

# THE WIRE

## WEST POTOMAC HIGH SCHOOL

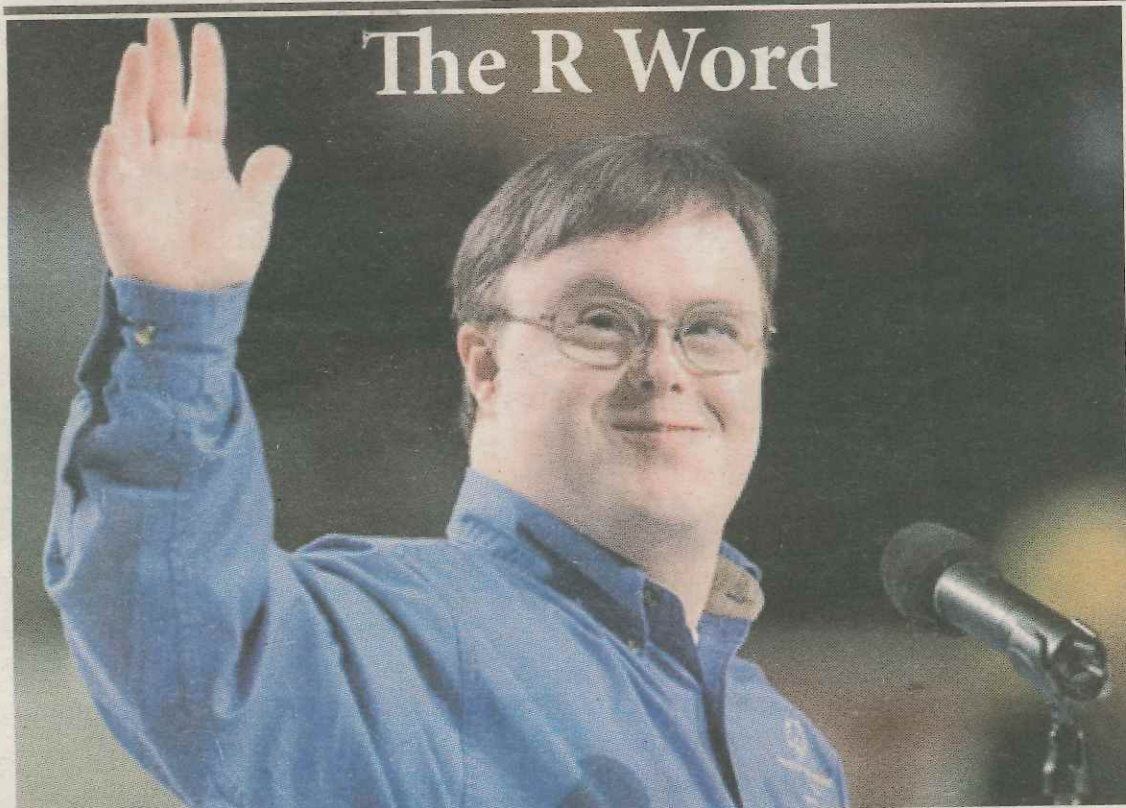
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6500 Quander Rd. Alexandria, VA 22307



John Stephens, Global Messenger for Special Olympics, comments on Ann Coulter's choice of words.

**Connor Phillips**  
*Sports editor*

In our society, it usually takes a national or controversial event to garner our attention to a specific issue. The controversy lately has been the use of the word "retard".

After the third and final presidential debate on Monday, October 18th, Democrats were celebrating a win by President Obama and Republicans were trying to explain Mitt Romney's conservative approach. Ann Coulter, a Republican political commentator and author, applauded Romney's approach, tweeting, "I highly approve of Romney's decision to be kind and gentle to the retard." A firestorm has ensued, with criticism coming from both the right and the left. Even a member from the Special Olympics Virginia chimed in, writing a letter to her.

John Franklin Stephens, Global Messenger for Special Olympics Virginia and Special Olympics athlete, wrote, "After I saw your tweet, I realized you just wanted to belittle the President by linking him to people like me. You assumed that people would understand and accept that being linked to someone like me is an insult and you assumed you could get away with it and still appear on TV." He continued to say, "Well, Ms. Coulter, you, and society, need to learn that being compared to people like me should be considered a badge of honor."

The Best Buddies Club at West Potomac is working to stop the use of the R-word. Mrs. JoAnn Molnar, a special education teacher at West Potomac and club sponsor, says that

the best way to stop the use of the R-word is through education. "People need to become aware that all of the words we use have an effect on ourselves and on the people we use them against," she said.

The club runs a campaign every March to help the cause. Club president and West Potomac junior, Pamela Molnar, says that they aren't just trying to stop the use of one R-word, but promote the use of another. "In addition to trying

to stop the use of the R-word, we are also trying to promote the use of a new word, respect!"

