in order to participate in these events.

The ASL program at our school has shined a light on this formerly little-known language. The students involved in the program have also brought about awareness of the deaf community in and around our area.

## MARCH EVENTS

- March 3 – Step team showcase 7-10 pm in the auditorium and gym
- March 4 – crew silent auction 6-10 pm
- March 9 – 3 hours late opening, school starts at 10:20
- March 10 – SAT
- March 13 – fashion show 7-10 main gym
- March 15 – all district chorus concert 7:30 -10 pm
- March 21 – powder puff game 7-9 pm
- March 24 – crew regatta @ Occoquan 8am-3pm
- March 24 – debate competition @ Yorktown 8:15am – 5:30pm
- March 28 – March Madness Concert 7:30-9:00pm in auditorium
- March 30 – 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter ends
- March 31 – Baseball Tournament 9am-9pm at baseball field

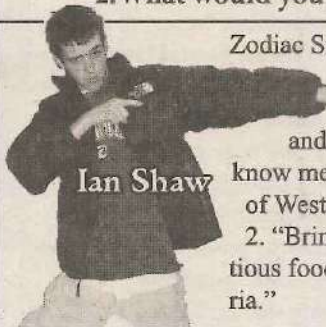
## Meet the Contestants for

# Mr. West Potomac

Matt Motley

Our Wire reporters caught up with the ten senior contestants and asked them:

1. Why do you deserve to be Mr. West Potomac?
2. What would you do to make West Potomac a better place?



Ian Shaw

Zodiac Sign: Aries

1. "Because I am outgoing and a lot of people know me. I am the face of West Potomac."
2. "Bring more nutritious food to the cafeteria."

Patrick Moniz

Zodiac Sign: Gemini

1. "Because I am good looking and smart."
2. "I want gold covered walkways and hallways and angels would carry you to class."



Nick Thessin

Zodiac Sign: Libra

1. "I am the greatest there ever was."
2. "Loosen the restrictions on the dress code."



Christian Markson

Zodiac Sign: Aries

1. "Because, I am Christian Markson."
2. "I think we should get permission slips to go off campus for lunch."



John Jordan

Zodiac Sign: Libra

1. "Because everybody knows and loves John Jordan."
2. "Give the people freedom."



Nick Spataro

Zodiac Sign: Libra

1. "I am awesome!"
2. "Off-Campus lunch."



Ryan Baker

1. "Because everyone wants to be me."
2. "Keep everyone hyped up."



Demetysius Smith

1. "I feel like I represent everything about WePo"
2. "I would put ice cream machines around the school."



Franklin Pagan

Zodiac Sign: Gemini

1. "I am a cool guy and am involved in after-school activities and I strive to do my best in everything I do."
2. "Beds in the classrooms so we could catch up on sleep."



Matt Motley (Top) Zodiac Sign: Sagittarius

1. "It's not about being Mr. West Potomac. It's about going out there, being entertaining, and having a good time."
2. "Free donuts every Monday morning for everyone."

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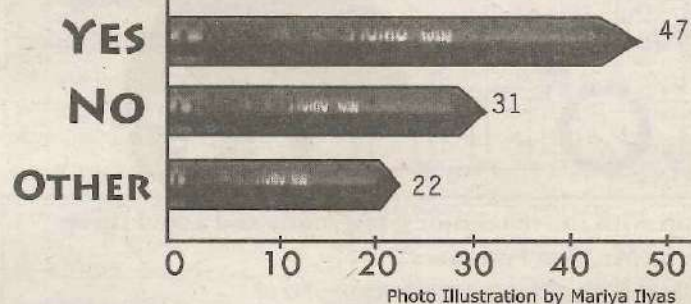


# PROM!



## Are High Schoolers Adequately Prepared for College?

Students disagree with national studies



**“YOU CAN NEVER BE THAT PREPARED FOR SOMETHING AS BIG AS COLLEGE, BUT YOU LEARN AND CAN DO WELL WHILE WORKING.”**  
~FRESHMAN, KELCY ROSENBERG

**“YES. WITH NUMEROUS TESTING PROCEDURES, APPLICATIONS AND AP CLASSES PROVIDED, I THINK HIGH SCHOOLERS ARE.”**



Photo by Drew Smith  
Sophomore, Clarice Medrano



Photo by Mariya Ilyas  
Junior, Beth Dahlburg

**“NO. THIS YEAR, I HAVEN'T WRITTEN ONE PAPER. NEXT YEAR IS GOING TO BE A RUDE AWAKENING.”**



Photo by Mariya Ilyas  
Senior, Amanda Walsh

### Students Not Ready, from page 1

an interview with Suarez.

Some say time management is the key to success both in high school and in college. When asked how she plans to manage her time in college, senior Melinda Golden said, “Knowing when to study and knowing when to party.” Golden will “probably [attend] the University of Maryland Eastern Shore,” and to her, college is “much better [than high school] and [students have] more freedom.”

How much time do colleges devote remediation? “Well, about 70 percent of the freshmen who come to us require some level of remediation, usually light, but sometimes quite heavy,” said Sandy Shugart, president of Valencia Community College, in an interview with Suarez.

Students that do not take AP or Honors courses in high school risk making a mistake stepping into college, thinking the ride will be just as smooth. The vigorous curriculum and expectations of colleges have increased now-a-days. Teachers at our school are doing everything they can to prepare AP students for the best. “I am preparing them by the content I teach. I have far less time for the course than they will have in college. Hopefully, I am getting across the need for independent study,” said Relton.

There is only so much these teachers can do, however. The majority of preparation before college is the responsibility of the student.

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## Cop's Corner

Devon Cain

Wire Reporter

The Mt. Vernon Police station has received numerous complaints by citizens living in the neighborhood surrounding our school about reckless and inappropriate driving behavior.

Many of the complaints state the drivers are students who attend our school, as the violations occur mostly in the morning hours and when school lets out in the afternoon.

Officer Daryl Davis said, “As the school resource officer for West Potomac, it is not only my job to enforce the laws of Virginia, which include traffic laws, but also to educate students about safe driving habits.”

Speeding on Cavalier Drive and Quander Road is also a major concern. “Disregarding the speed limit on these roads has been a problem for a long time and it is still a problem. The speed limit is twenty-five miles per hour. It is a residential and a school district. There are no

exceptions,” said Davis.

Officer Davis feels it is important to get the word out that the more complaints the police get, the more police enforcement there will be on the roads (increased traffic summons).

Students are also parking on Cavalier and jumping over the fences in order to get to and from school.

the morning and afternoon. Mr. Bill Haire said, “[Walking through the yards] can be trespassing.”

The parking lot is a problem too. “There are two major concerns,” said Davis. “The first one concerns the double yellow line issue in the afternoon, there is two-way traffic here and drivers can not pass traffic on the left. We also have the problem of speeding on the straightaway behind the Springbank building.”

Of the past seven years, this year had the most minor accidents at our school.

Another major issue that students continuously do not follow is not stopping at the stop sign that was newly placed at the Cavalier and Yale Drives. Students should be more alert!

### Words from Officer Davis:

**“Just comply with the laws of the road. Do the speed limit and don't run stop signs. I just want good voluntary compliance, and I don't want my students getting tickets. Just a heads-up: there will be periods of strict enforcement on these roads throughout the year by the Fairfax County Police Department.”**

## Congrats, Science Fair Winners

Devon Cain

Wire Reporter

Students from sophomore, junior, and senior science classes competed in the West Potomac Science Fair, which took place in the cafeteria on Saturday, February 10. Some of the young scientists used their summers to research the topic to truly prepare themselves for this big event. Projects were evaluated by four judges. These judges based their decisions on everything from the thoroughness of the students' research, to the project's real life importance, to the appearance of the board. The first place winners were nominated to go to the Fairfax County Regional Science Fair, held from March 16-18 at Robinson Secondary School. Good luck! Congratulations to the following participants for their outstanding science fair projects:

### 1<sup>st</sup> place:

Junior Erika Swartz, Senior Gregory Son, Senior William Klein, Sophomore Matthew Fuqua, Senior Devon Cain, Senior Teresa Caro, Senior Carolyn Gibson.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> place:

Senior Lauren Schmalz, Senior Nick Friederich, Senior Kim Schreiber, Sophomore Kaitlyn Anderson, Senior Roshni Pattiath, Junior Drew Reese, Senior Michael Isani, Senior Bobby Clark, Senior Giovanni Quinteros, Senior Zachary Tillet, Sophomore Mara Persheid, Senior Gregory Bechtol, Junior Travis Batchelor.



Photo by Mariya Ilyas

Senior Roshni Pattiath won second place for her science fair project.

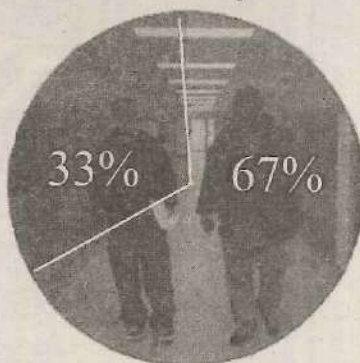
### 3<sup>rd</sup> place:

Senior Anum Jaffri, Junior Olivia Gross, Junior Jeremy Bogdan, Junior Emmanuel Koduah, Junior Christopher Lazenby, Junior Caroline Staples, Junior Forrest Cox, Junior Patrick Dunford, Junior Andrea Jensen, Junior Ben Kirby, Sophomore Mariya Ilyas, Senior Alex Mounts, Senior Casey Snyder, Sophomore Michael Tse, Junior Jessica Smith, Junior Sarah Watson.

