

THE WIRE

WEST POTOMAC HIGH SCHOOL
Friday, November 3, 2006

West Potomac High School
Library



Safety and Security Specialist, William Hare, uses a metal detector on student, Jesse McAlexander, to demonstrate school security procedures.

Photo by Brittany Catina

School Security Prepares for the Worst

In the wake of national shootings, our school is put under the gun.

Emily Kuhbach

Wire Reporter

Recent events reveal a startling truth that has become a national trend: School shootings are becoming more commonplace in suburban and rural settings.

One does not have to look far back for proof of this trend. In a little over a month, fatal school shootings occurred in suburban Colorado and Wisconsin, and, most notoriously, in a Pennsylvania Amish schoolhouse.

The fact that these shootings occur mostly in suburbia is not to say that cities are free of violence. Suburban school shootings cannot be blamed on gang rivalries or economic woes (which, are not the only causes of inner-city violence), because most of the student killers come from stable communities. Many people view violence as a characteristic of urban schools, something that could not afflict suburbia, the land of mowed lawns and soccer moms.

In plain terms, more commotion arises when rich white kids bring guns to school simply because they are not ex-

pected to. So why do they? Psychology teacher Cynthia Hawkins points out that there is not a single cause; in addition, every theory out there can be argued against. "People try to find things to blame," she stated simply. Nonetheless, she disclosed a number of the current theories.

Primarily, she stated, authorities like to blame the increase of violence in the media. "They claim people subconsciously internalize violence and act out," she explained. "Do I buy it? Not really. There has always been violence."

She also cited pressure as an explanation. As she frankly put it, "Kids cannot handle it. When they are under too



Officer Daryl Davis responding in a call on his walkie talkie.

Photo by Brittany Catina

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Shocking Teen Survey Results

Mariya Ilyas & Grace Powell

News Editor & Opinions Editor

Last year, Fairfax County administered a survey among elementary to high school students evaluating their involvement in various risky activities. The results released in June and announced in September were both disconcerting and hopeful.

The anonymous, voluntary survey was first administered in 2001, and then again every other year, to sixth, eighth, tenth, and twelfth graders. The survey in December 2005 was administered to approximately 14,000 randomly selected Fairfax County

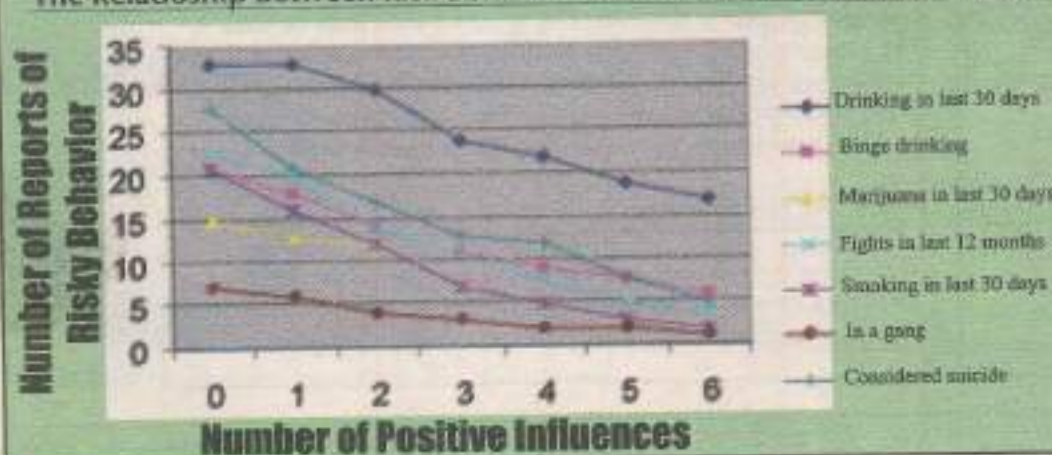
students. Of that number, exactly 13,275 students correctly completed the survey. "The same question was asked several different ways, these are called filters. [If the answers were] different every time, then that entry was invalid," said Safe and Drug Free Schools Section P.D. O'Keefe at the presentation of Fairfax County Youth Survey Results on Wednesday, October 18, 2006 at the Fairfax County Government Center.

The results of the survey showed that the students who were more exposed to positive actions, participated in fewer hazardous actions. "The survey showed that students in activities are less likely to engage in risky activities," said Fairfax County Community and Recreation Services member Torrey Piper.

The survey also showed that alcohol was the most frequently used substance while cigarette smoking was the lowest. While alcohol consumption and binge drinking (having five or more drinks in a row) were highly common among tenth and twelfth graders, inhalants were most frequently used among sixth and

See Survey, page 3

The Relationship Between Risk Behaviors and Positive Influences in Teens



Graph created by Aaron Jelliff

Stories Behind the Stones

Kate O'Connor

News Editor

Bill Daly, Richard Lunsford, and James D. Blackenbaker were all model citizens at their school. They were well liked, good students. They contributed to their communities in some way. When they died, their schools felt the loss of an athlete, a

manager, but above all, they mourned a friend. Time went on after their deaths, and today what is left of them are three markers now on the grounds of our school.

Bill Daly was a talented pitcher his junior year at Groveton High School. He was popular and charismatic. The whole school knew and respected his name. The evening of April 11, 1971, two days before his birthday, Daly and his girlfriend were parked in a car along the George Washington Parkway. Suddenly, an attacker tried to assault Daly's girlfriend. Daly defended her, but then the assailant shot Daly and ran away. The police investigation did not reveal who the criminal was and the shooter was never caught.

The whole school was shocked and overcome with grief, but no one more so than his girlfriend, who remains anonymous. "I can still see her, she sat just there," said director of student activities, Jeff Deitze, gesturing his hand towards an imaginary desk. Deitze was Daly's chemistry teacher at Groveton the year he died. "She just sat and stared for weeks," Deitze said. Daly's death was a huge blow to the whole school. "It was like you're joking with a guy in class one day, and then the next day he's dead," he continued, "[Daly] could have run and lived, but he protected his girl."

In many ways, his death was seen as an act of heroism among his classmates. Days later, a stone was placed on the Groveton campus in his memory. When the schools merged in 1985 and Groveton became West Potomac, the stone was

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Photo by KRT Campus

RANTS and RAVES



A RANT FOR MR. HAIDE FOR RUNNING OVER THE HOMECOMING DECORATIONS.

A RANT FOR THE HIGHER HOMECOMING TICKET PRICES, UP \$2 DOLLARS FROM LAST YEAR.

A RANT FOR THE DJ NOT DELIVERING ON PROMISES OF TWO MORE VIDEO SCREENS AT HOMECOMING.

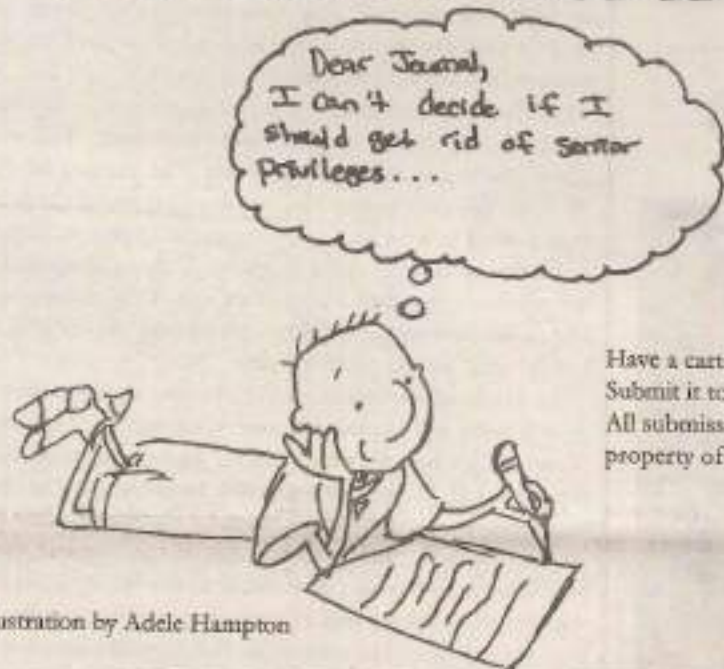


A Rave for the varsity cheerleaders getting to regional!

A Rave for the marching band for winning the AAA division of the JMU Parade of Champions!

A Rave for Brendan Kelly for winning the gold medal at the JV debate competition!

Cartoon Corner



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

Illustration by Adele Hampton

Corrections from Last Issue

On page 11, Kelly Jemison was referred to as a junior but she is actually a senior.

Also on page 11, Paul Devat was referred to as the captain of the cross country team, but Kelly Carmichael is actually the captain.

In "News Briefs," it said 100 people attended the Ramadan dinner when it was actually 160 that attended.

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

THE WEST POTOMAC WIRE

West Potomac High School
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Friday, November 3, 2006
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The Wire is a publication whose aim is to inform, educate, and entertain the student body. *The Wire* will not print any material that is libelous or obscene, or that will invade any person's right to privacy. The ideas expressed in unsigned editorials reflect the opinions of the newspaper staff; however, Letters to the Editor do not. *The Wire* is an open forum for discussion which is printed by Silver Communications.

STAFF EDITORIAL

Gossip Galore

Sometimes, high school can feel like a day-to-day struggle just to survive. If the only stressful thing about school were the work, then that would be fantastic, but we all know a lot more goes into a bad day than just forgetting a project at home. "Sometimes, I just get so overwhelmed, I can snap big time. I don't mean to, I just do," said junior Tanisha Robinson. Movies, books, and TV shows have compared high school to a jungle, because seldom in life does one ever find an environment as fierce as this.

There is an undeniable social hierarchy in high school. Everyone has sensed its presence at one time or another. Homecoming court in October confirms that it exists by glorifying the most popular among us. If one person walks into a room thinking, "Please, I just want to fit in," odds are, someone else (if not everyone else) is thinking that too. People have the natural inclination to want to belong, and although lots of people make it look easy, deep down even the social elite are probably feeling the same panging desire to impress.

So is there any way to deal with mean girls or exclusive guys? Yes, by not letting what they say or do effect the way you see yourself. On a bad day when everything seems to go wrong or suddenly friends feel like strangers, sometimes all it takes to turn things around is confidence. Focusing hard and winning your lacrosse game or studying to make

an A on a test can distract, eventually minimize what you're feeling about what Suzie Q is about you behind your back.

Reputations are made and broken with gossip, so it is important to recognize if what you are saying is the harmless kind, or the ugly kind of gossip. For one, if it is something private about someone else, you probably should not be telling other people about it. Consider if you would want to hear whatever it is about yourself. Another thing to avoid anything petty. So-and-so's voice or clothes or grades or mood are not the kinds of things that are worth talking about and while it may not be significant to you, it could be hurtful to someone else.

At the end of the day, the rumors and rudeness are just rumors and rudeness. They do not count in the long run. However, what does count is school and focusing on the future. It is okay to catch up on what is going on around school, but just make sure you don't get caught in the buzz. This is life. There is only one shot to live it, and is peer pressure really a good enough reason not to be happy? The best advice anyone ever gave me is that everything always changes. If something goes wrong today, it could get better tomorrow, and even if tomorrow is still miserable, just remember that eventually today will be in the past and there will be something new to worry about.

Flex Frustration

Dear Editor,

The 2006-2007 school year has brought many changes into West Potomac High School, including the new Flex schedule. I must admit that I was disappointed about the new schedule at first, because it meant there would be shorter lunches, class periods, and intervals between classes. Now, I have come to realize that Flex is really helpful because it allows me to manage my time and get help without staying after school and waiting till 4:30 PM for a ride home. However, I feel that the rule about having a Flex pass 24 hours before flexing out is just too much to ask. With all the other school related things I have on my mind, I find it silly to worry about a pass that I must have two teachers sign for me to go to one place. I know that many of my friends and I make last minute decisions so we hardly ever worry about the next day until it arrives. For this reason, I find it hard to flex out of classes unless you know exactly what you are doing and have a plan for everything. Other than this, the Flex schedule seems to be working well.

Sophomore, Asma Ahmad

Football Fairness

Dear Editor,

I really liked the story about the punishment of the football players. I agree with the article about the football players receiving a fair punishment. Even though it is understandable that they received less punishment because they were football players, it could have also gone the other way. The athletes could have been used to be made examples of, giving them harsher punishments than necessary. The act committed was pretty bad, but the intention was not of criminal activity. The football players were only trying to follow the rivalry tradition and meant no harm. Their willingness to clean up the Mt. Vernon property shows this. Their punishment was fair.

Junior, Cha'Vais Summers

If you have an opinion on a school-related issue, please submit your Letter to the Editor of 250 words or less to Room 418 Quander, or e-mail us at keley.pierre@fcps.edu. All submissions become property of *The Wire*.

How Safe is our School?

Hoof Cooksey

News Editor

"Ding, ding, ding," the bell sounds as second period ends on a normal Wednesday. Students exit their classrooms looking for friends to talk to. Suddenly, one of the 2,400 students attending our school pulls a firearm from their book bag. What happens next?

Is our school ready for an emergency situation like this one? Over the past few months, there has been an unprecedented amount of school shootings resulting in the deaths of a number of students. These horrible incidents have been caused by both students and outside members of the community. This pulls many to question if our school will be ready for a situation that puts our students and staff in a dangerous position.

I believe our school is ready in almost every aspect except for this experience. We have a large amount of security guards, as well as a licensed police officer, who should know how to take control of the situation. When minor incidents, like fights or vandalism, occur in our school, the staff is usually very quick to jump in front and end the situation. On every classroom door there is a red spiral book titled, "Crisis Management Security Plan." There are five sections in the book,

two of which pertain to this subject. One section tells what steps a teacher and the students in a classroom must do if there is a lockdown in our school, and the other section tells what to do if suspicious person or a threat enters the classroom. The book explains what steps to take in order to keep our students as safe as possible. The students have been taught evacuation plans if there is a fire in the building, so this shows that our entire



Photo By Brittany Collins

student body can be controlled. However, what happens if an event like this does occur? How will the students react?