Why do people still use the R-word? Pamela Molnar gave two reasons. "Older people still use the R-word because they were never taught that it was a mean word," but she said that nowadays it is used as more of a "cool" word to mean stupid or dumb. Pamela Molnar's mother, JoAnn, echoes these thoughts, saying that people in her generation used it as more of a "gentle" term compared to other words like mongoloid and idiot.

Students at West Potomac are trying to change this trend towards the R-word becoming mainstream. Senior Emily Benesh said, "[The R-word] shouldn't be used as an insult towards others. It's rude and inconsiderate." This sentiment is shared among the student body. Junior Ashley Pak also said that the use of the R-word is rude, and that "It shows that our society still has some growing up to do."



This poster illustrates the lack of intelligence and maturity from those who use the R-word.

## Surviving Sandy

**Leila Fleischman**  
*Reporter*

Like the National Geographic show *Prairie Dog Companion*, the entire east coast has been in and out of hiding this month due to superstorm Sandy and the Nor'easter that followed. People all along the east coast were warned to stock up on candles, flashlights and batteries. In some states the weather warnings were worthless. Students at West Potomac are grateful for the days they got off school but unsure if it was needed or not.

Junior Katelyn McConville did not endure trauma, however her aunt in New Jersey did. Her kitchen was destroyed by a huge tree that fell because of a particularly large gust of wind. Katelyn explains, "On the day of the hurricane, my aunt was upstairs in her house. She heard a loud gust of wind and a large tree fell and it crashed right through her kitchen. It will take months to rebuild and I can only imagine how hard it will be for her without a kitchen for that long."

Not far from Katelyn's aunt is Bethany Beach, Delaware, where senior, Anna Carney's family owns a beach house. When Sandy hit the area, the house was flooded with two feet of rain water. She comments, "We have to rip out all the floors and replace them. It's going to be a lot of work."

A hop, skip and a jump away in Long Island, sits a bay house, owned by sophomore Hannah Engle's family. Engle says, "There are only a few bay houses left in Long Island, so they're considered historical landmarks. My great grandfather, Joseph Koelbel, built the house in 1922. It is a place for our family to go on vacation every summer so it was really devastating when we found out that it had been washed away. Luckily my uncle found it about a mile from where it was, but Sandy had blown off the whole front part of the house and now we're trying to figure out if it can be saved and rebuilt."

Evidently, there was plenty of destruction and devastation a little further up on the east coast but very little was seen here in Virginia. Fairfax County was not hit as hard as New York or New Jersey, but there were still some ramifications. Sophomore Gabrielle Bomberg thinks that two days off school was excessive. Gabrielle commented, "The media over hyped what the hurricane would do to our area, so my family cleaned the gutters, removed furniture off our deck, and bought candles in case the power went out. There turned out to be not a lot of damage, just a few fallen trees. As we see the results now, I would say two days off of school was a bit over-precocious. The FCPS board should have started by canceling one day of school."

Destiny Hawes agrees and says, "I feel that the media over-estimated what damage Hurricane Sandy would do to our area. I prepared by getting flashlights, and extra food and water. However, nobody I know lost power, and I think school should have been in session, although having the two days off was nice."

In Fairfax County, our most dire situations have been the power outages resulting in the hindrance of social networking sites for 24 hours. The aftermath in northern Virginia is miniscule compared to New York or New Jersey. West Potomac was fortunate enough to survive the storm and students cultivated some extra time to get their work done.



Hannah Engle

Sophomore Hannah Engle's beach house in Long Island, ruined by Hurricane Sandy.

**Thanksgiving Holiday Break**  
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# EDITORIALS

## Addiction sweeping the nation

"Call me, beep me, if you want to reach me." Text me, facebook me, tweet me, direct message me, snapchat me. Times have changed since the writers of Kim Possible invented the teenage crime fighter's catch phrase. Now there are countless ways to immediately get in contact with people. Despite the abundant methods of communication available in an increasingly technologically savvy era, there is one device where you can access everything imaginable: the smartphone.

Think about it. How many times have you checked your phone today? In the past hour? What was once considered bad behavior has now become a social norm. Everywhere we look we see individuals glued to their phones. Even during dinners or parties, people cannot seem to stay interested in a three dimensional conversation long enough to keep from becoming distracted by their phone. With so much information constantly streaming at our fingertips it seems hard to stay away. If you are not updating your twitter feed or checking what your crush Instagrammed, you could be missing out on important information - or so some may think.

