

THE WIRE

WEST POTOMAC HIGH SCHOOL

Farewell to Fink

West Potomac's very own AP Statistics, math teacher and Young Democrats supervisor will be moving on to greener pastures. He will be working in the Court Services Offender Supervision Agency and will be missed by all. Good luck Mr. Fink!

-The Wire Staff



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West Potomac, 2.0



West Potomac High School enrolls numerous students to the main Virginian universities each year.

Sophie Spriggs
News Editor

For many seniors, college is a fresh start. The prospect of a whole new life and circle of friends can be scary but also a great way to start your adult life. West Potomac students are notorious for going to the same schools after finishing high school. Several Virginia schools are referred to as "West Po 2.0," including James Madison University, Northern Virginia Community College, University of Virginia, and Virginia Tech. The list sometimes includes Virginia Commonwealth University, William and Mary, and George Mason University.

Seventeen alums from West Potomac are now a mere two hours away at JMU. Tommy Frederick, a 2012 West Potomac alumni, commented, "there is only one person from West Potomac, Jam Marinelli, who I would say I hang out with on a daily basis, the reason being that we were both attracted to the same fraternity. I see a lot of the other West Potomac people at parties and around campus but I don't hang out with them very often. I came to JMU with about 5 guys who I was pretty good friends with in high school, but we all either joined different frats or did not join one at all." Being in the same fraternity, sorority or clubs as fellow West Potomac alums can be an effective way to keep in touch with old friends.

UVA took in 15 West Potomac Students last year including freshman Elizabeth Quinn. She feels being around so many familiar faces can be both a good and bad thing. "Unfortu-

nately, in the beginning some West Po people lived near me so I just decided to hang out with them instead of trying to bond with new people. Over the first semester I began to reach out to my hall mates who I did not know and now they are some of my best friends. I only see the other 14 of almost 20 girls I know from West Po about once a month, if that. However, West Potomac definitely was an incredible support system at first. I actually ended up in a sorority with six other West Po girls who I see a lot, though I ac-

College is a chance to start over and reinvent who I am

-Morgan Maniglia, Class of 2012

tually end up hanging out with my newer friends a little bit more. I would call Thomas Jefferson High School a feeder school to UVA because there are around 130 students from my class that came from TJ. They all call it the TJ of the south, so to them the population of West Po kids at UVA is nothing." Having friends who live in the same area as you can prove very useful when college students need rides home. Being a freshman with friends from your high school can get you into parties and rides places if you are not allowed to have a car your first year on campus. If you have older friends you have more privileges.

At Virginia Tech, students Zoe Riviere and Grayson Pinney have had two very

different experiences. Both are freshmen at Tech this year. Pinney told The Wire about his experience with his old friends from West Po. "I hang out with Daniel Morris, Cormac McPherson, Sean Trenchard, Todd Ferri and Spencer Watkins. I guess Tech takes in a lot of West Po kids." Riviere on the other hand said she had the opposite experience: "I never really hang out with the people that went to West Potomac. I didn't really want to hang out with the people I knew from high school, I wanted to branch out and make new friends." Their two different experiences show that one might end up in a college that is a bigger version of their high school if you want to - otherwise branching out is always an option in college.

In-state schools are not the only that end up with many West Potomac students but also a few schools out of state have a fairly large number of us as well. Last year six students from West Potomac committed to West Virginia University and five went to Pennsylvania State University, including Annmarie Cerutti, Demetria Webb, Jon Woodbury, Nicole Sigda and Sarah Underwood. Morgan Maniglia attends East Carolina University, in Greenville NC. She told The Wire, "the only person I hang out with from West Potomac is Joey Hemingway." The two have been going to school together since 1st grade, "but ECU really isn't like West Po at all, that's why I love it so much because college is a chance to

start over and re-invent who I am."

As nice as it is to see West Potomac students continue their friendships into college, sometimes it is not for the best when it comes to forging their own paths. When many West Potomac students end up at the same school it can become a harness that can both hold you back and support you at the same time. For most, the decision on going to an in-state school or not comes down to the financial aspects but also most students also know that if they go to school with their friends its not going to be at all like West Potomac at all.



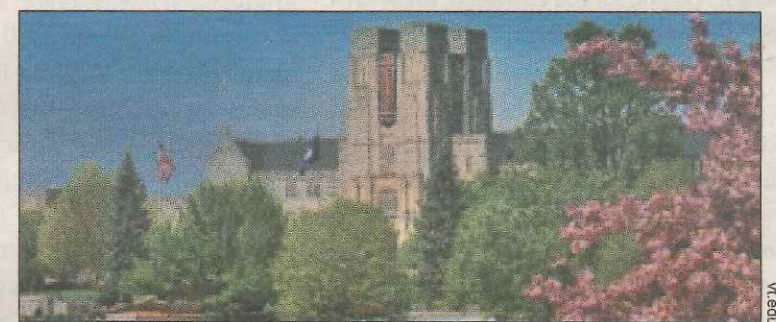
James Madison University, considered another West Po 2.0 school, located in Harrisonburg, Virginia.



Annmarie Wood (left) and Jackie Rhodes (right), both West Potomac alums, at a Virginia Tech football game.



Sarah Woodward (far right), Elizabeth Quinn (far left) and Samantha Clifford (second from the right), all West Potomac alums, attending a UVA football game together along with some new friends.



Virginia Tech, considered a West Po 2.0 college for its large amounts of West Potomac students attending each year.

NHS meeting
when: May 29th 2:15pm

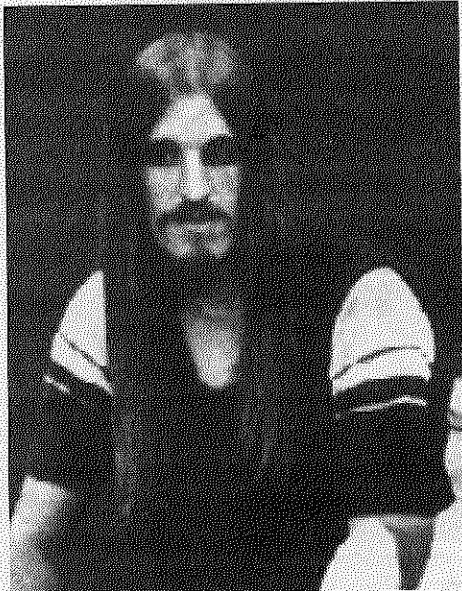
Memorial Day: No School
when: May 27th

SHOUT projects
when: June 2-12

Graduation
when: June 18th at the Patriot Center
2-4pm (tentative)

Farewell to Paul Russell, English teacher for 45 years

Laraib Ilyas
Opinions Editor



Russell posing for the Groveton 1973-1974 year book English department photo.

