



The Wire
congratulates all the
new National Honor
Society inductees!

Monday, May 21, 2012

SHOUTOUT TO THE all district WOLVERINES

Lacrosse:

Jessie Dartozos
Emily Hauptle
Kyle Matthews
Annmarie Wood
Karley Zdebski

Chorus:

Madelyn Amos
Freddie Perez
Leigh Palmer
Kate Schneider
Tess Ward

Baseball:

Matt Hrin
Dan Jerrell
Jayme Murray
Sean Trenchard
Andrew White

Softball:

Morgan Maniglia
Sydney Maniglia
Danielle McHugh
Hannah O'Neil
Jasmine Picini

Soccer:

Caroline Kelly
Matt Kubach
Joy Manioo
Tommy Meade
Lindsey Sawczuk
Pace Woods

Honorable Mention:

Josh Belanger
Patrick Bowdring
Jean-Luc Maigrot
Cormac McPherson
Connor Phillips
Musie Seyoum
Brian Wernecke
Marjorie Woods

SGA & Class OFFICERS

Class of 2015

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Moises Romero

Vice President

Annelieske Sanders

Secretary

William Rausch

Class of 2014

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Vice President
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Jack Kern

Graduating students take the road less traveled

Some West Potomac students are graduating school early or taking a gap year before college

Clare Palo
Style Editor

Is the growing trend of taking a gap year after high school, or even graduating early from high school helping or hindering students in the long run? Students at West Potomac are defying the norm and making their own rules for the future, by becoming mavericks of the strict, college world.

For the fifth consecutive year, the percentage increase in average tuition and fees at a public four-year colleges and universities was higher than the percentage increase at private nonprofit four-year colleges, according to collegeboard.com. The raising college tuition rates make it harder for students to come up with the money, and many cannot look to their parents due to the economic turmoil.

Adventurous students, such as Senior Samantha Kadonoff, decided to take a gap year to prepare them when they are ready to go to college. "I honestly believe I would be wasting my parent's money if I went to school before I was ready," said Kadonoff.

Kadonoff, like many other gap-year students, is planning on traveling abroad to South America for mission work and other beneficial experiences. "It's hard navigating away from the status quo, the pressure from society, and parents, to go to college, makes it difficult to make a decision for yourself," explained Kadonoff.

By allowing their parents to have more time figure out an economic plan for college, or letting themselves figure out what they are planning to do, students are more likely to stay in college. Fortunately, their college acceptance letters do not disappear if they decide to wait a year, and can ask the school to delay their admission.

Class of 2011 alum, Kate Paullin, set off to Kenya on a three week program called Global Routes in a rural farming village of Munjiti. "All throughout high school, I was never very academi-

cally motivated. I spent more time trying to get out of class rather than just sitting through the hour and a half period," said Paullin. She chose to expand her view of her world, by exploring another culture. By doing so, Paullin felt like she learned more about herself, rather than possibly failing out of a college course.

But, what happens at the other end of the spectrum? Rather than delaying, can going to college early be detrimental? Not everyone graduating early from high school considers themselves a regular Doogie Howser, but is simply doing it to get ahead of the game.

Junior, Breanna Villatoro, who has earned enough credits to graduate with the class of 2012, is graduating early to jump-start her career in psychology. Instead of enrolling in a four year university her first year after high school, Villatoro decided to go to Northern Virginia Community College for two years, and hopefully transfer to the University of Virginia for her Sophomore and Junior year. Villatoro admits she was hesitant in graduating early because it changed the dynamic of graduating at the normal four-year high school pace. "At first I realized I wouldn't be graduating with my friends, but they were supportive [and] it helped a lot," said Villatoro.

Without the push from Paullin's father, she would not have had her life changing experience. "I encourage kids to take a gap year because the only way to do better, is to push yourself past your limits," said Paullin. As a successful gap year student,

Paullin hopes other students choose to fulfill their dreams.

"It can be very beneficial if you play your cards right, you must have what is necessary in and outside of school," said Villatoro. Graduating early, or taking a gap year is not for everyone, but for some it can be very beneficial, and help them succeed later in life. In this current economy, students are finding creative ways to get by.



Kate Paullin took a gap year in Kenya after her senior year in 2011.

Find out where the senior class is headed on pages 6&7!



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Rants and Raves

- A rant for Nattitude
- A rave for Nattitude
- A rant for Prom \$\$\$
- A rave for cute prom proposals
- A rant for AP and SOL testing
- A rave for SHOU
- A rant for NFL bounties
- A rave for RGII
- A rant for late night layout
- A rave for The Wire '12-'13 sta
- A rant for security crackdown
- A rave for off-campus lun
- A rant for missing Coachella
- A rave for The Avengers

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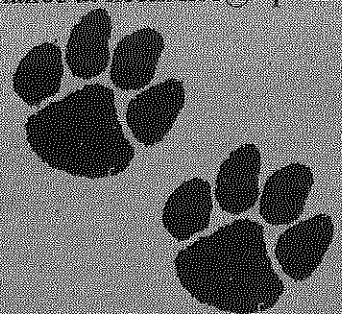
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All you need to know about

All Night Grad!

Graduation is just around the corner, and what better way to celebrate the end of high school than at All Night Grad! Some of you may still be confused about the specifics so keep on reading for the details. You won't want to miss out on this awesome party!

So when is the party? June 15th.

Where is it? Check-in is from 9:30 – 10:00pm.
The night ends at 2 a.m.

Where is it? Belle Haven Country Club, 6023 Fort Hunt Road

How much will it cost? Tickets are \$35.

If someone cannot afford it, what are their options? Ask your counselor, the All Night Grad staff wants everyone to come!

What kinds of events or attractions will be at the party?

- DJ with light show/Dance Floor
- Mechanical Bull
- Sumo Wrestling
- Foosball Table
- Air Hockey
- Money Machine/ Funny Money (Cash prize game!!)
- Card Game Tables (Black Jack, Texas Hold em', etc.)
- Airbrush Tattoo Artist
- Hair Braid/Wrap Artists
- Roving photographer taking pictures of you with your friends. (You can download them from Facebook the next day)



What if you want to leave early? If you have permission from your parents and tell the ANG staff, you may leave early. You will not be locked in!

Will there be food there? Belle Haven CC is supplying the refreshments and a menu is TBD but there will be delicious food provided!

HAVE FUN!

Spring Sports Report

Spring Teams on Varsity and JV levels started the spring on a hot streak and finish the season strong

Over the years West Potomac's spring sports teams have not been a major force in the Patriot District or the Northern Region. It has been a long time since West Potomac has been able to hold its head high in the spring season. However, this year seems to be a different story. Many of this year's spring sports teams started the season with a bang and kept rolling through the Patriot District beating teams that have beat down on the Wolverines in recent years. Almost all the spring teams won at least their first two games. Most have continued their season with even more wins and athletes agree their wins should carry over into next season as the teams are just getting better and with the newfound success in West Potomac athletics could mean that many of the schools sports programs are changing for the better.

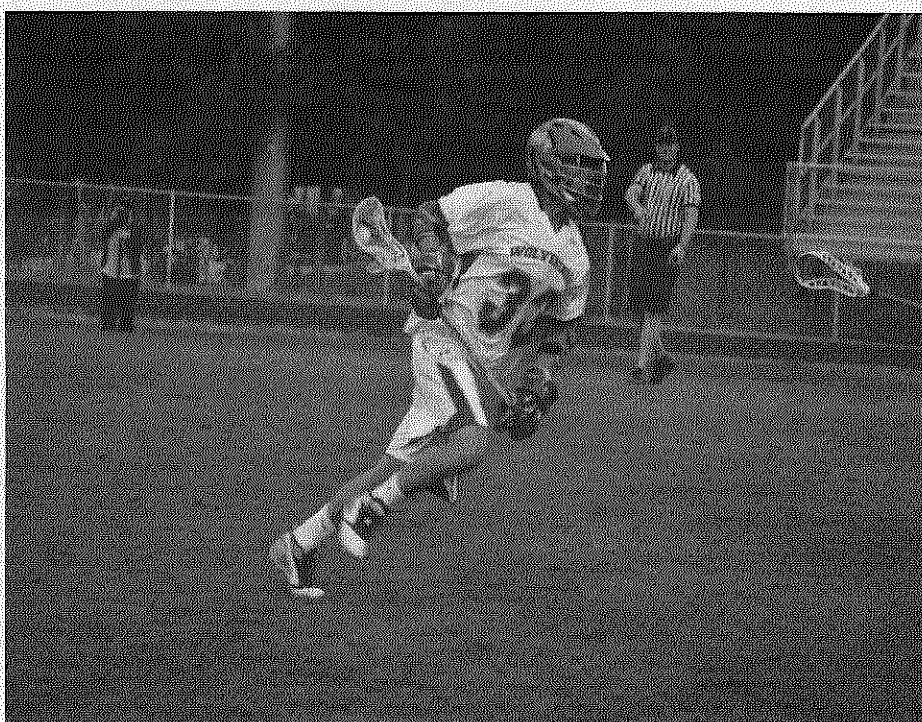


Photo courtesy of Sonia Garakyragh

Sophomore Nathan Brostoff helps out the defense by clearing the ball past the midfield line