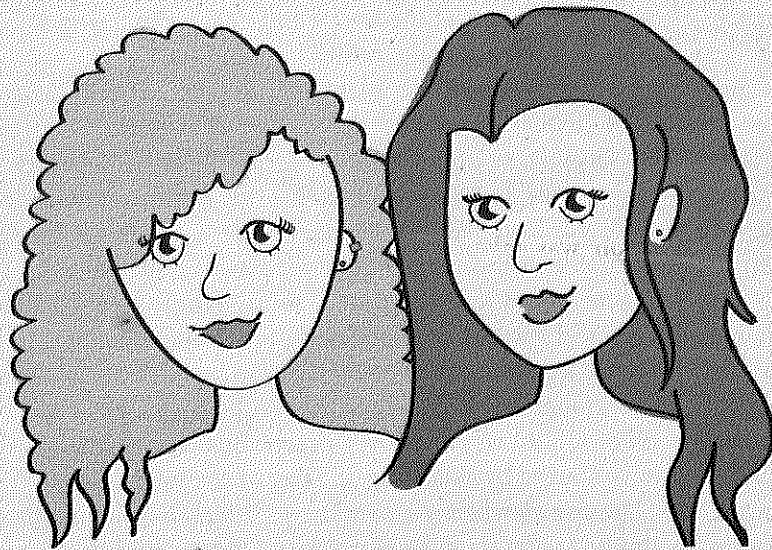
The mentality that one needs to have their eyes glued to the screen of their smartphone. Staying constantly connected to the cyber world, has become a major problem amongst our youth today. In a recent study done by Times Magazine,

they questioned 5,000 random people from around the world about their use with cell phones. Not surprisingly, 80% admitted to not being able to go a day without their phone. The term for being without having mobile phone contact is called nomophobia, and it is on the rise.

Cellphones can be damaging to not only your mental health, but your physical health as well, texting while walking, while shopping, while driving. And they do not only transmit calls and texts, but also a plethora of bacteria and germs that we pick up throughout the day. In another study done by the Times Magazine, they found that 40% of smartphone users check their phones while they are on the toilet. Scientists argue that cellphones have more bacteria than toilet seats since they are carried everywhere, yet are never cleaned. If you set it down in the bathroom or on the cafeteria table, your cellphone, something you constantly press against your face, is picking up the bacteria.

Just remember, we did not grow up relying on these objects. We were the generation of Pokemon on the latest Gameboy Color and VCR's. We did not come out of the womb clutching an iPad like many toddlers do now. However, we act as though we could not live a minute without the newest technology. We could keep going, but we just got a text. TTYL.

-The Wire Editors-in-Chief



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## View From Above Eston Melton, Assistant Principal

Tuesday's election was a reminder of how vital it is to prepare students for engagement with and responsibility to their community. But even as the importance of vote-casting hung in mind, I thought, too, about the frequent, personal "elections" students and adults cast their entire lives.

As Virginians, our media was dominated for months by bite-sized tweets, clips and posts often meant to "relieve" us from asking questions and checking sources. It is a frustration that so much campaign discourse discourages citizens from flexing their most important mental muscles.

All the more essential, then, that teachers develop in students not just the ability but also the drive to question their world. In View From Above last month, Principal Cliff Hardison wrote about the "4 C's" of 21st-century skills: critical thinking, communication, collaboration, and creativity. These are hollow ideas, though, without a fifth component: context, or a meaningful arena in which to apply those skills.

It is reassuring, then, that Wolverines found context in the election and applied those 21st-century skills to overcome soundbites by sharing ideas, devoting their

time, and writing letters and articles. I congratulate those Wolverines, youth and adult alike, whose passion around an issue or duty toward civic duty led them to volunteer for a candidate, as at the polls or, most importantly, vote.

And I most heartily thank teachers and students who brought questions and issues around the election into classroom and used them to encourage meaningful talks and complex thinking.

Beyond, though, the shared educational context of an election, each of us has every day a chance to exercise those 4 C's in a more immediate, personal way. We teachers engage students not only in basic course content, such as balancing an equation or identifying parts of speech, but in connecting those skills to real world needs and opportunities.

My most sincere hope is that we not only give students the knowledge and tools of citizenship, but also that we open their minds to eyes to recognizing where they can put those skills to use. If we prepare students to a need and meet the challenge, then we have truly done our work.

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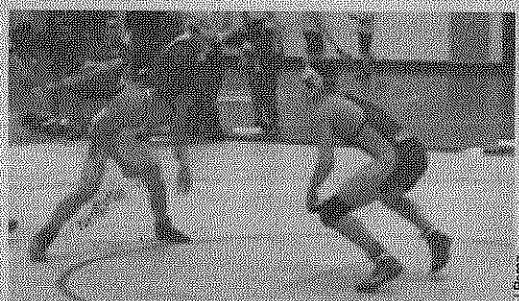
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## WOLVERINE WARRIOR: JJ PEREZ

Connor Philips  
Sports Editor



JJ Perez goes toe to toe with his wrestling opponent.

Everybody has challenges that they must face in their lifetime, it is inevitable. Some may be more trying and some might be a bit simpler. Late last winter, senior JJ Perez came face to face with one of his biggest challenges to date.