When classroom trailers first came to West Potomac, English teacher Paul Russell went to assistant principal Dale Eaton asking for one.

"At first, he and his students painted the thing with polka dots," recalled Eaton. "Not only that, but later on he literally turned it into an apartment with

this huge refrigerator and a grill right outside."

Memorable glimpses like this depict the illustrious 45-year career Russell has had with his students and colleagues at this school. He retires at the end of this school year leaving behind a legacy.

After graduating from Fordham University in 1968, Russell was looking to be a biology teacher. However, he landed a job as an English teacher instead at Groveton High School, now known as West Potomac. He was soon on the journey to influence the lives of thousands of students.

"I just wanted to be some type of teacher, so I didn't mind becoming an English teacher instead," said Russell.

Alum Scott Surovell '89, current member of the Virginia House of Delegates representing the 44th District, and Russell's former student, has shared many fond memories in Russell's class.

"He was probably the coolest teacher I had at West Potomac," Surovell claimed. Once, Russell required Surovell's class to teach a Latin word. Surovell

was assigned the Latin root "phil." For his presentation, Surovell had the entire class sing "All We Need Is Love" by The Beatles and dubbed the word 'phil' every time The Beatles sang 'love.' Surovell recalled that the classroom lights were turned off and a device projected clovers, diamonds, hearts, and stars on the walls.

"He was emphatic that our presentation had to be memorable," recalled Surovell. "Until I graduated, the members of that class called me 'Phil' Surovell and my classmates still remember it today 21 years later." "By the way, I got a B+," said Surovell.

Russell is known throughout West Potomac for his laid back teaching style and a unique sense of fashion. It is not uncanny to see him walking around the halls with jogging pants, a t-shirt, and flip-flops on.

"I enjoy his laid back style very much. I don't think there is a 'casual' Friday in his class; it's casual every day," expressed junior Kelly Slatery jokingly.

"You wouldn't recognize him back then because he actually wore suits

with ties. He wasn't always a dresser as students see him today," Eaton, who has been Russell's student, colleague, and evaluator.

In addition to writing and fishing, Russell loves to travel. He plans to visit South America and Africa during retirement. Russell also loves to play music and is looking forward to recording songs in his personal recording studio at home.

"Mr. Russell has clearly touched thousands of children's lives over the last 45 years and taught them how to express themselves. While he projects a laid back demeanor, he is also clearly someone who has a passion helping children find and express their inner muse," Surovell.

Junior Destiny Webb has enjoyed Russell's charismatic personality throughout the year. "His constructive feedback has helped me grow as a writer. I'm really gonna miss him."

Surovell added, "His presence at West Potomac High School will truly be missed."

Profile: Newly appointed superintendent Dr. Karen Garza

Laraib Ilyas
Opinions Editor

On Tuesday, May 7th, student journalists from all over Fairfax County tuned into a conference call with Dr. Karen Garza, the soon-to-be new FCPS superintendent.

In the 45-minute interview, student representatives from their respective school newspapers were given the opportunity to ask various questions concerning the plans and policies Dr. Garza supports or will be instituting as superintendent.

When a Westfield student asked what made her come to Fairfax County, Dr. Garza responded with high praise. "The school system [FCPS] has a great reputation across the country for high

performing schools and a supportive community. So I think there's a lot that would certainly appeal to any superintendent to want to be a part of such success."

In her first 60 to 90 days, Dr. Garza is looking forward to learning about the school system, the community, and the students. She hopes to work and build upon the nine-year foundation of current superintendent Jack Dale, but did note that their leadership styles will be "very different."

Dr. Garza intends to increase college readiness by giving students a plethora of opportunities to experience college level work, and also having them leave

high school with many college hours. "It really gives them [students] a positive start in college or universities, and it also saves parents and families a bit of money," said Garza.

A question was raised by Langley High School on what will be done about the integration of online textbooks in FCPS, given the negative feedback from parents and students. Dr. Garza believes there will be changes, but the decisions will be guided by the voices of "a lot of folks."

Moreover, low morale and heavy workload has been an issue for teachers at FCPS. To resolve this, Dr. Garza said she is committed to making it a priority

in the first year. "It's important for us to have high quality teachers that are prepared for the work but are also satisfied with being in Fairfax County," she added.

Dr. Garza comes to FCPS with some full of experience. She has been the superintendent of Lubbock Independent School District (LISD) in Lubbock, Texas since 2009, and "served in a number of leadership roles throughout her career, including deputy superintendent, principal, curriculum supervisor, and education specialist," according to the FCPS website.

Dr. Garza is to start as new superintendent of FCPS on July 1st, 2011.

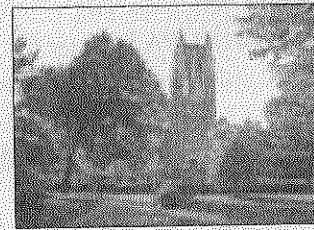
The Hidden Gems of Virginia: College Edition

Less established universities in Virginia have a lot to offer. Here are four we recommend checking out.



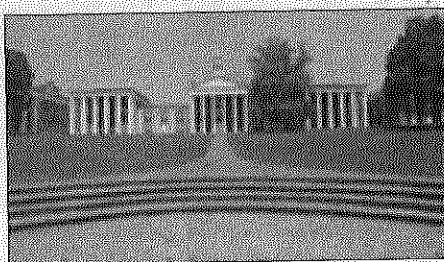
Christopher Newport University

- Approx. 5,000 students
- Recently spent over \$500 million dollars in campus improvements, something to check out if your looking for a nice and newly renovated school.



University of Richmond

- Approx. 4,300 students
- Princeton Review: No. 6 for Financial Aid, No. 10 for Best Career Services, No. 12 for Best Classroom Experience, No. 14 for Best Campus Food, and No. 14 for Most Beautiful Campus in 2012



Washington Lee University

- Approx. 2,100 students
- The school was founded in 1749 and got its name when in 1796 George Washington endowed the school with a gift of stock. Then in 1865 General Robert E Lee served as president of the college until his death in 1870.
- The 2nd oldest higher learning institution in Virginia and 9th in the United States



George Mason University

- Approx. 32,000 students
- Mason campus is close to home, less than a 30 minute drive away from West Potomac
- Named number one up and coming school by the US news and World report

Governors School Attendees

Anjum Choudhury and Patrick Rhoads- Visual and Performing Arts, Luke Edgar- Engineering/ NASA, Maura Finn, Charlette Hayes, Jessica Metter and Jordan Schrage- Agriculture, Colleen Grady, Sarah McKeown and Weisblatt-Humanities, David Joo- Life Sciences and Medicine, Kathryn Murray- Math Science and Technologies, Anna Blaszkiewicz- Spanish Language Academy, Sarah Waters and Monica Thompson- French Language Academy

