

THE WIRE

Volume 30, Issue 2
May/June. 2015



THIS IS IT

The Wire Celebrates
The Worlds Greatest High School's
Class of 2015

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Letter from the Editor

Dear Wolverines,

Reflecting back on the past four years on The Wire staff, I have had three different teachers and three very different experiences. As a freshman I reported for The Wire under the teaching of Ms. Chance, until she moved away she left us under the supervision of a long term substitute. Sophomore year I became an editor under Mr. Ingram, and yet again our advisor moved away and The Wire was left under the teaching of substitutes until we were given Mr. Cadorette, the lifesaver of our paper. Junior and senior year I have happily learned from Mr. C and watched the newspaper grow, not only in staff size, but also grow from a 12 page newsprint to a fresh new magazine format and online edition. This year is both Mr. Cadorette and my last year on The Wire staff and we thank Mr. Case and our readers for the support these last few years. Congratulations on another great year at The World's Greatest High School!

Editor-in-Chief,

Margaret O'Meara

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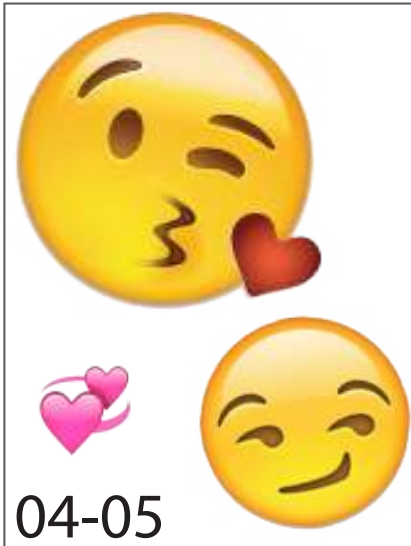
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SPRING 2015



04-05

Feeding the Fire on Tinder

Take an in depth look at the culture surrounding the popular dating app: Tinder



Predictions on Batman and Superman

Bryan Cash sets down predictions for the new Batman and Superman movie.



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CONGRATS 2015!

Check out where the class of 2015 are heading after the graduate.



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Senior Night: A Tradition Well Worth the Wait

Senior night is on of the most important moments for the graduating members of sports teams and clubs.



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#itooamwestpotomac

Nina Raneses discussed the concept of "micro-agression" and how it infiltrates our school.



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The Great Divide

Transfers from Mount Vernon to West Potomac have become more regular. Jensen Wainwright discusses the underlining feelings of these transfers.

Feeding the Fire on...



tinder

Jenny Sutton
Reporter

Only one picture? Swipe left. Not your type? Swipe left. Oh he's cute. Swipe right, definitely. Social media and smartphone apps infiltrate almost all aspects of our generation's lives, and dating is no exception. Just like how we find our movies with Fandango and our car rides with Uber, there are apps for finding that one special person. Tinder, a dating/meet-up app is gaining popularity among the teen demographic as kids delve into hook-up culture while becoming restless for more dating options.

It works like this: Profiles of nearby people that fit your sexual orientation appear for you to "swipe left" (no) and "swipe right" (yes) on. If two people mutually swipe right, it is a "match" and a chat opens between them. Minors can only match with other minors, and all accounts are connected through facebook as a mild safety measure.

Tinder's primary appeal is the casual and instantaneous nature of the connections it creates. Sophomore Peter Skudlarek, a seasoned tinder user, says "it's all very informal conversation so it's not like anything is expected. You can be very blunt because it's like, 'I don't know you in real

life, I haven't invested that much time in you, and I'm going to be real with you.'"

But this informality is also what gives Tinder its sleazy reputation. The openness of the app can be problematic for two people with different motives. Some users go on for a fling, while others simply use it as a joke; Tinder won't differentiate between the two, and you will only know by finding out yourself. Skudlarek warns "a danger is boys being very misleading and only wanting to hook up...A boy will be like 'hey, wanna hook up?' and I'll be like 'hey, no thank you,' That's very much not my thing."

In addition, the vague nature of Tinder leaves a lot of personal details for people to make up themselves. "Catfishes," or fake profiles, are always a risk when it comes to online dating, and all someone needs to make a fake tinder account is a fake facebook. And even if someone's pictures are real, how they convey themselves isn't necessarily as accurate. "I definitely think people are not always very honest about themselves. Especially (compared to their) bio and their pictures, they can be totally different when you actually talk to them."