This past February, an arteriovenous malformation burst in Perez's brain while he was weight lifting. Also known as an AVM, this malformation, according to the Mayo Clinic, is an abnormal tangle of arteries and veins in your brain. When, and if, this tangle bursts, it causes bleeding in your brain.

Perez had to have surgery to remove the ruptured AVM this past spring. He could not attend school for a couple months because further stress on his brain could cause further complications. He worked diligently to get his schoolwork in upon his return, completing junior year. His biggest accomplishment, though, is yet to come.

Perez is an avid wrestler. He has been on the school's wrestling team since his freshman year. He

advanced to the Northern Region Tournament last year, making it to the quarterfinals in the 120 weight class. His goals for senior year were to reach the state tournament, but his condition put these hopes on hold.

Since he could not exercise for months after his surgery, Perez worked all summer to rehab and get back into shape for wrestling season. He has become a dedicated gym rat, working out almost everyday. He is also trying to manage his weight so he can stay in the 120 pound weight class by eating healthy.

Perez says his goals are still to make it to the state tournament. "I feel like I have positioned myself well to get [to the state tournament] through my dedication and hard work. If I don't make it, I will be really disappointed."

Whether or not he achieves his goal or not, Perez is still an inspiration for other students. When he steps on the mat for his first match this year, JJ will have already won.

## Opposing hype squad serves up obscenities

Lily Weisblatt  
Student Life Editor

Her foot touches the line. Screams of abuse assault her, as her sexual orientation, her morals and her intelligence are questioned. She fights for concentration, believing that she can focus through the noise. A crowd walks past her, and her step falters as an elbow hits her in the back. She serves, misses, and the other team receives a point.

On October 18th, West Potomac played in a volleyball game against Annandale High School that showcased the difference between good and bad sportsmanship, between supporting your team and cutting down your opponent.

According to multiple sources, the Annandale hype squad took it upon themselves to make sure the West Potomac girls were not on their A-game. Varsity coach Bob Lombardi said, "The first game was fairly quiet. Second game we heard a little bit of the obscenities coming out but by the third game they were not only calling the girls' names but yelling the most foul things like girls' anatomy parts." Resorting to verbal abuse, they repeatedly yelled across the gymnasium at the West Potomac team, calling out vicious names. Senior Meghan Mallon said, "A few girls on the bench started yelling back at the hype squad to stop, that they were being jerks, so they started yelling out our names." Sources say that the members of the hype squad continually walked behind the West Potomac servers, coming extremely close to them, and in a few cases, shoving or bumping the girls. While complaints were made by varsity coach Bob Lombardi and junior varsity coach Nancy Nixon to the on-site Athletic Director, seemingly no action was taken at the game. The girls tried to focus and concentrate on the game, but West Potomac lost three sets to zero.

Coach Lombardi also told the Wire that a man came up to him during the game

and said "your girls are going to be in trouble at the end of the game. They're not going to be able to leave."

At the end of the tumultuous night, violence broke out as the West Potomac team was leaving and boarding the bus. While the West Potomac team filed off to their bus, they were met with a mob of hype squad members blocking the bus, waving at the team. Senior and captain volleyball player Emma Yohannan said "their hype squad continued to harass us, so Morgan [Peasley] threw a punch at a boy. He tripped her and yelled profanity at her." According to Yohannan, after the punch was thrown, the girls attempted to move away onto the bus but were blocked by a circle of Annandale students. Yohannan was instructed to take pictures of the students who were around them and to board the bus without reacting.

Later that night a storm of angry tweets and retweets, memes and photos were shot back and forth between Annandale and West Potomac students. The score on the scoreboard was no longer the score that mattered. A contest had erupted between the schools to see who would quit first. Mallon says the reason behind the online fight is simple loyalty to one's school and peers. "When it was said that the team was being verbally assaulted, the school wanted to react. We're all looking for a common enemy and Annandale became that enemy."

For follow-up, emails were sent to administration by parents and the coaches, but no confirmation was made on any action being taken by either school. The official statement given by Director of Student Activities at Annandale High School is as follows: Both the Annandale Administration and West Potomac Administration worked together investigating the events from the game and took the necessary actions.

Wolverines! WP

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## BY THE NUMBERS

309

RUSHING YARDS FOR DEMORNAY PIERSON-EL IN THE HOMECOMING FOOTBALL GAME

2ND

PLACE FINISH FOR THE BOYS CROSS COUNTRY TEAM

3RD

PLACE FINISH FOR THE GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY TEAM

6TH

VARSITY FOOTBALLS SEED IN THE REGIONAL TOURNAMENT



# HAIR THERE EVERYWHERE

You can tell a lot about a person by their hair.