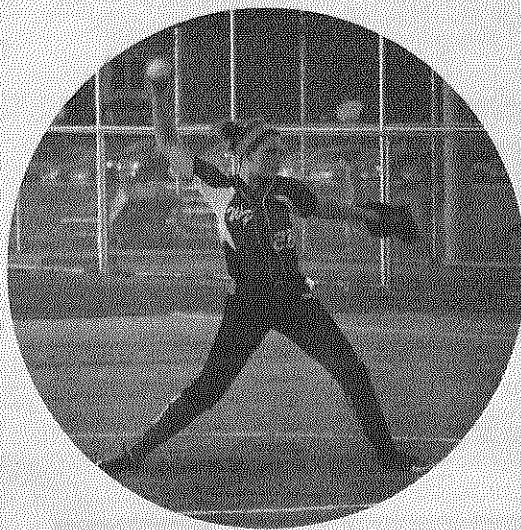
Spring Season

Softball

Finishing with a regular season record of 11-7, the West Potomac softball team placed 3rd in the district, an impressive feat for such a young team that includes 8 sophomores compared to only four seniors. Sophomore Jayne Orleans said, "Even though we had a young team this year, we were able to turn into a great season."



Sophomore and starting right back Katie Panagopoulos prevents a pass from going through.



Jayne Orleans, sophomore starting pitcher, winds up to throw the first pitch.

Girls Soccer

After a tumultuous season, the girls soccer team ended their regular season on a high note, winning their last two games, including one against Mount Vernon in the "Highway Cup" 6-1. Senior captain Emma Yohannan said, "It was a rough season, but it always helps to blowout your biggest rival like that."



Greg Snigur, a junior midfielder, races down the pitch with the ball.

Boys Soccer

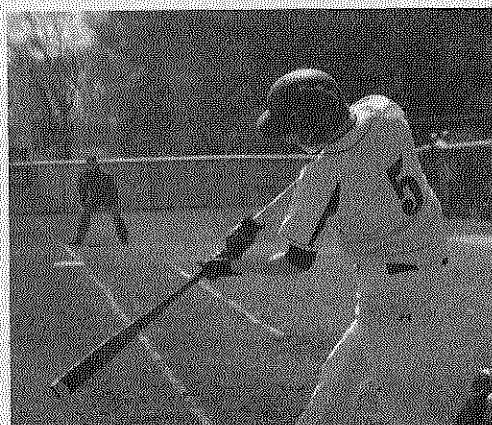
The boys soccer team recently finished their best season in recent memory, posting a winning record of 6-4-3. This wasn't quite good enough for a top seed in the district, though, placing fifth. Hopes for playoffs remain high, though, with senior captain Erik Liner saying, "We really want to win a district game for the first time ever."



Senior attacker Nicole Farino prepares to run in for a penalty shot.

Baseball

Boys baseball finished the regular season 12-8, good enough for 2nd in the district. The team has high hopes for this postseason, after reaching the regional tournament last year. Senior Paul McClure said, "We hope to make it to states, but even winning one game [in the regional tournament] would be a great accomplishment."



Michael Barnes, a junior, pitcher and shortstop for the Varsity Baseball team, hits a pitch.

WOLVERINE WARRIOR: KYLE MATTHEWS



Connor Phillips
Sports Editor

West Potomac's boys lacrosse team has long been looked down upon as one of the worst teams in the entire Northern Region. Now, though, they are looked at as a threat due in a large part to their star midfielder and captain, Kyle Matthews.

Although last year's season went down as another disappointment for the team, Matthews had the best individual season for a West Potomac player since 2007. He received first-team All-District honors, something a Wolverine player hasn't obtained since Chris Farquhar. And all this was as a sophomore.

This season, Matthews has not disappointed. Over the course of the regular season, he netted 27 goals and dished out 10 assists, once again earning first-team honors, as well as second-team all region honors. The difference this year, though, is that his production has keyed somewhat of a revival for the team. The boys' lacrosse team finished 5th in the Patriot District in the regular season, the highest since 2007.

Matthews attributes his success to his high school coaches. "The new coaching staff really helped put me in the best position to succeed." Most of his work, though, was not done in-season.

In the offseason, Matthews rigorously trains with SMART Training owner and former Delaware University standout Kenny Carrington. Matthews said on Carrington, "[Carrington] showed me my full potential and ever since I've been lifting and training with him to become the best player I can be."

Maybe more impressive than anything, though, is that Matthews manages to do all these things while maintaining a 4.4 GPA. His work on and off the field, along with in the classroom, truly make him a Wolverine Warrior.

SPORTS

COMMITTED SENIORS

While most seniors are looking forward to the next four years in college, some students have more than just school to be excited for. Their impressive skills on the field, on the track, in the gym, and in the pool have impressed college recruiters from around the country.



Allison McNulla and Corey Rosenberg- Division III Track & Field at Christopher Newport University

I'm really excited to run for Christopher Newport because they have a great program and all the girls on the team are very welcoming to the freshman.
-Allison McNulla



Chris Blewitt- Division I Football at Pittsburgh University

I am looking forward to the camaraderie of a collegiate sport and competing for the starting position as kicker.
-Chris Blewitt