### Honorable Mention:

Junior Nicholas Collett, Junior Warren Davis, Junior James Dressing, Junior Kerianne Beyer, Junior Brad Lupton, Junior Alex Protosevich, Junior Emily Kuhn, Junior Hunter Link, Junior Jeremy Rezendes, Junior Matthew Husband, Junior Sam McCann.

### Would You Feel Comfortable Reporting a Possible Conflict to Security?



No  
Yes

Photo Illustration by Laura Davidson

was able to sort through her problems.

Students have lots of reasons for wanting to remain anonymous. “If I were friends with whoever I was reporting, it could end up hurting me. You would be risking your friends,” said junior Erika Jones. “I think anonymous tips could be a good idea.” “Lots of times, high schoolers choose to make their friends more important than everyone else, even their family,” said guidance counselor Christine Spaulding.

Spaulding and Wiley assured that all communication students have with their councilors is confidential unless it involves something that could harm the student or others. They agreed that the web site is a good idea in some ways, but were also skeptical. “Some of these issues we get are serious, and shouldn't be handled via e-mail. What if the e-mail isn't seen in time?” said Spaulding. “Students could abuse the site because they wouldn't be accountable for a tip they gave... the school would end up wasting resources investigating the claims,” she continued.

Even through the skepticism, ancomm.com and other developing anonymous web sites and hotlines offer hope in the struggle to break the teenage code of silence.

### School Shootings, from page 1



# Artists Strive at Competition

Caroline Staples

Focus Reporter

"It's good to see them get rewarded for their hard work," said Fine Arts teacher, Anne Dunn, who had twenty-one students win awards from the annual, nationwide Scholastic Art Competition in 2007.

The Scholastic Art Competition is known to be the most competitive, highly-esteemed visual arts competition in the nation. Close to one hundred students in this school and thousands nationwide submit photos, paintings, sculptures, and/or drawings to be judged nationally in New York by professional artists and art professors in universities.

"I submitted five pieces that are a mix of computer graphics and Photoshop," said junior Jeremy Bogdan. What started as an event to get his name out there, ended up with him winning five awards, more awards won than the entire state of Utah.

Each piece taking between a day and one week to complete, they are visuals of distorted faces, something Bogdan was interested in that showed "what really was behind the mask."

While some worked on their submissions outside of class, AP Art students had to work on theirs in

class as a semester grade assigned by Dunn. Artwork submitted into the competition were judged for quality, creativity, and most importantly, personal interpretation. And while our school has always had very good artists, this year had a bit of luck, seeing as we had twenty-one students win, some receiving multiple awards.

As a freshman in Photojournalism 1, Erin Spangler received second place in the Digital Imagery

section of the Scholastic Art Competition. Her piece was a photo of a girl's hands tying an apron behind her back that went well with her theme of "getting ready to go out." Another piece done by Spangler was a picture of another girl's hands holding a pearl necklace. "Ms. Mobley wanted me to enter and I thought it was kind of cool," said Spangler. "I was a little confused, but at the same time very excited."

Gold and silver key winners were honored in a

ceremony on Tuesday, February 13 at the Ernest Cultural Center at NOVA Annandale Campus.

All other entries submitted by our students were presented in the display cases in the main lobby in the Quander building.

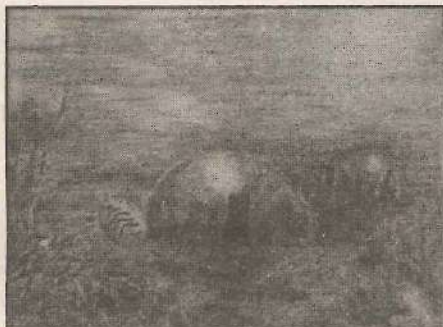


Photo by Caroline Staples

Senior Ngo Fei Ng won an award for this painting. Many other students from our school won awards for their outstanding works of art.

## HPV, from page 1

horrible and painful cancer." For those who do not get the shot, there are other ways to prevent cervical cancer. Regular Pap tests and follow-up can prevent most, but not all, cases of cervical cancer at an early, curable stage. As for prevention, it is not known how much protection condoms provide against HPV, since areas that are not covered by a condom can be exposed to the virus. However, condoms may reduce the risk of genital warts and cervical cancer. The only

sure way to prevent HPV is to abstain from all sexual activity.

At least fifty percent of sexually active people will get HPV at some time in their lives and HPV is most common in young women and men who are in their late teens and early twenties.

About ninety-nine percent of the cases of cervical cancer, which kills about ten women a day nationwide, are linked to HPV, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

## News Briefs

Devon Cain & Mariya Ilyas

Wire Reporter & News Editor

### National Junior Student Leadership Conference

Junior T.J. Cleary was selected to participate in the National Student Leadership Conference (NSLC) on Globalization and International Business this summer at American University. During the conference, Cleary will attend specialized workshops and classes with other students from around the country. He will also have the opportunity to meet with and learn from recognized leaders (past speakers have included Pentagon and White House officials, Ambassadors, U.S. Cabinet members, etc.). Congratulations, T.J.!

### Ocean Bowl Participants

Congratulations to Senior Greg Bechtol, Sophomore Yoon-ji Ha, Senior Will Klein, Freshman Jeremy Lewis, and Senior Greg Son, who took West Potomac to a third-place finish in a 10-team competition.

### Congrats to B1 and B2 ESOL Students

The following English Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) students received an award during Flex on Thursday, February 22 in the cafeteria. These students have worked very hard to master the English language.

#### A & B Honor Roll

Isaac Aboagye	Zeshawan Rahman	Ana Villalobos
Gustavo Alvarez	Eduardo Resendiz Monroy	Paulina Silva
Bryan Castillo Portillo	Alhan Samimi Darzi	Subohi Naeem
Winnies Blanco	Jose Sandoval Guerra	Fengze Jiang
Carlos Chavez Romero	Dilman Gonzales	Irsa Khan
Fakhria Farhadi	Perez Amanuel Tassew	Lucia Reyes
Afshan Iftekhar	Stephany Toscano Villar	Paola Rodriguez
Kobab Iftekhar	Carlos Mejia Villatora	Binta Bioro
Jennifer Jimenez Lopez	Erika Mejia Arevalo	Maima Kamara
	Marvin Morales Hernandez	

#### Perfect Attendance

Abdul Ahmadi  
Joel Avelar  
Tamrat Gebremichael  
Hae Ji Kwon  
Lady Martin

#### All A Honor Roll

Ezana Zewdic  
Mohamed Mohamed  
Abdul Ahmadi

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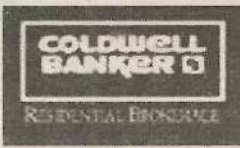
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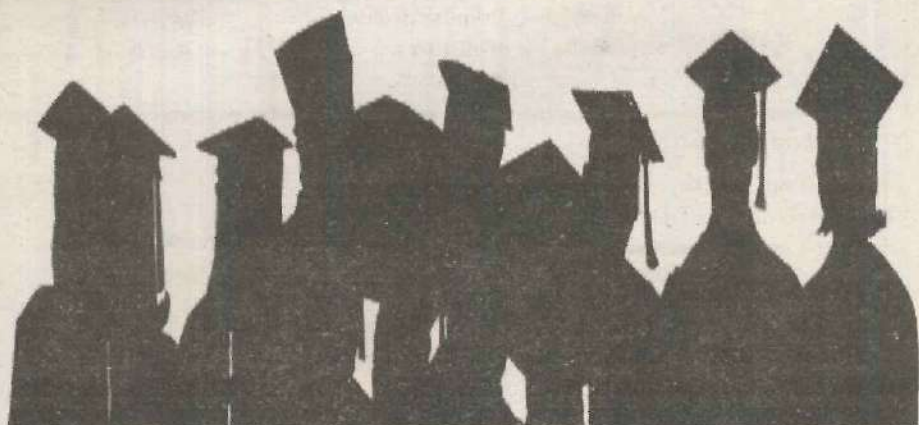
pondering life after high school?

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- ★ Obtain information on the college search and selection process.
- ★ Talk to representatives from colleges, universities and trade schools from across the country.
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- ★ Register to win a scholarship and prizes.

located downstairs, outside of Bloomingdale's and L.L. Bean





# '90S CATCHPHRASES

Sandy Slippen

Copy Editor

The '90s was a decade stocked with an avalanche of pop culture catchphrases, thanks in large part to the enormous spread of the Internet's popularity and reach. While

catchphrases existed in previous decades, the rise of the Internet as a form of global communication allowed people all over the world to join together and integrate these phrases into modern history. Here is just a small sample of the vast numbers of catchphrases:

## "Show Me the Money"



Photo by Caroline Staples

After being featured by actor Cuba Gooding, Jr. in 1996's breakout hit *Jerry Maguire*, those with money on their minds everywhere uttered this line to keep the money flowing.

## "Girl Power!"



Photo by Joe Rimkus Jr./KRT

As the 1990s progressed, a pro-feminist movement in pop culture prompted women and girls to establish their domain, especially when the British pop group, The Spice Girls, exploded onto the American scene in 1997.

## "Talk to the Hand"



Photo by Caroline Staples

Emerging in the 1990s as a condescending, sarcastic remark of distaste with a speaker ("...because the face don't want to hear it"), this catchphrase gained prominence with people of all age groups and races.

## "Psyche!" & "Not!"



Two catchphrases that have stood the test of time since their emerging popularity in the 1990s. "Psyche" is still used by many in the English language to demonstrate a fake-out, while last year's *Boat* brought "NOT!" back into the public limelight.