Despite these obstacles, users like Skudlarek continue to use Tinder for its undeniable convenience and availability. "There are not a lot of

helpful ways (to meet people) at our school and our general area. I guess the (boys) that are around are probably on tinder...because there aren't that many at West Po. It's one of my very few options."

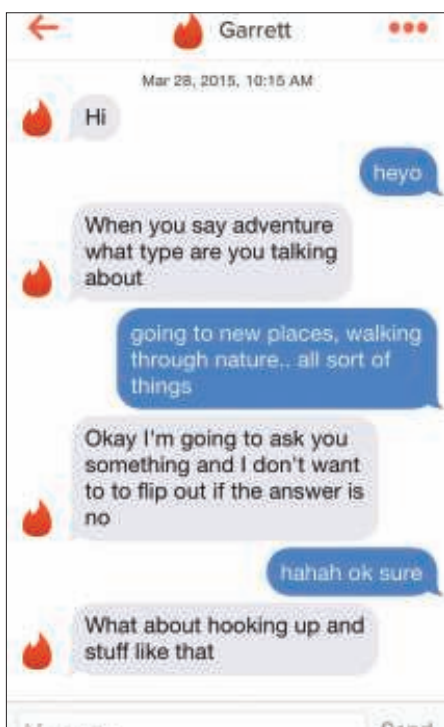
"Cute boys hit me up! I am available."

"For a long time I was really concerned about that. I would keep the app hidden in a folder and I wouldn't talk about it. But then it was like, whatever. I talk about how much I want a boyfriend in real life, it's no surprise I'm actually looking for one. And I feel like it is a lot more of a different animal, as a gay person.... For me, it's more so of a necessity than for the average straight person, just in terms of finding a person."

"There are conversations I have with boys where we are both very flirtatious, but it's an empty conversation, saying cute stuff because we both want a relationship. But I think the conversation doesn't need to be like that. It can be good conversation if we have the same interests, and if they're cool people."

"It's kind of a waiting game to see who matches with you."

"I feel like that's the biggest challenge, knowing when to play your cards."



Tinder is either taken seriously or a joke to it's users. Tinder users message back and forth with clever, crude, or just plain inappropriate pick-up lines and responses.



Guess They're Not Going In **ONE DIRECTION**



November 2011- Up All Night album released by new band, One Direction went Platinum



February 7, 2015- Fourth tour, On The Road Again started



March 14, 2015- Pictures of Zayn in Bangkok, Thailand, holding hands with a mysterious blonde were leaked and it wasn't his fiancée, Perrie Edwards.



March 18, 2015- Zayn tweeted "I'm 22 years old... I love a girl named Perrie Edwards. And there's a lot of jealous f***s in this world I'm sorry for what it looks like x"



March 19, 2015- The day they announced that Zayn would be taking a break and won't be attending the shows in Manila, Philippines and Jakarta, Indonesia



March 25, 2015- The confirmed day Zayn left the band



March 28, 2015- Zayn was seen at a recording studio with Naughty Boy, a record producer



March 30, 2015- Louis and Naughty Boy twitter fight which drove Naughty Boy to tweet a link of a demo of Zayn singing



April 17, 2015- Zayn arrives at the Asian Awards and made a public appearance for the first time ever since he left One Direction

What do West Potomac students think about Zayn moving onto a solo career?

"Good for him though! He didn't like what he was doing, so for him to leave and do something he wants to do, deserves proper accolade."- Senior Jeremiah Gregorio

"I feel proud of him for doing what makes him happy." - Freshman Pharron Savage

"It breaks my heart and I'll miss seeing him on tour but I saw how happy he was at the Asian Awards. So if he's happy, that's all that matters." - Sophomore Ann Pham

SUMMER IS NEAR

FUN DAY TRIPS IN AND AROUND THE D.C. AREA



GREAT FALLS

Distance: 27 miles

Time: 34 minutes

Great Falls is a National Park on the banks of the Potomac river that includes spectacular views of a 50 foot waterfall. There are also many hiking trails to choose from that go through the woods and along the river. You can also hike down rocks to get to the banks of the river.

<http://www.nps.gov/grfa/index.htm>

CADY'S ALLEY

Distance: 10.6 miles

Time: 25 minutes

Cady's Alley is the heart of Georgetown. It has many stores, restaurants, and exclusive shops. <http://www.cadysalley.com/>



ROOSEVELT ISLAND

Distance: 11.2 miles

Time: 23 minutes

Roosevelt Island is a National Park on the Potomac River with multiple hiking trails. <http://nps.gov/this/index.htm>



KEY BRIDGE

BOATHOUSE

Distance:

16.4 miles

Time:

27 minutes

At the Boathouse you can rent canoes, kayaks, and paddleboards.