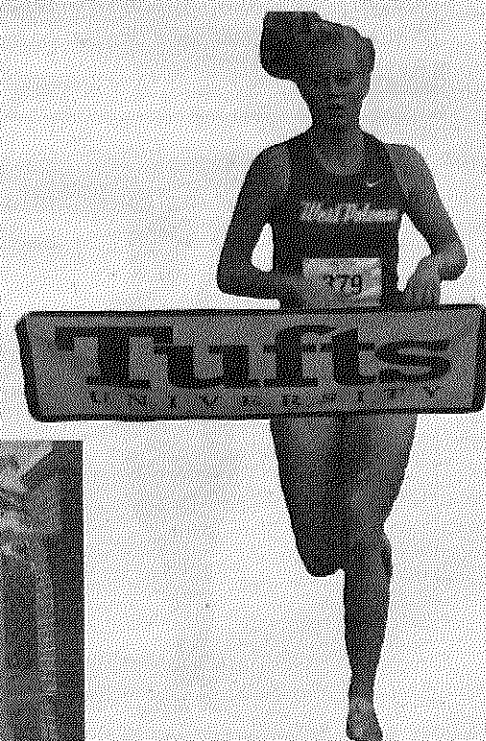


Sarah Rainey- Division I Soccer at Radford University

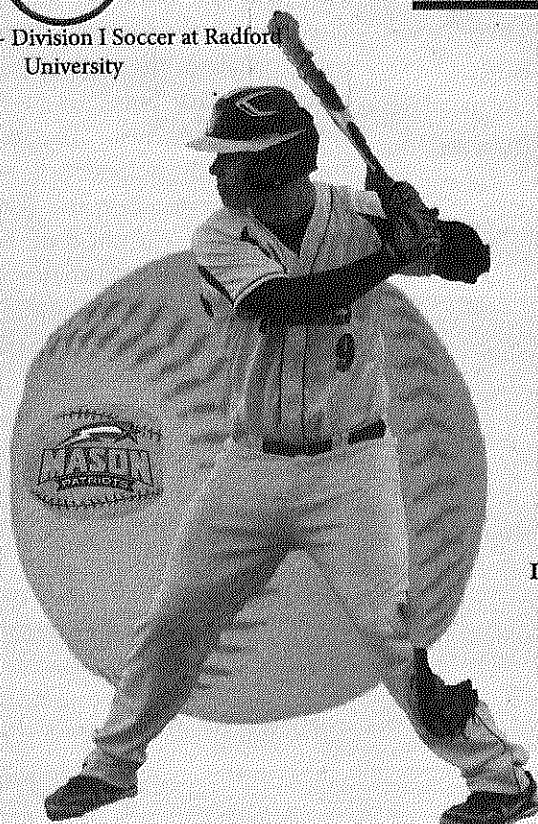


Lindsey Sawczuk- Division I Soccer at University of Pennsylvania

Penn had the strongest combination of athletics and academics.
-Lindsey Sawczuk



Sophie Pascantando- Division III Track & Field at Tufts University



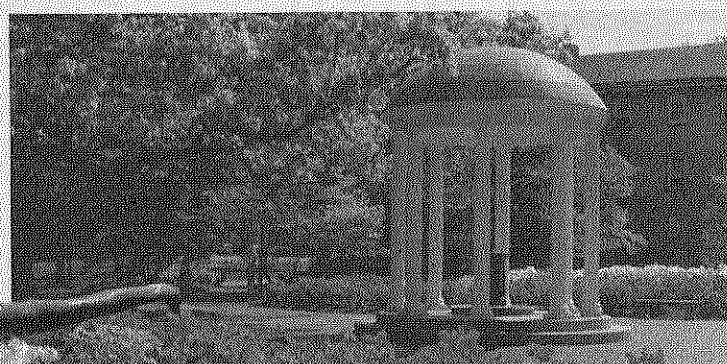
Jayme Murray- Division I Baseball at George Mason University



Leah Slobodin- Division I Gymnastics at University of Maryland



Hellen Moffitt- Division I Swim & Dive at University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill



Student performace hindered by online textbooks

Many students are opposed to the implementation of online textbooks in their classes.

Noor Javaid
Online Editor

Schools all over the nation are starting to use online textbooks instead of buying and distributing hardcovers to every student. They have digitalized something that was better off left alone. It is not wise to completely diminish the idea of a take-home textbook, which hopefully won't happen in the future as we progress technologically.

One of the major issues with online texts is that they are not always easily accessible. The electricity can go out at any moment. For example, students living in apartments often have random blackouts. This can be a problem for those who do not possess laptops, as desktops are directly connected to the outlets. However, physical textbooks need only a few flashlights propped up next to the reader. In the daytime, the sun is al-

ways shining outside.

Wireless connectivity can be another problem that can hinder student accessibility for online texts. For example, inclement weather conditions often limit internet access. Physical textbooks are there even if the weather is not accommodating. Therefore, take-home textbooks are always accessible and don't have the bothersome complexities that come with online textbooks. Junior Kanjana Pradhan said, "I am against the schools usage of online textbooks. Online textbooks are ineffective because they're distracting and take away from proper learning. Bound textbooks are more convenient because they don't require passwords or scrolling or the internet."

Another issue that has often come up is the effect online textbooks

have on study habits. According to Status Reports, students remember the readings more thoroughly when reading from a take-home textbook rather than an online one. Notetaking is made more efficient when reading from something tangible because it allows articulate annotations. Due to the fact that tangible textbooks provide better notes to study from, test results drastically increase. Schools that have adopted the online textbook system show lower test results than school that send books home. The positive impact on students' study habits shows that take home textbooks are the better option.

There have also been many complaints about the impact on eyesight. Tests have been done to show that staring at a computer screen

for a long period of time can cause severe migraines. Nathan Efron, an optometry professor, states that the use of a computer screen can lead to short-sightedness, especially for children and teens. Students that receive the online textbooks often complain that they are subjected to extreme headaches, which once diagnosed by a doctor, are said to be caused by eyesight weaknesses. This creates a health concern for parents which in turn shows that online textbooks are an overall damaging system.

In the end, it can be seen that online textbooks have more of a negative impact on students. "Online textbooks are unproductive and unnecessary," Pradhan adds. Overall, take-home books are easier to access and have fewer hindrances.

Not in the mood for school food

Arnold Siaw-Sappore
Reporter

High school students were invited to participate in a survey about school meals offered in Fairfax County Public Schools. This survey was part of a comprehensive assessment of FCPS' food services program. This survey was said to be confidential and took 8 to 12 minutes to complete. The survey was online till April 15 on the FCPS website. Although I didn't quite understand why you had to be 18 or have parental supervision to take the survey. After all, we are the ones eating the food and suffering the consequences, not our parents.

Personally, the whole cafeteria experience does not appeal much to me. I prefer perfectly made home food where you can go to any extent to make what you feel like eating, not have a fixed menu on what to eat, but eating what suits you.