The main reaction from probably every student and adult if an event that threatens the lives of others occurs around them would be to panic. Just like a sports team, to become better and more prepared, it needs practice. Our school needs practice. Even if it means taking off an entire day of school off, that may be necessary to prepare our students and staff. Our students and staff need to practice what is written in the little red spiral notebook found on every classroom door in order for it to be effective. This is a rising threat throughout the country, and in layman's terms, "It is better safe than

sorry."

Since 1999, after the Columbine shooting, schools have heightened their security by installing metal detectors. Researchers say that it is more likely for an urban school to have the metal detectors, than for a rural or suburban school to have them. However, the shootings of the Amish school girls occurred in the Amish country which is separated from the rest of society; this shows that an incident like this can occur anywhere. The metal detectors will not only detect harmful metal objects, but will more importantly discourage anyone from bringing a harmful item to school in fear of being caught for even entering the building. The metal detectors will not only detect metal, but also will detect unusual behavior someone may exhibit if they feel they may get caught. The metal detectors would not totally protect our school, so the staff, students, and security would need to be very aware of what was going on around them.

A school is a place to learn. The only fear any student should have when going to school is that they are going to do poorly on a test which they did not study well enough for, not that they may be put in danger. I believe our school has the measures necessary to keep our students safe, however more advancements could be made to prevent that horrible day from ever occurring.

The Heat on Homework

Homework is Helpful

Caroline Staples

Focus Editor

It is midnight and students are staying up late doing homework. Whether they like it or not, doing homework will keep them informed of the "need to know" events that occur in our society and prepare them for the real world they will need to survive in.

Homework helps students review the curriculum and skills taught during the day, which gives them a basic education needed for becoming successful in life. The only way to exist in the fast paced world of today is for students to be able to do research, come to conclusions, and make able decisions, skills which are taught in our school system.

Besides aggravating students and making them look forward to school less, what purpose does homework serve? Well, in order to do well in classes and graduate high school, tests and quizzes need to be passed. The only way students prepare themselves for a test is to do the homework and study. The more you do your homework and pass each grade level, the faster you get out of high school and become an independent adult.

According to senior Theresa How-Yew-Kin, homework shows that students are not just going to school, but coming home and working on things they learned that day "You're applying your homework to real life situations," said How-Yew-Kin, who usually receives three to four hours of homework. Like How-Yew-Kin, I also believe that people with more homework are usually people

who are more studious and know what they want to do with their life after high school.

Besides bringing you a brighter future, doing homework also keeps students busy after school and out of trouble. Homework can help to avoid gang activity. What better way to keep students out of violence than to do something constructive, like homework, although they might not enjoy it? Homework also



Photo by Brittany Collins

teaches you to manage your time wisely. Many students participate in extra curriculums, it is vital that they learn to spend time carefully in order to complete all activities of the day and still go to bed at a decent hour.

How-Yew-Kin agrees with the statement that it teaches students to work independently over a long period of time, unlike some partner or group activities in school. Homework also teaches students responsibility, doing assignments asked by teachers and meeting deadlines.

If you didn't have any homework at all during the school year, what would you honestly do with your eight or nine hours before heading home? Homework gets students ready for college and life in our fast-paced world.

Homework Hinders our lives

Lakeisha Langley

Photo Editor

Homework suppresses the teenage mind. It is just too much to handle on top of everything else. Teachers sometimes forget that their class is not the only class on a student's schedule. "Homework is not efficient because students don't take it seriously. All we care about are the test and quizzes. Homework should be optional. We have lives! Some of us work after school. That requires our full attention. Homework is just busy work," said senior Angela Giles. We go to school almost everyday. There is really no need for homework. When school is over, it should be over until the 7:20 a.m. bell rings the next morning.

If teachers made homework optional it would be beneficial for both the students and the teacher. Think about it, if you are a teacher who is dishing out plenty of homework (busy work) or extra grades, you have just as much homework as we have! That does not do you any good. A student who plays sport's time is consumed with extra-curricular activities; they have little time to relax because on top of those things is school work. There are ways to study for test and quizzes without having a load of work dropped on top of your head every night.

Statistics found in Time

Magazine relating to the book *The Homework Myth*, written by lawyer Sara Bennett and journalist Nancy Kalish, state that kids who do homework in middle school and high school score well on standardized tests. Doing too much home work, (more than 60 to 90 minutes in middle school and more than two hours a night in high school) result in lower test scores. The article also states that teachers in other nations who tend to outperform the U.S., such as countries like Denmark, Japan, and the Czech Republic assign less home work. While teachers in low-scoring countries such as, Greece, Thailand and Iran tend to pile homework.

Everyone has some sort of a social life. If you do not, it is probably because you are up all times of the night doing homework. Phone calls and going out to the movies is hardly an option for students. No one looks forward to a weekend of homework, at least not me. Weekends are the only days we have away from school out of a total of seven days! "I hate homework. I'd rather play Polo than do homework," said junior Michael Dewey. After the strain that extra homework brings there is no social life and you are no longer as close to your friends as you thought you were, homework has taken their place. The point is school work should stay in school. The home is where you want to get away from everything that is a absolute must and relax. There is more to life than just assignments.

Adele's A-B-C's

Getting Through Your Life One Letter At a Time



Photo by Lakeisha Langley

Adele Hampton

Editor-in-Chief

Everything is too big, too small, too short or too long; it takes a miracle to get anything just right. Shopping can be fun...if you're of perfect height, and weight. But for those of us who are normal, shopping can be a nightmare. So, in lieu of my complete failure to find any type of winter clothing for this season, this column is dedicated to the difficult task of finding clothes that not only fit, but would not be found in your mother's closet.

Guerdon: reward; compensation. Usually one would go shopping in order to improve one's mood. After a bad day, nothing feels better than burning a hole in one's pocket, or the pocket of one's parents. This generalization is often true, unless nothing fits. If this happens, you are doomed to be unhappy all day, wallowing in self-pity eating tubs of ice cream, mash potatoes, and double-stuff Oreos, which will only make you feel worse because of all the calories you are consuming.

With this said, why would anyone want to shop? Women in general have a love-hate relationship with clothing stores. They go in determined to find something attractive that complements their figure and come out with something resembling something their mother wears. Now unless the mother has good fashion sense (which is not often), the shopper is left stuck in a fashion hole.

Habitable: capable of being clothed. Now, it is very rare to find someone who is not capable of being clothed, but every once in a while there comes a time when really nothing looks good. Now, when this happens there is only one option: go naked. This option eliminates the stress of having to pick out outfits and match colors. It also promotes the idea of being comfortable in one's skin. If everyone was naked there would be no need for shopping. Billions of dollars that would have been spent on clothes could be spent on more important things, like Starbucks.

Unfortunately, we live in a world where clothes are necessary. So the next time you go to the mall, keep in mind that you are not the only one that cannot find anything to wear. We love to wear clothes, but we hate to buy them. If joining a nudist colony is out of the question for you, remember that shopping is not always an easy thing, unless you're a supermodel. So, do not get stressed, do not cry in the dressing room of Forever 21, just take a deep breath and forge on. There is a perfect pair of jeans waiting for you somewhere.

Guns, Hunting and Fun or Absolutely None?

Firearms Do Not Cause Harm

Getting Rid of Guns

Sam McCann

Wire Reporter

People are calling for gun control for the wrong reasons. As Bureau of Justice statistics show, juvenile crime has decreased dramatically over the past decade. Why then, are the calls for increased gun control on the rise? Crime among youths is clearly not the problem, and therefore the recent clamoring for increased gun control as a result of school shootings is unfounded.

It seems that every time we turn on the news there is a report on gun-related school violence receiving non-stop coverage. The media would have us believe that guns have completely permeated our educational system, and that it is only a matter of time before a school shooting occurs near us. The recent outbreak in violence is an anomaly and is not representative of a

fundamental shift in the amount of violence in our schools. The media overemphasizes the sickening but isolated school-shootings, which generates cries for increased gun control, including the demand for the weapons to be exclusively limited to law enforcement officers. Just because there have been a few incidents does not mean it is a nation wide crisis. However, our current system is effectively distributing guns, and, with a few high-profile exceptions, allows only those who are trustworthy to use the weapons.

The media leads people to believe that the violence is a trend. However, the fact of the matter is that, according to the Bureau of Justice, crime in American schools for students 12-18 years old declined every year between 1992 and 2002, a period which encompasses the notorious Columbine incident of April 20, 1999. After the attacks, the number of violent crimes committed by minors fluctuated, but it actually decreased through 2005, according to a further study by the Bureau of Justice. This shows that the shootings at Columbine did not represent a fundamental increase in school violence. Therefore, arguing that we need to place tighter restrictions on gun distribution because of the recent shootings is a moot point, since school violence actually decreased during and after the most sensational attack, Columbine, and the trend will likely continue despite this recent wave of violence.

Not only is the current scramble for an increase in gun control based on misperception, but the premise of eliminating the right to bear arms is faulty. Guns don't kill people; individuals are responsible for the fatalities. If guns are completely eliminated,

crime will still occur. If someone is deranged enough to come into a school with a gun, what is to say that the same person is not going to enter the school with the same malicious intent, this time armed with a knife or other deadly weapon when they can not obtain a gun. In fact, the most heinous act of terrorism ever to occur on American soil, the attacks of September 11, 2001, were perpetrated by individuals without any kind of firearms; rather the assailants subdued the passengers on the planes with box-cutters. This shows that if the intent is there, the violence can be committed, with or without guns.

If guns are taken away, there are sure to be very grave consequences. Like other illegal items, guns would surely be traded on the black market if they were banned.

This would empower organized crime, just as the passage of the nineteenth amendment, which implemented prohibition, led to the rise of mobsters such as Al Capone. "Prohibition created a large subculture of organized crime, and banning guns could have similar repercussions," said United States History teacher

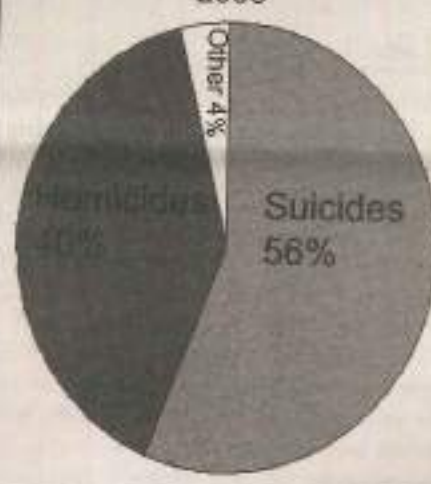
Emer Kennedy. In addition to helping to prevent the rise of the mafia, guns serve as a deterrent. If criminals knew no one but the police had guns, we would see an unprecedented hike in crime. Think about it: if someone with intent to kill knew his enemy was unarmed, he'd kill them. Furthermore, many rural areas lack a strong police presence, which necessitates that some households have guns in order to protect themselves. Taking firearms away from these people could potentially result in their deaths, which would defeat the purpose of taking away the firearms in the first place.

Our country is built upon individual freedoms. One of these freedoms is the intrinsic right to defend oneself. Any motion to limit this right is simply unjust. Do not get me wrong; I am not in favor of putting guns in 7-11's and requiring only an I.D. to purchase one. However, if we maintain the current system, we will be much better served than eliminating guns altogether.



Photo by Lakeisha Langley

30,136 gun deaths in U.S. in 2003



I don't think too many people are for keeping guns in the hands of criminals, but not enough is being done to stop these criminals.

"Do we know for absolutely certain that if we had every reasonable law and the ones I'm going to propose here that none of these school violence things would have happened? No. But we do

know one thing for certain; we know there would have been fewer of them, and there would have been fewer kids killed in the last several years in America. We know that for certain. We know that," said former president Bill Clinton seven days after the 1999 Columbine school massacre in which twelve students and a teacher were murdered. Clinton's idealism on gun control issues are dead on. He has continually argued for selling child safety locks with all new handguns, banning the importation of high-capacity ammunition clips, such as those used at the Columbine massacre,

and more strongly regulating handgun sales at traveling gun shows. How many more people have to get killed before we do something?" the president asked in 2000. "There is no more time for delay."

Accidental death by gun is another issue that could easily be fixed. Although many including our current president, are for trigger locks, it isn't something being built into the gun. Currently, it is available for the gun owner to buy on his own. Bush has said he would sign a law requiring trigger locks with



Photo by Sam McCann

handgun sales but wouldn't pass such legislation. I propose that all guns have some form of trigger lock built in, which would eliminate most accidental deaths. Bush also has endorsed outlawing the

import of certain high-capacity ammunition clips and raising the legal age for handgun purchases from 18 to 21. Sure, great ideas, but the question remains if he would try to push it through. I propose actually going through with these "demands" and "statements."

When the civilian population has more access to guns, more teens and children die. A total of 2,893 young people were killed by firearms in the U.S., one every three hours (bradycampaign.org).

There is an argument that if we were to make stricter regulations on who can buy guns and how it is done, then there would be an increase in the illegal trading and selling of guns, relating it to the prohibition days of the '20's. How can we use such an old example of what happens when you take away rights? This was 80 years ago, things were different. Criminal punishment was not as severe and crime was a lot higher overall. Furthermore, if guns were more strictly prohibited, this would only shift the focus to illegal gun ownership, since plain old gun control would no longer be an issue. It makes sense; we can kill three birds with one stone if we tighten up our borders: less chance of terrorism, less illegal immigrants, and less illegal guns.