## "Is That Your Final Answer?"



Photo by David Joles/KRT



Photo by SV/ABACA PRESS/KRT

As soon as Regis Philbin uttered these immortal words, answering questions was forever changed. After ABC struck a ratings gold mine

with 1999's *Who Wants to Be a Millionaire* and spawned an endless amount of game shows, this phrase stood head and shoulders above the rest.

# American Sports

Zach Feinstein

Wire Reporter

Throughout the '90s, professional sports became an even more important part of American culture. Star athletes such as Michael Jordan, Troy Aikman, Roger Clemens, Wayne Gretzky, and Michael Johnson all became household names throughout the U.S. and the world. Famous teams such as the Chicago Bulls, Dallas Cowboys, New York Yankees, and the Duke Blue Devils led millions of people to their televisions to watch their favorite teams. With all of this publicity, sports marketing became very important, as teams would sign multi-million dollar deals with TV stations and players. The '90s led to the dawn of modern professional sports teams.

In the NBA, the '90s most famous and successful team was the Chicago Bulls, with Michael Jordan leading them to six NBA titles throughout the '90s and consecutive titles from 1991-1993 and 1996-1998. Besides the Bull dynasty, Magic Johnson retired from the NBA after he found out he tested positive for the HIV virus in 1991. In 1992, before the Olympics in Barcelona, Spain, the U.S. Olympic

team crea  
as Charle  
other star  
gold med  
The N  
changes.  
Francisco  
teams a  
Bowls, an

## Decade of Tots and Toys

Jocelyn Finfrock

Style Editor

The '90s was a time that many of us at this school remember like it was yesterday. The good old days when girls played with Barbies and boys played Pokémon were times when school was not something we dreaded, and worries such as homework, projects, and college did not even enter our minds. Those were the times kids remember best.

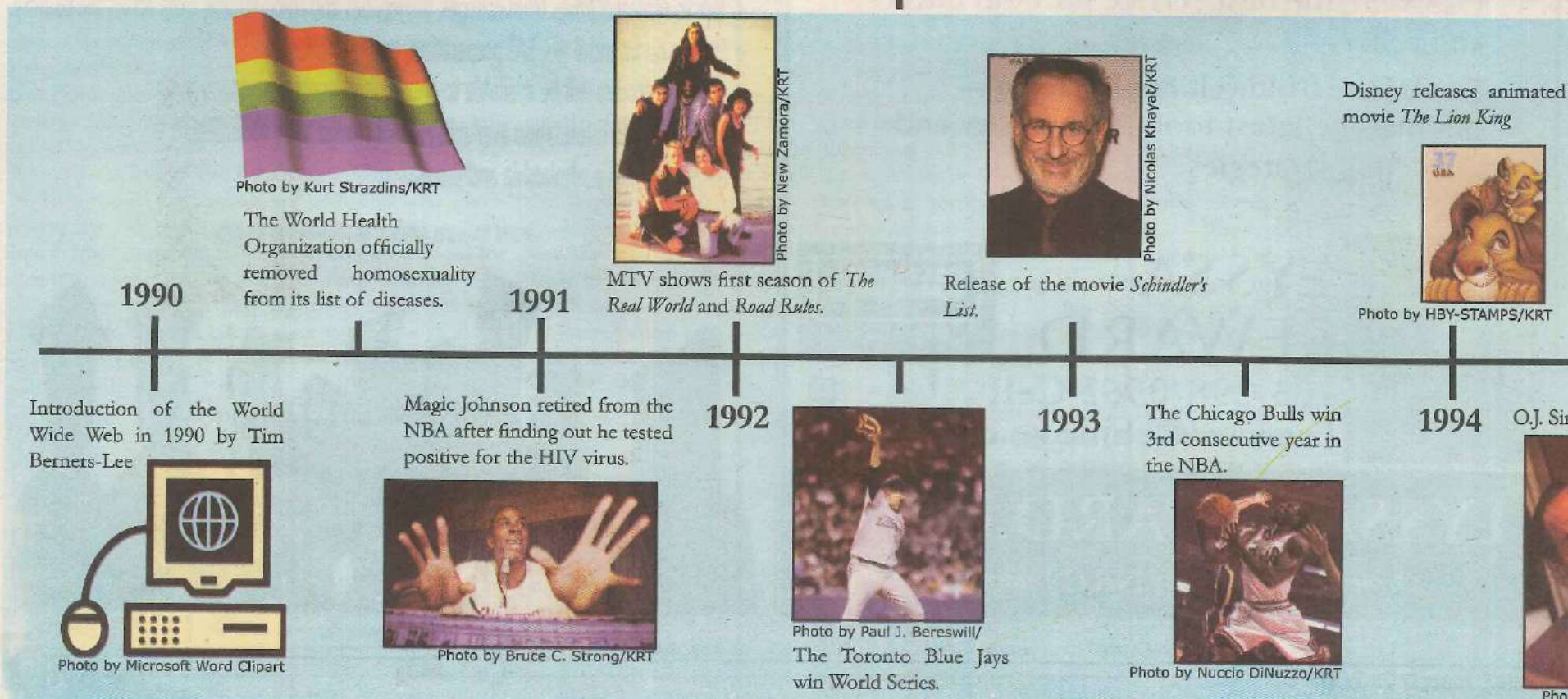
In today's society, the entire toy industry is being overtaken by electronics. Children no longer play with toys like Barbies, Pokémon or TY beanie babies, but with video games and iPods. Kids today are definitely missing out, because in the '90s, Furbies, Gigapets, Pokémon, TY beanie babies, Barbie and Power Rangers were life. "I used to trade and battle with Pokémon cards with my friends during school. We would get in trouble," said senior Felipe Rivera. Just the mention of some of these fads overflows our minds with millions of memories playing with our friends without a care in the world. Back in the day, Barbie was the role model for girls and every girl wanted to marry a guy like Ken. Every boy wanted to be the Red Power Ranger and would spend hours playing with action figures. Imagination was everything and with it, could create endless possibilities.

During the '90s, TY beanie babies were a huge fad. With over 200 different ones, complete with names, birthdays, and poems to go along with their characters, they were loved by everyone. You can still find them in every Hallmark store, but they are nowhere near as popular as they were in the '90s. "I own a few beanie babies and I still have a few," said senior Sierra Coleridge. "My favorite was a yellow and black one named Bubbles."

Furbies were first introduced in 1994 and instantly took off. Every child wanted one and you were not "in" if you didn't have one. Though they faded away after a couple of years, they were definitely a fad of the '90s.

Ever remember those tiny electronic pets? You could have a hamster or even a fish all in the palm of your hand. You could feed it, walk it, or even make it talk. Gigapets and Tomagachis were popular. Parents also loved them because they were so small. Those were definitely one of the things teens today remember.

While some of the fads are still popular today, they will never be as popular as they were in the '90s.





# Dominated the World

am Team" which consisted of stars such as Michael Jordan, Magic Johnson, and many others. "Dream Team" would go on to win the gold medal.

The '90s also experienced many important events. The NFL, NBA, and NHL all had successful seasons. The Denver Broncos were the most successful team with Dallas winning three Super Bowls and Denver winning two each.

The '90s also saw an increased interest in the Olympics, as millions of people watched both the Winter and Summer Olympics.

The sites for the Summer Olympics were Barcelona, Spain (1992) and Atlanta, U.S. (1996). The sites for the Winter Olympics were Albertville, Canada

(1992), Lillehammer, Norway (1994), and Nagano, Japan (1998). When asked about the major events in the Olympics, history teacher Hassan Mims said, "(The) Olympics bombings in Atlanta." The MLB and NHL grew throughout the '90s, too. In the NHL, new teams such as the Ottawa Senators, Tampa Bay Lightning, and San Jose Sharks were created. The Minnesota North Stars were moved to Dallas and renamed the Dallas Stars. In the MLB, the New York Yankees pretty much dominated all aspects of baseball. The Yankees won three World Series during the '90s, while the Toronto Blue Jays won two consecutive titles from 1992-1993.

The '90s was a very important time in modern sports history. The popular teams and popular players throughout the decade helped make sports what it is today.



Photo by Gabriel B. Tait/KRT

The Red Wings were one of the most successful Hockey teams throughout the '90s

## The '90s

### Rockin' Out, '90s

Taylor Dankmyer

Managing Editor

Sure, our generation is technically "growing up" in the 2000s, but many still love music of the '90s. '90s rock music cannot possibly be put into a short article, because there was simply too much variety, from mainstream rock, to alternative rock, to punk rock, and everything in between. Here are just a few of the great rock bands of the '90s.



Photo by Liam Sweeney/KRT

Michael "Flea" Balzary of the Red Hot Chili Peppers.

like "What I Got," "Santeria" and "Doin' Time." Rest in peace, Sublime!

**Weezer**- This alternative rock band released *The Blue Album* in 1994. It went triple platinum and featured singles "Undone (The Sweater Song)" and "Buddy Holly." Weezer's alternative geeky rock style reached a popularity that they almost didn't seem fit for.

**The Red Hot Chili Peppers**- Ah yes, the Chili

Peppers. This crazy, funk influenced band from L.A. released three albums in the '90s (*Blood Sugar Sex Magik*, *One Hot Minute*, and *Californication*) when the band hit its peak. Throughout their 23 year career, the band has successfully fused various elements of alternative rock, punk, funk, rap, pop, rock, heavy metal and psychedelic rock, despite numerous line-up changes and personal problems. RHCP is still rockin' to this day.