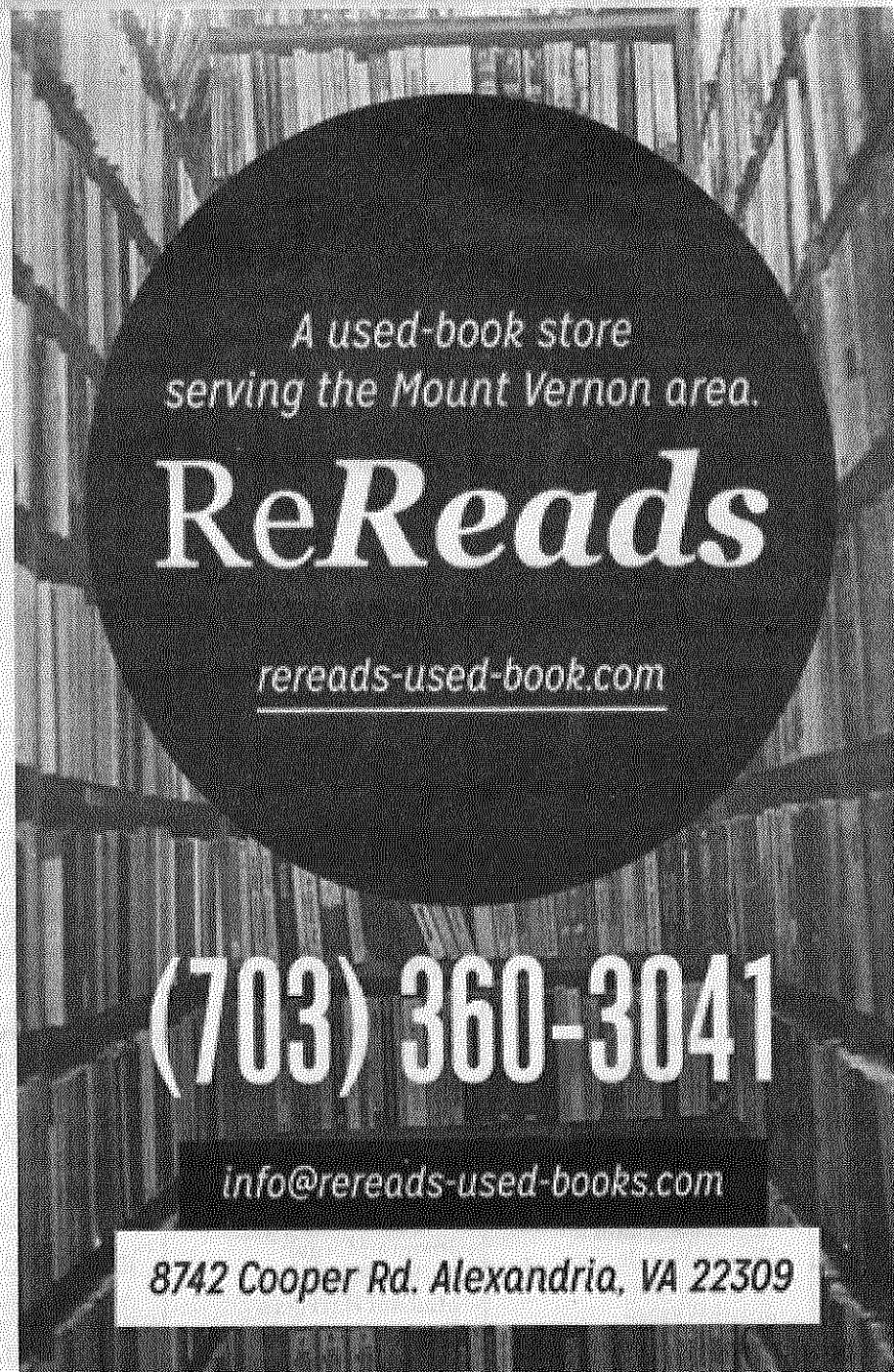
It is often said that a person is what he or she eats. I boldly say that the cafeteria food definitely does not define me. For instance, you might prefer a colorful, delicious lunch but might end up eating flavored cardboard with vegetables and sauces spread on it.

It has also been proven, according to nokidhungry.org, that students who do not buy their lunch at school are healthier and perform better academically, while those who buy

lunch at school are more likely to be obese. If "homemade" meals such as Lunchables were factored out of the equation of those who do not buy their lunch at school, this contrast would become even more apparent. Also, many schools are still serving meals too high in saturated fat, even after they found out that healthful options could be offered more frequently to improve menus, and ensure that children have nutritious options to choose from every day of the week.

Considering this, I think that no matter how cheap the school food might be, one should eat cooked foods from home! It is healthy and delicious. Those of you who prepare lunches from home: continue with the good work!

"I prefer perfectly made home food where you can go to any extent to make what you feel like eating, not have a fixed menu on what to eat, but eating what suits you."



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Mohammed Uma
Courtney Darling
Emilia Blaszkiew
Marisol Alcalá
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Chris Pei

CLASS OF ONE THREE?

CANADA

UNIV. OF TORONTO
Sophie Spriggs

VERMONT

LANDMARK COLLEGE
Katherine McPherson

MAINE

BOWDOIN COLLEGE
Kristina Karlsson

MASSACHUSETTS

TUFTS UNIVERSITY
Sophie Passacantando

BRANDEIS UNIV.
Savannah Bishop

BOSTON UNIV.
Michael Lewis

INDIANA

UNIV. OF NOTRE DAME
Patrick Schurr

PURDUE UNIV.
Emma Tse

OHIO

KENYON COLLEGE
Katie Mach

OHIO UNIV.
Amin Yachnes
Mia Cheney

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UNIV. OF MARYLAND
Leah Slobodin

TOWSON UNIV.
Yona Lindenbaum

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Kat Rausch

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Joe Quinn

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PENN STATE
Angeli Ingle
Bryan Vargas
Emma Yohannon

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Alexandra Manthey

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Petra Sucher

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N. CAROLINA STATE
Jamie Odom

DUKE UNIV.
Maddy Bolger

N. CAROLINA AGRICULTURE &
TECHNICAL UNIV.
Talya Dawson

EAST CAROLINA UNIV.
Madison Tenenbaum

CHOWAN UNIV.
Melai Njimpong

GEORGIA

SCAD
Alex Holm

UNIV. of GEORGIA
Allison Vermillion
John Hebert

FLORIDA

FLORIDA SOUTHERN COLLEGE
Tyler McCobb

MW

ernice Kear
ami Parker
achel Kosmacki
riana Bahr
yle Daehnke
aul McClure
onnor Collet

NU

orie Brooks
llison McNulla
rik Liner

OLD DOMINION

arrick Willis
ackie Mayer

HENANDOAH U.

arah OveisI

NORFOLK STATE

Shauntae Major
Lateefa Tanimowo
KeShaun Davis

VA WESLEYAN

Javon Trice
Devin Morrow

LYNCHBURG COLL.

Taylor Highland
Michelle Butchko

NOVA

Kieran Kuhn
Will Snider
Toheed Abol
Vanessa Suarez-Antonia
Prottay Mankhin
Jerad Getter

Kevin Do
Rabia Ansari
Ash McAllister
Michelle Bonilla
Elizabeth Hernandez
Candice Twyman
Sean Goud
Danielle Minor
David McDonald
Karaysha Gunn
Kelly Medrano
Karina Lagunas
Anna Vaughan
Benjamin Castas
Nicolas Hyman
Helen Tewelde
Julio Benitez
Lane Blackwood
Peter Finfrock
Erick Avalos

DISCLAIMER: If your name is missing, spelled wrong, or labeled incorrectly, let us know. We did the best we could!