So while the United States continues to allow every killer in the US to buy a gun to "protect him or her self" thousands die from gunshots every year. Should we continue to allow people to freely buy guns that just kill innocent people? No. We should take a strong stand against it, putting strict laws on how and who can buy guns. Murders will continue, but strict gun laws will only lower that number.

Doing Something About the Destruction in Darfur

Alex Keckelsen

Editor-in-Chief

If you knew someone who killed a man in cold blood, would you tell someone? If you had solid evidence that the man you knew, a murderer, had done such a horrible crime would you tell? For many, the answer is yes, but when posed with such a question the U.S. government is silent.

Since 2003, Darfur, Sudan has been the center of a conflict involving a variety of rebel militias fighting to overthrow the government of the east African nation. As they fight, these militias are committing a number of documented atrocities. At

first, the fighting was to overthrow what the Sudan Peoples Liberation Army (SPLA) called an unjust government. As the SPLA began to crush Sudan's army, the government decided to re-deploy its army in the form of an unofficially backed militia called the Janjaweed. Supplying this new militia with weapons and equipment caused a major humanitarian problem. The Janjaweed began killing innocent civilians and driving them from their homes in what



Photo by Lakeisha Langley

offer to send troops in. As of now, there are 7,000 African Union (AU) troops in Sudan, a number that is not nearly enough to stop what is going on. So now we, as one of the most powerful countries in the world, must

former Secretary of State Colin Powell correctly called "a genocide."

Over 200,000 have died and two million have been displaced since 2003 and still the U.S. government and the United Nations have done nothing but

address this issue and forcefully send troops into Darfur to stop the killings of innocent people.

After learning about such atrocities, you would think that our government, or at least the UN, would take action against the Sudanese government but the genocide has continued because little media action has taken place. How can we keep information from the public, information that others have seen and reported, and stand by and watch something so despicable happen?

Something needs to be done about the situation in Darfur. There's blood on Sudan's hands, and if we do nothing to stop genocide, there will be blood on our hands.

Out With the Old, In With the New News

Sandy Slippen

Copy Editor

Although these words are printed in a newspaper right now, newspapers all over the world are increasingly losing their notoriety to news coming from more advanced technology.

Television news has been around for about 50 years; the Internet, and constantly developing technology, such as cell phones and Blackberries, have ensured that the average citizen will have no problem obtaining up to the minute breaking news. While many would consider having readily available news all the time to be of tremendous benefit, it is having a detrimental effect on the world's oldest news outlet — the newspaper.

Major newspaper publications such as *The Washington Post*, *The New York Times*, and *USA Today* are still read by people throughout the country and the world every day, but this is not the big issue at hand. What has many concerned is that the news inside of the newspaper is often obsolete by the time of publication because it was released hours earlier on Google, Yahoo! News,

or broadcasted on CNN, MSNBC, CSPAN as live, breaking news.

A recent example of this would be the October 11 plane crash and death of New York Yankees pitcher Cory Lidle in New York City. As soon as the event happened, news of it (especially early on, when some speculated it was a terrorist attack) broke on the majority of the American news channels and online in Internet news outlets. However, because it happened in the middle of the afternoon, it was not published in newspapers until the subsequent day. By the time it is printed, many have already heard about the event, and it is considered "old news." "I heard about Cory Lidle's plane on the evening news that same night," stated freshman Lizzy Lunsdy.

Although the methods of getting news through advanced technology reached a zenith by late 2006, there are many who would still prefer to read their news in the long-standing outlet of a newspaper. "I like finding out my news from a newspaper rather than getting it on television or online, it feels more traditional," said junior

Brad Huber. Newspapers can do several things that cannot be matched by other news outlets, like broadcast news. While the headline news from a given time on CNN might be faster and more up-to-date than that of a newspaper, headline news does not give the viewer the "option" of hearing the type of news that they want. For instance, the renowned *Washington Post* is divided into News, Metro, Style, Business, Sports, and other special sections such as Food or Weekend depending on the day of the week. This availability catering to the reader is not necessarily present in broadcast or online news. As a result, those who are looking for variety in their news often turn to a newspaper.

Despite the constant availability of online or televised breaking news, there are many people who still prefer to catch their news from the traditional outreach of a newspaper. Despite newspapers becoming increasingly less up-to-date than other forms of news, it seems clear many still value newspapers as their haven for being ready and informed about what is going on around them in the world.

Dealing with Discrimination

Zach Feinstein

Online Editor

Gays in America and across the world are discriminated against and in some countries, even killed. The Gay Straight Alliance (GSA) and many gay students from our school say this school is not discriminatory towards gays, lesbians, and bisexuals.

Although there is a small population of gay students at our school, they say they are just like every other student. Most students at our school, such as senior Alex Davis, say "No, not at our school," when asked about discrimination against gays.

Even though most students say there is not discrimination, there are still some people who discriminate against gays. Sophomore Kat Brewster said, "People are afraid to discriminate, but



Ilene Gillispie stands up for the gay community.

that other students do not act differently towards them because of their sexuality, when in reality some people do make offensive remarks. With discrimination being a very controversial subject, many gay students choose to deal with it in different ways. Brewster said, "I just try to brush it off and ignore it."

That is why junior Ilene Gillispie wrote a letter to the administration to ensure all students, including gays, lesbians, and bisexuals are treated equally, regardless of their sexuality. Over the last couple of years, the topic of gay marriage has come up in the news, with the country being largely divided on this subject. Most Republicans oppose it, saying that a family by definition is between a man and a woman. However, Democrats are largely unopposed to it and support

gay marriage with a law allowing it. Senior Evan Dobbs, when asked about gay marriage, said, "I don't think America is ready for it." Recently a gay marriage bill failed to pass in the Senate.

Recently, more and more people have come out about their sexuality and one of the goals for the GSA is for these people to express their feelings about sexuality. Most gay students say our school is a friendly environment where their sexuality is mostly respected.

Safety Comes First

Safety, from page 1

much pressure they are bound to find a way out."

Finally, she noted the desire to draw attention to oneself. "Humans need some form of attention," she reasoned, "and it does not matter to us if it is positive or negative."

Despite the speculation, she points out that there is no way to "create an experiment to ethically prove [these theories]."

There is also the hot-button issue of gun control to consider. Despite the recent spree of shootings, stricter gun laws have not been proposed. In a recent conference, President Bush expressed his desire to make schools "gentle places of learning," yet made no mention of renewing the federal assault weapons ban. It is yet to be seen whether lawmakers will make the connection between lax gun laws and school shootings.

These recent incidents force us to look within our school and determine exactly how prepared we are. Security officers report that they recently created a roundtable method for developing crisis management plans, proof that the shootings can be used as models to "help us be better prepared." As one unnamed official asserts, "everyone [that comes on this property] is challenged."

Like the rest of the nation, our security officials realize that school shootings are not a typical crime. One official echoed the sentiments heard in suburban communities throughout the nation: "We are aware that we are not immune to it. It can happen anywhere."

The reality is that a school shooting is a paradox in itself. Student violence in a peaceful place of learning is something that is not meant to happen; our right to learn in a safe environment is a right that is not supposed to be infringed upon. There is no way to reasonably comprehend a school shooting, and it is even more impossible to define the motivation behind one. "They" often try to point to one clear-cut cause in an attempt to comfort the public, revealing our desire to explain the unexplainable by blaming something, anything. How far are we willing to go to create a pretense of comfort?

Survey Says...

Survey, from page 1

eighth graders. "Eighth graders may not view this as terrible substance—which is terribly dangerous," expressed O'Keefe. The use of marijuana and other drugs has declined overall.

For some key workers in the county, the results of the survey raised a red alarm. "We found the entire survey alarming," expressed Fairfax County Gang Prevention Coordinator Robert Birmingham. Not being able to communicate with everyone in the community has been a problem. "Kids who don't speak English... don't feel they can access the programs available to them," said Fairfax Falls Church Community Services Board Laura Yager. To solve this dilemma the county will soon be administering a translation service.

The survey also pointed out challenges to be recognized and addressed by the community, including early onset of substance use, depression rates and the correlation between substance use, gangs, and use of alcohol, (especially when driving). "We learned from these results that there are things we need to do more," said Fairfax County Prevention Coordinator Denise Baybon.

Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Gerald E. Conolly said, "The good news for Fairfax County is that most indicators are on a downward trend, and that's heartening." The county is working on a number of issues. "We've started prevention based programs to help students be involved in more after school activities," said Piper, Birmingham remarked, "There are many different things we are doing. [We are] Focusing on those who need it most and just going down the road." One of the main reasons for the survey is to speak awareness among the community. "Get the word out... We don't want this big huge document to sit on the desk and collect dust," continued Birmingham. The Fairfax County Youth Survey Communications team will be holding a Youth Speak Out for teens to discuss the results of the survey. The Speak Outs will be held at various locations including at the Mount Vernon Government Center on Richmond Highway.

Though some of the survey results were troubling, it has begun "Leading us in the direction we need to be going in the near future," said Piper. Hopefully that direction will lay a foundation for a path full of safe and successful teens.

Behind the Stones

Stones, from page 1

moved to our school's campus. Daly's plaque was placed outside of the brand new track near the entrance to the football field, where it still sits today.

"Richard Lundsford was a bright kid, really smart," said Christine Beal, a former West Potomac student who now works in the student activities office. Lundsford suffered from a disease that handicapped his body, but never his mind. He was in a wheelchair all his life. When he got to high school, he managed the football team and became a huge Wolverines supporter. "He was like a mascot for the team. The players loved to sit and talk with him," said Deitze. Unfortunately, Lundsford's disease was terminal, and at the age of 16, he died. After his death, the school set up a memorial scholarship fund which gave money to college-bound athletes. "Lundsford loved sports. [I'm sure] he wanted to be out there on the field with them but he couldn't," said Deitze. The school's booster club purchased and mounted a plaque on the football field's flag pole. The plaque faces the field where Lundsford spent so much of his time. The plaque reads "Richard J. Lundsford III, June 19, 1970- June 7, 1987 A True Wolverine."

James D. Blackenbeker was also a Groveton student. He graduated in 1981. After finishing school, Blackenbeker joined the army. At the beginning of the Iraq war, his troop was deployed. "He lasted about a week before he was killed," said Deitze. When Blackenbeker died, the school held a service for him in the auditorium. Although it was over 20 years after he graduated, the auditorium was more than half full with friends of Blackenbeker's. The school had not forgotten him. The next year, a tree was planted in his memory outside of the football field. Beneath the tree is a plaque with Blackenbeker's name.

There are three stones on the West Potomac property. Behind each stone is a tragic and incredible story. If these three men were still alive, their achievements would be remembered for a short time, but eventually, their names would be forgotten. Their deaths were heartbreaking, but now, they are immortalized on the grounds of our school forever.

Latin Loses Interest

Mariya Ilyas
News Editor

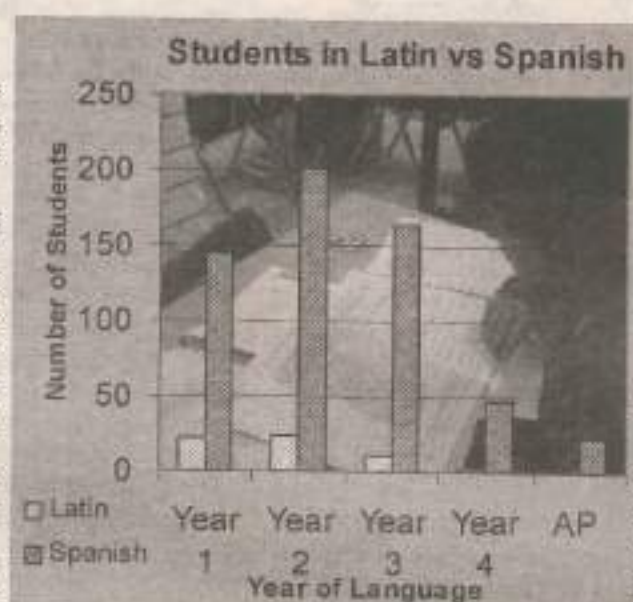
Unlike other foreign languages studied in high school, such as Spanish, German, French, and Chinese, Latin has increasingly lost interest by students.

"There are [only] three students taking Latin 4 and they are following the AP curriculum, but they are not required to take the exam in May unless they decide to do it. Officially, there are no students registered for AP Latin this year, but hopefully one or two of the Latin 4 students will continue with it next year," said Latin teacher Mr. Blair Gormley, who also teaches two Latin classes at Falls Church High School.

The three students taking Latin 4 are juniors Jeffery LaBelle, Artia Ilyas, and Alexander Protosevich. "I'm taking Latin 4 because I've done three years and I think I'm going to finish it," said LaBelle.

Both Protosevich and Ilyas might step up and sign up for AP Latin this year during second quarter. "Since Latin 4 and AP Latin have the same curriculum, I want to take a chance and take the exam," said Ilyas. All three students had Mr. Brett Simonson last year, and a new teacher is definitely a change for them. "He [Gormley] has a different teaching style," commented LaBelle.

Gormley teaches a combined class of the three Latin 4 kids with Latin 3 students. Because they are relatively close in their grammar knowledge, both levels are being taught the same Roman authors. "It's actually kind of interesting because it helps with reviewing," shared Protosevich. Gormley believes there could be many explanations for the lack of interest in Latin compared to other foreign languages. According to Gormley, the lack of publicity in the school and the county make it difficult to compete against growing languages, like Spanish. Public Relations (PR) was initiated by the foreign language department with Sandburg Middle School to boost numbers in the coming years. "Another reason many students do not take Latin is because many think that it is a useless language because it is no longer spoken by a large portion of the population, though it is the native tongue of the Vatican [city and country] and currently is being proposed as the lingua franca of the EU [proposed to be the common language throughout Europe]," said Gormley.