<http://www.boatingdc.com/key-bridge-boathouse>



EASTERN MARKET

Distance:

12.9 miles

Time:

20 minutes

The Eastern Market in DC is a public market with vendors that sell anything from artwork to food.

<http://www.easternmarket-dc.org/>



GO APE

Distance: 48 miles

Time: 52 minutes

Go Ape is an outdoor adventure park, at the Rockville, Maryland park there are 6 zip lines and in the treetops they also have rope ladders, Tarzan swings, and 44 crossings. The canopy tours have 6 sections with obstacles between them and once you reach the highest one there is a zipline to take you back down.

<http://goape.com/>

RIPLEY'S BELIEVE IT OR NOT

Distance: 47.5 miles

Time: 55 minutes

In Baltimore, there are three different Ripley's attractions. You can visit Ripley's Believe It or Not! Odditorium, Ripley's movie theatre, and the Marvelous Mirror Maze. In the Odditorium there are over 350 exhibits and artifacts. Exhibits include toothpick creations, a popart wrapper T-rex and other unique things.

<http://www.ripleys.com/baltimore/>



C&O CANAL

Distance: 25 miles

Time: 40 minutes

The C & O Canal short for the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal is a 184 miles canal. It is now a National Park, but used to be an active canal and was used from 1830 to 1924. Now you can choose one of the multiple entry points and hike or bike along the trails that run next to the canal.

<http://www.nps.gov/choh/index.htm>



HARPER'S FERRY

Distance: 68.8 miles

Time: 1 hour 15 minutes

Harper's Ferry Adventure Center has activities on the Shenandoah River and the Potomac River. The activities include whitewater rafting, water tubing, zip line tours, kayaking, canoeing, team building, fishing, hiking, camping and off road Segway tours. They have activities for all ages and levels of experience.

<http://harpersferryadventurecenter.com/>

WEST POTOMAC STUDENTS FAVORITE PLACES TO GO

"9:30 club" - Safiya Osei

"National Gallery" - Evie Galvan

"Wizards games" - Tara Boyle

"Woodrow Wilson Bridge" - Matt Fannon

"D. C.'s Chinatown" - Emily Madden

"National Harbor" - Caroline Bowman

"Old Towne" - Anna Ustun

Photo courtesy of Bohemian Baltimore (wikimedia commons), Mark Harris (wikimedia commons), EvinDC (wikimedia commons), Amylynn22 (wikimedia commons), Payton Chung (wikimedia common), Tim Kiser (wikimedia commons), ssiram nt (wikimedia commons), and Peter Roof (wikimedia commons).

THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE UGH: PREDICTIONS ON BATMAN VS. SUPERMAN

The hype for possibly the greatest superhero rivalry of all time grows with the release of the teaser trailer.

Brian Cash
Reporter

Superhero movies have come to make some of the best movies in cinema history. The adventures that they can in captivate while staying true to the source material makes the craziest concepts into a reality. Many superhero movies that come to be very popular are the ones from Marvel and DC. On the complete flip side, many people in the movie making business have come to realize that the popularity of comic book movies are very popular and will always rake in money opening weekend. This has also made some of the worst movies, and completely disregard for source material.

With the popularity in the subject ever so growing, Zach Snyder decided to take up a production far too great to be done with any less effort than the greatest he can possibly give. He took up the fanservice movie that usually we only get to see once in a lifetime: *Batman vs. Superman* (2016). I've been more than psyched to see this movie since they announced it but ever so slightly do they shift on a downward slope with the developments they release to the public, but should we keep hope alive.

The first thing to notice is that the budget of \$131 million for this movie is very close to that of the movie *Watchmen* (2009). *Watchmen* was directed by Zach Snyder as well, and with the critical acclaim that the movie received, it should put high standards on this movie. Both of these movies deal with keeping close to source material, developing very multi-dimensional characters throughout the movie, and keeping a serious tone despite the reality of what is happening.

Since *Batman v.s. Superman* is definitely dealing with the start of the Justice League, they will have Wonder Woman, Aqua Man, Cyborg, The Flash, and other heroes from the sort. "But no Green Arrow, typical." However, they are also dealing with villains from the different series, but the only announced one so far is Lex Luther.