It's the Transylvania Mania!

Paola Flores
Business Manager

"Young Frankenstein The Musical," which premiered Thursday April 27, is a musical comedy adapted from the original Mel Brooks film. It is the tale of Frederick Frankenstein, grandson of mad-scientist Dr. Victor Frankenstein, who is forced to inherit his great-grandfather's estate in Transylvania. In Transylvania, Frederick meets strange and curious characters who help him in discovering the secret to bringing the dead back to life!

Junior Chardai Anderson, said "the audience involvement was done well," referring to the cast diving into the au-

dience during exiting numbers such as "He's Loose!", while the Monster (Dan Evans) chased the townsfolk offstage.

Scene changes were successful and creative, creating smooth transitions. The tech and the band worked well together with the cast in timing the scene changes perfectly. The set was intricately designed with creative prop choices for each scene. Ensemble and leads worked well together creating a team on stage.

West Potomac's production of Young Frankenstein has been nominated for seven Cappie awards. As West Po-

tomac's Cappie show, the show was eligible to be nominated for Cappie awards. Young Frankenstein has been nominated for: Orchestra, Featured Actor- Eddie Perez, Supporting Actor in a Musical- David Jarzen, Lead Actor in a Musical- Ben Roberts, Female Vocalist- Katie Carbone, Song- "Together Again", and Best Musical.

"I am so proud of the cast, crew and orchestra of Young Frankenstein. I put my heart and soul into this show but they are the heart and soul of the show and I couldn't be more proud that they have been recognized for their

outstanding work. Win or lose it all, the West Potomac Theatre department has made a name for itself once again. We are back stronger than ever and you should really keep an eye out for what we will do next," comments Mr. Philip Clark, the department theater teacher and Young Frankenstein director.

"Young Frankenstein," performed by West Potomac, was both interesting and fun. With well-executed dances and scenes, the performance of the musical lit up the stage and has set the bar for many shows to come.



Laura Webster Marshall

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Various Visions of "Gatsby"

Sherry Gillis
English Teacher

The Great Gatsby—a tale of intense love and outrageous wealth—was never meant to be whispered and subdued, but that's exactly how director Jack Clayton interprets F. Scott Fitzgerald's Jazz Age novel. From 1974 until now, *Gatsby* fans have had to endure director Jack Clayton's quiet, suppressed dialogue and underwhelming settings in the film version that stars Robert Redford as the title role. Every time I've shown it in class, I have had to rouse a few students from deep sleep. In the end, we generally agree that Jack Clayton's interpretation of the novel should instead be titled, *The "Meh" Gatsby*.

Contrast the soporific effect of Clayton's *Gatsby* to my students' rapt attention while watching Baz Luhrmann's *Romeo + Juliet*. Engaging characters, comic book freeze-frames, contemporary settings, and larger-than-life party scenes capture the attention of even the most determined Shakespeare-hater. Gone are the elegant, stylized ballroom dances of Franco Zeffirelli's *Romeo and Juliet* (1968); in Luhrmann's vision, a party is a party after all, and Capulet's ball is the spectacular event of the season.

When I learned that Luhrmann was directing a new version of *Gatsby*, I felt it was a perfect marriage of fiction and film. Fitzgerald's *Gatsby* is a study in excess; Luhrmann's party scenes

are bold, loud, and audacious. At Jay Gatsby's estate, jazz incites scandalous dancing, and illegal drinks dissolve inhibitions. Flapper girls and dapper young men squeal and stumble and dance and cry. They topple into fountains and trample manicured gardens. Topsy drivers wreck expensive cars, but no one seems to worry too much about it. *Gatsby*'s parties, designed to lure his lost love Daisy Buchanan, are not prissy tea parties, as the 1974 film would have us believe. Fitzgerald gives us in words what Baz Luhrmann has given us on the big screen in films such as *Romeo + Juliet*, *Moulin Rouge*, and *Strictly Ballroom*: brazen celebrations of life, love, sex, and intoxicants.

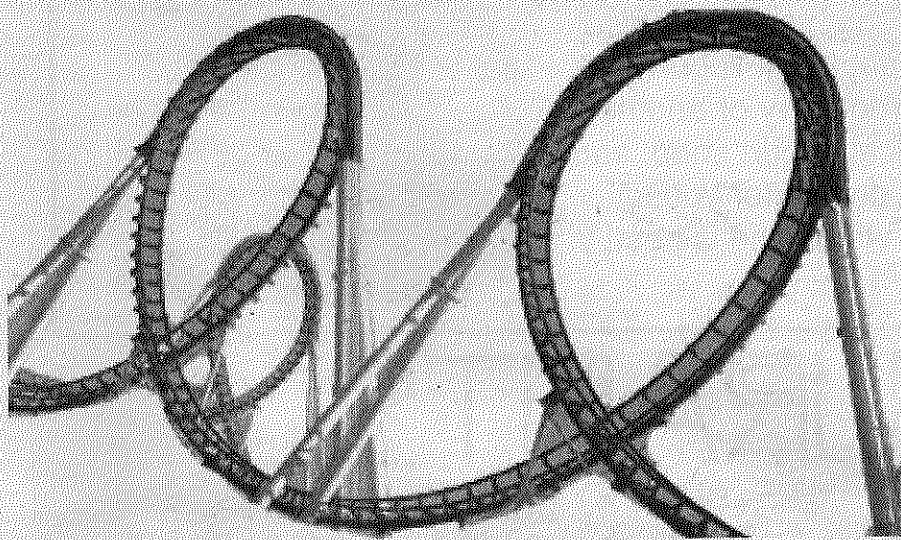
I've heard some grumbling: Leonardo DiCaprio's *Gatsby* (born the year Clayton's film was released) is too old for Carry Mulligan's Daisy (eleven years his junior). The soundtrack, produced by Jay-Z, will be anachronistic at best and Top-40 pandering at worst. I'm still not sure why Daisy once again (sigh) has to be a blonde, though Fitzgerald clearly refers to her "dark shining hair."

But no matter. Jay Gatsby yearns for the hazy past. I, on the other hand, have impatiently waited almost a year for May 10, 2013—a future that I am optimistic has a dazzling film adaptation of *The Great Gatsby* in it.

Hittin' the Town

Make summer memories at fun places and events hosted at favorite venues around the National Capitol Area!