Lacrosse

Girls Varsity Lacrosse (8-5) started the season with six straight wins, one of those wins was against Annandale, a team West Potomac has not beaten in over six seasons. They are off to their best start in five years and have surpassed last year's win total. "I think this year the girls have a lot more experience than past years," commented team captain Livvy Mickevicius. "The team that is on the field now is the JV team from two years ago that went undefeated and we're very excited to be playing together again." Unfortunately, the Girls Varsity lost in the Patriot District Semifinal to Lake Braddock, 9-14. In the Northern Region Tournament, the girls Varsity team upset Yorktown High, ranked sixteenth in the region, 16-13.

Girls JV Lacrosse (11-0) has been unstoppable all season long having not lost a game yet. Their defense has been stellar, only allowing two goals per game and scoring almost 13 goals a game, complete dominance.

Boys Varsity Lacrosse (4-8) lost their first two games of the season but won four straight as the season progressed. Varsity outscored opponents 41-16 in the four game streak. Leading scorer and team captain, sophomore Kyle Matthews, says, "The team is on the rise and there is a lot of talent in the underclassmen. We can be at the top of the district just by playing together and working hard in the coming years."

Boys JV Lacrosse (6-4) started the season off strong, winning four straight games and outscoring opponents 31-10. The JV team is having a great year and is making the varsity coaches' jobs easier by conditioning and developing their skills so they are better prepared for playing at the varsity level.

Softball

Varsity Softball (12-3) jumped out of the gate to six straight wins, outscoring opponents in those six games 79-11. "We're a strong team offensively and defensively," said team captain Morgan Maniglia. "We have a few kinks to work out, but we are confident that we will end the season strong." They continue to eclipse their opponents, having only lost two games and look forward to continue their high quality of play into the District tournament.

The JV Softball team (14-0) is equally successful as Varsity, having not lost a single game. They are dominating their opponents and outscoring them 199-6, an astonishing number. JV is on track for a perfect season and they are working hard to do just that.

Tennis

Boys Tennis (10-4) won three of their first four matches and is being aided by nine freshmen players. The tennis team will be able to develop talent for years to come because of their surplus of freshmen. Girls Tennis (11-3) has been on a roll lately with a four match winning streak starting on April 13th against Lake Braddock. They finished off the year with seven straight victories, a spectacular finish to an already stellar year. Girls Tennis is also a freshmen heavy team with seven of the sixteen players being first year students.

Soccer

Girls Varsity Soccer (6-7) started off the season strong winning three of their opening four games. This year's team consists of four freshmen, Jenny Lyon, Anna Lorentzen, Katie Panagopolus, and Elaina Highland. "Soccer is fun. My teammates are very nice, and we are getting better every day with our hard work," commented Lyon, the freshmen midfielder. The team ended the season strong with two wins in a row, just missing the District playoffs.

Girls JV Soccer (3-7-2) is in the player development stage, focusing on getting players ready to play for varsity next year. The team is having a rough year, but they look to turn it around next year with a new batch of rising freshmen coming in.

Boys Varsity Soccer (5-7-1) started the season hot with three straight wins and outscored their opponents 7-0 in that three game stretch. The team is doing much better than they have in previous years and they are showing signs of major improvement.

Boys JV Soccer (1-9) had a rocky start to the season, but is looking to bounce back from a six game skid. The team has the talent to get some wins, but they are still in the process of putting it all together.

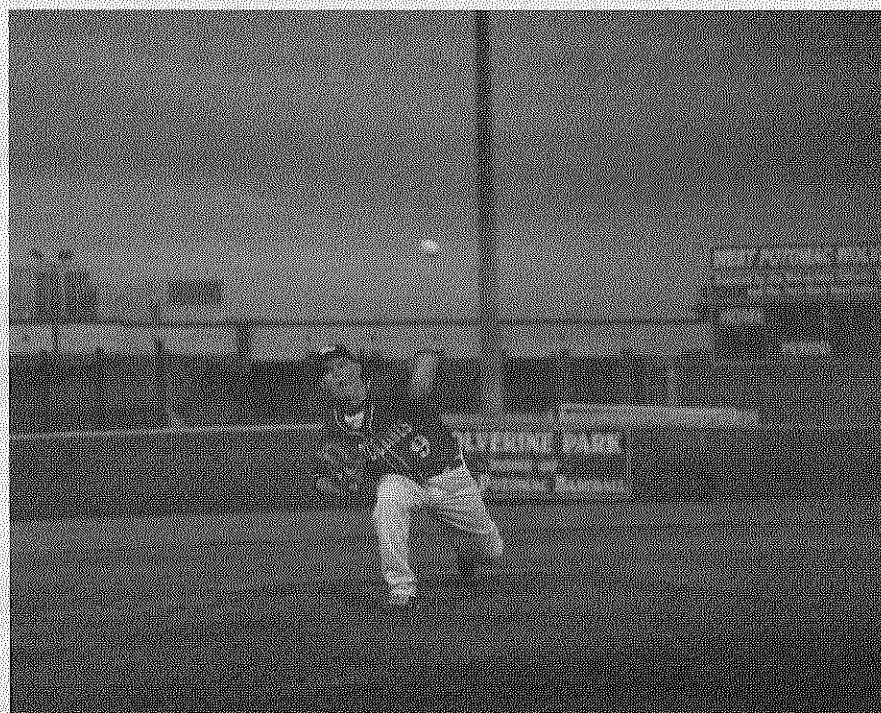


Photo courtesy of Sonia Garakyragh

Pitcher Jayme Murray made first team All District this year and was clutch on the mound for the Wolverines this season.

Baseball

Varsity Baseball (10-10) started the season at a slower pace but picked it up in the middle of the season, winning four straight. In that four game stretch, varsity scored an average of 13 runs a game while only allowing an average of two runs. "Sophomores Brady Knoblach, AJ Melvin, Billy Lescher, and Michel Barnes are all extremely good ball players, but unfortunately I will not have the opportunity to play with them next year," said Senior second-basemen Casey Hagen. Senior Josh Belanger pitched a no-hitter, a rare performance of any pitcher at any level of play, in a 17-0 win over Falls Church High School.

JV baseball (13-1), on the other hand, started off hot and won their first four games scoring a total of 45 runs. "With a strong pitching rotation made up of Billy Lescher, AJ Knoblach, AJ Melvin, Teddy Badley, and other underclassmen we are able to prevent other teams from scoring many runs," said sophomore and team captain Michael Barnes. This year JV has passed the single season record for most wins in a season of nine, setting a new school record.

Graduation has become a materialistic tradition

Emily Woods
Editor-in-Chief

Graduation is about you. With less than a month until we walk across that stage, it is imperative that we do not lose sight of this simple fact. However, lately, most of my conversations with my classmates regarding graduation have been about what shoes they will wear, or which DJ their parents have booked for their graduation party. The materialism that manifests in this significant life event is upsetting, to say the very least. 18 years of hard work now seems to culminate in a celebration of superficiality and overcompensating formality. Although given our current society, I cannot say I am surprised by this.

We live in the age of entitlement. We live in the era of Twitter, plastic surgery, and My Super Sweet 16, in which children are taught at a young age that they are "special." In spring of 2009, psychologists Jean M. Twenge and W. Keith Campbell cited this growing phenomenon in their book, "The Narcissism Epidemic." Their findings were shocking. College students now exhibit more narcissistic traits than college students did in the 1980s and 1990s. By 2006, 1 out of 4 college students agreed with the majority of the items on a standard measure of narcissistic traits and 1 out of 10 could be diagnosed with Narcissistic Personality Disorder.