With the list of movies that DC released, it seems that they are going to try and do what *The Avengers* (2012) did with overlapping plots, but instead they are going to make the group movies first and then separate characterization. Personally, this spells out disaster. They only have characterized Superman so far because of *Man of Steel* (2013).

Now as *Man of Steel* had mixed reviews and a huge budget, it did set up the plot to *Dawn of Justice* (2016), and that is good after realizing both movies were directed by Zach Snyder. The light of the brilliance that he subtly showed throughout the movie does shine brighter now knowing why he did specific things the way he did them.

Casting for the movie was good for the most part, but is questionable from time to time. At first many people complained that Ben Affleck was going to be Batman, but over time the choice has become more understandable. Henry Cavill as Superman is still a good fit in my understanding. However, the most questionable choice is Jesse Eisenberg as Lex Luther.

Lex Luther is always characterized as a rich mastermind, but more importantly an able man. Now Jesse Eisenberg showed that he can

do rich mastermind in *The Social Network* (2010), but many cannot see him as the "able man" he needs to be. Lex Luther is old enough to run for president, as he does this in the comic series, and Jesse Eisenberg just looks too young. Lex Luther is always portrayed to have a deeper, menacing voice, whereas Jesse Eisenberg is a tenor at best. This may seem like nitpicking, but these things can take the viewer right out of the experience, and with this fan service title with the battle all fan boys and girls debate about, it's very important to be as precise as possible.

Looking at the teaser trailer they released, I can say that they need to work on their use of CGI (computer generated images) against practical effects. CGI may let anything be possible on the big screen, but it is still a computer generated image, so if you use it wrong, it can take one out of the whole experience. This can be noticed in *Spawn's* cape in the movie *Spawn* (1997), *Star Wars Episode One: "The Phantom*

Menace," and other 90's movies from the "dark age" of film.

If the CGI is not properly used, it doesn't matter what the potential of the movie was, it will all fall down into shambles. That is exactly what happened to *Star Wars Episode One*, and no one wants another failure such as that one. However we all learn from the mistakes in the past, and hopefully they use CGI more tastefully than shown in the trailer.

To be frank about my opinion, I don't count my chickens until they hatch, so I would still keep hope in this film. If successful, this movie will surpass all other superhero movies made to date. I don't expect that, but I do expect it to be on par with *The Avengers*. This movie will sure please audiences, whether it stays cannon to the most popular cannon telling of the justice league, or if it becomes another re-imagining of their beginnings, it doesn't appear to be a cash-in. With Zach Snyder directing, and an already established Super Man, we have a lot to look forward to on March 26, 2016.



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Senior Night: A Tradition Well Worth the Wait

Senior athletes celebrate their achievement and years of hard work in a night to remember

Bela Starinchak
Reporter

Senior Night is no doubt one of the most important and enjoyable sports traditions at West Potomac. With spring sports now in full effect, senior nights have been the center of attention for school spirit almost every week since the start of the fourth quarter. What makes senior night so important for the seniors is that it celebrates their last time playing a home game with their team. While it may not be their last game ever, seniors still feel a flood of sentimental emotions during senior night. However, this is an important night for underclassmen as well because everyone participates in it.

"Senior Night is really fun," said sophomore Megan Fuqua, a member of the West Potomac Band, "we always try to surprise the seniors, and make it really memorable for them too."

Underclassmen, typically juniors, plan the festivities for senior night. They can include parties, decorating shirts and cars, and making posters for seniors to remember their teammates and time playing West Potomac sports.

"For senior night, we make puffy paint shirts, paint the rock, and get the seniors gift bags and flowers," said Ella Moore, a sophomore on field hockey and lacrosse.

Despite most sports having senior night, and some clubs do too, and have crazy traditions for it.

Fuqua says, "For the flute section, we threw a princess party for the seniors in our section. We also had the annual cake-off, which everyone loves."

For most seniors, crazy activities like cake-off (a cake eating contest) are their favorite memories of being on their team or club. But for senior Madison Kurcias, her favorite memory on dance team was the team dinners. At team dinners, all the members of the team get together and throw a potluck dinner. These dinners are held before games, so it's just another time for the team to bond and come together before a big game or performance.

"It's a great way to get the team all together one last time before the seniors take the next step in their lives. You don't realize how important team dinners are until it is your last time eating six different types of pasta in a teammate's basement," she said.

These little traditions end up really meaning a lot to everyone on the team, even the coaches.