Theme Parks



Kings Dominion- Opened May 3rd
 Busch Gardens- Opened May 3rd
 Six Flags- Opened May 4th

Concerts & Festivals

June 22nd - Bruno Mars - Verizon Center

July 27th - Dave Mathews Band - Jiffy Lube Live

August 8th - Justin Timberlake and Jay-Z - Baltimore MD

Sept. 7th - Honda Civic Tour Featuring Maroon 5 and Kelly Clarkson - Jiffy Lube Live

November 24th - P!nk - Verizon Center

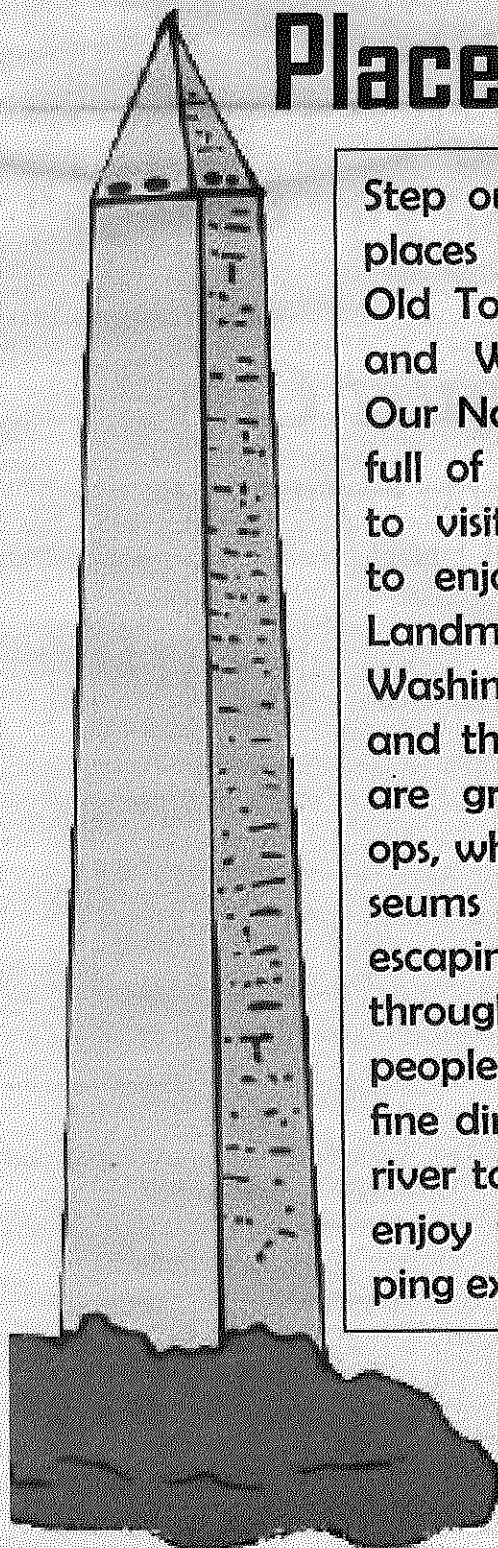
WMZQ Fest -

5/18, 6/1, 6/29, 7/20, 7/28, 8/24, and 9/14
 @ Jiffy Lube Live

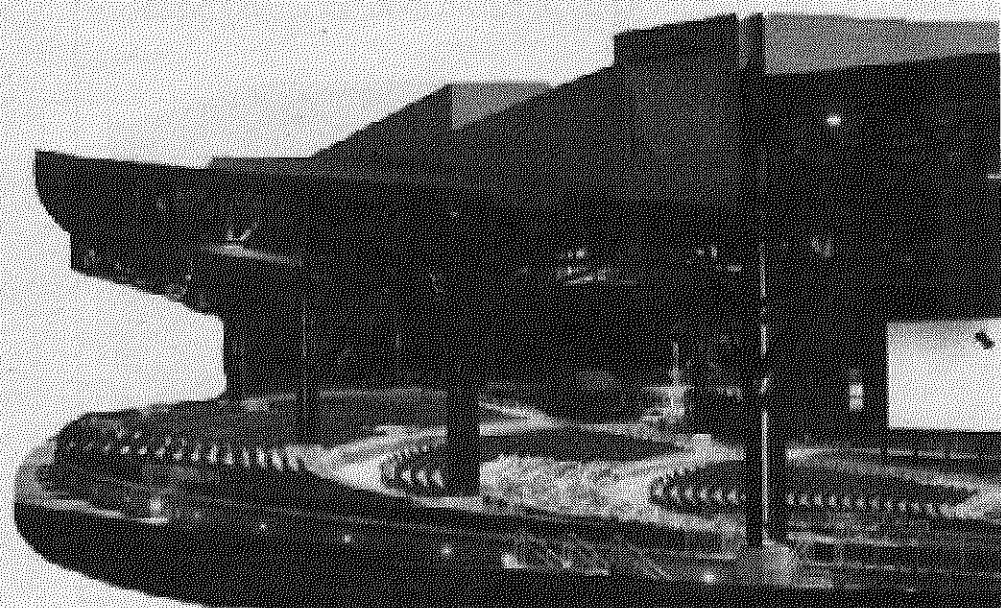


Firefly Festival-
 June 21st-23rd
 @ Dover, Delaware

Places to See



Step outside the usual places this summer in Old Town, Alexandria, and Washinton, D.C.! Our Nation's Capitol is full of amazing places to visit and activities to enjoy with friends. Landmarks like the Washington Monument and the National Mall are great for photo-ops, while the free museums are perfect for escaping the sun. Drive through Old Town to people-watch and for fine dining, or cross the river to Georgetown to enjoy the great shopping experience.



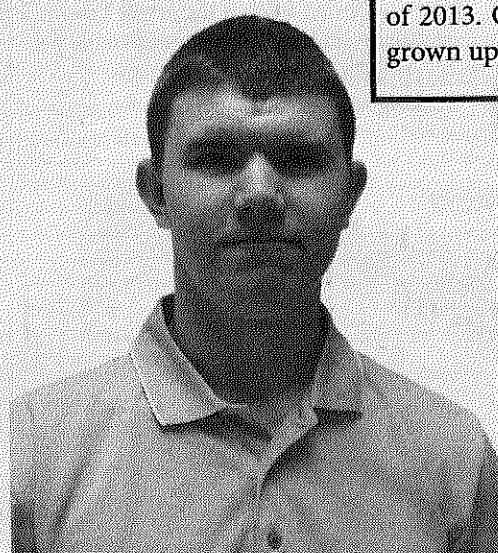
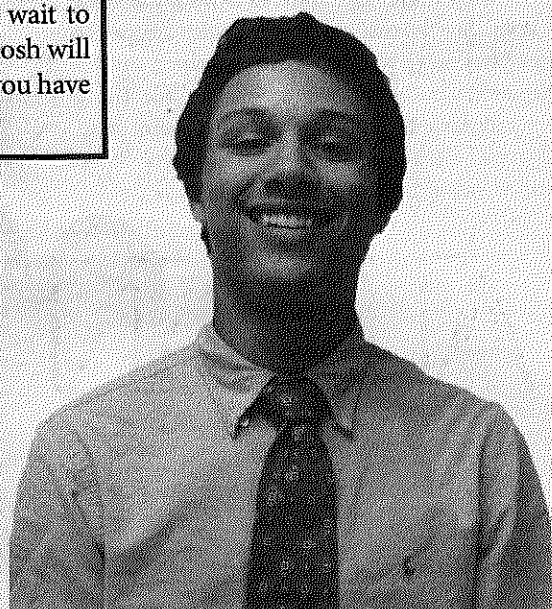
Images featured from Google.com