**Green Day**- Another California based band, Green Day, which released 5 albums in the '90s, was easily one of the most popular bands of the '90s. There were 14 singles released by Green Day in the '90s, and there are simply too many good songs to list. Their *International Superhits* album is a good buy if you want a compilation of 90s Green Day hits.

**The Offspring**- Probably, along with Green Day, one of the biggest contributors to bringing punk rock to the center stage in the mid '90s. The Offspring released four albums in the '90s, three of which went platinum. "Pretty Fly (For a White Guy)" was a huge success, and is probably their best known song.

The '90s also had a lot of rockin' chicks. The lead singer of both No Doubt and The Cranberries were women. "Don't Speak," by No Doubt, was number one on the *Billboard* Hot 100 Airplay chart for a record setting sixteen weeks.

Yes, some of us may be feeling nostalgic for '90s music, but no fear, with iPods, you can make your own personalized '90s playlists. So have at it you '90s rockers.

## Baggy Jeans and Bell-bottoms

Kelly Wood

Features Editor

Fashion had a sudden transformation in the 1990s, becoming much more casual than ever before. While professional attire was still common, casual became the new "fad." Wikipedia refers to the 90s as a decade of "anti-fashion," due to the rise of grunge clothing.

Grunge clothing became very popular, and it is no wonder why. No one had to worry about falling and ripping a hole in their pants because the stores already did that for you. Naturally, jeans were still in style, just as they were during the previous decades. The guys took a special liking to the extremely baggy jeans, while the girls enjoyed the reappearance of bell bottoms, now called flare jeans. Any old tee shirt was just fine, but some liked to change it up and wear a cute shirt from Tommy, Levi, Guess, or a shirt with a funny phrase on it like, "I Don't Know."

Alongside jeans, cargo pants, and skirts worn over pants, the light sports pants that made a swishing noise at little movement were very much in style. For shoes, there was just as much diversity. The most commonly seen shoes included platforms, loafers, and Sam and Libby flats which were ballerina-like flat dress shoes. Tube socks and thigh-high stockings for girls to wear with a miniskirt were a must.

To finish off any outfit, one needs accessories, and teenagers in the '90s had no shortage of these. The miniature back packs used as purses became a big hit, and sadly, so did fanny packs. For those with a more adventurous spirit, body piercing and tattoos were considered very cool. For those a little more timid, there was Mhendi, a non permanent tattoo. The rubber bracelets that came in all different colors were worn on all occasions, casual or not. Almost every little girl was in awe with the butterfly hair clips prominent at this time.

While some clothing of the '90s would be pointed at and laughed at today, most styles are still seen throughout our school's hallways. Sophomore Rachel Ess said, "The fashion of the '90s opened the door to our fashion styles today."



## TEACHERS' FAVORITE '90S MOVIES

Erin Burke

Wire Reporter

1. THE SHAWSHANK REDEMPTION (1994)
2. THE FUGITIVE (1993)
3. SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE (1998)
4. THE MATRIX (1999)
5. A FEW GOOD MEN (1992)
6. THE SIXTH SENSE (1999)
7. LAST OF THE MOHICANS (1992)
8. TITANIC (1997)
9. FARGO (1996)
10. QUIZ SHOW (1994)

(These movies are listed in no particular order.)

Release of the movie *Forrest Gump*. Tom Hanks (Left) won Best Actor and Gary Sinise (Right) was nominated for Best Supporting Actor for their roles in the movie.



Photo by Bruce Chamber/KRT

Summer Olympics held in Atlanta, U.S.

Release of the movie *Titanic*.



Photo by Tom Uhlenbrock/St. Louis Post-Dispatch/KRT

Release of the movie *The Matrix*.



Photo by Lionel Hahn/KRT

ler trial.

1995

1996

Michael Johnson won the gold medal in the 200 meter dash in the Olympics.



Photo by Linda Cataffo/KRT

1997

President Clinton lies about his sexual relationship with White House intern, Monica Lewinsky.



Photo by Olivier Douliery/KRT

1998

1999





Photo by Drew Smith  
Hard at work, sophomore Kim Crawford conditions for the approaching season.

## Crew Team Rowing Towards Success

*Crew team prepares for upcoming season*

Sydney Smith

Wire Reporter

Unlike most sports at this school, crew spans two seasons, with winter used for dry land practice and spring for on-the-water practice and competition.

Members of the crew team typically practice every day for several hours after school, and for an hour or more on Saturdays. Students who participate in crew are often very passionate about the sport, due to their large time commitment to it. Also, because of the long practices and regattas (competitions), the teammates often become very close friends. Senior Andrew Taylor said, "I made a lot of friends doing crew because you really get to know the people. Of course, with crew, I do not have time for much else... It is hard not to bond when you spend about four hours a day with the same people seven days a week for a few months."

Some students do another winter sport in an effort to cross train, or to lose weight or gain muscle. Taylor was a member of our school's varsity swim and dive team. He said, "I'm not really sure why I do both. My main reason [to do both] is to stay in shape and to have fun."

## A Revolving Door of Sports

Kate O'Connor

News Editor

Every season, sports teams lose their athletes to other extracurricular activities, jobs, and academic strain. There are times when teams suffer because of their dropouts. This year, several sports have lost strong athletes, while other sports are impressed with the determination and resolve of their players.

Senior Chandler Rogers was a starting player on last year's girls varsity lacrosse team. Because she was a strong midfielder, Rogers was given the 2006 MVP award. "If I had played this year, it would have been my twelfth. I was losing interest in the sport," said Rogers. "I've played on a lot of competitive teams outside of school that I loved, and somehow it just wasn't the same being on the school's team," she said. Rogers plans to stay involved in the sport by coaching a youth lacrosse team and is considering getting a job.

Juniors Matt Marinello and Chris Silva both walked off the boys lacrosse team to audition for the school musical, *42nd Street*. "Lacrosse was never really my sport," said Marinello. "In order to direct a One Act next year, I have to be a Thespian, and you have to have been in two major plays to get that." Athletes and theater students organizing their priorities know that it is impossible to do both a show and a sport. "[Actors] just can't do a sport if they're going to be in the play," said Kathie McCormally, our school's theater arts teacher. "We rehearse every day after school until 5:30 or 6, and they can not miss more than 10 hours of rehearsal," she continued. "It's as demanding as going out for a sport, we're asking for the same dedication."

After losing players, coaches and teammates are left wondering, "Why the change of heart?" "A lot of students go out for their teams and after a year they find out it's not for them and move on," said student activities director, Jeff Deuze. "I think you see the highest dropout rate with

sophomores," he continued. "But anyone can decide not to come back."

Track also saw that many of their winter athletes left the team this spring to play other sports. "The number is higher this year due simply to the number of athletes that came out for indoor track this winter," said coach Daniel Lundin. He continued to say, "Probably [about] 25% of our winter track athletes do not return for spring. That would be a total of about 35 athletes... that leave track for another sport."

However, not all sports are losing their players this year. Stephanie Gerow, a junior who has started on varsity soccer since freshman year, said that very few people do not come back to the varsity soccer team. "I can only think of three former JV players who didn't try out for the team this year," she said.

Most athletes stick with their sports through high school, but some look at the teams as a chance to try new things, to keep in shape, or to look for new talents. Overall, our schools athletes are dedicated, and even those who leave their sports continue to work hard in other endeavors.

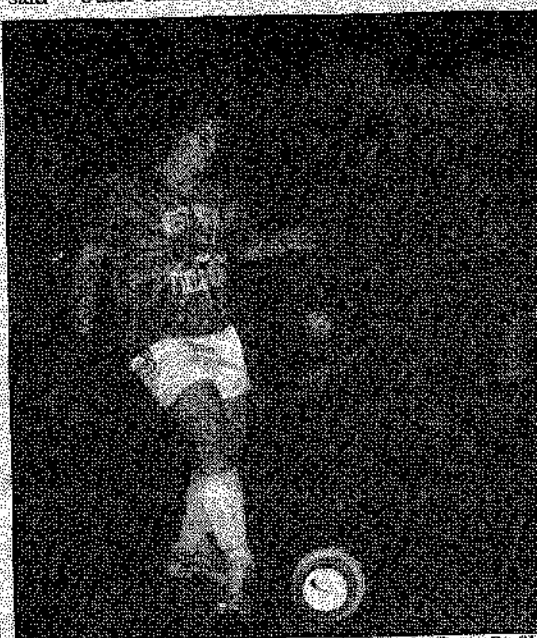


Photo by Drew Smith

Girls soccer is one of the few sports to suffer from only a small number of dropouts. Others, such as track and girls lacrosse, have had to deal with such setbacks.

## Boys of Summer Return in Numbers

Kenneth Llewellyn

Opinions Editor

It is only spring but the boys of summer are already starting a new season. With many returning starters and a fresh group of young talent, the varsity baseball team is looking forward to a new season.

After last year's disappointing 5-12 season, varsity baseball looks to rebound this year

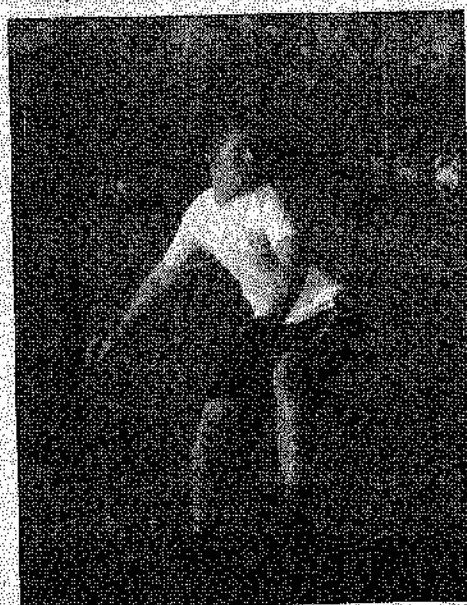


Photo by Drew Smith

During tryouts, senior Chris Leifer perfects his delivery. Leifer hopes to conclude his high school baseball career on a high note this season.