With trends like these, it becomes easier to understand why West Potomac students are unable to evaluate their graduation from high school in terms of intrinsic significance. It's not necessarily because we are shallow, inherently materialistic, or lack values. It's because our society has brought us up to believe that we need to go out with a bang; that even a deeply personal life accomplishment must be glorified.

This is shown especially by our class' decision to graduate at the Patriot Center at George Mason, a concert venue and massive sports arena. This location fosters an unwanted anonymity,

and takes away any sense of community or intimacy. We voted collectively to not graduate at Hayfield Secondary School, a local location that would have cost us absolutely nothing, and graduate instead at a major venue that is costing us over \$15,000, and significantly raising our senior dues. This lavish decision reflects poorly on our sense of integrity. And what do we gain from this decision? Bragging rights? The ability to say we graduated in an arena as opposed to a high school? I still cannot fathom the emphasis on holding our graduation here, but all signs point to thinly-veiled narcissism.

My intent is not to belittle graduation. It is, in all applications of the term, a huge deal. There are kids

graduating in the class of 2012 who will be the first in their family to do so, and this achievement will open up doors for them that prior generations did not have. It is for them, and for all of us, something that we've worked hard for, and something that should be celebrated. However, the prestige in graduation is inherent, and that there is no need to fabricate its esteem with self-indulgent ceremonies. The reality is that until our country downplays egocentrism and an inflated sense of self-importance, West Potomac will continue to mirror society's habits. But let us not forget that graduation is a time to reflect, and a time to be thankful for having gotten this far. Most importantly, it's a time to anticipate what lies ahead.

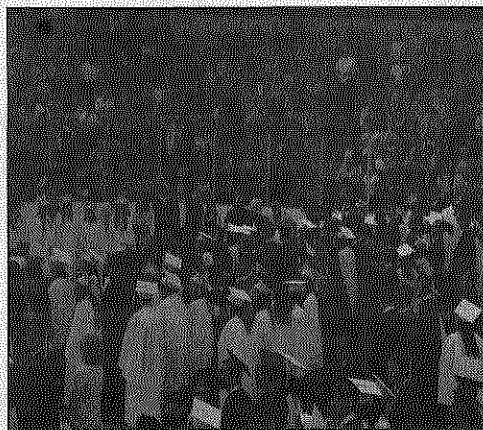


Photo courtesy of njrealestatewire.com

Although Graduation is an anticipated tradition, some think that it may have gone too far.

Does Facebook want to donate your organs?

Anna Peck
Entertainment Editor

"Oh, just check my Facebook! I have just about everything on there!" Nowadays you can find any sort of personal information, from relationship statuses to college acceptances, on the extremely popular social networking site. But when does that change from 'fun and friendly' terms to stalkerish ones? Facebook creator and super genius Mark Zuckerberg announced on May 1st that the website would receive a new option, or 'status update', for users that allows them to designate whether they are organ donors and register in their state directory if they hope to become one.

In an interview with ABC's Good Morning America, Zuckerberg said that he was inspired by the tragedies such as last year's tsunami and earthquake in Japan and how social media allowed people all over the world to connect. Another source of inspiration hit closer to home: Zuckerberg's girlfriend Priscilla Chan, a medical student, prompted him to take action and create the new feature. There is crisis in America

as a result of the shortage of organs for those patients who are in need. The United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS) says that

there are more than 114,000 people on the lengthy donation registry. Thousands of people die each year as a result of waiting for heart, liver, and kidney donations, which never come. Zuckerberg hopes that through the new tool, organ donors would be able to communicate with individuals in need and save a life and also remove the stigma that comes with organ donation. "We believe that by simply telling people that you're an organ donor, the power of sharing and connection can play an important role," explained Zuckerberg. He probably also thinks that this will give him some points with his little lady.

It seems harmless enough; people add information online regarding their social status and other personal items all the time on the website. There are also privacy controls that only allow

a user's 'friends' to see their information that they don't want anyone else to see. This type of information includes depressing Taylor Swift lyrics, passive aggressive comments, and artsy Instagram-ed pictures. Is this a website that should be allowed to broadcast medical history? I think not. If people want to know about how many kidneys a person has, they should just become doctors or black-market surgeons. Both generate some

sort of heavy income and the necessary amount of respect. You would think legions of my so-called 'friends' would agree with me, but no, that does not seem to be the case.

By the end of the first day, more than 100,000 people officially registered as donors in their respective states. The change was made to create a difference around the world and save lives, but is Facebook the most acceptable and respectful place to post this type of information? Next

thing you know, Twitter will have an option that will allow users to vote for the president or receive medical diagnosis virtually. Tumblr will have a way to reblog people's drink

orders at Starbucks and have it delivered to your house in thirty minutes flat. All seem completely ridiculous and lazy, but with the dependency on the internet, it may eventually become possible. Facebook was created as a way to get in touch with friends, post silly videos, share pictures of your pets and find out news all over the world. Now it has become a site that delves into uncharted and unnecessary territory. With this and the timeline, when will a line be drawn? And when will users leave the social powerhouse all together?

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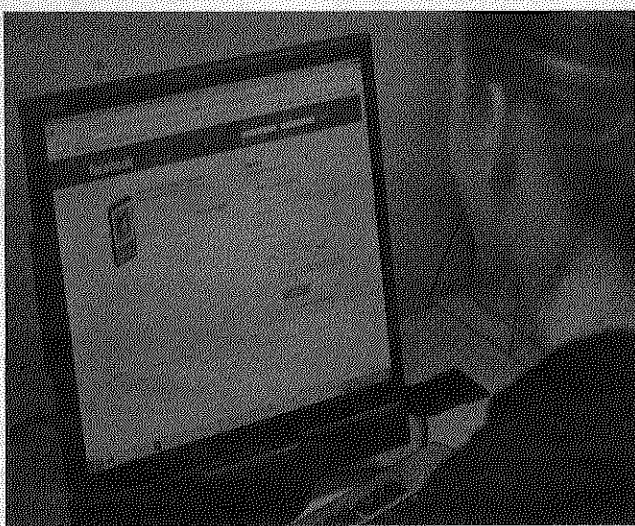


Photo courtesy of Sonia Garakyaraghi

Facebook now allows people to state if they are organ donors. Many believe this is too personal and an inappropriate feature.

Asian Persuasion



West Pot vs. West Positive

With a little perspective, students will realize that we go to one of the best schools in the country

Anna Dreyfuss
Opinions Editor

"West Po sucks" is a commonly used phrase that is completely inaccurate. Fairfax County Public Schools are the second richest in the nation while Alexandria city is the richest city in the state. Loudoun County is the richest in the nation, while Arlington comes in fifth. Students truly do not know what it is like to be in a bad school.

When it comes down to it, people love to complain, especially privileged teenagers. West Potomac may have slow computers and overbearing policies, but it's all relative. The poorest counties in the country, such as Ziebach County in South Dakota can't even afford desks or books.

Many students' main complaint is that we aren't one of the highest ranked schools in Fairfax County, West Potomac being ranked 257th out of 324 schools in 2011, but there are many ways to look at the numbers. In 2010, all of Fairfax County's high schools made Newsweek's list of top high schools in the county. The list of 1,734 schools represented the top six percent of the country's best schools, where West Potomac was ranked 550.

One of the most important aspects about West Potomac is the resources we have. We have good teachers who come from all over the DC area to work in this district and very competitive test scores. In fact, for the past seven years we have reached at least the 90th percentile in meeting our Writing SOL test score standards. The types of classes offered also greatly affect students. West Potomac also has one of the largest lists of AP courses in the county, as well as one of the highest enrollment rates for AP classes in the country.

Probably one of the most important positive aspects about West Potomac is its extreme diversity of students. Northern Virginia is one of the most diverse places to live in the nation and many forget about that. Students in states such as Ohio and South Dakota don't have the chance to meet or even see Ethiopian, Pakistani or Vietnamese students, let alone sit in class and talk with them. There are actually 35 languages spoken and 50 countries represented at our school. Although some may not realize it, just being here is a learning experience on its own. We get the chance to understand different cultures, religions, and ethnic groups. These cultures are not so abstract, but they are lived by real people that we see every day and get to know. This makes each of us smarter, worldlier, and better able to comprehend how things affect other people.