"Senior Night is very important to



Students support the Boys Lacrosse Seniors as they play Mt. Vernon High School for their Senior Night game. Senior Nights are fun games for friends and families to watch their players be recognized during half time or before the game.

both the coaches and the seniors. The seniors are emotional about moving on...and for us coaches, we realize that it is the end of working with many of the seniors. It is also very rewarding because the coaches know the seniors are ready to move into their next phase of life, said Gennifer Difillipo, coach of the varsity dance team.

Although most people think that Senior Night is very important, some do not feel it is that special.

"...it's kind of pointless because most seniors do winter track, so we still see them, and it's not their last time being on cross country," said sophomore Matt Frame.

Despite this, the importance of Senior Night brings teams closer together and makes memories that last for a lifetime.

"It is a very special and emotional time in our lives," said Moore.

For underclassmen like Moore, their Senior Night is something they really look forward to.

"I want my Senior Night to be memorable, and I want the underclassmen to plan it well," said sophomore Emily Madden, a member of the tennis team.

Most seniors have thought about this highly anticipated moment well before they have theirs.

"Every player looks forward to their own Senior Night as they experience those of the three classes before them, so the meaning grows in each approaching year," added Kurcias. "I was really close with the seniors one year, so it was great to see them walk across the gym floor with the senior glow that screams 'I made it'."

Senior Night is probably one of the most important experiences of a senior athletic student's high school career. The memories that the seniors have each year from their previous experiences with not only other senior nights as underclassmen, but also their time on the team influence how they value their senior nights.

WHO AM I?

Can you guess this mystery West Potomac Teacher??



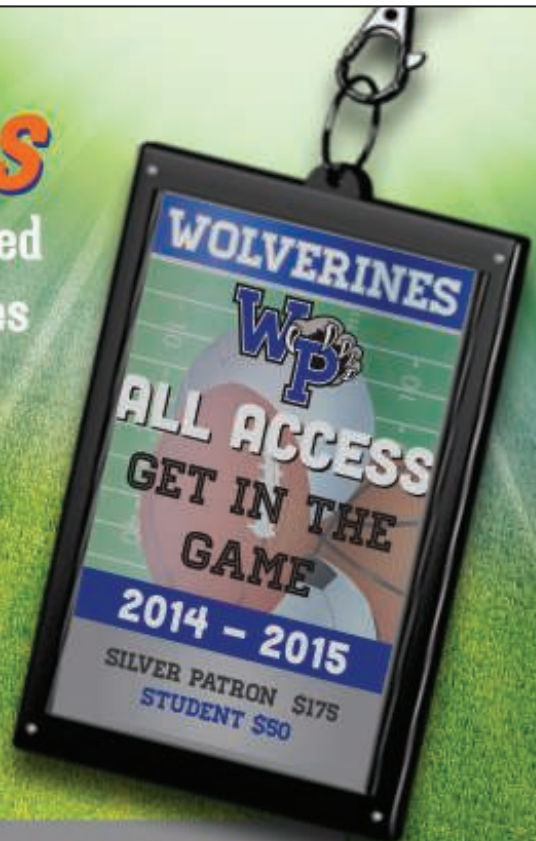
- I have taught at West Potomac for years.
- I attended Millbrook High school in New York
- I went to Trinity college in Northern Connecticut
- I was born in Pearisburg, Virginia.
- My favorite channel to watch on TV is the History Channel.
- My favorite movie is the Imitation Game
- During high school I participated in tennis and soccer.
- A fun fact about me is that I spent my junior year of college in France.
- My biggest fear is falling off of a tall building.
- The craziest thing I've ever done was when I went canoeing in Labrador, Quebec.

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#itooam WEST POTOMAC

Nina Raneses
Reporter

In a world regularly called “post-racial” and “progressive,” inequality and stereotyping is embedded in comments in nearly every conversation. These comments are both intentional and unintentional, and we often find ourselves either in the middle of giving one or receiving one.

This kind of behavior is known as “microaggression,” a term coined by Harvard psychiatrist Chester Middlebrook Pierce in the ‘70s. The original use of the word focused on racial microaggression, but today it describes unintended discrimination toward any marginalized group of people by race, gender, socioeconomic status, sexuality, or religion.

“Microaggressions” have become a catalyst for social rights activists’ projects across the world, spreading in the form of blogs, photo projects, and other social media. College campuses in particular have become a hotbed for all things microaggression, as students try to emphasize the negative impact unintended discrimination can have on a person’s overall personality and everyday life.