Graph by Mariya Ilyas and Drew Smith. Photo by Lakisha Langley

"Since there are so many Spanish-speaking people in America now, Spanish has become a very popular language," said sophomore Anum Mirza, who takes Spanish 3. "I think it's because the mass majority of people in America now speak Spanish. Spanish is the second language of the United States."

"I took Latin because I thought it would be the easy way out of a language. But as it turns out Latin is pretty hard. You don't only learn the vocabulary of Latin, but also the mythology," said sophomore Mariam Nasser, who is in Latin 2.

Regardless of the deficiency of interest in the Latin language, there are many advantages to taking Latin. "Latin can be used in many different subject areas such as History, Government, English and Science," said Gormley. Latin helps build vocabulary (which can further help increase SAT scores), as well as provide a better understanding of Roman history in World History courses. "It's [Latin] helped me a lot in English and History class. I now know more about Roman history," rejoiced Protosevich. Ilyas was advantageous as well. "Taking Latin has helped me understand Roman history in depth and it taught me grammar that I have never learned in any of my English classes before."

The decreasing numbers in the enrollment of Latin language in schools does not discourage it from being studied. As Gormley put it, "It [Latin] has been around for millennia and I am sure it will continue to be studied."

(RED) Campaign Hits Full Stride

Devon Cain
Wire Reporter

The colors of the leaves are changing, but they aren't the only ones. Popular products are also turning a new color, (RED).

The (RED) plan is an interesting take on how to help with the lack of AIDS treatment in Africa. Every year, 3 million people die from AIDS. Of the 40 million people infected by HIV/AIDS, Africa (which has just over 10% of the world's population) is home to 60% (25 million). The disease is the leading cause of death in Africa.

(RED) is a business marketing scheme with a twist.

The big commercial companies involved have pledged to

donate 50% of their profits to the Global Fund, established in 2002 to help eliminate AIDS in Africa. Despite its good intentions, (RED) is giving it to the consumers straight, by no means is it a non-profit "campaign." Commercial companies will reap half of the profits if (PRODUCT)^{RED} sell as planned.

What is the meaning of the parentheses or brackets? The creators have referred to them as, "the embrace." Each company that becomes (RED) places its logo in this embrace and is then elevated to the power of red. Thus, the name (PRODUCTS)^{RED} include iconic brands such as Apple, Gap, Motorola, Converse, Armani, and American Express. Other sponsors include Myspace.com and AIM. The idea is big name products, big time awareness. Not all products may be red in color, but buying any product with the (RED) logo means half of the profits are going towards buying treatment pills for people with AIDS.

Although a cure has not been found for the AIDS disease, Bono, U2 front man and creator of the (RED) initiative, left a message on the (RED) website (www.joinred.com). "Just two pills a day will bring someone who is at death's door back to full health, back to a full life."

On October 13, Bono appeared on Oprah. Accompanied by rapper/producer Kanye West and actress Penelope Cruz, Bono proceeded to "paint the town red" by launching the (RED) initiative in the United States.

Bono and Oprah are trying to make people see the world through (RED) Giorgio Armani glasses.



November Calendar

- | | |
|--|---|
| November 3 rd | • Cap and Gown Orders During Lunch |
| • 1 st Quarter ends | • Fall Play |
| November 4 th | November 18 th |
| • SAT Testing | • Fall Play |
| • Regional Cheerleading Finals @ Robinson | November 20 th |
| November 8 th | • Fall Sports Banquet |
| • NHS Meeting | • WPPTSA Meeting |
| • Latino Parent Night | November 22 nd |
| November 9 th | • Academic Awards Ceremony |
| • Marching Band Awards Dinner | November 23 rd to 24 th |
| November 10 th | • Thanksgiving Holiday |
| • Touchbase w/ Teacher | November 27 th |
| • SR Regional Orchestra Auditions | • Leadership Team Meeting |
| • Three Hour Delayed Opening (10:30am) | November 28 th |
| November 11 th | • US Navy Recruiters @ Lunch |
| • SR Regional Orchestra Auditions | November 29 th |
| • Cross Country State Championships @ The Plains | • JR Class Dinner |
| November 15 th | |
| • Fall Play | |
| November 16 th to 17 th | |



Welcome, New NHS Members!

Sydney Smith
Wire Reporter

The National Honor Society (NHS) at our school starts a new chapter this October when the new wave of students are inducted. According to NHS sponsor, Kirsten Wiley, the application process begins with an invitation, "All students who have a 3.5 GPA or above receive an invitation to apply to NHS." These applicants are then required to write

an essay describing their qualifications. According to Wiley, "A faculty committee that consists of five teachers from different disciplines reviews the applications and scored them using the rubric based on the key points of NHS (scholarship, citizenship, character, community, and service)." Congratulations to the following students who were inducted into NHS:

Allen, George Forrest 10
Amos, Margaret 11
Batchelor, Travis 11
Blair, Leigh 10
Blazkiewicz, Maja 11
Bradley, Joseph 10
Brooks, Hannah 10
Burke, Erin 12
Cate, Mara 11
Cochran, Jacob 11
Connor, Meghan 10
Cooksey, Amelia 10
Crimmins, Bess 11
Danso, Amazing Grace 10
Davis, Alexander 12
Davis, Danielle 10
Donovan, Megan 11
Ess, Rachel 10

Funk, Daniel 12
Fuqua, Matthew 10
Gibson, Carolyn 12
Ha, Yoon-Ji 10
Hanson, Elizabeth 11
Ilyas, Mariya 10
Jacobs, Elizabeth 10
Kremer, Justin 11
Krohnal, Zachary 10
Kuffour, Susana 12
Lee, Anna 10
Lee, Katherine 11
Ludovici, Joseph 10
MacPherson, Cindy 11
Matthews, Devin 10
Matthews, Dylan 10
McCann, Samuel 11
McDowell, Brandon 12
Olechewicz, Cheryl 10

Patriath, Roshni 12
Perkins, Katherine 12
Perscheid, Mara 10
Reeves, Jessie 10
Rehe, Eric 10
Rice, John 10
Roamthong, Julie 10
Sajjad, Maryam 10
Schmalz, Lauren 12
Smith, Laura 12
Swinson, Andrew 11
Thompson, John 10
Trimble, George 12
Tyquingo, Marina 12
Walker, Celeste 10
Wilson, Brianne 10
Wood, Kelly 10

Color Guard Betting Scandal

Drew Smith

Wire Reporter



Photo by Drew Smith

Color guard practices long tosses for their football halftime shows, where people bet on how often flags and other equipment will be dropped.

Halftime is where one would expect to see the dance team busting a move, and the marching band and Color Guard putting on a show. However, one would not expect there to be betting during this time. Starting last year, and continuing this year, there has been betting against the color guard. Students count how many times the members of the Color Guard drop any piece of equipment. While some members of the color guard are offended by this, most of them see this betting as a sign of immaturity in our school.

Captain of the guard is senior Megan Hartley, who uses the betting as motivation to practice harder to land all of her tosses. She is not the only one who feels that this is an opportunity to show the school how successful the color guard can be. Now a two time winner at the Parade of Champions Competition held at James Madison University, the performances of the color guard have gotten more difficult, resulting in the increased number of mistakes during performances. Along with

the increased amount of new equipment, such as rifles, medicine balls, swing flags, and four giant flags this year, the guard is having trouble improving their performances. However, they choose not to hide behind this when approached with the opportunity to talk about the betting and

how it affects their performances. Instead, they promote the idea that the people that are betting on them have no idea how difficult color guard really is. Senior Sam Haunle challenges the betters, stating, "If anyone thinks they can do it better, find me and you can prove it to me. Anytime, anywhere." While the anger of the color guard is understandable, it is interesting to learn that of all twenty one girls, only nine of them were actually offended by the betting going on.

The most disturbing effect of the betting to the color guard members is how the betters yell at them while they pass the stands on their way to the field. These taunts and cheering not only distracts the girls while on the field, but have also been known to effect their emotions. Many of the girls leave the field after the performance in tears because of what the betters had yelled at them from the stands. However, many of the band members think that the betting was a positive occurrence. Tuba player, senior James Hale has a message for the color guard girls. "Stop dropping the flags, the whole band is suffering. Try harder. Stop complaining." This is very similar to the view of the betters. Both think that they were there to support and inspire the color guard to do better, which is exactly how the color guard sees it.

The process of how the kids bet is that when the marching band leaves the stands to warm up before half time, the kids yell out the numbers of times they think the color guard will drop their flags. The person who was the closest to the actual number of times the girls dropped gets all the money. However, most of the kids who bet don't necessarily put down money, or collect it from everyone who betted. "We didn't do it to make fun



Photo by Drew Smith

Taunts and jeers are distracting and emotionally unstable for the color guard, who put many hours into perfecting their routine.

of people, we just did it to have fun," said senior Joey Albano. The betting started almost as relaxed. The kids noticed how the color guard dropped their equipment, and just casually called out the expected number of drops at the next football game. This system of betting has continued for two years now, and with the sharp improvements of the color guard throughout the season as a direct result of the betting, chances are great it will continue.

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News Briefs

Mariya Ilvay

News Editor

Competition for Seniors:

Seniors, do you want to win \$100? Then, enter and win the class of 2007 all-night graduation celebration logo contest! Entry forms are available in room 504. See the art teacher, Ms. Amy Stoll, for more details. This competition is sponsored by the All Night Graduation Celebration Committee and the PTSA.

Eid al-Fitr:

Ramadan ended on Sunday, October 22, 2006. After Ramadan ends, Muslims celebrate Eid al-Fitr, which is about equivalent to a Christian Christmas. This year, Eid was either celebrated on October 23rd or 24th, depending on the specific sect (Sunni or Shia). On Eid, Muslims dress in new clothes, go to the mosque for a morning prayer, eat sweets all day, and exchange gifts, usually in the form of money. Muslim girls often celebrate Eid by decorating their hands with detailed henna



Candace Barbary/MSK

Muslim girls celebrate Eid by decorating their hands with intricate henna designs.

("menda") designs on their hands and feet. Eid Mubarak ("Happy Eid") to all!

National Student Leadership Conference:

Congratulations to our Thomas J. Cleary and Emily Kabbach, class of 2006 students selected last year to participate in the National Student Leadership Conference (NSLC). NSLC is an extraordinary leadership development program for outstanding high school students—giving students an opportunity to experience and develop the skills and traits that define and identify a leader. During the conference, students attend special workshops and classes where they study distinctions of leadership.

Governor's School:

Governor's School is a prestigious experience for high school students on a college campus to study a specific course for free. Good luck! Those applying, here are a few due dates to be aware of:

- NOVEMBER 3—Visual and Performing Arts Candidates: Pages 1 and 2 of VPA Application due
- DECEMBER 8—Academic & Mentorship applications including teacher recommendations due
- DECEMBER 15—Visual and Fine Arts applications due to student services
- JANUARY 13—Visual and Performing Arts nominees adjudicate at Shenandoah University
- MID-APRIL 2007—Notification of status mailed directly to nominees from the VA Department of Education



STATE ELECTIONS



George Allen

Sam McCann

Wire Reporter

The 411: The incumbent in the November race for the Senate is Republican George Allen. Allen has a firmly conservative set of values, and his stances on many key issues are reflective of such principles. According to a poll posted on the *Washington Post.com* on October 23, 2006, Allen led his opponent, Democrat James Webb by 2%, and with the November 7 elections fast approaching, he is the favorite to maintain the lead and retain his seat in what many consider to be a pivotal state in determining Congressional majority.

Real Deal on the Issues: During the six years he has served Virginia in the Senate, Allen has been a staunch opponent of abortion, with the lone exception being when the mother's life is in jeopardy. According to *ontheissues.org*, he said in a 2000 press release that partial birth abortion, or the termination of a fetus late in the pregnancy, is, "not medically justifiable and barbaric."

Allen has taken a firm stance against gay and lesbian marriage. He has made it clear that he believes that marriage is solely between a man and a woman, and therefore feels that same-sex marriage is morally wrong.

He is also against withdrawing troops from Iraq, believing in the importance of seeing the War on Terror through to the end. Allen has consistently sided with President Bush on this issue.

Also, he is in favor of continuing the use of many controversial techniques, such as stress positions and sleep deprivation, when interviewing detainees, but reiterated that, "I'm not for torture, I'm not for water boarding [making a prisoner think they are drowning by pouring water over them while they are blindfolded]."

As far as ecological issues go, the Senator has made minimal efforts at preservation.

According to *ontheissues.org*, Allen was rated a 0% by the LCV, an environmental organization, which is indicative of his limited focus on the environment. He has voted no on a proposition for the use of hydrogen-powered vehicles, and opposes using federal funds to stop global warming. Allen has a clearly conservative value set, which makes him the candidate of choice for Virginian Republicans.

How it affects US: On issues pertinent to the school, Allen has very definitive views. He is a supporter of standardized testing, and claims that the tests force schools to be held responsible for their results.

He introduced the "Flexibility for Champion Schools Act," which, according to his web site, ensures that states with well-equipped education systems, such as Virginia, don't have to lessen the quality of their public education in order to keep equal footing with inferior school systems.

On immigration, the senator firmly believes in the need for border security, and sums up his belief on his web site by saying "we are a nation of immigrants, we are also a nation of laws." He also feels that illegal activity cannot be rewarded, and therefore considers illegal immigrants amnesty wrong. He voted against the Senate Immigration Bill, which would have granted such a reprieve to aliens.

Food for thought: Despite the recent attacks on his character, stemming primarily from perceived racial remarks, Allen will likely manage to cling to his lead for another few days, and come away with a win over Webb. The fact of the matter is that Virginia is a traditionally red-state, and will likely stay true to its roots.