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anna.dreyfuss@gmail.com

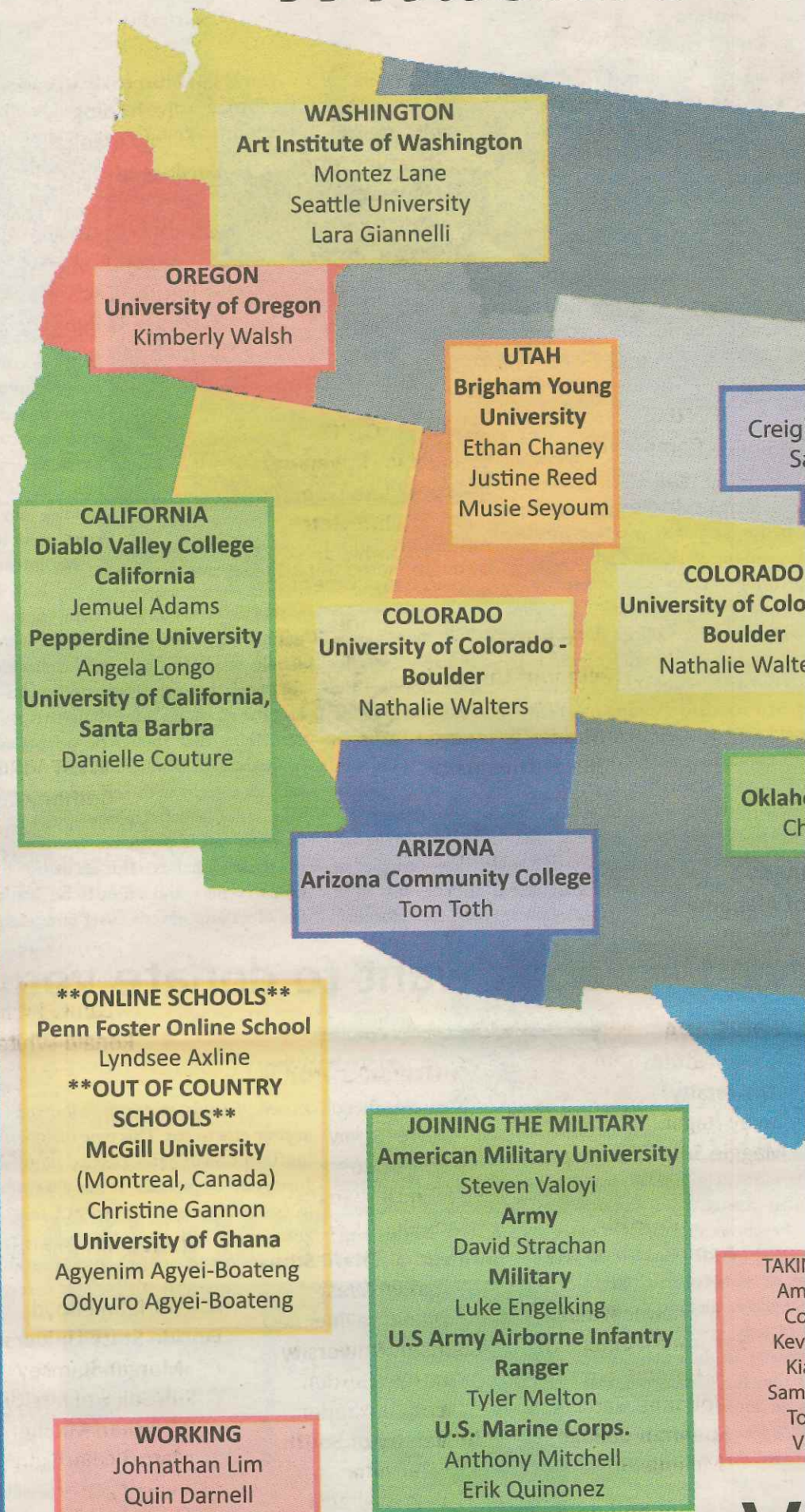
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Rocio Abanto
Roger Quintanilla
Rivera
Rosilina Loza
Rosy Aleman
Rula Fseisi
Safa Abdelaziz
Salvador Blanco
Sarah Hedgman
Sarah Loughridge
Shadee Whiting
Shelby Moyer
Stephanie
Melendez
Stephanie Restifo
Steven Lopez
Hernandez
Susan Shull
Sveta Martinez
Taleshia Clemons
Talisha Carrington
Tania Mendoza
Soriano
Tashika Lewis
Taylor Pitkin
Tayyaba Aziz
Telisa Meadows
Thomas Mananzan
Tia Quander
Tiara Parker
Tiara Smith
Tony Gomez
Tyler Fuqua
Tyler Melton
Victor Argueta
Victoria Minnis
Waquar Chaudhry
William Nolasco
Xavier Martinez
Zach Hottle
Zhane King

What Are Th



Blueridge Commu-
nity College
Bobby Meritt
Jeana Schiffrs
Niko Knoblauch
Christopher New-
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Alex Wong
Alex Young
Caitlin Schroeder
Christopher Tracey
Madelyn Amos
Malcolm McNeil
Pace Woods
Thomas Gigure
Fairfax County Fire
and Rescue
Anthony Golden
Ferrum College
Charles Ruiz
Kelly Guevara
Sam Arthur

Fairfax County
School of Practical
Nursing
Josselyn Lazo
James Madison
University
Anna Peck
Christopher Tadie
Colin Chatfield
Collin Boyd
Dan Jarrell
Heidi Jenkins
Jack King
Joseph Marinelli
Josh Belanger
Jhunayae Kim
Laura-Paige Mertins
Mackenzie Cate
Maddie White
Thomas Friederich
Tyler Arnold
Zoe McCray

Zoe Slobodin
J. Sergeant Reynolds
Gavin Conway
Stephen Appiah
Robert Nichols
George Mason Uni-
versity
Andrew Nowack
Clara Wear
Colleen O'Hara
Jemar Edwards
Kayla Fleischer
Mary Tran
Monica Ramirez
Rafi Harmain
Zachary Crews
Liberty University
Owen Jones
Longwood Univer-
sity
Colleen Sweeney
Monica Vroomen