Like many of these college campuses, West Potomac has a diverse student population, one that reflects the demographic of the DC metro area. In a school of over 2,500, the student body is an incredible mix of many different ethnicities, cultures, and religions, made even more complex by the gaps in the socioeconomic status of various segments of the population. The numbers lead to one question: does

diversity at West Potomac promote or discourage the microaggression problem?

Diversity can lead to either acceptance or prejudice. Microaggressions, however, are a form of prejudice disguised as what we believe is acceptance, even tolerance. Ultimately, it depends on what experiences a student has gone through that influences their answer. However, there is no doubt that instances of microaggressions are prevalent in our society, and they have even made their way into our school systems and the learning environment.

Perspective and perception play the most crucial roles in microaggressive behavior. There are many underlying causes to how and why things are said, as Neftali Ruelas, club sponsor of Men With a Vision and a Purpose, will attest to.

His club puts young men in a leadership positions where they learn by serving the community, most recently at Belle View with at-risk students. Club members are trying to change how the Hispanic male is perceived in the local community.

“It’s not just the Hispanic culture, it’s not just socioeconomic, there’s just a lot more involved,” Ruelas explained. “A lot of these kids are living with grandma, and their parents are still living in El Salvador. There’s really a lot of underlying problems like immigration issues and things a lot of people don’t normally think about.”

As Asian American Society, Black Student Union, and Men With a Vision and a Purpose provide support ethnicities and cultures, Gay Straight Alliance does the same with the full spectrum of sexuality

and gender that is present at WestPo.

The vice president of GSA, who wishes to remain anonymous, says that he is constantly surrounded by a homophobic atmosphere on his sports team, and it makes it incredibly difficult to be himself around his teammates. Homophobic slurs and other offensive language is a common occurrence at practice, although they may not always realize it.

He adds that the majority of its members are in similar situations, and GSA’s “SafeSpace” conversations allow them to be themselves in a safe, judge-free and anonymous environment; their conversations never leave the room, but inside the walls, members openly discuss current events along with personal issues, one member even referring to club members as his family.

“There are a lot of people who can’t express themselves during the day,” he explains. “They have to be quiet for one reason or another. They can come in here and be themselves, talk, vent, and be who they are.”

The most important thing is that it’s up to every one of us to watch what we say to one another, intended or unintended. And if anything, it’s important to have people to talk to in order to stay level-headed

“Appalling and disgusting,” is how senior Rosie Afinyie, president of the Black Student Union, described how microaggressions have affected her. Originally from Ghana, she recounted her experience in American elementary school where her peers devalued her ethnicity after she told

them she was African. "Africans," they told her, were "not equivalent to black people," and that "they're different." Afinyie says that those experiences growing up have made her the "blunt and straightforward" person she is today.

"There's no problem with asking questions, just ask with a well-mannered tone. Do some research. The more you know, the better."
-Senior Genet Tesfay, Head Coordinator of the Black Student Union

Various critics argue that microaggression theory is built around self-victimization and paranoia. This criticism ignores the fact that years and years of microaggression have negatively impacted so many in the marginalized groups that it is difficult to argue that they are championing their own victimization, or simply paranoid.

In both middle and high school, sophomore Shahtaj Ali has experienced countless microaggressions. As a Muslim, she says she's felt like she's had to explain the entire history of her religion for someone who is simply too lazy to pick up a book or do some research. Rather than simply dismissing these experiences as "ignorance is bliss," Ali explains that she takes them very seriously. "Just because you think something is 'ignorance is bliss' doesn't mean it's easy living for someone else. Just because someone else is okay with having these things being said about them, doesn't mean I will."

However, she isn't the only Muslim student to stand up for what she believes in. Senior Sebrine Abdulkadir, vice president of the Black Student Union, says she's had people mistake her religion for her ethnicity. In middle school and early years of high school, she's said she's heard comments along the lines of "You're Ethiopian? I thought

you were Muslim," and Islamophobic ones such as "Did you make a bomb last night?"

Most of those who experience microaggressions agree the best way to react to situations such as these is calmly and matter-of-factly. "As long as the way you approach the situation maturely and you're not being rude about it," says Abdulkadir, "it really depends on how you say things."

Perspective and perception play the most crucial roles in microaggressive behavior. There are many underlying causes to how and why things are said, as Neftali Ruelas, club sponsor of Men With a Vision and a Purpose, will attest to.

His club puts young men in a leadership position where they learn by serving the community, most recently at Belle View with at-risk students. Club members are trying to change how the Hispanic male is perceived in the local community.