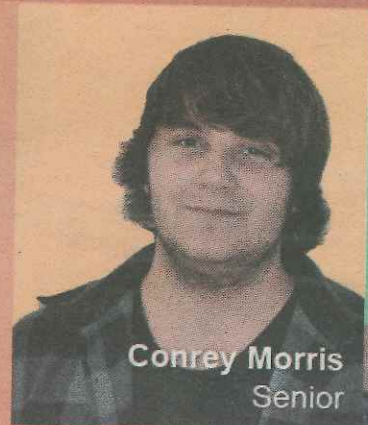
Creativity in one's hairstyle often is a good hint as to how creative a person is. If someone's hair is always messy or greasy, they very well might have given up on life. If there is never a hair out of place, they are probably a persnickety character. A thick tuft of facial hair might signify a male eager to prove his manhood. Hair is an essential part of a person's look. While some days we might wish we were bald so we could have one less thing to deal with, hair is a tremendous part of how we express ourselves on a daily basis.

## NO SHAVE NOVEMBER

While it is now a silly ritual amongst young men in high school and college, No Shave November originated for a legitimate purpose. Originally known to Australians as Movember (combining the words moustache and November for the creative name) the holiday was started by the Movember Foundation in order to raise awareness for men's health, specifically male depression, prostate cancer, and other male cancer initiatives. Their goal was to "change the face of men's health," by encouraging men to go a month without shaving while raising awareness for their cause.

Over time, this ritual has evolved into an activity for both males and even some females. A select group of West Potomac ladies have decided to stop shaving their legs and armpits for the entire month. As the month progresses, expect to see more hairy faces in the hallway. With such hairy faces and legs, West Potomac is becoming more of a paleolithic cave than a school.

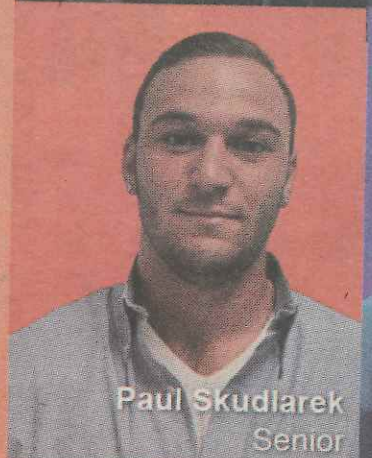
A few West Potomac students and teachers participate in the festival of facial hair ▶



Conrey Morris  
Senior



Garrett Hubbard  
Science Teacher



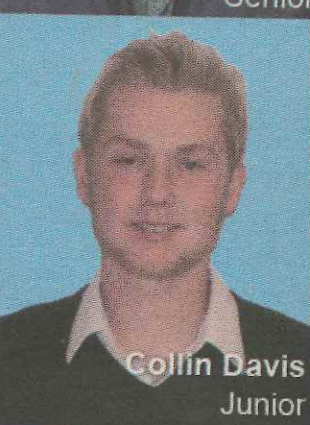
Paul Skudlarek  
Senior



Kyle Daehnke  
Senior



Javon Trice  
Senior



Collin Davis  
Junior



## CELEBRITY STYLES

**E**specially in the world of Hollywood and glam, celebrities must understand the importance of having outstanding hair. These icons often strive for any look that sets them apart from the rest. If they can make the press for their hair, whether it's good or bad, it is still publicity. Miley Cyrus recently chopped off her beautiful waves and bleached them blonde, shocking the public, but trending online for days. Millions of girls fell in love with actor Andrew Garfield when they saw his messy mop of brown hair in "Spider-Man". Other celebrities like Nicki Minaj and Lady GaGa are constantly mixing up their hairstyles, always keeping the public guessing what crazy wig they'll wear next.



## ANOTHER DAY

ink hair and colorful streaks may have been fads in the past, but it seems like brightly dyed hair is becoming the standard for many teens today. Pop stars like Katy Perry and Christina Aguilera set the stage with blue and green wigs a few years back, but now kids who used to take a stand against normal hair color have become internet and cultural sensations. Now, kids across the country sport unusual hair colors that are both rebellious and fashionable.



Melissa Loughridge  
Junior

Katie Mach  
Senior

Sydney Maniglia  
Senior

## DARING HAIR

West Potomac students and teachers have always done a good job of keeping it classy, especially when it comes to hairstyles. Their eclectic personalities and styles shine through the diverse do's of our school. From lax bro flow, to bouncing braids, we know how to wear a good head of hair. Here are some of the West Potomians that have taken a stand against the sea of tiresome teenage hairdos.



### BERNICE KEAR

Bernice is a senior who seems to have a new hairstyle every week. Some days her hair is braided with blonde streaks, and the next day she has a frizzy updo. Underneath this ever-evolving head of hair is a powerful mind. She started the WestPotomac poetry club, and hopes to make a community for aspiring writers at our school.