Chuck Kennedy/KRT

Jim Webb

Emily Kubbach

Wire Reporter

The 411: This Republican-turned-Democrat has been in the race for a mere eight months, but has proved to be a formidable opponent to Republican incumbent George Allen. Despite the fact that Webb was Navy Secretary under President Reagan and even endorsed Allen in his 2000 senatorial bid, he is gaining a large following, especially among Northern Virginian Democrats.

Real deal on the issues: Webb is most adamant about his unyielding opposition to the War in Iraq, a stance he has taken since before the war started. He believes in withdrawing troops as soon as possible, but acknowledges that the country cannot be left in its current condition. He is proposed catalyst to American withdrawal involves 1) making it clear that the U.S. does not intend to be a long-term presence, and 2) negotiating with Iraq's neighbors to create a stable region. However, *The Daily Progress* points out that Webb "views the American military presence [in Iraq] as a strategic mistake, while other Democrats view it as a moral mistake."

Concerning the War on Terrorism, he believes that the Geneva Accords must be upheld, so as not to give dangerous nations an excuse to defy them. He does believe that the interrogation of detainees (a gray area) is useful, however.

Staying in line with the Democratic Party, Webb is also an advocate of the woman's right to choose and opposes a constitutional ban on gay marriages, instead he is advocating civil unions.

On the issue of energy, Webb is a supporter of seeking alternative sources of fuel, such as solar and nuclear power. Going hand in hand with his belief that our nation must

become less dependent on oil, he opposes the hot-button issue of drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

However, Webb views the issue of affirmative action, an important part of the Democratic platform, as "state-sanctioned racism" because it applies to every ethnic group except Caucasians. He believes that it should either return to an African-American-only program or also be extended to poor whites, whom he believes equally suffer.

How it affects US: Jim Webb is a full supporter of the No Child Left Behind Act, which emphasizes a focus on schools being held accountable for test results.

He believes that it should be fully funded so that schools get the resources they need to meet the national standards. When they fail to do so, their students are encouraged and allowed to transfer to another school that will provide them with a better education (public choice).

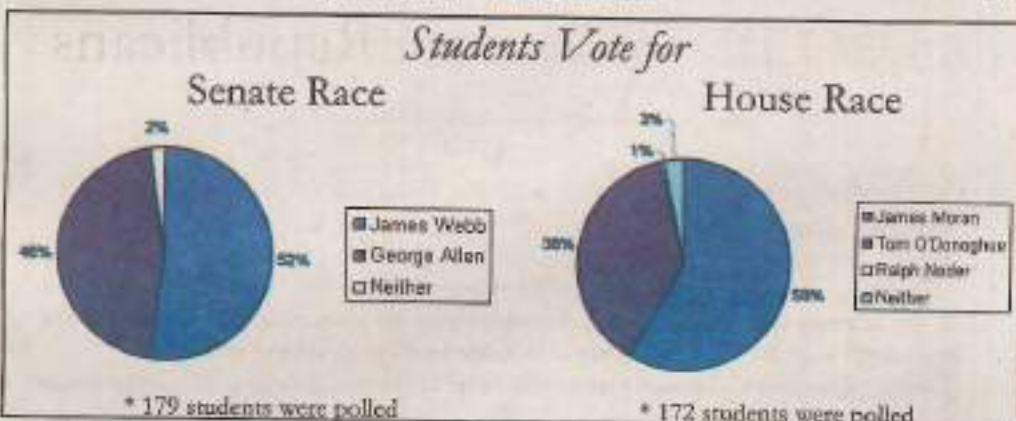
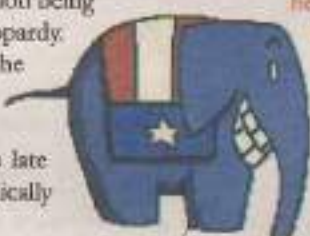
Some argue that the No Child Left Behind Act brings down the quality of our education by forcing our teachers to "teach to the test" as opposed to an engaging curriculum.

On another issue close to home, immigration, Webb believes in allowing illegal immigrants the right to become American citizens.

Food for thought: Although he has embraced (and been embraced by) the Democratic Party, his views reflect a Republican foundation. As opposition to the administration and its Congressional followers grows stronger, one cannot be sure whether a vote for Webb is really a vote for Webb, or simply a vote against Bush puppet Allen.



Chuck Kennedy/KRT



Elections Go Negative

Emmanuel Koduah

Wire Reporter

As we draw closer to the November elections, the number of negative ads in the media is starting to increase as the candidates bash each other for the vote of the public.

It is during this time that we start to hear about who voted for increasing taxes, who opposes education money and in the case of Maryland Republican Senate Candidate Michael Steele, who hates puppies. Some politicians even go as far as to take personal and family attacks on their opponents.

With the voting age being eighteen, a majority of the students at our school are not eligible to vote yet but will be in the near future. It is important to know the truth from the exaggeration or simply untrue in these negative ads. The best way to learn the truth about any candidate is to research. It is the voter's responsibility to learn all about the candidates they will choose to vote for.

There are a number of resources to learn about these candidates, the most obvious resource being the internet. You can learn about candidates through their party web sites and other informational web sites. (Vagop.com- Republican party, vademocrats.com - Democratic Party).

Another resource that most voters do not know about is public records. All of the public have access to the public records of political candidates. Voters can find out what their legislators voted for or against when it comes to laws and taxes.

Voting is a huge part of our democratic government. As we get closer to holding this privilege, it is important that we know our responsibilities. With elections right around the corner you are bound to see more negative ads. Do not take their word for it; research their facts to see which are actually true, you might be surprised.

Mudslinging to the Max

Zach Feinstein

Online Editor

This year's senate election for Virginia is becoming controversial, with candidates Democrat Jim Webb and Republican George Allen using harsh tactics to smear their opponent. The election this year received national coverage when George Allen called one of Jim Webb's supporters a "macaca," which is also the genesis of a monkey.

Ever since, certain individuals have come to the media and told them of many of Allen's wrongdoings. When asked about Allen's campaign, senior Eric Trouton said, "You don't need to mudsling George Allen, he'll just dig himself into a hole by things such as the macaca scandal." Recently, Allen was accused of being a racist after someone who he roomed with him in college said he used racist jokes about blacks at the time.

With all of the controversy surrounding Allen, Webb has raised a considerable amount of money for his campaign and he is catching up to Allen in the polls. From a *Washington Post* News Poll, Allen has 49% when compared to Webb's 47%. Allen, who has lately been trying to clean up his past, has been on the attack against Webb. Recently, it has come out that Webb, during the 1970s, wrote an article stating that women should not be in the Navy or be accepted into a Naval Academy. Webb said his opinion has changed on the subject and he regrets that decision.

Both candidates have continuously slammed each other to make themselves look better. The Republicans accuse the Democrats of trying to make Allen look like a racist and have accused them of making up false acquisitions. Junior Andrew Lewis, when asked about mudslinging said, "There is no point in mudslinging because it only makes you look worse and your opponent better." Recently, Allen and his wife appeared on a two minute commercial which tried to sway voters away from the controversy and back to the politics.

Iraq has also been a main point of the election. With Webb being opposed to it and calling for the troops to come home immediately, Allen wants the troops to stay until they get the job done. The main issues are Iraq, the economy, safety, and many others have been completely overshadowed by all of this mudslinging by the Allen and Webb campaigns. For the students who have watched the election and all of the mudslinging, junior Julia Magill said, "Mudslinging has gotten popular in this election, but it makes both candidates appear immature and devious." Mudslinging is making a false statement to damage someone's image. No matter what the outcome for the election, this year's election will always be remembered for its infamous mudslinging that brought attention to both of these politicians past.



CLASS OFFICERS



Are Class Elections Popularity Contests?

Erin Burke

Wire Reporter

Portrayed in multiple teen films, complained about by nerds, and remained a fact of high school life for decades are high school elections.

In these fictional depictions offices are typically won by popularity and not by merit and qualifications. 73% of Leadership students at our school agree that the Student Government Association is thought of as a popularity contest. (16 leadership students participated in the survey.)

It is evident that the same students that

are seen as star players on sports teams, the kids with the best parties, and those with the hottest friends are usually also serving as class officers in the SGA.

While these students may also be well qualified, it is also evident that they were awarded their positions based on how many students recognized their name on the ballot. As Leadership student and freshman class treasurer Wesley Stevens stated, "[SGA] is a popularity contest because no one cares about what you will do. If you are popular, you win."

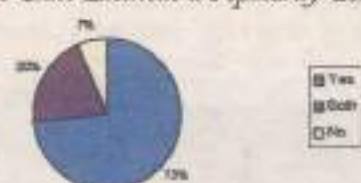
We have all seen the work of the SGA;

homecoming, the pep rally, and other events or fundraisers that increase school spirit are evidence that these leaders work hard and do a good job. I am not saying that the SGA is full of ditzzy, lazy jocks or "mean girls", but I am saying that the SGA is a group of kids that we have seen throughout the school in many different forms.

I believe that more students should get involved and not just sit and complain about how bad their class activities (or lack thereof) are. It is no use to anyone to whine and not get involved. For example, Stevens ran for an SGA office

because he wanted to get involved and be heard. It is also no use for anyone to run for an office simply to get those brownie points for college applications. If the SGA is full of students who only seek recognition, then nothing will get done, or, rather, it will, but there will always be that ulterior motive getting in the way.

Are Class Elections a Popularity Contest?



'07 SENIORS

Nick Friederich



Photo by Lakeisha

President

What did you promise the class of 2007?
"I promised to make it the best year possible."
What are your plans for the class of 2007?
"My plans are to make it as fun as possible"

Jonathan Copeland



Photo by Lakeisha

Vice President

What did you promise the class of 2007?
"[I promised to] listen to what everyone has to say and make sure what they want is provided."
What are your plans for the class of 2007?
"To get DJ's for every event."

'08 JUNIORS

Megan Donovan



Photo by Lakeisha

President

What did you promise the class of 2008?
"I promised to raise enough money so that we would not have to have prom in the cafeteria."
What are your plans for the class of 2008?
"To have fun while raising enough money to have a good prom."

Dever Carney



Photo by Lakeisha

Vice President

What did you promise the class of 2008?
"To have a lot of fun this year."
What are your plans for the class of 2008?
"To raise enough money to throw a hanging prom."

'09 SOPHOMORES

John Rice



Photo by Lakeisha

President

What did you promise the class of 2009?
"I promised we'd make money, but I didn't know how."
What are your plans for the class of 2009?
"We want to launch a talent show and have a dance."

Darryl Sharp



Photo by Lakeisha

Vice President

What did you promise the class of 2009?
"More student activities. Do I have to say anything else?"
What are your plans for the class of 2009?
"We've already done the float, and we hear that students want a talent show, [so we're working on that.]"

'10 FRESHMEN

Michael Johnson



Photo by Lakeisha

President

What did you promise the class of 2010?
"I have made no direct promises because I didn't want people to hold me to them."
What are your plans for the class of 2010?
"I plan to raise as much money as possible through fund raisers and make this an exciting year."

Chyna Johnson-Owens



Photo by Lakeisha

Vice President

What did you promise the class of 2010?
"To help with problems and accept ideas from students."
What are your plans for the class of 2010?
"To make this the best year."

Young Democrats in Full Swing

Devon Cain

Wire Reporter

It is a Thursday afternoon and the science hall in Gunston is quiet...too quiet. Then, the clock strikes 2:15 and the spirited voices of the Young Democrats pierce the uncomfortable silence with vocalized ideas of progress.

The West Potomac Young Dems, what they refer to themselves as, are already in full swing and hope to contribute to the community consistently throughout this year. "Our purpose is to get involved in the community and support campaigns that care about the issues that matter the most to those people," stated senior Eric Trouton, Co-President of Young Democrats.

Earlier this fall, the Dems passed out literature on many occasions. At Back-to-School night motivated students were found milling about the parents and passing out sample Democratic ballots. Some of the Young Democrats were also in attendance at the Jim Webb rally that took place in Old Town earlier this October. Here they joined hundreds of fellow supporters in our area and listened in rapt attention to the famed senator of Illinois, Barack

Obama, as he delivered a stirring speech. The Young Dems also united with the Environmental Club in an early-morning cleanup one Sunday at Belle Haven Marina.

While eating lunch, you also might have heard the Young Dems inviting all eligible students to register to vote for the upcoming elections. "Anyone can make a difference, no matter what the age. As a young person, you might even have more influence," stated senior Patrick Trimble, Co-President of Young Democrats. The Dems



The Young Democrats held up their sign during a democratic rally in Old Town.

Photo from Young Dems

also distributed and offered to mail in registrations in Old Towne for people registering.

The members of this student-run group strive to be leaders in the community. "Everyone in the club has a passion for a cause. We know what we are supporting and why we're supporting it," commented Trimble. Facebook and constant emails make it easy for the Young Democrats to remain up to date so they can contribute any day of the week. With fun and productive events taking place almost every weekend, the members of Young Democrats remain motivated to promote their candidates and their diverse views. This, combined with the resources that their club sponsor, math teacher Nance Cedar, provides for them allow the students to connect with other Dems in the area. Trouton declared, "It's a lot of fun. What we do is good for everyone, republicans and democrats alike."

Hats Off to Teenage Republicans

Kate Sigety

Wire Reporter

With the 2006 November elections in mind, the West Potomac Teenage Republicans are doing more than enough to push their party's candidate for Senate, George Allen, to the top.

Informing voters about the Republican Party and what they stand for is the main objective of the Teenage Republicans. Getting involved with the community and interacting with local voters over the matter has proved to be the best way to achieve this.