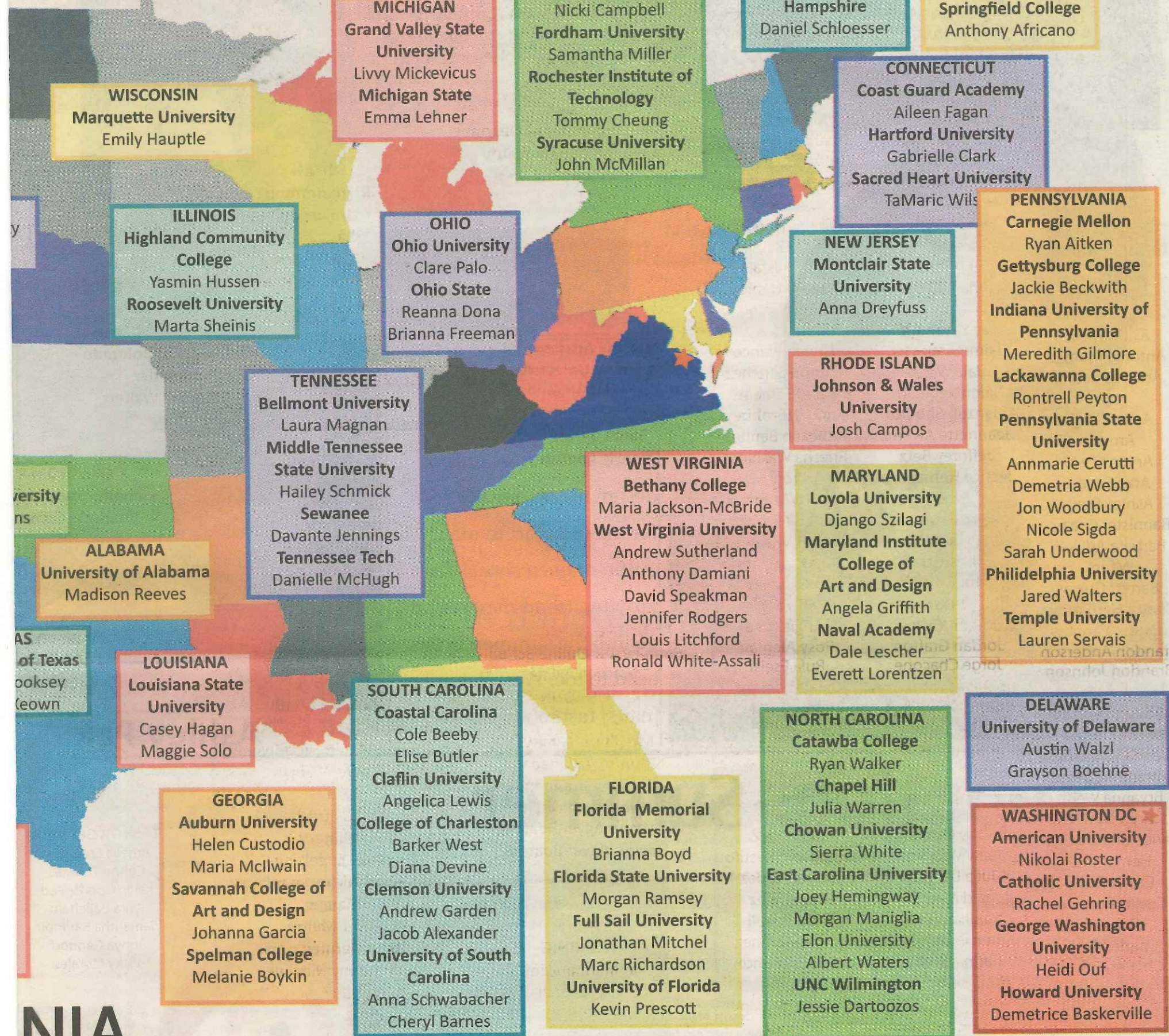
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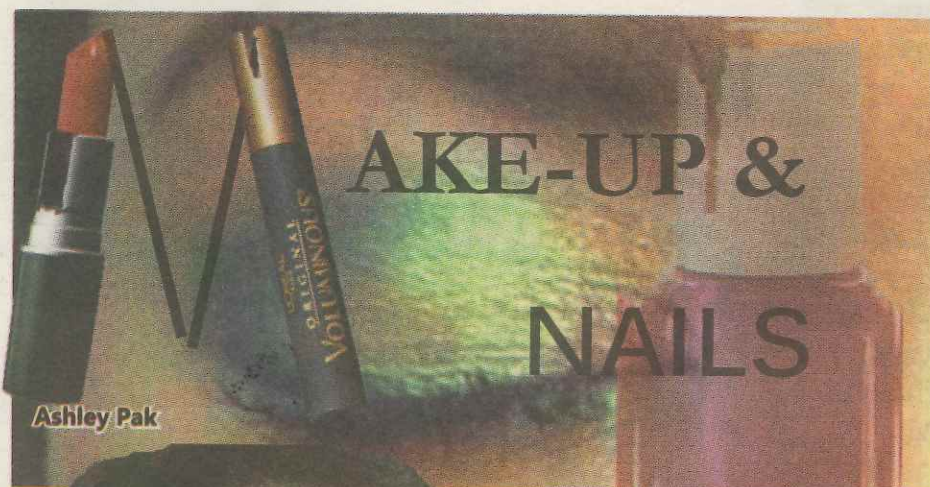
Gonna Do?

Class of '12



NIA

Northern Virginia Community College Alexander Krisnitski Allen Murchison Alyssa Kawonen Amina Jamil Anthony Oldham Bryan Mariscal Caylin Carter Celest Coley David Simpson Elvir Husicic Henna Mirza Htania Molina Ignacio Perez Zuleta Janay Coates Jasmin Mendez Jason Tyler Jennifer Alburez Jeremy Malfait Jillian Kelly Jon Poole	Katie Amaya Katie Knopes Kevin Irahte Kiara Upshaw Marelyn Herrera Mark Stickell Matthew Jagg Maurice Gramujo Medal Adhanom Micah Dabao Miguel Moreno Monica Rodriguez Nana Tutu Natalie Comfort Nick Dean Nini Nguyen Noah Feinstein Pedro Romero Reem Awwad Roxana Mendez Rukhsana Khan Sada Khan	Syrena Glynn Talisha Corrington Thao-Uyen Nguyen Tony Coker Vanessa Fernandez Zoey Williams Old Dominion University Derrick Abankwa Frezette Ackah Joy Mainoo Meryl O'Connor Michael Wilson Schwaan Rowell Zachary Roberts Radford Kestra Aardama Ross Taylor Kennise Baker Sam Ludovici Tess Ward Roanoke College	Safiat Salam University of Virginia Austin Riggins Daniel Ghembremedin Jeff Barger Jenna Van Dyck Jillian Tupitza Krishna Korupolu Lindsey Gallagher Liz Quin Maggie Grady Matt Hrin Noora Al-Saadawi Norris Brooks Rachelle Husband Samantha Clifford Sarah Woodward Virginia Commonwealth University	Abigail Welch Alex Gahart Alexander Wong Alexandra Blaszkievicz Alexandra Muir Alexandria Vlodyka Cara Glaser Daniel Bashkansky David Barritt Diana Tran Elizabeth Yemane Iman Nur Jack Polo Joe Kirby John Jasper Johnny Muckerman Kyle Anderson Lauren Soriente Margaret Baer Michelle Riegel Cruz Misheon Clark	Shirine Loghmanina Sofia McMullen Thomas Delaney Victoria Hammond Virginia State University Jasmine Ervin Marvin Bogyah Stephen Banks Virginia Tech Annmarie Wood Brady Corum Caroline Kelly Catherine Canary Celeste Zabowski Cormac McPherson Daniel Morris Elizabeth Conwell Grayson Pinney Jackie Rhodes James Aylward Kendall Blanchard	Michael Pourchot Natalie Hurd Patrick Murphy Russell Bradley Sean Trenchard Sonia Garakyaraghi Spencer Watkins Taylor Evans Todd Ferri Zoe Riviere William and Mary Abby Jacobs Andrew White Cathryn Liebeck Erik Dove Emilyann Key John Dearborn Julia Roberts Julia Staples Lara Chilton Monica Bell Trevor Jenne
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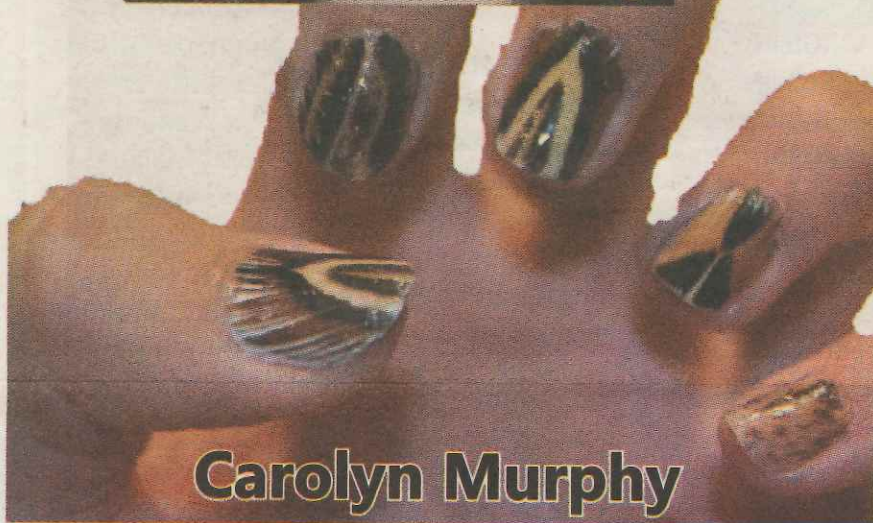


Ashley Pak



Taylor Chauncey

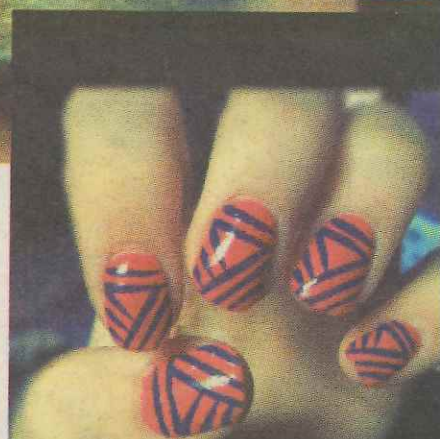
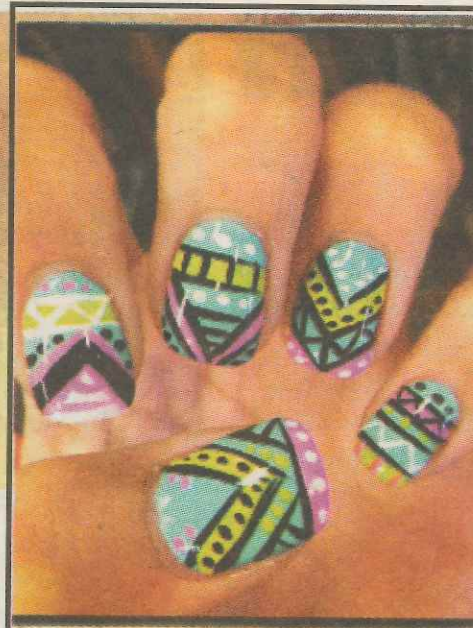
Photo courtesy of Taylor



Carolyn Murphy

Photo courtesy of Carolyn

Karley Zdebski
Sports Editor



Serena Ivers



Photo courtesy of Ashley

Ashley Pak

Nail and make-up art are flourishing as major fads for many girls at West Potomac. There are endless unique design ideas for nails and for make-up art to match an outfit, or even shoes! This growing trend may continue into the summer. From head to toe, West Potomac [nails] fashion.