The team features eight returning players from last year's varsity team including shortstop and pitcher Hunter Lord, outfielder Skylar Galayda, catcher Phil Cast, pitcher and shortstop Kevin Sidney, first baseman and pitcher Cody Demmel, outfielder Davey Hoen, and second baseman Shane Sixsmith. "We've got a lot of experience on this team," said Cast. The team will suffer from the losses of pitcher Chris Burke and outfielder Bocchie Baker, but there is a large amount of talent coming up from last year's JV team. Outfielder David Delano, third baseman James Dressing, pitcher Alex Grant, and outfielder Jake Szlenker are some of the up-and-coming players that look to make a big impact this season.

The team is looking forward to taking on rivals T.C., Hayfield, Lake Braddock, and South County. The team had victories against T.C. and South County last year, so they are hoping to build from there. Although T.C. Williams is seen as one of the lesser teams in the district, "There's a lot of bad blood between us," said one player on last year's JV team. Over the past two seasons, altercations have almost occurred on between the JV teams and with several players rising to the next level, the games

are sure to be heated.

Another reason to get excited about this year's team is they finally have a home field advantage. For the past several years, the team has suffered from playing on a less-than-mediocre field. Now the field has been fixed up, and players are looking forward to home games instead of dreading them. "People will look forward to coming to games and the players will look forward to playing here," said coach Jim Sullivan.

No one knows what will happen this season, but this season should be a much better one than last year. With a strong group of pitchers and a good defense behind them, the team should have no problem limiting other team's offense, but producing runs will be the key to winning games. A group of experienced players along with some fresh talent will make for an exciting season.

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## IN THE NUMBERS

1<sup>ST</sup>

The place the Girls Track and Field team earned at the District meet. It was also the first time the team made regionals.

2

The number of players the Washington Wizards sent to the NBA All-Star Game in Las Vegas. Gilbert Arenas started for the East.

2

The rank of junior Chris Newkirk in the Northern Region in the 55 Meter Hurdle event.

3

The number of overtimes that the West Potomac-Yorktown basketball game in the first round of the Northern Region Tournament went into. The Wolverines won the game by a score of 53-51.

49

The number of Swim and Dive team members who were awarded the Northern Region Athletic Honor Roll, the most of any sport.



## What Are You Doing For Spring Break?

Kate Sigety

Wire Reporter

Spring break is right around the corner and, the question on everyone's mind is "what are you doing for vacation?" With so many different tropical options, as well as great activities around home, it is hard to make a decision. Here are some helpful hints:

With its sand the color of white leading to the bluest section of the Caribbean Sea, why would Cancun, Mexico not be the dream spot for high school students? It has luxurious hotels that offer great activities, such as snorkeling by the reef. Then there is the nightlife, which is known for being the best around, with plenty of nightclubs and restaurants, most of which serve authentic Mexican food. One cannot forget the ancient Mayan ruins, which are in close proximity to the resorts. All in all, there is something for everybody to see and enjoy. "I can only imagine the fun that I could have over spring break in Cancun," said senior Freddy Dowdell.

Not only is Cancun, Mexico a great spring break vacation spot, but so are other foreign countries. Foreign countries open up many great opportunities and experiences to students and their parents, both for fun and educational purposes. South America has beautiful beaches and rainforests to

explore, while Europe has some of the greatest culture and sights to experience.

One common vacation spot for high school students is Florida. With the warm weather, beaches, and beautiful landscape, along with hot spots like Orlando, Tampa, and Key West, Florida has much to offer. With some of the country's greatest theme parks, Florida is home to Walt Disney World

and Universal Studios at Orlando. "This year, my family and I are going to visit Walt Disney World and I cannot wait," said senior Angela Shriver. From mid-February to mid-April, Universal Studios celebrates Mardi Gras with a ten-block parade. At this event, one can see and experience elaborate floats from New Orleans, extravagant costumes like stilt walkers and street performers, Cajun and Creole cuisine, live bands. In addition, some rides are open



KRT/Ellen Creager

Walt Disney World, where dreams come true, is not only for kids. People of all ages love this magical world.

during the parade and concerts. For those unable to travel very far, there are options in this area that are just as fun for this season as well. Although it may still be a bit chilly this spring break, Washington, D.C. always has something great to offer, especially around this time of the year. Spring break usually coincides with the weeks of

the National Cherry Blossom Festival. This festival celebrates the gift of 3,000 cherry trees that were given to our nation's capital by the Japanese government in 1912. The Cherry Blossom Festival's dates for this year are March 31 through April 15. The first Saturday of spring break, March 31, is the kick-off of the Cherry Blossom Festival, where there will be the National Cherry Blossom Festival Family Day. In the Great Hall of the National Building Museum, there is a free day-long event that showcases Japanese arts, demonstrations, and hands-on activities, such as origami, haiku, anime, and trying kimonos.

However, there are always other options besides the Cherry Blossom Festival. Mu-

seums are always opening new exhibits, and there are plenty of restaurants to eat at as well.

For those who unfortunately are grounded for spring break, there is plenty to do around the house, though it may not be one's favorite thing to do, spring cleaning has to be done at some point. For seniors, this is a great time to get started on cleaning out the junk from their room, and deciding what they will bring to college and leave at home. Spring break is also the perfect time to get a start on spring and summer wardrobes.

With so many different options, both far away and right around the corner, there is absolutely no excuse not to have an explosive spring break.

## Cast Drama Puts *Grey's Anatomy*, at Risk

*Recent brawl between cast members T.R. Knight and Isaiah Washington could affect the show, and the chemistry between the cast members.*

Jayne Seward

Wire Reporter

Drama, betrayal, and deceit all come to mind when it comes to the hit show *Grey's Anatomy*, but lately these words have been linked to the drama happening behind the scenes. Since the beginning of October, the cast of ABC's hit show have faced one debacle after another.

In the first weeks of October, rumors started to fly about an apparent on-set brawl between cast members. Although publicists attempted to keep the incident on the hush-hush, the truth about the scuffle emerged a few days later. Patrick Dempsey, who plays the loved McDreamy, had tackled his co-star Isaiah Washington (Dr. Preston Burke), who had called fellow castmate T.R. Knight (George O'Malley) a "faggot." About ten days later, Knight publicly came out as gay, saying, "I hope that the fact I'm gay isn't the most interesting part of me." Senior Rebecca Holloway stated, "I am not positive on all of the facts, but if Washington was making these homophobic remarks, he should take responsibility for them and make the appropriate apologies." On October 25, just sixteen days after the on-set fight, Washington did exactly that. After being pressured by ABC, he publicly apologized for using the homophobic slur. Unfortunately, this would not be his last.

Things settled down for a few months, but at the Golden Globes, the drama heated up again. After being awarded the Best TV Drama honor, Washington stated, "I did not call T.R. a faggot" at a press conference following the show. This announcement sent shockwaves through the cast. Katherine Heigl (Izzie Stevens), Knight's best friend, simply put that Washington "needs to just not speak in public, period." Following all of the incidents with Knight, Washington apologized for his comments at the Golden Globes and entered anger management treatment. At the Screen Actors Guild Awards, where the cast won for best ensemble in a drama, everyone was present to receive the award



KRT/Craig Sjodin

Things heated up when fellow cast member Isaiah Washington called T.R. Knight (above) a "faggot".

but Washington. Junior Shannon Bowden stated, "I think it's sad that all of this had happen. It takes away from the chemistry the cast when you are watching the show."

Following everything that has happened over the past months, viewers are still wondering what the fate of Washington his counterpart, Dr. Preston Burke, will be. As of now, Washington has returned to set for filming, but questions are left unanswered to whether or not he will be in the long haul. Holloway concluded that "does not think that we should be focusing so much on petty altercations between members of a show. There are more important things in the news right now than actors fighting on a set."

### Grey's Gossip

- Shondra Rhimes, the writer of *Grey's Anatomy*, began discussing an idea of Addison spin-off.
- The plan so far is to shoot a two-hour spin-off episode that would serve as a pilot for the new show.
- The first guest star is expected to be Taye Diggs.

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# Spotlight on Four Talented Young Actors

Mariya Ilyas

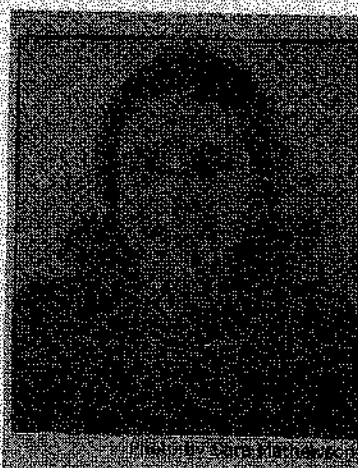
News Editor

"O Romeo, Romeo! Wherefore art thou Romeo?" As the lights begin to dim, the balcony scene comes to an end. The different characters quickly run behind the stage to change their outfits, for the next scene begins in two minutes.

The eager audience awaits the return of the actors. After about ten more minutes of the

scene, the audience stands up, applauds loudly, and howls.