Over the weekends the Teenage Republicans have been seen canvassing local neighborhoods

to support their party. "Canvassing local neighborhoods before the election and passing out literature at the poll booths are two of the most effective ways to get the Republican message across. Interacting at the local poll booths is also a great way for us as an organization to learn more about what we represent by discussing our positions on certain topics with fellow republicans," stated junior Laura Howell, president of Teenage Republicans.

The largest issues that the Teenage Republicans have been discussing most are lowering taxes, as well as the gas prices in the area. To help the students form their different political views on these issues on a higher level and understand the Republican concepts more thoroughly, many speakers from around the area have come to talk to the organization. "Listening to the speakers from our district and what they had to say helped give my views about issues going on in our nation a firmer foundation and also allowed me to practice my debating skills," stated sophomore Teenage Republican, Forrest Allen.

To learn more about the Republican Party, partake in discussions, and help out in the community, all students are welcome to come and attend meetings as well as become a member of the Teenage Republicans. Meetings are held on Mondays after school, at 2:15 p.m. in sponsor, Mr. Dobson's room.



Many George Allen signs can be seen in the area such as this one that was put up on Collingwood Road.

Photo by Caroline Samples

Out of the Picture

Jocelyn Finfrock

Style Editor

There are many sports at this school for students to partake in, however, for some students that is not enough. Many students at this school are involved in various unique sports outside of school. From horseback riding, skiing, and Tae Kwon Do, there is a sport designed to fit everyone's personality.

Outside of school and cheerleading, Senior Robyn Burton is a horseback rider. Burton commits much of her time to practicing and competing. "I am at the barn every day for about three to four hours- excluding all day horse shows on Sunday and away horse shows that can be up to a week long" Burton has had a love for horses ever since she was young, but has been competing for nine years. When asked how she started riding, Burton stated, "My mom is a horse /riding trainer and we went to the barn and I was introduced to this



Perschied is all smiles with her coach Jason Yoo after receiving the Female Performance Award at the Virginia Open.

Photo courtesy of Perschied family

tiny pony named Rosie, and ever since I have been riding." For anyone who is interested in riding horses or even just likes to be around them, there are many places close by that you can go to get information. "If you want lessons you will probably be put on a waiting list but barns are always looking for workers. So if you want to just be around horses they will teach you how to do things and you can work for the barn."

Outside of school Sophomore Mara Perschied takes Tae Kwon Do. A regular week consists of four practices, however, when she is training for a competition she has practice everyday. She takes it at Yoo's Martial Arts which is located in Mt. Vernon Square off of Route 1. "I started taking Tae Kwon Do because my brother did it and it seemed interesting," said Perschied. Perschied won the 2006 U.S. Open last year which is a huge accomplishment considering athletes from nearly thirty countries compete. Along with winning the U.S. Open, Perschied is also a four time National Junior champion in Tae Kwon Do. Yoo's Martial Arts, which is where Perschied trains, not only has Tae Kwon Do, but also teaches Hapkido and Kung Fu. Hapkido is a Korean martial art that is similar to Tae Kwon Do and Kung Fu is an ancient Chinese method of self-defense. "If a student is interested in one of these sports they should come to the studio and watch a class that they are interested in," said Perschied. Martial Arts are a great way to stay in shape, have fun, and also learn good self-



Sophomore Mara Perschied waits for the start of her opening match at the 2006 North Carolina Open in which she placed first. Perschied trains at Yoo's Sport Tae Kwon Do.

defense techniques.

Imagine having to drive hours every weekend to Wintergreen Ski Resort just to be able to go skiing. For Senior Katherine Stone that is exactly what she has to do. "I leave every Friday after school and get home on Sunday evenings", stated Stone. Stone is on the Wintergreen Rac Team and has competed for five years. "I have been skiing forever. It is a family hobby and my brothers also raced," said Stone. For Stone skiing is a way of life. When asked why she loved to ski, Stone replied, "No speed, no limit, no cops, no brakes."

Participating in sports such as horseback riding, Tae Kwon Do and Skiing is a great way to experience new things and make new friends. Do not limit yourself to the activities in school.

First Time for Frisbee Club

Caroline Staples

Focus Editor

All it took was a short trip down to Student Activities to get a form, fill it out, encourage a teacher to become the sponsor, and turn it back in for junior Nick Schaum to start the frisbee club.

"Frisbee is awesome! A lot of people wanted to play ultimate frisbee," was Schaum's reason for creating this ideal club. A whopping forty students, plus sponsor math teacher Pam Conrad, attended the first meeting on Wednesday, October 4, in room 182. Although the first meeting was a bit hectic, being there was only one frisbee to entertain around three dozen students. "Everyone seemed to have a lot of fun," said to Conrad. Mrs. Wilmer, an ultimate frisbee team player herself, also went to offer her services to the club. During the first part of the meeting, the club got together, took attendance, and then shortly after they went outside near the tennis courts to create teams.

"I thought it sounded like a lot of fun as long as I did not need to know any of the rules and the kids could play right outside of my room

window where I could see them," stated Conrad after Schaum proposed the idea two weeks before the first meeting. The club does not have any official officers (although many people came up to Schaum asking to be secretary or vice president) because there is no need for them considering all they really do is play frisbee. The only "officers" they say they have are Schaum, junior James Dressing, and junior Justin Kremer. Dressing and Kremer also helped to start the club that unexpectedly became the Wednesday highlight for a multitude of students.

Even though this may seem like just a club to some, other students would actually like a chance to compete in an Ultimate Frisbee game against other teams. Thomas Jefferson is the only known school that has a Frisbee team. Schaum and others hope Frisbee club members will be able to play against them. Another possibility the Frisbee Club has in mind is a junior vs. senior match to create a little competition between the classes.

Besides having fun and learning about Frisbee, it is quite the workout. After the second meeting, many of the boys that took their game seriously came back into the school with a good sweat coming off their brow. Although it is not a sport at our school, it is to the members of the Frisbee Club.



Photo by Drew Smith



The defense cannot come close to blocking a forward pass during a friendly game of Ultimate Frisbee. The club meets regularly and plays outside of the math building so their sponsor, Pam Conrad, can keep a close eye on their game.

Boys' Be Ballin'

Varsity Basketball Prepares for Season

Nevin Alber

Wire Reporter

After a 10-12 season, most teams would look back on the season seeing only failure. But, for our varsity basketball team, this is not the case. Our record has improved from our 2-20 not too long ago. Last year our team went through a time of rebuilding, varsity coach David Houston described. The team learned many skills last year, such as the importance of closing at the end of a game. This is because seven out of twelve games were lost by three points or less.

This year's team is focusing on versatility. "The strengths of our team this season will be our ability to adapt to different styles of play," said Houston. This means the team is going to be able to play more physically, faster, and precisely. This year's team has players who are able to have the physical ability and the skills to play various styles of basketball. These players are led by returning seniors, Elex Speights, Lataress Hawthorne, Zaid Brooks-Sakhir, and Demetrius Smith.

Unlike other basketball programs,

our program is not just worried about the player. The team prides its self on making all their ball players good citizens that embrace the student body as well as the community. Our school's basketball philosophy states, "Our job is to teach children to be good citizens and to develop those citizens into young men. We need to develop players through our program, and invite the student body and

community to be part of that program. With the development of players, good citizens and young men working together as a team we will then achieve our goal of being successful on the court and in life."

The team has been working hard and has been looking forward to this season ever since losing in last year's district tournament. They use this disappointment as an inspiration to succeed in this year's season. The team has gone through summer camps and conditioning in order to keep in shape and prepare for upcoming games. Each and every player is dedicated to make this school's program one of the premier teams in our district and bring home a championship.



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Fall Sports Provide Excitement and Room for Improvement

Jon Yoo

Sports Editor

Football Makes Final Push For Title

Record: 4-4 (key remaining games against South County and T.C. Williams)

Key Players: Josh Wells (RB), Chris Farquhar (QB), Neal Hardie (WR), Cody Demmel (LB)

Season Highlight: Down 14-6 in the 4th quarter against Lee. The Wolverines scored 27 unanswered points to come up with a 33-14 victory.

Coach's Corner: "The season has been a success as of late. However we can not afford to lose focus, because we have to win out our last two games to have a shot to make it into the playoffs." — Eric Henderson

Senior Thought: "It has been the greatest feeling of turning the program around and improving football at our school. It has helped build memories from the locker room to the field that can never be replaced." — Chris Farquhar

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Mountain Too Steep for Volleyball Team

Record: 6-9 (Lost opening district round Lake Braddock)

Key Players: Jayne Seward, Jessie Hines, Jamie Coder, Susan Guerra, Leigh Blair

Season Highlight: Senior Night Thriller against Lake Braddock, which went into a five game set. Even though the team lost 15-15 in the fifth and final game, it was the best they played all year long.

Coach's Corner: "I have enjoyed coaching this season far more than any years in the past. All the girls share a close bond, and we had strong senior captains in Jessie and Jayne."

Senior Thought: "Volleyball has been a blast. My sister said I should try it our freshmen year to make friends, and I have had so much fun and built so many relationships. It has helped not only with my athletic ability, but my leadership skills as well." — Jessie Hines



In The Numbers

27

University of Southern California's regular season winning streak that was snapped after their 33-31 loss to Oregon State.

1

number of times that our varisty cheerleading squad has made it to Regionals after placing fourth in last week's district tournament at Hayfield.

27

unanswered points scored by our football team in their comeback win over Lee. The team was trailing 14-6 heading into the 4th quarter before taking over.

1st

place that junior Elizabeth Heath finished in at the Partiot Ditrit Tour-nament.

Boys' and Girls Cross Country Cross Finish Line Victorios

Record: Both the boys and girls finished second in the district.

Key Runners: Elizabeth Heath, Kely Rosenburg, Kelly Jamison, Paul Devar, Kelly Carmichael, Chris Deroze

Season Highlight: Lead by Heath, the girl's squad finished first overall at the Bull Run Meet.

Coaches Corner: "I thought that the season was highly successful, however it all depends on how we do at the regional championships. I still have high expectations for how we end the season." — Don Beeby

Senior Thought: "Cross Country was the best sport that I chose to do, it was amazing with all the competition and meet that our school was in. Everyone tried their best and pushed each other as much as possible." — Franklin Pagan



Field Hockey Rebuilds For 2007 Season

Record: 3-9 (Lost opening district round to T.C. Williams)

Key Players: Jana Decoster, Sara Mathewson, Melissa Conway, Jennifer Conway, Kristin Massey, Audrey Care, and Jenn Hoffman

Season Highlight: The squad's offensive outburst in the Herndon tournament, in which Decoster scored three goals.

Senior Spotlight: "Even though we weren't always successful, I have no regrets. I had so much fun over the past four years, and made some of my best friends. It has not hit me yet that it is all over, but I know I am going to miss everything about it." — Jana Decoster



Day In The Life of... Benevolent Beeby

Sara Mathewson

Style Editor

You may have seen him parading around the halls either in between classes or after school. Mr. DON Beeby has been a part of this school for a total of twenty one years, first being a student here at West Potomac, and now working as a history teacher.

A typical day for Beeby includes his daily work as a history teacher; his classes include three Government classes, in which he teaches seniors, and two World History and Geography 2 classes, where he teaches sophomores. His day begins at 5:15 in the morning, he goes on a run for about twenty or thirty minutes before beginning to get ready for school. He arrives in the morning at school at 7:00 am in order to prepare for his day. He enjoys his teaching job just as much as he does coaching. "My teaching and coaching job are too different to like one better than the other. My teaching experience is different each year." Twelfth grade history teacher Eric Henderson said of Beeby, "He is a dedicated teacher and coach, I consider him to be a good and personal friend of mine."

After school, he is the head coach of the cross country team for both boys and girls. You can see him out on the track from 3:00 - 5:00 every week day to prepare for their upcoming race on Thursday. The cross country team is participating in a regional meet, the girls team is ranked sixth in the state, and both the boy's and girl's team were second in the district. "I started out coaching the cross country team so that I wouldn't have to be moved to a new school when I

first started teaching. I've had a few difficult years as a coach, which forced me to change the way I was doing it." Senior Nick Wasilewski said, "He makes you want to work harder than you normally would, he is very straightforward, honest and very compelling." Wasilewski has been a part of the school's cross country team and has been under the coaching of Beeby for four years now. Junior Corey Gray said, "He is an excellent motivator, he has been doing this for over twenty years so I think he knows what he is doing." When asked about his coaching career, Beeby said, "It is difficult to grasp and appreciate what comes your way until you achieve success."

Although Beeby spends most of his time here at the school, he does have a life at home. He enjoys spending quality with his family. Beeby said, "I go on vacation with my family a lot to North Carolina to visit our relatives." He spends his summers out in northern Wisconsin where he has a log cabin. There; he is



Mr. Beeby is very proud to be the coach of the cross country team. He posts pictures of his athletes on the walls to show off their success.

Photo by Brittany Canina

able to express his love of the outdoors. During some weekend vacations, Beeby likes to ride in the country, not on a horse, but in a car. He simply likes to drive through the country side and enjoy the scenery. Sometimes he goes to Bed and Breakfasts to relax and spend quality time with his family. These are the lodging facilities that are owned and operated by single families. They rent out rooms in their house to travelers, like a hotel, but they feel more like home. His family also takes time to visit small restaurants; he likes to experience new ones as much as possible.

He enjoys watching athletic events and these don't include only sports involving West Potomac. When the time comes, Beeby is sure to watch the national lacrosse championship; he is a big lacrosse fan.

It is easy to assume that Mr. Beeby will never leave the school.

said, "I love the school, it is a neighborhood school. West Potomac does a good job of catering to the needs of the neighborhood." Wasilewski said, "He makes you want to work hard, and he makes you want to do your best."