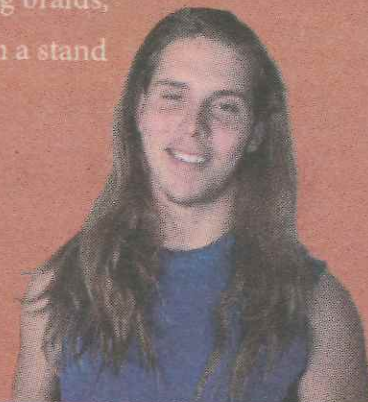
### JAYNE ORLEANS

Jayne is a sophomore with a hip style that is hard to miss when passing her in the hallway. Her curly locks are not the hairstyle of just any high school girl, and she stands out in a crowd of teenage gals with long straightened hair.



### MR. HOLLAND

He may not be a student, but this World History teacher has the bold style of one. He often wears exotic and unusual garb, and many may be shocked to learn that he has lived in Alexandria his whole life. His hair is an exciting turn from the usual boring teacher comb-over.



### ETHAN HALL

Ethan is a key player on the football team, and his mane flows behind his helmet every game. He's laid back about his long hair and usually just pushes it up into a bun, but keeping a do this luxurious is not an easy job. "You have to use tons of shampoo and conditioner so your hair doesn't look dead", he complains. He plans on getting it cut very soon.



## Obama vs. Romney: The 2012 Election

Ian Thompson  
Reporter

Although a couple of seniors were able to vote this past election, most of the school could not. This election was an important introduction to politics for many students because the race was neck to neck between the candidates, President Barack Obama and Governor Mitt Romney.

I had been more involved in this presidential election than the others because I am now old enough to evaluate both sides of the spectrum. I have watched the debates, looked at the horse race polls in the battleground states, and watched news reports on the blunders of the political campaigns. By evaluating each candidate and their respective party platform, I have been able to apply my political preferences to match the candidate which best represents them.

The main criticism towards Obama's presidency was the economic crisis. With the national deficit seeming to rise out of control, something needs to be done ASAP. Both candidates said that they will revive the economy and save America. They promised that their strategy will lower taxes for the middle class, while reducing the debt at the same time. They both claimed to be focused on lowering the debt and deficit; however, they were also spending money on their own agenda.

My concern is that both candidates had flaws in their economic solutions. Romney, for example, said that he will give across the board tax cuts, while stopping wasteful spending to reduce the deficit. These tax cuts will inher-

ently reduce the amount of money flowing into the government, so I do not understand how we are suppose to pay off the debt if there is less revenue. Romney declared he will also increase military spending. If we spend more and receive less, how will the debt be balanced?

Obama argued he has already begun to fix the economy. While it is true that the economy has improved in the past few months, the big issue is the debt. Obama seems adamant on solving social issues, which is good for citizens, but what will be the cost? Obama will increase taxes for the upper class and make cuts to the middle class. With those taxes, he wants to spend money on education, healthcare, and other social programs. This will not benefit small businesses who are the key players of the economy.

Senior Anthony Tran said, "I'm glad Obama won because he seems more reliable. Romney seemed to be constantly changing his stance on certain issues. With Obama in the white house for another four years, it will be interesting to see how our country's economy changes and how our social issues change." Regardless of other issues, the number one priority for America needs to be fixing the economy and reducing the national debt. With Obama being re-elected, this should be his biggest concern. Senior Marc Lotterie said, "With Obama as President, I feel secure. I think that Obama is really looking out for America and is concerned about our country's future."

## The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly Truth



## Dubbing through West Po

Laraib Ilyas  
Opinions Editor

SHOWN

A silver Mercedes pulls up to the Springbank while a boy whose face is not shown steps out of the car. He is acting like a superstar with a chauffeur opening the car door, the roller out red carpet which he steps on, while the paparazzi take his pictures. It is clever because the entire video is shown from his point of view, while his identity is never revealed.

Dubbing to songs and academics have almost nothing in common. Yet, on Saturday, October 13th, many students and faculty of West Potomac came together to produce their second annual lip dub music video at the school. The video is more entertaining and comical than last year's because of the clarity, choreography, and songs.

Since its upload on YouTube, the video has had over a 1,000 views. Compared to last year's video, where not many clubs were involved, this video has everyone from the hype squad, to the best buddies club, to the basketball players. It has a more diverse feeling which makes the video more representative of the entire school.

The tour of the video begins from the auditorium and continues throughout Springbank with the song "Get the Party Started" being dubbed. The feel to this part of the video is very energetic because of the dance team and guitar players. The "superstar" is then led out towards the patio where students blow bubbles at him.