This is a typical scenario of a play and the reaction of the audience in our Kogelman Theatre. The four outstanding actors below in our drama department have contributed tremendous effort in making each play, their best play. There are many more students who put so much effort into our drama department, and we recognize that.



**Junior: Hunter Bales**

•How would you describe yourself in three words?

"Crazy, weird, and nice."

•When did you decide to pursue your interest in acting? Why?

"I've been taking acting classes for a while, but over the summer, I decided that was an elective I wanted to take."

•Where do you see yourself 5 - 10 years from now?

"I love with school and happy to be wherever I want to go."

**Junior: Hunter Bales**

•How would you describe yourself in three words?

"Crazy, intelligent, and friendly."

•When did you decide to pursue your interest in acting? Why?

"I think it was about five years ago when my sister started her acting career in high school here at West Potomac. I began in Sandburg."

•Where do you see yourself 5 - 10 years from now?

"Few years from now, I plan on moving on to maybe being an actor, a musician."



Photo by Sara Mathewson

**Sophomore: Gloria Powell**

•How would you describe yourself in three words?

"I would describe myself as blessed, a dreamer, and goofy."

•When did you decide to pursue your interest in acting? Why?

"I was in 4th grade after having a summer of movie marathons that I decided I wanted to be the one who tells a story on stage and film."

•Where do you see yourself 5 - 10 years from now?

"I want to be the youngest African American to be awarded an Emmy or Academy Award."

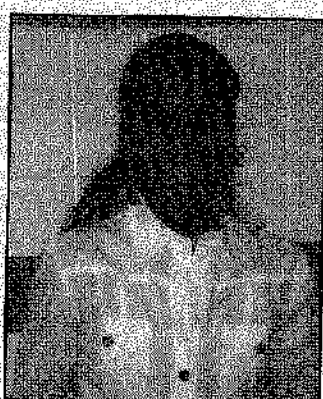


Photo by Brittany Catina

**Junior: Michael Casey**

•How would you describe yourself in three words?

"Funny, funny, and clever."

•When did you decide to pursue your interest in acting? Why?

"Theater department is a great group of people. I started in 4th grade."

•Where do you see yourself 5 - 10 years from now?

"Hopefully doing something in theater. I just want to be involved in it."



Photo by Sara Mathewson

## BAND OF JAZZ HAS A LOT OF PIZAZZ

"A Little Late for Love" is Right on for a Good Time

Erin Burke

Wire Reporter

There was a different kind of sound coming from the Springbank auditorium the night of Saturday, February 24. Sounds of great decades past filled the stage, along with many people dancing (or attempting to dance) to the lively beats. The Jazz Band Dance, "A Little Late for Love," was certainly an event of its own sort.

The music was provided by the Jazz Band class and the after school JV Jazz Band. They took an eclectic mix of upbeat and sultry pieces from the days of swing, and brought them to life in the twenty-first century. If you simply listened to these talented groups, and did not see their faces, it would be easy to think that you had been sent back in time. It was obvious that the students were having as much fun performing their jazz pieces as the audience was listening to them. Trombone player, junior Sam Nowak, said, "I like playing the music, it is really fun and different."

The bands played popular tunes from Ray Charles, the Temptations, and Earth, Wind and Fire, but also included popular jazz tunes such as "Drummin' Man" and "Sing, Sing, Sing," the old theme song from the Chips

Aloha commercial. The musicians were often featured in spectacular solos that amazed the entire audience, particularly when a trumpet ripped or the drummers went off on a fast run. The director of the bands, Steven Rice, said, "The jazz dances are my favorite concerts every year!" While he may be titled as the "director" of the band, Rice did not spend much time conducting the

musicians, but instead joined in playing and was featured in some of the tunes.

The audience was definitely not something most students would be accustomed to seeing. There was a diverse mix of students, friends of the jazz band, parents, and faculty members, dressed to impress and eager to hear the bands perform. While the largest population was teens, there was a representation from all generations, young and old. Most of the students crowded in the middle of the Springbank stage, which had been converted into a dimly-lit dance floor decorated beautifully with large hearts and Christmas lights. There, the students either danced as best as they could, or stood amongst friends admiring the crowd and atmosphere. Whether they knew the jitterbug or not, it was clear everyone was having a good time.

The Jazz Band will hold another dance in the spring, most likely sometime in May. Trumpet player, senior Kirsten Serba, said "The jazz dances are a lot of fun because they are a different pace than Homecoming. You can have a great time whether you can dance to jazz or not, it is just as much fun trying to dance." There certainly is no other event that can swing as much as this one!

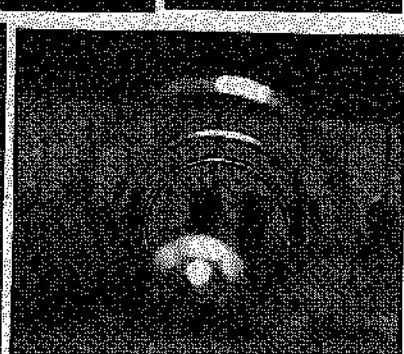
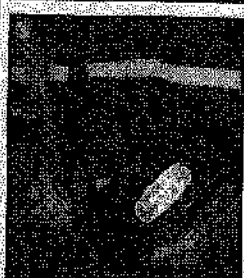
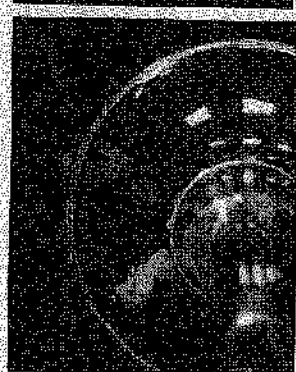
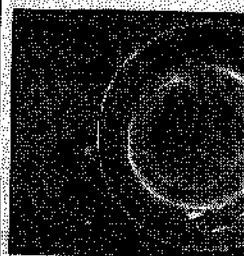


Photo Essay By Drew Smith

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## A Day in the Life of...The Real U.N.

Hooff Cooksey

Sports Editor

A diverse group of people spending many days of the week together. This statement could refer to our school, or even the United Nations. When you combine these two things, you come up with The Real U.N. A group of about ten members of our school makes up this group of close friends, who are totally different in ethnical background, but are connected through interests and dislikes.

The Real U.N., a group of friends made up of all seniors, including Will Ramsey, Patrick Hoffman, Alberto Reyes, Habib Ahmadi, Lee Chang, Rashan Colbert, Devon Cain, Christian Markson, Frankie Collins, Vedran Capin and Aravinda Gunda, consists of teenagers from all different ethnic backgrounds. The close group of friends consists of African-Americans, Whites, Hispanics and Middle Eastern, all of which bring a different aspect to the group from the many cultures. "There are lots of different opinions view points on life based on our upbringing," said Ramsey.

The group came up with their name for very obvious reasons. The United Nations is an organization that brings together many different representatives from countries all over the world. The Real U.N. is a group of friends separated

by ethnic and cultural ideas, but brought together by common values, goals, and ideas. Members of the group believe that their group of friends is a condensed version of America or our school. Ramsey said, "The most races are represented in The Real Union, and it takes people from all groups and cultures and combines them into one group of awesomeness."

Many members of the group are active within our school. Hoffman, Ramsey, Colbert, Ahmadi, and Reyes all excelled in the winter track season that just ended. Colbert is currently preparing for the regional, state, and national track meets for indoor track. Some members will continue with track, but others are going on to play soccer and basketball.

Before the The Real U.N. was formed, this group was "a shattered mirror," but once "forged in the fires of friendship to form a whole," the group emerged. Ramsey said that the origins of the group are "shrouded in mystery," but they have come together and that is all that matters. The Real U.N. is a group of friends with great ambitions, confidence and loyalty, ready to excel at life.



Photo by Brittany

Left to right: Alberto Reyes, Habib Ahmadi, Will Ramsey, Aravinda Gunda, Vedran Capin, Patrick Hoffman, and Rashan Colbert are just a few members of the group called The Real U.N.

## The Fashion Show is Pure Genius

Grace Powell

Opinions Editor

*Pure.* The name graces the wall of our schools on posters printed with flowing dresses. *Pure* is the theme for this year's fashion show, put on by the academy fashion design students.

The students of the academy class want to exhibit the elegant and classy side to fashion. Fashion design teacher Tu-Anh Nguyen said, "I'm trying to bring something into this school." She continued, "The reason why we chose *Pure* as the theme is because it is the opposite of the theme last year." Last year's theme was "Some Like It Hot." Nguyen desires to show another side of fashion, saying, "You can be glamorous and simple."

The annual fashion show acts as a final grade for the fashion design students. The girls are graded on a number of skills, such as team work, organization, attitude, creativity, time management, and accountability.

A vital process for any fashion show involves casting models. Fashion designs students say there is no particular criterion for the models, except that they demonstrate attitude and confidence. In this year's fashion show, there will be professional as well as student models. Furthermore, a professional makeup consultant corporation, Arbonne International, will assist the models with their makeup.