State of the Arts



Alexandria Symphony
November 4, 2006
Hall and Arts Center
NOVA, Alexandria Campus

Lionel Richie
November 5, 2006
Meyerhoff Symphony Hall
Baltimore, MD

Death Cab For Cutie
November 7, 2006
Dar Constitution Hall
Washington, D.C.

Hello Goodbye
November 7, 2006
Recher Theatre
Towson, MD

The All-American Rejects
November 9, 2006
Patriot Center
Fairfax, VA

Common
November 10, 2006
Love
Washington, D.C.

Panic! At The Disco
November 11, 2006
Patriot Center
Fairfax, VA

Hoobastank
November 28, 2006
Sonar
Baltimore, MD

Hinder
November 25, 2006
Sonar
Baltimore, MD

Talking About Trumpet Artist of the Issue

Sydney Smith

Wire Reporter

If you are looking for sophomore Celeste Walker, chances are, she is in the band room.

Walker grew up with music. She learned how to play the piano at age four. "I started to play because my sister played the piano before me, plus my mom wanted me to, so I learned," she said. In fourth grade, Walker began to play in her elementary school's band. "I wanted to play either the flute or the clarinet. My music teacher told me that I needed to play a loud instrument, so she got me started on the trumpet." On an average, Walker practices every other day, but she jokingly added, "I practice a lot less during marching band season."

Walker plays the trumpet in our school's Wind Ensemble and after school Jazz Bands. According to her band instructor, Mr. Steve Rice, "She [Celeste] is one of the most talented students

and is also willing to work hard. I love having her in my class." In fact, Walker is so good that she made it into our school's top band, Wind Ensemble, her freshman year. According to friend Margaret Amos, the secret to Walker's success is "her positive, hard working attitude." Walker's other impressive credentials include having multiple solos during

the semiannual Jazz Band dances and making it into All-District Band last year. In addition to these amazing credentials, Walker has earned the grade of superior for her Solo Ensemble performance, she played for George Mason Honor Band last year, and currently plays in the Washington Metropolitan Youth Orchestra.

Other than being an amazing musician,

Walker is also a good friend. Amos said, "When I met Celeste at marching band my sophomore year, I could tell from the very beginning what a positive, and thoughtful person she was. I'm thankful that we're in the same section together."

Regardless of her talents, Walker still enjoys her big sister, Claire, who currently attends Indiana University (IU). According to Walker, "She [Claire] plays piano as well, but is studying percussion at the School of Music. She is my inspiration."

Walker's future plans include possibly joining the school's chorus next year. "I was in chorus from



Sophomore Celeste Walker enjoys being in the band room practicing on her trumpet as much as she can.

Photo by Brittany Canina

to eighth grade. I was going to take it here [high school], but I didn't have enough class. I took French 4 instead. So, next year I want to try out for Colonials or Soundations."

No matter where she goes, Walker plans to take her love of music with her. She says, "I just have a passion- I love it. You can express a lot through music."

BREAKING OUT THE SWEATERS

Grace Powell

Opinions Editor

It seems like each year, the cold weather comes as chilling shock. Just the other day, you might have been wearing shorts or a mini skirt. Now, you are summoning the winter clothing from the closet. In a culture that breathes fashion, it may be tough trying to figure out what is "in" this winter, but take a deep breath; the possibilities are endless.

Most people know that they will need the basics this winter: hat, scarf, gloves, and coat. With that in mind, the rest is up to you. An essential for senior Mariana Mendoya is "a nice scarf." You can purchase this without even leaving the school campus. Mendoya and the academy fashion design students are currently making hand-made scarves to sell for \$20-45.

Junior Pheriaha Paris listed what she thinks is classy this season: "Slouch boots, straight leg jeans, big belts, cuffed shirts and french coast dresses." These styles can be located at Payless, JC Penney's, Nordstrom and other such department stores. For girls who like to be sophisticated, wearing a trench coat with cropped pants and leather boots is an ideal outfit. To males, what you wear depends on your preference, last year the North Face jacket was popular. Some males may prefer blazers with collared shirts.

There is something for everyone when it comes to fashion. If you find yourself unable to stow away the bright summer clothes, there is a remedy: layer it. "I will come to school in a short skirt and wear it," said Paris. The rebirth of the 60's leggings, has allowed some girls to remain warm in clothing that would otherwise leave them shivering.

The importance of staying warm and looking good is a tough dilemma to some. However, in this day in age, things have changed. It is no longer fashion suicide to wear turtle necks. Knitted turtle neck sweaters, are abundant in colors and styles this year. Try incorporating interesting patterns such as stripes, animal prints, or plaid in your clothes; this will accent some of the dull winter colors.

Are you still aching for some style tips? Here is a very simple and fun exercise: sit down on the couch, pop some popcorn, and watch a movie. Movies are overflowing with the latest fashions. Fashion design teacher Tu-ah Nguyen explained how media is affecting clothing. "Fashion this winter is born again Renaissance, inspired by the movie *Marie Antoinette*. You will start to see the trend spread even more this spring." Nguyen further discussed that the movie *Monsters of a Genre* influenced the Oriental flavor seen in clothing this year.

What you choose to adorn yourself in this winter is totally your decision, just make sure it is something you like and hopefully ends up looking great in the process.



Seniors are the most creative artists of clothing for the winter season, because they are both warm and fashionable.

Unhappy Homecoming

Students were disappointed with the school dance

Adele Hampton

Editor-in-Chief

They should have given students five dollars as they left the gym. With all of the hype throughout spirit week, the Homecoming dance was supposed to be amazing. Students paid five dollars more than they paid last year, only to be let down, disappointed, and angry.

Two years ago it was twelve dollars, last year it was fifteen dollars, and this year it was twenty. As the amount of years keep adding up, so does the price of Homecoming. With the dress/tux, dinner, and the date, Homecoming can be rather expensive. Include the price of the actual tickets and one night of dancing in the gym turns into the price of a plane ticket to Miami, Florida. Florida sounds pretty good compared to dancing in a hot, sweaty gym with the lights on.

While many people find great comfort in dancing with the lights on, for the entire world (including teachers) to see, I personally feel that it is a bit invasive. It is always awkward, at any dance, to be dancing in front of your teachers, but this awkwardness is increased when the lights are on and you are exposed doing, and let



Homecoming king and queen, Don Funk and Sara Matheson pose for the camera at the half time show in the homecoming game against Lake Braddock. Funk and Matheson shared the king and queen dance at the Homecoming on Saturday night.

Photo by Brittany Canina

us be honest, not the most appropriate of dances.

Another major problem that the dance had this year was the DJ. Do not get me wrong, I like the cha-cha slide just as much as the next person, but to be doing it for twenty minutes is not fun. But did it stop

there? No. The DJ then continued to play the Electric slide, letting it drag on for a good ten minutes. So, added up, the total amount of time students spent doing some type of slide was about a half-hour.

While the DJ did play some popular songs such as Justin Timberlake's "Sexy Back" and Kelis' "Milkshake", they were hard to hear because the volume was so low. In addition to the problems with the volume and song choice, there were also some technical difficulties. Above the DJ booth there was a large screen meant for showing music videos. This would have been cool, if it had worked. Instead of playing songs back to back, the DJ would play one song and then a ten second pause would come right afterward as the video loaded, so students just stood around, talked, and waited until the next song started. Probably the worst part of the night was after the dance when the DJ said, "Have a great night. See you guys at Prom 2007."

With the cost of the dance and the bad DJ, one would question whether the Homecoming dance is really worth it. Many students felt that all the hype did not deliver and that it was just a waste of time.

The Beat on Spirit Week

Kelly Wood

Features Editor

Spirit week is a time to express school spirit and enjoy dressing up a little special. It is a way to get students pumped up for the homecoming game and the homecoming dance which follows.



Students participated in the first day of spirit week by dressing with their favorite college shirts.

Photo by Brittany Canina

Monday (college day) - On Monday, students wore sweatshirts and t-shirts that represented dozens of different colleges throughout Virginia and the entire country. There were shirts with colleges as far away as UCLA in California to U-Mass in Massachusetts. While most students only wore a college shirt, some went all out by painting their faces with the college colors.

Tuesday (opposite day) - Tuesday was definitely the

day to have had your camera handy. Around every corner there was another person dressed up causing you to smile. From girls in baggy pants and jerseys to guys in tight shirts and skirts, it was quite a sight to see. There was only a minority of students who had the courage to dress up, making them stand out among the average crowd. History teacher and football coach, Mr. Eric Henderson, even got into the spirit and amused many of his students by wearing a long skirt, purple shirt, necklace, and headband.

Wednesday (crazy hat day) - The day of the PSATs was brightened by the



Sophomore John Rice enjoyed participating in every hat day during spirit week.

Photo by Brittany Canina

many colorful and unique hats. Some wore baseball caps while other got more eccentric wearing fluffy hats, Jamaican hats, and even hats resembling animals. A few, deciding that hats were not their thing, colored their hair in vivid colors to be a part of the exciting day. Our already diverse school seemed even more varied with students wearing cowboy



Posters like this were set up throughout the school to let students know what the spirit days for the week were.

Photo by Brittany Canina

hats, princess tiaras, and French berets.

Thursday (decade day) - Decade day is always the day that receives the most enthusiasm from students, especially the girls. It was a flashback to the eighties with the side ponytails, mini skirts, off-the-shoulder shirts, and leg warmers. There were however several hippies and even poodle skirts representing the fifties. Boys with their hair greased back seemed as if they had come right out of the movie, Grease.

Friday (class colors day) - On Friday, the school was filled with blue, black, white, and gray. Seniors wore blue, juniors wore black, sophomores wore white, and freshmen wore gray. Students got pumped for the pep rally as the band went marching through the halls with the drum line playing loudly getting a beat running through your body. During lunch, the art club painted faces and did an amazing job. At the pep rally, students were seated by grade, making big clusters of the same color in the bleachers. There were outstanding performances from the dance team, varsity cheerleaders, JV cheerleaders, and of course, the All Male Drill Team. School spirit was also present at the homecoming game against Lake Braddock, where we won 37-21.



Students wore their class colors on the day of the pep rally in show support for their class.

Photo by Brittany Canina

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The Lowdown On Lost

Jon Yoo

Sports Editor

It is approximately 8:59 p.m. on a Wednesday night which means only one thing to senior Andrew Freitas. "Lost" is on. He quickly gets up to turn off all the lights and jumps back onto the couch, barely able to contain the anticipation and questions that he and the rest of the 20 million viewers across the nation want answered. It is nine p.m. now and the show has started.

Since its debut three seasons ago, "Lost" has become a huge success for ABC. With the annoyance of reality shows and end of major sitcoms, such as "Friends" and "Everybody Loves Raymond," many channels were desperate for series that would quickly bring back viewers. TV writers had to find a way to dictate viewer's thoughts and keep them interested and guessing.

"Lost" became the immediate answer for

ABC. Since its pilot episode, that followed the survivors of a sudden plane crash that landed them on a mysterious island, all the way to the third season of the main characters being captured by the "others" "Lost" has provided non-stop twists and turns that have kept viewers guessing and wanting more. "The show is extremely unpredictable; I can never tell what's coming next. Also, the show leaves many cliffhangers, and random endings, which forces me to watch the following episode," said Freitas. Another trait that the show contains is the flashbacks into the lives of the main characters, which help explain the behaviors and actions of the key survivors on the island. This gives the viewers an opportunity to relate to



Handout/ABC/KRT

ABC's hit t.v. show Lost which airs on Wednesdays at nine is one of the most watched shows on television.

the diverse group of characters on the show, who each bring their own swagger and manner that adds to the questions and adds to the

overall drama that viewers see. This is how the viewers break into the main story of the show, and builds chemistry between them and the characters, as if they themselves were on the island. Those who watch the show usually have a favorite figure. Freitas stated, "Sawyer is the man, he always comes through in the clutch, and he always gets the ladies on the island."

The Emmy and Golden Globe Award winning drama series' success has gone beyond viewer's TV screens. The devoted and growing fan base has made both, "Lost" Season one and two DVD sales the most of a TV show in the country. Senior Nick Thasin expressed the views of many viewers saying, "I watched the first episode, and I've been hooked ever since." With Season three in session, we can only expect that more and more will be hooked, and that the craze and hype will never stop.

Should Models Have to Pass The Body Mass Index Test?

The skinniest models in European countries are now required to have a body mass index of at least 18, or else they are not allowed on the catwalk. BMI is calculated through the mathematical formula $BMI = kg/m^2$. A normal and healthy BMI is in the range of 18.5-24.9.

(www.timesonline.co.uk)



Photo courtesy of Junior Seaward

"It is ridiculous to subject models to testing because it would eliminate some of the most hard-working models in the world."

~Senior, Becky Holloway

"They shouldn't be required because people can be beautiful at all sizes, a body mass index test is the worst idea!"

~Junior, Amanda Ramsey

"Too many people today try to be like the models, and they become unhealthy. We should try to keep everyone safe."

~Senior, Ryan Baker



Photo by Brittany Catina

"Women should be healthy and those ridiculously skinny models are not, and they are kind of gross looking."

~Senior Patrick Hoffman

The Senator's Son Gets It Done

Hooff Cooksey

News Editor

As he sits down to watch his favorite television show after a hard day at school, sophomore Forrest Allen wishes that he did not have to complete the project he had due tomorrow. As he settles into his favorite spot on the couch, an ad for George Allen and his 2006 campaign appears. As the ad finishes, a shot of Senator Allen's family is shown, and Forrest sees himself waving to the camera. Most teenagers would

be overjoyed after seeing themselves on television. However Forrest sees it as an everyday occurrence. His father is just finishing a term in the United States Senate as a Republican representative of Virginia. He is currently running for reelection. Allen has lived in a political household his entire life.