Occupation: Summer

P. J. Braun
Reporter

Need a little extra cash in your pocket this summer? Don't we all! As you probably know, our economy isn't in the best condition right now, and finding a job might be a little troubling; especially one you will enjoy. As summer is approaching, now would be a great time to start searching for jobs and getting your name out there to businesses you're interested in. Here are a few tips you can use to help you score your dream job.

Before the Interview:

- ✓ Dress for success! When applying for a job, let them know you mean business. Dress for the occasion; if your job is formal, wear something nice. Also, don't overdress like the guys from Step Brothers.

- ✓ Be prepared! Make sure you know what the job is expecting you to do. Do a little detective work and look on their website.

- ✓ Be a little over prepared! Bring your own pen; you don't want to have to ask for one.

- ✓ Find your weaknesses! Try to figure out some of your weaknesses when in under pressure situations like job interviews: Do you mumble, speak too softly, or bite your fingers? Whatever it is, try to conquer them and focus on fixing it.

During the Interview:

- ✓ Body language is key! Have good posture; don't be slumped over.

The phrase "you don't get a second chance to make a first impression" is especially true during a job interview.

Make sure you shake hands and make eye contact; it's the little things that can help you get the job.

- ✓ Speak clearly! Make sure you speak clearly and loud-enough where they can hear you.

- ✓ Demonstrate your ability to be a hard-worker and successful at what you do

After the Interview:

- ✓ Follow up! After the meeting is over, make sure you end a "thank you" note for giving you the interview. This should be relatively quick after the interview; the following day would be appropriate. Many hiring decisions are made quickly so timeliness is extremely important!

- ✓ Be patient! If you don't hear back from them, this doesn't mean you didn't get the job; sometimes they have a lot of applicants to consider, so give them time.

Here's a little advice from your fellow students:

Douglas Reyes: "Do whatever you need to do to make that paper. Just be yourself."

AnnMarie Cerutti:
"Be flexible, friendly and ferocious!"



"Find a job you will enjoy working at. The last thing you want is to be working somewhere you're miserable."

- Joanna Morgan

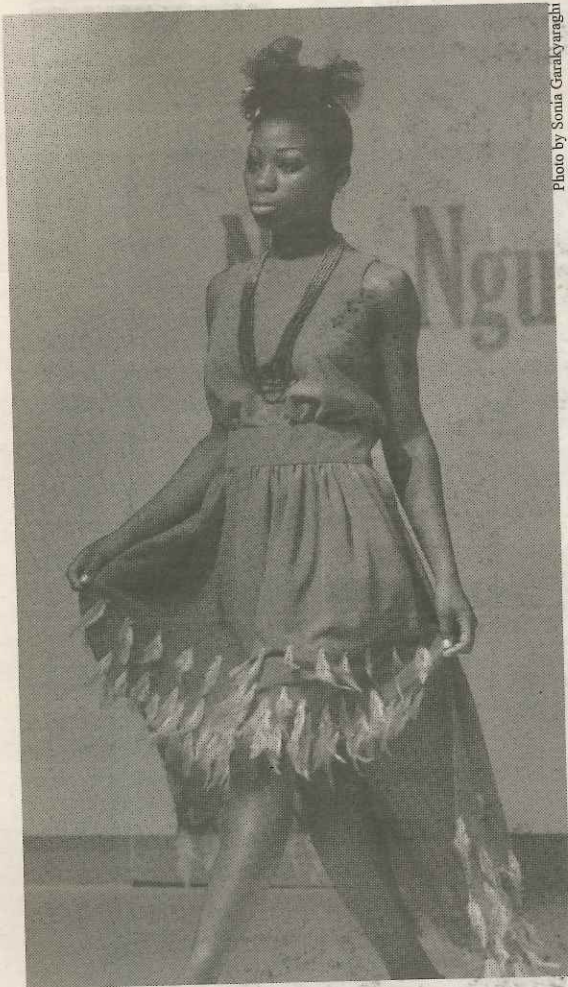


Photo by Sonia Garayunagh

Runway Ready “Catwalk to Concept”

Clare Palo
Style Editor

Students from the West Potomac Fashion Academy held their 6th annual Runway Ready Catwalk to Concept Fashion Show, where students strutted down the runway with their original fashion designs.

“It is a chance for students to bring out their inner fashionistas,” said Emilia Blaszkiewicz and Kristen, West Potomac Academy students, who opened the event. Students work year long on a portfolio, which is then presented at the show and auctioned off for the audience members to buy.

The band “Fresh Flight,” was the opening musical guest and “DJ Nicola” kept the crowd bumpin’ throughout the show, and provided perfect sassy catwalk beats. Hosts, FREE of 95.5 WPGC Radio Personality, original co-hosts of BET 106 & Park and Ryan Charchian, Executive Editor of Cashmere and Tweed.

Many different fashion themes were presented, including

“Pink Paradise,” “Street Intentions,” “My Bougie Baby,” “Uggle Collection,” “Vintage Appeal,” “Kimchu Collection,” and “Masked Elegance.” Seniors Elise Butler, Margaret Baer, Rosio and Yang Chao, presented their “Pink Paradise” Collection and walked out to Rihanna’s “We Found Love.” Their collection included day to night pink and colorful clothing that mimicked Forever 21’s mix and match trendy styles.

Schools around the county come to West Potomac for the Fashion Academy such as, South County HS, Hayfield HS, Stuart HS, Edison HS, Robert E. Lee HS, Quander HS, and West Springfield HS. Models came from all over Fairfax County and auditioned for West Potomac in order participate in the hot-media event. West Springfield alumni, Nam Nguyen presented his styles with a 70’s flare, mixed with 80’s fun and colorful, with a touch of simplicity.

Above: Cristisha Adams models former student, Nam Nguyen’s collection. Right: Fashion students, Emilia Blaszkiewicz and Kristen Fowler open the fashion show. Far right: Adams leads Nguyen final collection walk down the runway to a thunderous applause from the audience.



Photo by Sonia Garayunagh



Photo by Sonia Garayunagh

10 things every freshman should know & every senior remembers

Caitlin Schroeder
Copy Editor

“Don’t fall asleep in class. In the beginning of my freshman year I fell asleep in class and when I woke up the period had changed! No one had noticed I was still there and I was surrounded by strangers.”
—Senior Kestra Aardema

“Freshman should know that the world is bigger than themselves, bigger than high school, bigger than Virginia. They should value each person and enrich their lives through community service.”
—Senior Owen Jones

“My freshman year was full of excitement. I only wish I had worked harder and advise freshman to make sure they study hard, are on time to class and enjoy it because it will go by fast.”
—Senior Andrew Sutherland

1) Know that high school is nothing like the movies.

At West Potomac there are no queen bees, cliques are overrated, nobody has been run over by a bus (so far), students do not break into song down the hallway, and nobody is a 25 year old supermodel doppelganger. Sorry.

2) Know where you are going. Try not to get too lost in the stream of pushing and shoving students in the halls. It is better to be the kid walking around with your nose in a map than to be the kid who walks into class 20 minutes late and out of breath because you pushed through the crowded hallways all over Gunston searching for your English class (note: history and English classes are generally in Quander, science and math in Gunston, and fine arts in Springbank.)