Any person who has seen a fashion show tends to be captivated with the flashing lights, gorgeous attire, and striking models. However, at the end of an exhilarating show, out walks a person or group of people on the runway. Once the crowd realizes who they are, the room immediately erupts into cheers. The last people to walk the runway are, in essence, the show themselves, they are the designers. Senior Stacie De Guzman explained the hard work designers complete behind the scenes. "Basically, with any show, you get an

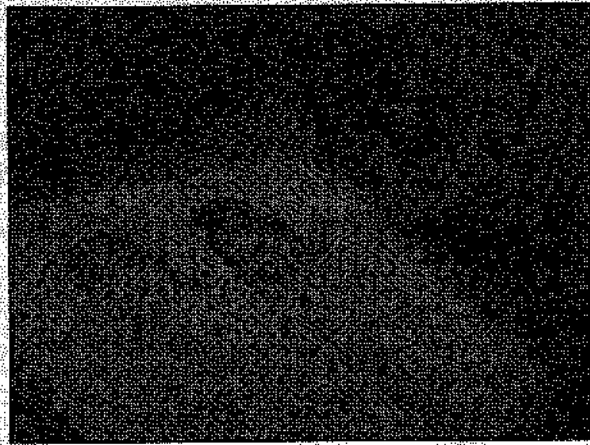


Photo by LaKeisha Langley

Sketches of ideas and images that the design students have are the first step into creating the clothing.

idea. Each of us has our own interpretation of the theme, then we put it into images." Designers create around a hundred images, to be exact. The designers then begin to weed out their preliminary sketches from fifty, to twenty, to finally seven final sketches, which will be made into outfits. "Then we make a trip to the fabric store," said senior Rosah Chaaya. Students purchase fabric from stores such as Wal-Mart, the thrift store or anywhere that sells the necessary fabric at a good price.



Photo by LaKeisha Langley

A fashion student works on a dress being made for the fashion show.

The fashion department encourages everyone to attend the show. Fashion students want people to know that there is more to fashion than the typical stereotypes associated with it. De-Guzman said, "It's a time to express ourselves and show people what we actually do in this class; people think we just cut out magazines. This [The fashion show] will in a way express our interpretation of the world." Such a contagious passion ignites within the whole fashion department. The creativity flowing from each portion of the fashion show it is sure to be a brilliant event.

## How to Get the Perfect Tan

Jayne Seward

Wire Reporter

Every winter, we look back at our end-of-summer pictures and say, "I wish I still had that tan!" With spring right around the corner, it is about time to start getting that summer tan back. Whether it is the favored fake-and-bake or the real thing, there are a few tips and shortcuts to getting that perfect sun kissed tan.

•Exfoliate before tanning every time; exfoliating rids dead skin and replenishes vital moisture, which will keep your tan looking fresher, longer.

•Moisturize before leaving your house every day. You will benefit from it in the long run.

When visiting the tanning salon, there are a few things you need to know. First, you have more than one option. There is the original bed (lay down), the stand

up bed, the mystic tan, and airbrush tanning. Second, if you are a first-timer at the salon, do not get more than the lowest-level tan offered, unless you want to show up at school looking like an oompa loompa or

a lobster. Senior Kathleen Wheeler, who is a frequent tanner, stated, "I love going to the salon! I feel so refreshed and getting a tan. My favorite is the stand up bed, it's easy and you get great results. The key is to not go overboard, subtle is better than overbearing. Build up your tan up one visit to the salon at a time."

If you are lucky enough to be taking a trip to a location where you can soak up the sun on a beach, be sure to wear plenty of sunscreen. If you think wearing sunscreen will get you a better tan, you are in for a sad surprise; only will you be suffering from your sunburn, but you will also be stuck in the sun for the rest of your vacation.

So, no matter if you are at the local tanning salon or tanning it up in some exotic location, you are only a few tans away from looking your summer tan best.

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STATE OF THE ART	
<b>Sister Hazel and Pat McGee Band</b> March 9, 2007 Rams Head Live! Baltimore, MD	<b>Snow Patrol</b> March 23, 2007 Bender Arena Washington D.C.
<b>Switchfoot w/ Copeland</b> March 11, 2007 Rams Head Live! Baltimore, MD	<b>The Who</b> March 8, 2007 Verizon Center Washington D.C.
<b>The Ataris</b> March 3, 2007 Block Cat Washington D.C.	<b>Josh Groban</b> March 13, 2007 Verizon Center Washington D.C.



# AN ABSOLUTE...WONDERFUL SUCCESS

## Kyle Rosenkranz

Wire Reporter

This year's winter play, *An Absolute Turkey*, was temporarily delayed due to the ice storm, which closed school for three days. However, that factor did not stop the school's drama department from performing two shows on Saturday, February 17 and Tuesday, February 20.

The play was performed and was perfect from its beginning



Photo by Drew Smith

Sophmores Kieran Merek and Kat Brewster check to make sure the set is ready to go for the school play, *An Absolute Turkey*. The show was delayed due to the snow storm, but the great performances were well worth the wait.

to its end. *An Absolute Turkey* is a "bedroom farce" that was based off of Georges Feydeau's *Le Dindon*. The play begins with the character Pontagnac (senior Mike Casey), who chases Lucienne (junior Rebecca King), unaware that Lucienne is the wife of his friend Vatelín (junior Paul Disselkoen). Although he is a friend of Vatelín's, Pontagnac still has the desire to be with Lucienne. However, Lucienne is only willing to be "unfaithful" if her husband cheats on her first. Pontagnac's wife (senior Dana Vance) declares the same thing after she meets Lucienne and Vatelín's other friend, Redillon (junior Matt Husband). It just so happens, as Pontagnac discovers, that Vatelín is having an affair with a Swiss girl named Mitzi (senior Megan Gough). From there, Pontagnac assures Lucienne that Vatelín is cheating on her and several other affairs arise in the middle of the play.

As always, the acting was superb, this time with fast dialogue and remarks that left the audience in stitches. Probably the most outstanding performance was Husband as Redillon. Every time Husband came on stage, the audience knew there would be terrific humor as he attempted to charm the ladies into bed with him. He acted clumsy and his asides were very hilarious, as he thought of himself as better than others. Gough and senior Candace Scholz brought the female roles to life as they attempted to seduce the men, which led to the crossing of affairs that occurs in the second act. Actors Casey, King and Disselkoe, though more mature in their roles, were superb as the lead characters of the play, showing that "even the best of us get caught."

Laughter throughout the play made *An Absolute Turkey* a guaranteed hit. Several audience members thought the play was both

hilarious and intriguing as we guessed what the result of these affairs would turn out to be. "My favorite part was when Potagnac and Vatelín were caught in the hotel room with the two girls," said senior Andrew Scheuermann.

The play's story is basically a string of affairs, which many people could have found very confusing, but the players and direction by Kathie McCormally proved the outcome was very simple to figure out. McCormally's biggest concern was getting criticized for the play's subject matter.

With its fast-paced comedy and roaring ending, and despite the delay, the winter play lived up to what its title describes: a series of events colliding together in the most humiliating and troublesome way.



Photo by Drew Smith

Before the play's start time, actors and actresses scrambled to get ready and get into the correct attire. With amazing costumes and great performances, the play was a big hit.

## Listen Up and Begin to Hope

Abstract: 333070

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Learning to Relax Speaks of how about time it takes getting to know a stranger. At first, conversation is light and airy, barely touching the surface of one's personality. As the hours continue, the listener is pulled deeper and deeper, getting to know the hopes, fears, and quirks of this stranger, finally emerging as friend.

The album's first track, "Miracle," is a perfect example of a really pop song with just enough edge and testosterone to make it a mainstream sound. Spekter's voice is *smooth* and *sexy*, and she knows her lines, tying the listener from one song to the next. The poppy tempo and mood carries over to the second single, "Longer," making it hard to resist dancing and singing along. Then, just as the tempo slows down, easing the listener into a sugar-coated dream. One of the CD's highlights, "Samson," is a song about a loveless, exposing a deeper side to Spekter's lyrical personality. She sings in almost a whisper, "You are my sweetest downfall/I loved you first." Soft and mellow, Spekter turns odd shaping lyrics into a ballad, singing a sweet melody with a raw sense of feeling.

A product of New York's artistic world, with tastes like, "I remember that time when I only ate beef and mungbeans/So cheap and juicy," it is apparent Spokor is not the usual singer/songwriter. She was brought off to the Moscow north side of mind. From there, she and her family moved to the Bronx, becoming the last Russian family to move to the borough. At 12 years, starting from a young age, Spokor taught and learned an instrument, becoming classically trained. When she was 15, having seen a film, Spokor was exposed to jazz and blues and was inspired by the music of Duke Ellington. In 2000, she released her first album, *1944*, with playing ages in appearance and her "around 1944" theme. Her music career then began to rise, with the gain of a large fan base and a little help from Columbia Records, the major record label.

By the time I sat down to write this column in April, its first issue being the 1998 edition, the *Handbook* had already been published for thirteen years. In that time, it has not only held its own but has also become a staple of the field. The *Handbook* has been cited in more than 1,000 articles, and it has been translated into Chinese, Japanese, and Spanish. The *Handbook* has also been used as a text in graduate courses, and it has been recommended by the American Psychological Association as a key reference work in the field. The *Handbook* has been a source of information for many researchers, and it has been a source of inspiration for many students. The *Handbook* has been a source of information for many researchers, and it has been a source of inspiration for many students. The *Handbook* has been a source of information for many researchers, and it has been a source of inspiration for many students.

# Uncovering the Scary Truth

## Sandy Slippin

## Copy Editor

Films based on true events have always managed to connect with moviegoing audiences. Real-life accounts provide an added level of intrigue that a fictional film cannot present in the same way. *Breach*, a new thriller from director Billy Ray, is one such film.

*Breach* is a mostly factual account of the 2001 arrest and capture of former FBI agent Robert Hanssen at Foxstone Park in nearby Vienna. He is currently serving a life sentence for his role as a spy selling United States secrets to Russia. *Breach* takes a subtle, understated look at how a seemingly average family man could commit a treason that would later be called "possibly the worst intelligence disaster in U.S. history" by the U.S. Department of Justice.