All of a sudden, a scene at the library pops up with the song "Gangnam Style" playing. Relating it closely to the actual music video, an Asian student, Chris Pei, begins to dub the song with the famous dance move. The entire library then starts to dance along on the tables and around the bookshelves. The most amusing part of the entire video would have to be the librarian, Ms. Adriana Meeks, dancing to the song with her finger on her lips indicating to "be quiet."

The camera leads out of the library, to the Quander and Gunston corridor where Mr. Sal Olivo starts to dub "Call Me Maybe." A rush of football players, and students masked as superheroes dub as well. It is an interesting and unique touch to the overall piece because of the promotion of spirit week. The doors to the back of the gym open while a girl continues to dub the song, with the basketball players playing in the background.

The last part of this video and the song ends with all the students gathered around the rock dancing and jumping with paper streamers flying around. This scene concludes the nine minute video with everyone having a good time, regardless if they know each other or not.

Overall, the dance moves are in sync and the dubbing to the songs are barely out of place. It was a good idea to make the video on a Saturday, rather than a weekday like last year's, because of the gazes and movement of the people who are not a part of it. There are a few adjustments that should be made for next year, like less shaking of the camera and having a bigger population of the school participate. If West Potomac keeps improving year after year, then who knows, maybe it will become a YouTube phenomenon.

## reReads

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## Thanksgiving, more than just overeating and gravy

Zach Day  
Reporter

The turkey is cooking, the table is set, and audible laughter comes from the living room guests. Thanksgiving is a holiday celebrated all over the United States. There are a variety of ethnicities and cultures who choose to celebrate it different ways. Some people hold a simple family get together, while others choose to have a big party and lots of food.

With all the different ethnicities and religion, there are bound to be many contrasts. Even at West Potomac, Thanksgiving Traditions vary to a great extent. Freshman Joey Hammer, thinks that "it's a great time to celebrate about how grateful we are to be living nice lives. A true Thanksgiving is truly realizing how lucky you are, and to have a good time." He adds.

Freshman Francis Edemobi, celebrates this holiday differently. He believes it is just a nice time to spend with family while giving thanks. Edemobi also believes it is, "important to spend time with family." Edemobi and his family have, "the usual Thanksgiving dinner. We eat turkey and salad." When asked he replied, "yes we do have fried chicken as well."

Jose Fabian, another freshman at West Potomac celebrates Thanksgiving as well. According to Fabian, his favorite part of Thanksgiving is, "spending time with my family." When asked if he had any special traditions, Fabian replied, "We cook dinner, we pray, and we talk about Thanksgiving." Fabian and his family eat turkey, vegetables, and panreneyenos, which is bread filled with chicken.

Sophomore, Christian Denado, believes that Thanksgiving is about, "eating food and spending time with

all about the food, it's about the idea or concept of Thanksgiving, and being grateful for what you have."

He said his family traditions are, "nothing special, but we always wake up at 9 o'clock to go see the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade." It is a very important holiday for him and his family to appreciate all they have.

There are many family traditions at West Potomac, from eating fried chicken at Popeyes to having a big turkey dinner with mashed potatoes and pumpkin pie. No matter the food, Thanksgiving is all around a time when you are supposed to spend time with your family and friends.

One of the only parts of Thanksgiving that people have in common is that most people believe it should be a time to spend with family and friends. Freshman Abigail Copley believes that it is important to spend time with family

over Thanksgiving because, "You get to spend time with them and catch up in what is going on in their life." In addition, Copley says this to be important because, "you can also see people in your family whom you may not get to see to often."

Thanksgiving is a popular holiday throughout the U.S. It is celebrated in many different ways, by many different people. Many people consider it a family holiday, even though celebrations vary. While this time of year is often hectic between the assortment of holidays and food, Thanksgiving is consistently a time to take a break and give thanks.