3) Know you are near the bottom of the metaphorical high school totem pole. Sophomores will look down on you, because they were where you are a few months ago and are trying to overcome the stigma of freshman year, Juniors will probably just ignore you because they are so wrapped up in SAT tests, grades for college, and their recent driving privileges, and some Seniors will try and help you find your way, but they only do this because they think you are “adorable.”

4) Know you should get involved. Whether it be in clubs (particularly school sponsored clubs), community service, school plays, or sports the benefits of being involved in your school are endless with over 70 extracurricular opportunities available to you. It is how you make new friends, how you find new hobbies, and how you make your resume for college shine.

5) Know that grades do matter, but they aren’t everything. Getting C’s, D’s, or even an F your 1st quarter of freshman year is not a guaranteed ticket to a career cleaning toilets at McDonald’s. You should try your absolute best in your classes, and aim for Honor Roll, but freshman year is not so much about the grade you get, it is about learning what your limits are and where your talents lie, so you will be ready for your high school and college years ahead.

6) Know that a social life is important. Making new friends, going to parties, spending time with classmates outside of school hours are all extremely important parts of your high school experience. Learning how to socialize and being able to talk to people are really important skills. So next time you feel like blowing off friends to stay home with Netflix and your buddies Ben and Jerry, resist the couch potato temptation, you do not make lifelong memories alone on your sofa.

7) Know to stay above drama and gossip. Saying negative things too and about your peers has nothing but negative consequences. Being nice, kind and polite to others will help cultivate great friendships and positive attitudes.

8) Know that your teachers are here to help you. They are not evil, very few are actually mean, and it is not only their responsibility but also their pleasure to help their students succeed in and out of the classroom. So take advantage of this, go to your teachers afterschool if you do not understand something, ask questions if you need help.

9) Know that everything you do matters. It sounds silly, but it is true. Every piece of mundane busy work is forcing developing your study skill and time management, every friend you make will impact how you remember your high school experience. So avoid saying “but it doesn’t matter” because it does matter, even the tiniest bit.

10) Know that your four years here will go by fast, so make the most of them Whether it be by painting the rock with your friends, forming a new student club, or writing for one of the schools award winning publications (like the Wire) find a way to put a piece of yourself into the school’s history, and have a great time doing it.

“Know your teachers and stay on top of your schoolwork and your grades. And don’t mix up room numbers, I did and got lost, a lot.”
—Freshman Andy Knight

“Make good choices that will not come back to bite you later in the year.”
— Freshman Alyssa Denton

“Play a fall sport so that you can get to know your classmates before the school year starts.”
—Freshman Nick McCobb

"It's fun to have fun, but you have to know how!"

Anna Peck
Entertainment Editor

Dr. Seuss' legacy arrives to thrill audiences in the Springbank auditorium.

A tale of exotic birds, playful monkeys, and tiny Whos took over Springbank Auditorium from April 25th to the 29th. *Seussical* is a musical based on the popular works of the beloved children's author, Dr. Seuss.

Narrated by the Cat in the Hat (played by senior Julia Warren,) the musical follows Horton the elephant (played by senior Ryan Walker) who discovers a speaking speck of dust on a clover and faces ridicule from his peers in the Jungle of Nool.

Seussical has to be one of West Potomac's most elaborate and colorful productions to date. Complete with flamboyant costumes and an imaginative set, the musical creates an out-of-this world landscape that surely Dr. Seuss himself would be proud of. Besides Walker and

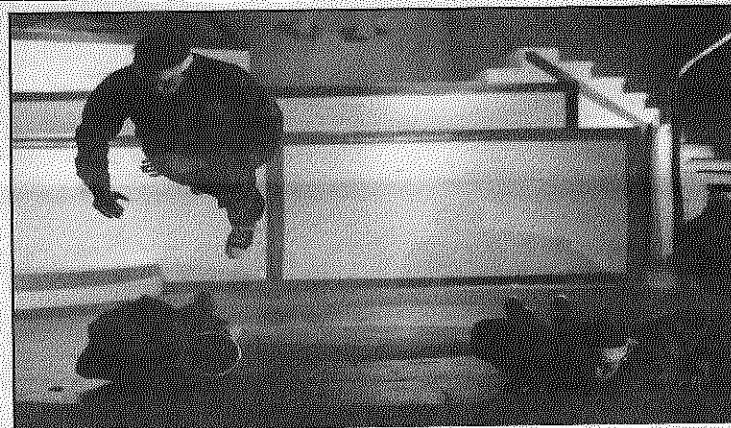
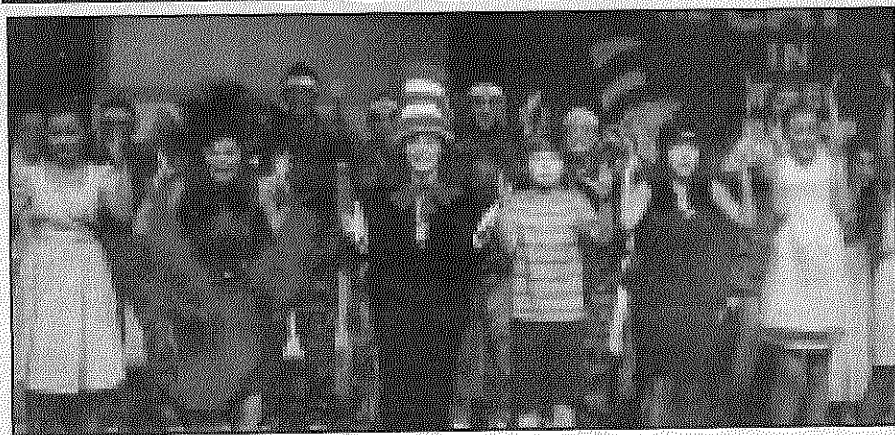
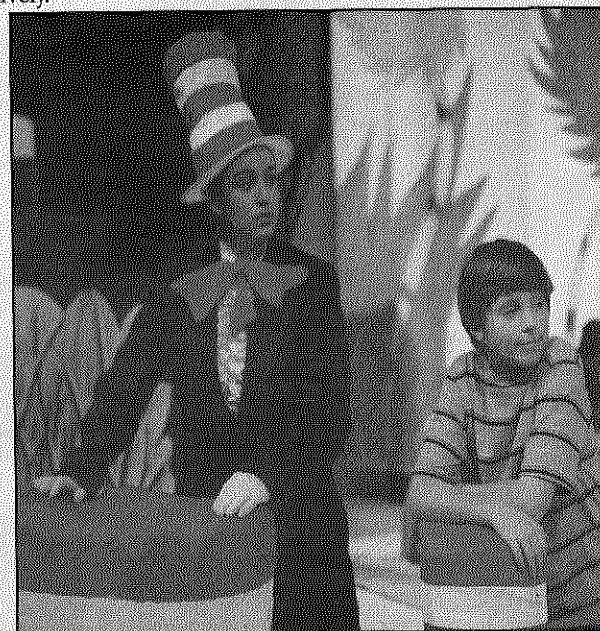
Warren, the performance featured standout acts from senior Maddie White, who portrayed Horton's small-tailed love interest Gertrude, sophomore Ben Roberts, who played the tough and funny Commander Schmitz and senior Rachelle Husband, who brought to life the sparkling and bubbling bird, Mayzie.

Some of the star performances came from students outside of West Potomac from the local elementary and middle schools; the characters of Jojo, played by Aubrey Blount, and Young Kangaroo, played by Valentina Selnick, made the audience double over in laughter.

Popular musical numbers featured West Potomac's true talents. White and Walker shined vocally in "Notice Me, Horton" and "Alone in the Universe," respectively.

The choreography in many group numbers including the Wickersham Brothers' "Monkey Around," displayed how hard the cast worked on creating the fun show.

Despite some technical difficulties and sound issues, the spring production of *Seussical* was a play for everyone: young and old. The musical numbers and humorous antidotes were clever and nicely done. Even though it was considered a comedy and took place in a fictional world of dancing fish and little people, *Seussical* tells of the common struggle and pressures of fitting in, which are all too familiar in high school.