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"Treat me as I am, don't set expectations for me just because I'm Asian."
-Junior Tam Hoang, Vice-president of the Asian-American Society

As Asian American Society, Black Student Union, and Men With a Vision and a Purpose provide support ethnicities and cultures, Gay Straight Alliance does the same with the full spectrum of sexuality and gender that is present at WestPo.

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around his teammates. Homophobic slurs and other offensive language is a common occurrence at practice, although they may not always realize it.

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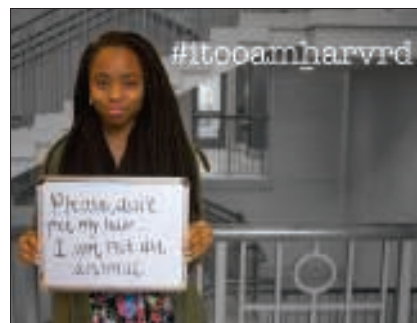
"Everyone goes through some form of microaggression. You should just hope there's someone there to correct you about it, at least if your true intention isn't to hurt someone."
-Sophomore Shahtaj Ali

"There are a lot of people who can't express themselves during the day," he explains. "They have to be quiet for one reason or another. They can come in here and be themselves, talk, vent, and be who they are."

The most important thing is that it's up to every one of us to watch what we say to one another, intended or unintended. And if anything, it's important to have people to talk to in order to stay level-headed.

While it's important to note the progressiveness of diversity and equality in the media and in society, we still have a long way to go before prejudice is a thing of the past. The 'micro' in microaggression implies that these comments have small impact, but bigger issues such as race tensions, Islamophobia, and homophobia can stem from them. Underlying causes are important as well, and while it's easy to denounce microaggression awareness as whining or paranoia—we need to think about the lives we're ultimately impacting: our family, friends, and peers.

The term 'microaggression' has been popularized by activists groups across the country, most notably on college campuses through photo projects and social media. The most famous microaggression project, 'I Too Am Harvard,' showcases the everyday prejudice that black students at Harvard face on a daily basis.



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Junior Soccer Star Scores College Recruitment

Catharine Chittal
Reporter

As a junior, an early commitment can be daunting, but Kylie Bostick is confident in her decision to attend Coastal Carolina University to play soccer.

"I chose Coastal because I loved the campus, and it just seemed to fit what I wanted in a college the best," explains Bostick.

Kylie has played soccer with Lee Mount Vernon Soccer Club (LMVSC) with her coach, Lula Bauer, since she was nine years old. Bostick denotes that Lula has taught her nearly everything she knows about soccer, and has been incredibly influential on the way she developed as a player. Bostick tried out for the West Potomac girls' soccer team as a freshman, and has been on varsity all 3 years that she has played.

"I plan on majoring in Marine Biology, and possibly double majoring in Biology as well," she said when asked about her future plans at Coastal Carolina. Bostick

also hopes to continue her soccer career after college if the opportunity is presented. "The marine biology program at Coastal is really good and I loved the campus when I visited. I also really liked the coaches and felt that I would be able to succeed there both academically and athletically," Bostick explained.

Bostick would like to thank her club coach Lula Bauer, for everything she has learned as a soccer player. She thanks Coaches Ed Thomas, Alissa Gamelier, and Sean Vermillion for coaching her through her high school years. "They have been amazing coaches who also push me on a daily basis to be the best I possibly can." Kylie is also grateful to her family for always supporting her no matter what.

Pictured: Bostick playing as captain of her Lee Mount Vernon Soccer Club team.



The Great Divide: The Two Sides of Rt. One

Fairfax County, Despite being incredibly diverse, holds harmful ideas about race and class that are apparent in our school systems.

Jensen Wainwright
News Editor

I noticed it within the first week of my junior year at West Potomac. The hallways were more crowded than in past year, same with the lunches... And the line to get into the school every morning. Something had changed at West Potomac. Walking in the halls between class was nearly treacherous, and it was clear the school population had risen. In fact, West Potomac's population has climbed from 2012-13 where it was 2,250, to 2013-14 where it became 2375. Now, in 2014-15, the population has risen to well above 2,500.