Eric O'Neill (Ryan Phillippe) is a young FBI special agent trainee who is served an assignment that he at first finds odd — become a clerk for upstanding FBI agent Robert Hanssen (Chris Cooper) and make a detailed account of all of his activities. O'Neill's supervisor in the matter, agent Kate Burroughs (Laura Linney), at first believes Hanssen to be a "sexual deviant." Taking subtle notes for a period of time in late 2000, O'Neill is skeptical about his assignment when he finds Hanssen to be a God-fearing, morally upright patriot with a strong emphasis on religion and family values, in addition to being a human lie detector. When O'Neill expresses his doubts to Burroughs, she informs him why Hanssen is really being tracked: the Bureau suspects Hanssen of being a double agent for the Russians, although the full extent of his security breach is still being investigated. Presented with this knowledge,

O'Neill watches with growing unease as Hanssen's behavior becomes more and more paranoid and inconsistent.

*Breach* has several strong performances from its cast, but one performance in particular elevates the film to a particularly higher level. Ryan Phillippe is solid as O'Neill, managing to convince the audience this man had the resolve and smarts to bring down the worst double agent in U.S. history. Laura Linney is not given an extensive amount of screen time, but she adds qualities to her character that a lesser actress would not have been able to convey.

However, the performance of Chris Cooper as Hanssen is what really makes *Breach* sizzle. Cooper's performance is reflective of depth of the double life Hanssen managed to pull off for many years before he was found out, making one feel a pang of sympathy when a title card at the end of the film informs the audience that he is serving a life sentence with 23 hours in solitary confinement per day.

*Breach* is not a film for those who demand their action fast-paced and out of control, but proves to be a rewarding experience for those interested in a film about a true story that is still in the mindsets of many Americans.




Kevin Sullivan/KRT

The newly released film, *Breach*, tells the true story of a U.S. resident spying for the Russians. This movie stars Chris Cooper.

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## Running with Rashan

Emmanuel Koduah

Business Manager

Looking at senior Rashan Colbert, one would not be able to tell the trials that he has endured. Within a span of a month during the summer, he lost both his grandparents to cancer and his uncle to a heart attack, all of whom he was very close to. To make matters worse, the heart attack that took the life of his uncle is inheritable in the men of his family, meaning he was at a possible risk. Despite this, anyone who knows Colbert knows that he would not let this bring him down.

"It was hard losing my grandparents and uncle, but I learned to really value the time with friends and family," said Colbert. The self-described "hardworking and fun loving" senior is one of the brightest and most enthusiastic students at our school. "He has a wide range of abilities to perform well academically," said Daryl Mackey, Colbert's business teacher. "He is a pleasure to work with and unlimited potential as an entrepreneur," Mackey said.

Colbert's contributions to our school extend

beyond the classroom. He is also a key member of our school's track team. Colbert recently qualified to compete in the 500 meter race at the national level, a feat only achieved by exceptional athletes. "I was pretty

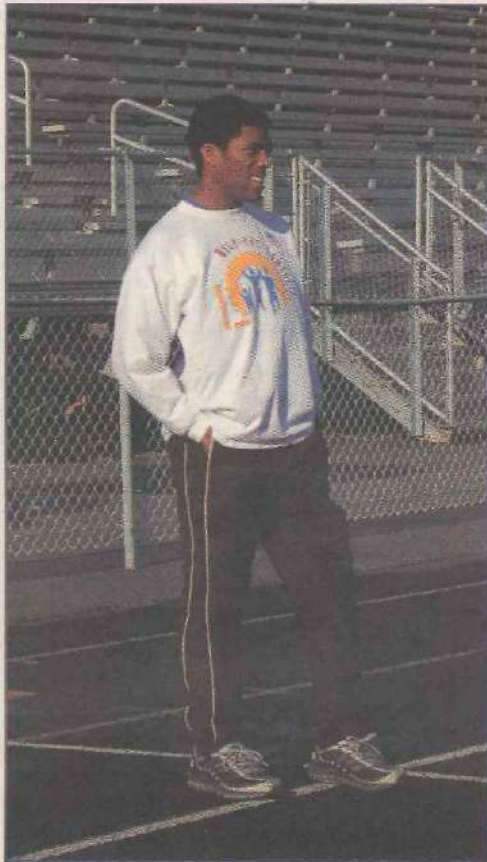


Photo by Drew Smith

Senior Rashan Colbert at track practice. He is a strong-willed student who excels in many endeavors.

excited when I qualified for nationals. I knew it was a big deal," said Colbert. Colbert is also an essential member of our school's soccer team. "I have been playing soccer since I was about four years old, and I just really love playing," stated Colbert.

When not competing, Colbert enjoys drawing, playing his Xbox 360, and hanging out with his close friends. Senior Will Ramsey, who has known Colbert since freshman year, describes him as "a carefree, funny person who is fun to hang around."

Colbert, along with Ramsey and ten other friends, are part of a group they call "the Real UN." "We just realized we were all from different cultures and backgrounds so we decided to call ourselves the Real UN," explained Colbert. Even though the group just started as a funny joke between friends, Colbert hopes that they can send an important message to the students of this school. "We saw that there were all these groups in our school, like blacks and whites, and we didn't want to be like that," said Colbert.

As a final thought, Colbert wanted it to be known that the soccer team is going to be successful this year. "Everyone thinks that we are going to suck this year, but I want everyone to know that we are going to be really good," he said. With the talent and potential of Colbert, who can doubt him?

## Seniors in the Halls

### Patrick Moniz

(not just another senior in the hall)



Photo Courtesy of Will Klein

**What are your hobbies/What do you do in your spare time?** "I play piano and the Wii. I do some photography and I model (Will Klein takes pictures of me). I also write a lot."

**What do you see your self doing in the future?** "I honestly want to invent a flying car, but if that doesn't happen, I might become a writer or a stay at home dad because I love children. They are the future."

**What is something many people don't know about you?** "Many people see me as a shallow class clown, but I really do not like that part of myself. Truly, if I could become close to everyone on the earth during my lifetime, I would do that."

### Telsem Twins

(Muna & Yasmeen)



Photo by Drew Smith

**What is the best part about being a twin?**

Y: "You get to grow up together and share stuff with each other."

M: "That there is another individual in the same age group as me, who I could talk to in time of need."

**What is the most obnoxious twin question you have ever been asked?**

Y: "When were *you* born? And when was *she* born?"

M: "When someone asks me what is my birthday and how old am I. Then they ask my twin sister, who is right next to me, the same question. Do they not understand that we are twins?"

**How will you deal with your separation when you go to college?**

Y: "Talk daily. Get the latest facts on each [other]."

M: "The day in which my sister would move away from me is the day I lose my other half. It would be very hard and huge change for myself...no one could replace my sister."

## A True Giddy Golden Girl

Angie Palma

Business Manager

Branded as a loud, opinionated, and crazy girl, Melinda Golden is a senior who is well-loved by many. Senior



Photo by Drew Smith

Golden and track teammate Kat Lee practice to get ready for the spring season. Golden is known around the school for her light-hearted and fun attitude.

Kamel Green has known Golden since they were in the seventh grade and said, "She always has a positive attitude." Several students can attest to being able to recognize Golden's loud, infectious

laugh, often heard in the hallway between classes.

More than just being a friendly, outgoing member of our school, Golden is a good student. This school year, her favorite class is Dental Careers, taught by Regina Weems. She says she really loves the class because it allows her a head start on learning how to do something she is really interested in. Next year, she hopes to study dentistry at the University of Maryland. To fill the limited free time that she has, Golden is hoping to soon have a job working in a dentist office to fulfill a requirement for her dental class. Golden is on the track team, and really enjoys it. Golden said that one of her favorite teachers from our school is Mr. Don Beeby. She said that he put up with a lot from her both in class and with track. She is a member of the College Partnership Program, and said, "It is a great program that helps with getting ready for college." This past football season, Golden managed the varsity football team with close friend and fellow senior, Jennifer Grim.

Along with her professional interests, Golden is extremely passionate about always being there to help her friends. She never hesitates to listen to what is wrong with someone and commonly offers good advice. Grim said,

"Melinda always tries to have a positive attitude no matter what she is going through. Whenever I need somebody, she is always there to bring my spirits up. She is one of the best friends I've ever had and I'm so thankful to have her in my life!"

One aspect of Golden that is very popular to joke about is her extremely healthy appetite. "Whenever I see Melinda, she is eating," said sophomore Edith Delcid. When this statement was mentioned to Golden, she smiled and replied, "Eating is my life!"

Golden is the kind of person who is always able to laugh at herself. She does not take negative opinions from others to heart. When asked to tell a secret that nobody knows, Golden, laughed and said, "I'm still a little afraid of the dark."

Grim said that Golden will make a great dentist if that remains her calling, because "she knows who she is and she really cares about dentistry and people and anyone can trust her to care good of them."

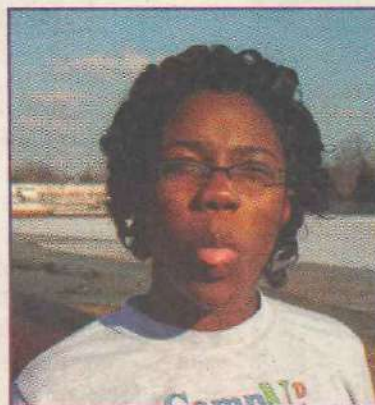


Photo by Drew Smith

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