Photos by Laura Marshall

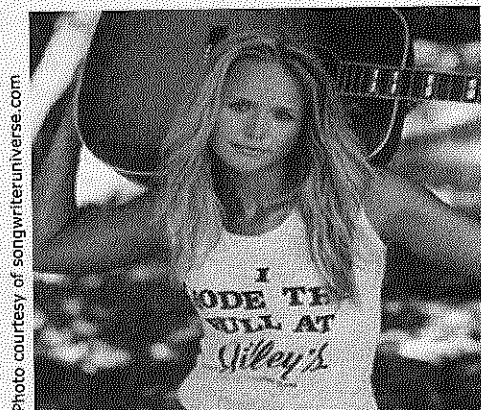
Swayin' & Singin' in the Summer Sun

These upcoming summer concerts bring out everyone's music tastes.

Emily Woods
Editor-in-Chief

Vans Warped Tour-

A touring music and extreme sports festival, Warped continually generates interests among teenagers and young adults. Although traditionally a celebration of punk-rock/alternative music, in recent years the tour has expanded to include more diverse artists. This year there are a total of 72 bands playing and highlights include Taking Back Sunday, All Time Low, New Found Glory, and We the Kings. July 24th at Merriweather Post Pavillion.



WMZQ fest-

A well-loved tradition among West Potomac students, WMZQ fest falls on Sunday, June 3rd this year. The day is jam-packed with contemporary country stars, such as Miranda Lambert, Chris Young, Jerrod Niemann, Lee Brice, and Love and Theft.

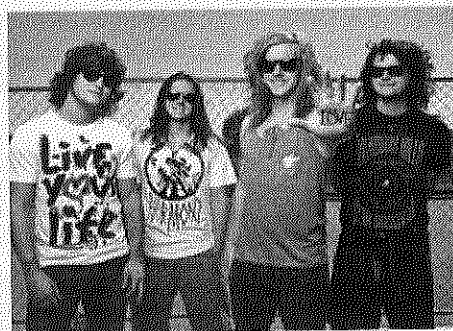


Photo courtesy of last.fm

Miranda Lambert, We the Kings, John Legend, and the Black Keys are some of the popular acts performing this summer!

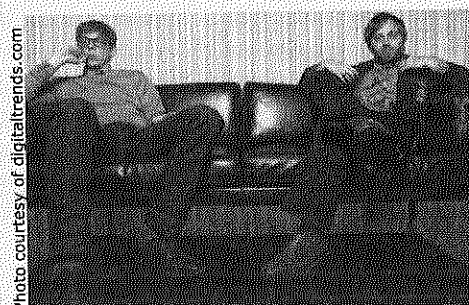


Photo courtesy of digitaltrends.com

Firefly Music Festival-

Firefly is a three-day festival of "music, dining and adventure" that takes place from July 20-22 in Dover, Delaware. As the premier East Coast music experience, the festival's headliners this year include The Black Keys, The Killers, White, John Legend and The Flaming Lips. Most people go out for this event and tickets range from \$178 to \$218 three-day-pass.



Photo courtesy of cheekychicago.com

Virgin Mobile FreeFest-

The Virgin Fest is a rock festival held in the United States, a spin-off from the V Festival held in the UK. Featuring Lo Green, The Black Keys and Ghostland Observatory. Takes place in Columbia, MD at Merriweather Post Pavilion and projected date is September 8th. An unknown number of tickets will be given away for free.

The Wire says Goodbye to **the CLASS OF 2012!**



Anna Dreyfuss, *Opinions Editor*
College: Montclair State University
Years on Staff: 4



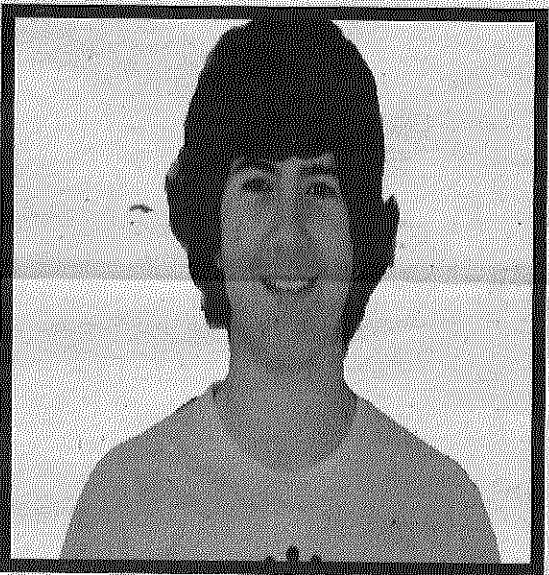
Anna Peck, *Entertainment Editor*
College: James Madison University
Years on Staff: 2



Caitlin Schroeder, *Copy Editor*
College: Christopher Newport University
Years on Staff: 2



Clare Palo, *Style Editor*
College: Ohio University
Years on Staff: 3



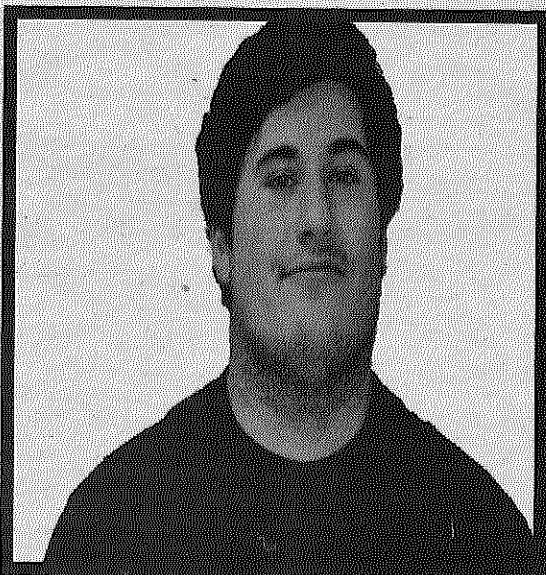
Johnny Muckerman, *Reporter*
College: Virginia Commonwealth University
Years on Staff: 1



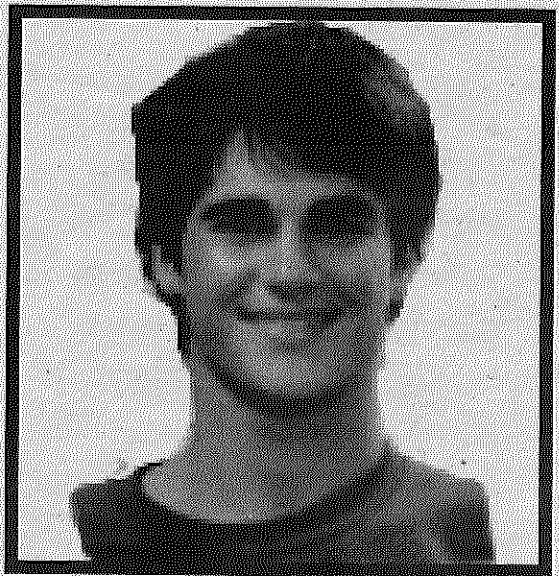
Sami Kadonoff, *Senior Fun Editor*
College: Gap Year
Years on Staff: 2



Sonia Garakyaraghi, *Photographer*
College: Virginia Tech
Years on Staff: 3



Tommy Friederich, *Sports Editor*
College: James Madison University
Years on Staff: 4



Tyler Arnold, *Reporter*
College: James Madison University
Years on Staff: 2

SENIOR SESSION



Chattin' with the Chiefs



The Editors-in-Chief from left to right: **Jack King**, **Norris Brooks**, Emily Woods

Questions:

1. How long have you been a Wire staff member?
2. What is your favorite memory of the paper?
3. Where will you be attending college?
4. What do you plan on studying in college?
5. If you had to pick, what one piece of advice would you give to Freshman?

Answers:

Jack King

1. I have been on The Wire for two years.
2. My favorite memory is playing "Closing Time" on the last day of layout week.
3. I will be going to James Madison University in the fall. GO DUKES!
4. I plan on majoring in political science.
5. I would tell them to enjoy their time here because it goes by a lot faster than you think.

Norris Brooks

1. I have been on The Wire for three years.
2. My favorite memory is the first time I was published on the front page during my sophomore year.
3. I will be going to the University of Virginia. Wah-oo-woah!!
4. I plan on studying policy, political science or law.
5. I would tell Freshman to not lose motivation, especially once they get to senior year.

Emily Woods

1. I have been on The Wire for two years.
2. My favorite memory is going to the NSPA Journalism convention in Anaheim, California.
3. I will be going to Emerson College in Boston. Go Lions!
4. I will be studying Acting.
5. I would tell Freshman to go to class even if they do not have their homework done, and to not be afraid to speak up in class.