The Wire Says Goodbye

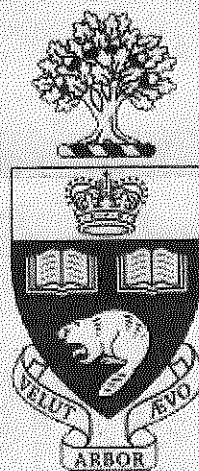
Connor Phillips has been on the Wire staff for two years, and has been a pain since day one. (Love you Craig!) An extremely valuable member of the family, Connor never fails to hand in articles and pages that make us proud. He is attending his dream school, Virginia Tech, in the fall and can't wait to see his best friend Laura every day. Josh will miss his other half, but we all hope you have the time of your life at college.



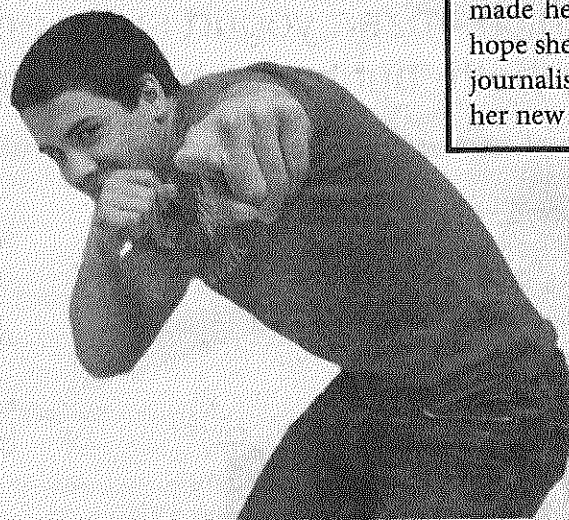
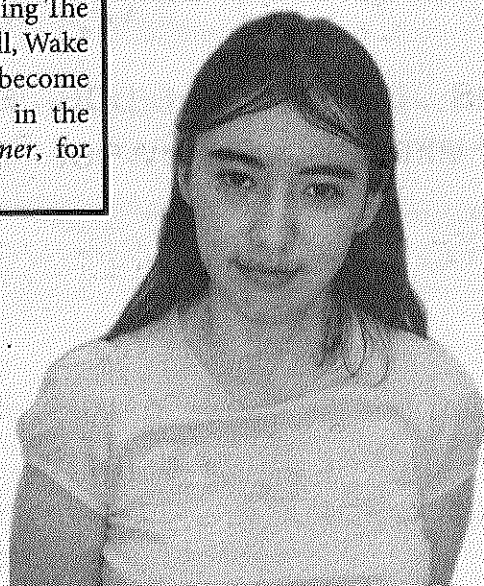
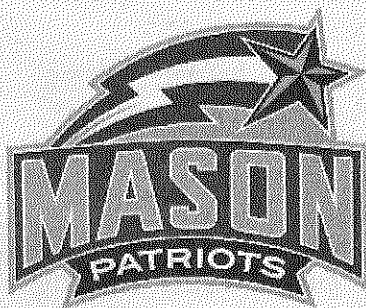
Jayme Murray, a member of the Wire staff for one year, has really enjoyed the family lunches and the calm environment enforced by editors L&L. A letterman and two-time MVP for baseball at West Potomac, the Wire Staff is proud to say that he has committed to play for George Mason University in the fall of 2013. Our favorite good ol' boy is all grown up and we wish him all the best!



Wakefield Coulter, the one-year wonder of The Wire staff, has taken this paper to a whole new level. Adding iconic graphic design and a certain kind of Wake-ish flair to the classroom, we will miss him greatly. Attending The University of Michigan in the fall, Wake promises to do us proud and become "the greatest graphic designer in the land." Thank you, *Head Designer*, for being here.



Sophie Spriggs, the Mama Goose of all of us, is flying the coop for The University of Toronto in the fall. She has been on The Wire for one year and has made an exceptional impact on all of us babies. Her superb writing and extraordinary work ethic has made her The Wire role model. We hope she will continue her work with journalism and have the best time in her new home. Love you Mama!!



Naomi Jones has always been able to make the rest of The Wire staff laugh, and never failed to be full of ideas. Her go-getter attitude and bright outlook on life added sunshine to the classroom. This was her first year on the staff but she has truly proven herself to be an asset. Attending George Mason to major in Environmental Science, the rest of us wish her a bright future filled with happiness.

Ian Thompson enjoys virgin Pina Colodas and getting caught in the rain. He has been on The Wire for one year and his favorite pastime is stealing Sophie's phone and snapchatting every one of her contacts. We will all miss the adorable face and the crazy ideas (Good one with the horse...) We may even miss his conversations with Connor and Josh--maybe. A varsity letterman for West Potomac wrestling, he is attending LSU in the fall.

MEET THE EDITORS-IN-CHIEF

Laura & Leigh
JACOBS ORLEANS

Laura and Leigh, better known in the classroom as L&L, have been working together on The Wire staff for three years. Laura joined the staff as a freshman and showed Leigh the ropes during their sophomore year as the "Fun Page" editors and the students behind the West Potomac advice column, LLListening. Junior year, they worked side by side with Laura as the News Editor and Leigh the Focus Editor. Their aspiration to work together as Editor and Chiefs was finally achieved, as the inseparable pair conquered yet another year of working for The Wire. The EICs report that, "Despite the challenges we have faced this year, and in years past, working for this newspaper has been one of the greatest experiences we've had at West Potomac. Our crazy, chaotic staff is a family and we wouldn't have it any other way."

All you need to know about

All Night Graduation!



WHEN: June 18th Check-in is from 9:30 – 10:00pm. The night ends at 2 a.m.

WHERE: Belle Haven Country Club, 6023 Fort Hunt Road

ATTRACTIONS: food, music, dancing, sumo wrestling, bunking bronco, foosball, air hockey, poker, blackjack, etc.

PRICE: Tickets are \$35 and can be purchased during lunch on Thursday, at senior events, through the All night grad celebration page on the West Potomac website, or by picking up a form from the main office.

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

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!