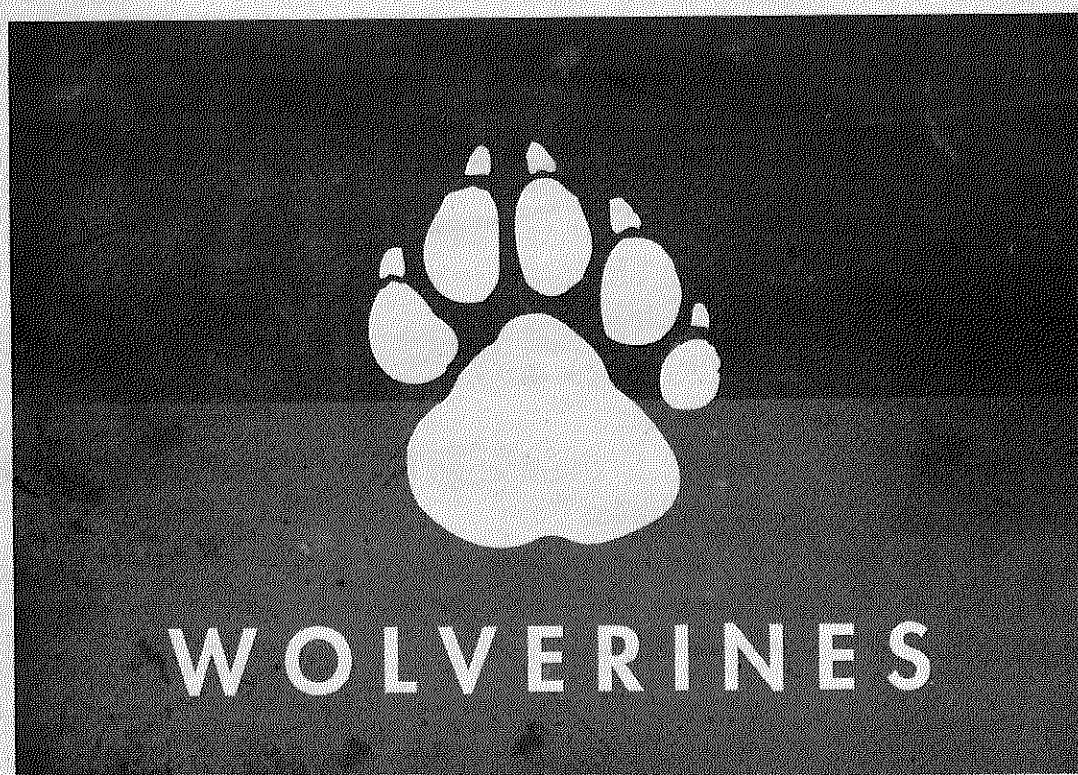
A traditional Thanksgiving dinner of turkey enjoyed with friends and family.

family." Denado only has one special tradition, which is, "a big family meal with lots of food." Denado adds, "my favorite part of Thanksgiving is the food, and not having school, I enjoy having time away from school."

Senior Emmanuel Dankyi is not as fond of the holiday. He says, "I am new to the idea of Thanksgiving, but I think it is about getting together with family and eating." On the actual day, Dankyi and his family get together and eat turkey. His Thanksgiving is typically more laid back and less traditional, but Dankyi and his family still find a fun way to celebrate it.

Freshman Joey Ingle says, "Thanksgiving is not

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## #TWINNING

## Edmund &amp; Edwin

We pulled a twin switch last year. We switched english classes; I was in Ms. Flemmings class while Edwin was in Mr. Russel's class and we swapped for the day. They did not notice anything until I showed up in my real class and both he and I were there together.

We like different NFL teams, I like the Eagles and Edmund likes the Patriots.

We grew up doing the same activities together as a kids, we usually don't "breakaway" from each other often.

A lot of our friends are finding out the differences between us two. The "Guessing Game" is finally over!

Our mom used to make us wear matching outfits in elementary school. We thought it was pretty cool, because we could easily play tricks/pranks on our teachers and friends. Good times!

My family doesn't get us mixed up anymore. But when we were little, we looked just alike and that's when confusion started.



Edwin and Edmund Hammond

Can you guess who is who?



# HOROSCOPES

## FOR TALLIES

## FOR SHORTIES

**Aries:** Be a pylon. Be a stork. Be a lighthouse near the shore. Protect those around you.

**Taurus:** You've come a long way. Jump over this last hurdle and fly.

**Gemini:** For you the falling rain hits first. There is no way to stay dry.

**Cancer:** Boy, do you have a tale to tell. Don't hold back. Share your story.

**Leo:** It's a thick sauce that needs stirring, use the whole ladle.

**Virgo:** Your life is long and lasting. Be content with each sip.

**Libra:** Keep your back straight. Don't give in to those who want you to bend.

**Scorpio:** What you are longing for is too far away, even for your arms.

**Sagittarius:** The secret you've been keeping beneath your hat is finally ready to come out.

**Capricorn:** For all the times you've tried to soar, boy are your arms tired.

**Aquarius:** Basketball, the far better choice.

**Pisces:** Reach for the sky. You are halfway there.

**Aries:** Change your socks, change your shoes, change the world.

**Taurus:** The grass is growing tall beneath your feet. Get moving.

**Gemini:** Look down. Pick up that money laying right before you.

**Cancer:** In the orange fall / you surrender your color / into a haiku

**Leo:** No one expects such great things from such small packages, but they are wrong.

**Virgo:** You are barely keeping your head above water. Don't want out any further.

**Libra:** Sell what you have been putting stock in. Sell now.

**Scorpio:** The electricity that once flowed has been cut.

**Sagittarius:** Stay grounded. It's not that far to fall.

**Capricorn:** Keep your head down and work. It's the miners that find the diamonds.

**Aquarius:** Ask for what you want, the blue plate special.

**Pisces:** Speak in simple sentences. Make sure they understand.