The students have all heard different reasons for this population rise, but the main one being transfer students from our infamous rival Mount Vernon High School. According to students who have transferred, Mount Vernon does not reach as high as West Potomac, not only in academics, what with the AP program, but also in our arts and music programs. The fact is, Mount Vernon does offer advanced courses, International Baccalaureate (IB), instead of the all too familiar AP. But the IB programs have been labeled as "un-American" and even "Marxist" in recent years, which have led to their decline in popularity. This stigma led to their ban in a county outside of Pittsburgh, PA. The IB diploma is a prestigious, internationally recognized academic achievement, the IB diploma requires you to take every single class IB, you can't just pick

and choose which courses to take. Despite this prestige, some Republican senators even went so far as to try and ban IB in 2006. Mount Vernon also contains an extensive arts program, at the same level, with the same exact courses offered as West Potomac.

The onslaught of Mount Vernon transfers reaches deeper than just art or academics, but to a core belief in our community that Mount Vernon is subordinate to West Potomac based on the demographics of it's population. West Potomac's county drawn boundary is quite small when compared to Mount Vernon's. The zip codes encompassed by West Potomac's boundary, 22308 and 22307, are both highly affluent, with an average of 147k average household income, and they are also older, averaging in at 464 years. Mount Vernon, on the other hand, is fed into from two extremely different zip codes. 22309, which is home to people who fit the into the demographic of 22308 and 22307, and 22306, which is mainly Route 1, a demographic that does not coincide with the formerly mentioned zip codes. The zip codes that populate Mount Vernon average lower incomes and younger people. Coming in at 69.5k average household income, and an average age of 35 years. Even in these averages, 22309 has a slightly higher average age and household income than 22306.

The question of socio-economic status in the demographics of a school system matter because of the stigmas attached to the people attending these schools. If more people from

22306 attend Mount Vernon, then unfortunately, people from 22309 will see people with less money, with kids coming from younger families, and automatically assume that they will bring nothing but trouble. This ends up in an effort to try to move their kid to a school with what is assumed to have less of these "problem kids." Our community, while diverse, is also quite economically divided, and this division causes these harmful stereotypes.

Despite this incredible diversity that exists within the two schools, there is a gap between Mount Vernon and West Potomac demographically. Mt. Vernon's total minority enrollment is 77% while West Potomac's is 60%. 34% of West Potomac's population is economically disadvantaged, while at Mount Vernon 45% are. Fairfax County stated in their 2014-2015 "Go-To Guide" that they do not rank their schools, that "all FCPS schools and centers share a level of excellence that has earned the school system a national reputation for high student achievement." Despite this, West Potomac and Mount Vernon look like very different schools when you read the reports on minority enrollment, and reviews given on online forums. In reality, West Potomac and Mount Vernon are very evenly matched academically. Their test scores are very similar, and they both offer advanced academic programs.

Looking at a survey creating to gain data from the student body at West Potomac who should go to Mount Vernon, the responses in the "Do you know why you are currently

attending West Potomac and not Mount Vernon?" Only supported the idea that Mount Vernon's reputation due to demographics is what drive many people away, not just academics. Responses such as "Because Mount Vernon is ghetto" and "Mount Vernon is a steaming pile of shit" can hardly be taken seriously, but it shows what the students here think about the school, and it is definitely not solely due to the sports rivalry we have. Lots of the responses are less crude; saying things like "Originally the band program, but I have gained so much from this school. The arts building is like a second home and the AP program will really help me save money in college." or simply mention the AP vs. IB

reasoning. This is an excuse many people cite as their reasoning for moving to West Potomac. Just as Kelly O'Meara, a senior and transfer student from the Mount Vernon area, said, "Yeah, the AP program is the "reason" (him and his sister) came to West Potomac" but he also went on to say "I just think West Potomac is a better school than Mount Vernon, in general."

The problem we have here is not plain ignorance- it is general lack of knowledge when it comes to Mount Vernon's academics and practices. West Potomac is not a perfect school itself, reviews given by parents and students alike on many website say things like: "This school is overcrowded and children are fall-

ing through the cracks. The guidance staff and school counselors are ill equipped to advise students on post secondary options." But there are also glowing reviews sprinkled amongst the negativity. The same goes for Mount Vernon, very mixed reviews from students and parents alike. The reason Mount Vernon has this bad reputation, despite being on par with West Potomac, is because of the socio-economic divisions that exist in the Northern Virginia community. Mount Vernon is a successful, challenging academic institution, like every single high school in Fairfax County, and deserves better recognition, and the loss of it's harsh stigma.

Student Spotlight

Ink Illustrations by Tanya Quinteros



The Unforgiven Highness



Growing on a Fence



Essence of the Rejects



Coincidence's Love

WORLD'S GREATEST HIGH SCHOOL