It is once again October in an election year. Allen said that his household becomes very stressed out during this time period. "My father is out of town during this time period, campaigning and persuading people why they should vote for him to represent them in the Senate," said Allen. Even though his father is out of town for a large part of the year, Forrest does see the benefits of this. "I get to meet a lot of cool and influential people through my father." Allen is able to attend many important events with his father, where he meets these people.

Allen however does feel the negatives of having a father in the national government. He stated that he does get aggravated because everyone seems to know everything about his family's life, as well as try to learn the breaking news in the family. Another negative that Forrest sometimes feels is being harassed or constantly asked about his father. Allen stated "I have learned to ignore these comments and questions." He has been questioned for his entire life about his family and father and knows how to handle it.

"I have been around politics for my entire life, and have actually learned to hate it. I definitely do not plan on following in my father's footsteps as a politician," stated Allen. The tenth grader must deal with people wanting to be involved in his family's life, when they really do not need to. Having been around politics for his entire life, he is really not sure what he has learned from politics,

only that he does not plan to get involved in it later in his life.

Allen supports his father in every way possible. He wants people to know that "my dad is a regular guy, he likes to watch and follow sports just like everyone else." He also stated with emphasis that his father is not a racist. Life in the house of an influential politician can have its ups and downs. Forrest Allen has learned to cope with the negatives and learn from the positives.



Photo by Brittany Catina

Forrest Allen not only juggles his school work and social life, but also the positives and negatives of being the son of a U.S. Senator.

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Latest Movies At a Glance

Movie	Brief Summary	Actors/Characters	Rating
Flags of Our Fathers 	Three of the flag raisers from Iwo Jima help make a new war bond in the country. As they do, they are torn apart by memories of the battle.	Director: Clint Eastwood Ryan Phillippe as Doc Bradley Adam Beach as Ira Hayes Jesse Bradford as Rene Gagnon	6
The Departed 	Two men from opposite sides of the law are undercover within the State Police department and the Irish mafia. Damon is quickly rising to power in the Special Investigations Unit. However, he secretly works for Frank Costello, the top mafia guy in the city of Boston. DiCaprio is an up-and-coming undercover cop assigned to pretend to be one of Costello's men.	Director: Martin Scorsese Matt Damon as Colin Sullivan Leonardo DiCaprio as Billy Costigan Jack Nicholson as Frank Costello	9
The Prestige 	The film takes place in early twentieth century London, where two young magicians, Robert Angier and Alfred Borden, form a rivalry which soon turns into a deadly struggle. The film begins in the middle of the story. Through a series of complex flashbacks, the movie goes back to the beginning. Angier and Borden started out as assistants to the same magician but after a trick goes horribly wrong, they become rival magicians. They try to outdo each others tricks until Borden creates a trick that Angier can't outdo, and he goes mad searching for the secret (or the prestige as magicians call it) of the trick. In the end, only one man survives and the dark secret behind Borden's trick is revealed.	Director: Christopher Nolan Hugh Jackman as Robert Angier Christian Bale as Alfred Borden Michael Caine as Cutter Scarlett Johansson as Olivia	7
Marie Antoinette 	Ill-fated teenage queen Marie Antoinette's dreamy, almost hypnotic story is told in this feature film. The film does not focus on Marie Antoinette's future beheading as a result of the French Revolution, but instead pays attention to her innocence and spirit following an arranged, unconsummated marriage to Louis XIV at the age of 15. The film features a modern-day soundtrack despite the period setting to create a noticeable contrast.	Director: Sofia Coppola Kirsten Dunst as Marie Antoinette Jason Schwartzman as Louis XVI Judy Davis as Comtesse de Noailles Rip Torn as King Louis XV	6
Flicka 	Boarding school girl Katy McLaughlin encounters a wild mustang and immediately sets out to make the mustang her new horse. The movie follows Katy's efforts to befriend and train Flicka, and convince her dad to let her keep the horse as her own. In the process, it is revealed how alike Katy and Flicka are.	Director: Michael Mayer Alison Lohman as Katy McLaughlin Tim McGraw as Rob McLaughlin Maria Bello as Nell McLaughlin	8

AE Photos By KORT

Everyone Worth Knowing- Worth the Read

Jayne Seward
Wire Reporter

Everyone Worth Knowing, by Lauren Weisberger, is a stimulating and provocative book about an up and coming PR (Public Relations) girl hoping to make it in the "Big Apple". It tells the story of a young woman trying to make it big in the brutal world of late night partying, gossip columns, and big-name celebrities in New York City. Weisberger, who wrote the best-selling book, *The Devil Wears Prada*, has managed to write yet another rousing story about the glamorous world of the New York City elite. The book's heroine, Bettina Robinson, is a twenty-seven year old who has suddenly quit her tedious job at a banking firm which she has held since her graduation from Emory. With no job, her best friend Penelope announcing her engagement to the worst possible guy for her, and no social life besides playing with her dog Millington, Bettina's life has become nothing more than early nights and episodes of Dr. Phil. After a favor by her well-known Uncle Will, who writes a controversial political column in a local newspaper, she lands a job at an on the rise Public

Relations firm. From here on in, Bettie's life goes from dull to extravagant in a matter of days.

Weisberger takes her readers through Bettie's journey from the new PR girl to the city's new PR maven. After an incident with the city's "it" boy, Philip Weston, who is notoriously known as a womanizer of New York's most beautiful women, Bettie's career is turned upside down.

Following the requests of her boss, Bettie must continue gallivanting around the city on the arms of the infamous Weston in order to gain publicity for the firm. Bettie and her new group of socialite friends attend the most glamorous parties; from all-nighters at Bungalow 8 to weekend getaways to Istanbul, Bettie soon finds that her dreary life has quickly faded. After several write ups in the new must read tabloid, 'Elle Insider', exploiting every move that Bettie makes, she soon realizes that in the attempts to climb up the social ladder, she is not only disregarding the morals her parents and friends expect of her, but is also ruining the chance with someone who could truly be

her 'Mr. Right'.

The style of *Everyone Worth Knowing* is very similar to that of *The Devil Wears Prada*. Weisberger brings her same witty and devilishly funny charm to both books. Junior Jenn Hofmann, who has read both of Weisberger's books, stated, "I thought it was better than *The Devil Wears Prada* because Lauren Weisberger developed the characters more. Also, I liked the plot more, especially how Bettie took such a large risk at the beginning of the novel [referring to Bettie suddenly quitting her job at the bank]." Anyone who enjoyed her first book will absolutely love *Everyone Worth Knowing*. With many unexpected twists, readers will not be disappointed with this wonderful book.



Photo by James Duggan/KRT

Moe's Restaurant

Kate Sigety
Wire Reporter

It is like a combination of Chipotle mixed with Baja Fresh, only better. Moe's Southwestern Grill has the community talking. "Moe's has the best Southwestern food I have ever had, and I have tried a lot of southwestern restaurants," said an excited senior Ryan Anthony after his first visit to Moe's. Located in the center of the Mt. Vernon Plaza shopping center, Moe's always seems to be steadily busy and most definitely has reasons to be. Set up like Chipotle or Subway, you order the meal you would like, with choices such as burritos, nachos, salads, quesadillas, or fajitas. Along with every meal, each customer receives free chips. Moving down the line you can easily decide to choose from the best toppings that you would like to go on your food item, from rice to tomatoes, lettuce, cheeses, and many other choices. You know exactly what you are getting because it is made right in front of you, while the service is pleasant, helpful and speedy.

Though the food was amazing, my favorite part of my whole experience was reading the menus, posters, and signs all around the restaurant. Every item on the menu had a creative name with a cute twist or a double meaning. I found myself reading the names of items I know I do not specifically care for. Everything looked so tasty. I had a hard time making my mind up. Most had puns from TV shows especially from *Seinfeld*, like a salad named "close talker." There was also a sign which said "Moe soup for you," taken from the Soup Nazi's "No soup for you."

Inside, the décor was fun and exciting. With comfortable and cushiony seats, you're able to sit back, relax and enjoy the flat screen TV's. The bright yellows and reds really give you the Southwestern feel. The tables are clean and everything is well kept. Not only clean, but also giving back and helping the community, as you walk in through the front door the first thing you notice is a bright yellow check hanging from the ceiling. Moe's gave twenty five percent of the proceeds from the grand opening celebration to the National Center for missing and Exploited Children. Moe's seems to be the perfect package.



High School students enjoy their meal from the popular restaurant, Moe's Southwestern Grill

Photo by Drew Smith



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Marvelous Mehta

Sara Mathewson &
Lara Davidson

Staff Editor & Wire Reporter

Sweet, brilliant and fun loving are just a few of the words used to describe senior Neij Mehta. Dedicated to both his school and social life, Mehta plans on making his senior year a remarkable one.

Mehta is very active within the school. He is part of the National Honor Society, and has been for two years. He is also a tri-athlete, participating in varsity football, winter track, and tennis. He said, "My favorite sport is football because it's bomb and it is the only one that matters." Mr. Strother, the varsity defensive line coach said of Mehta, "He is a really hard worker, I like him a lot. He will definitely be successful in life."

Math is Mehta's favorite subject, because it comes easily to him. His former Algebra teacher Mrs. Cheryl Larsen said, "He is academically bright and very funny." He is currently taking challenging classes including AP Calculus, AP Statistics, AP Government, and AP English Literature, and is the caption editor for the yearbook class.

In his free time, Neij enjoys playing sports and hanging out with friends. He said, "I love my friends! I think people like me because I make them laugh." Friend, senior Ian Shaw, said, "We like to watch *Lost* every Wednesday night.

We share many similar interests and we like talking about girls. He is fun to hang out with and has a lot of money. He is not shy and he likes to speak his mind."



Senior Neij Mehta smiles with enthusiasm as he does for all of his other endeavors.

Photo by Brittany Cain

Senior Melissa Conway said of Mehta, "We go out to dinner a lot and jam to music. He loves country music! We have a good bond that has lasted a while and gets better with time."

After high school, Mehta plans to attend college. Some of the colleges that he is interested in include University of South Carolina, James Madison University,

and the University of Georgia, although he is currently undecided in what he wants to major in. Conway said, "I see him with a bright future because he is really smart and has a lot going for him." Shaw said, "I see Neij fulfilling everything he puts his mind to, and I will be sleeping in his basement and living off of him when I am twenty five."

Mehta has an easy going and carefree personality, but is also very enthusiastic about his academic career. On a final note, Larsen said, "The chicken, who challenged me to a tennis match, bugged me to play for an entire year and then left before our court time. I guess we know who the better player is. Rematch anytime!"

Bodacious Boykin

Anum Jaffri & Devon Cain

News Editor & Wire Reporter

Brittany Boykin walks into a music practice room and one instantly gets the feeling that she is home. With her passion for all things musical, Boykin can usually be found singing her heart out in Colonials, strumming the strings of her guitar, or tirelessly practicing on her shining viola.

Immersed in music for as long as she can remember, Boykin started singing when she first learned to speak and began playing piano at age eight. She picked up viola when she was thirteen and made second place at district competitions in her first year. On a whim last year, Boykin picked up guitar and hopes to learn many more instruments in the future.

Apart from her district wins in orchestra, Boykin competes in a plethora of competitions. Every year, she competes in a talent show, which is broadcasted on the radio. Competitors flaunt their pianist talents and Boykin has yet to lose a single year.

Her current goal is to attain the Washington Post Music and Arts Scholarship. To even compete, she had to send in an audition tape. Based on the tape, she is now in the running to be considered.

Although Boykin loves helping people with their problems, her music has been known to soothe souls as well. "Everyday in orchestra, I listen to her beautiful notes ring out in the air, and it inspires me to become a better person," said senior Will Klein about his "idol." Boykin seems to have a glow about her, arising from

within and exuding the passion she has for everything that she does. From listening to her practice a composition, one can tell in a moment that she is an amazing musician.

In the future, Boykin hopes to touch more people with her gift. "She is an exceptional leader in orchestra and I'm going to miss her when she goes to college," lamented sophomore Ned Klein. Brittany's number one college choice is the Frost School of Music at the University of Miami, where she said she will definitely find "searching for cute football and basketball players!" She dreams of being "the best at whatever I do in the future." With talent like hers, that goal is not out of sight. Said Will Klein, "If there's one person in the world I would be, it would be her! Brittany for president!"



Boykin is one of the most musical people in the school and enjoys playing the piano, viola, guitar and singing in her spare time.

Wonderful Wong

Erin Burke

Wire Reporter

"Tori has crazy matching skills, and when I see her, I want to break out into song!" said senior Becca McGraw. "An awesome Asian!" said senior Alex Davis. Neighbor, senior Dan Funk, said, "She's a cool neighbor who can always make you laugh." Word on the street is that Tori Wong is one terrific senior. Her unique personality and contagious smile work hand in hand with her passion for everything she tries to do to make up one fabulous package of a person.

Friend and fellow senior Jenny Davenport agrees, saying, "It wasn't a surprise that Tori made homecoming court. She is an amazing friend to everyone and I have never met anyone who doesn't love her!" In addition to spreading her great personality to everyone she meets, Wong takes advantage of every opportunity that comes her way. Her life is completely full of diverse, challenging, and entertaining activities that keep her busy every day of the week.

It is almost impossible to look around our school and see something that Wong has not touched. As Secretary of the senior class for a second year, and as an active member of the student government since freshman year, she leaves her blue paw print of school spirit everywhere she goes. "I joined student government because I felt like a hypocrite

complaining about our class and not doing anything to help. I saw a problem, and I wanted to do something about it."

In order to be even more involved with the class, Wong decided to take up the Leadership class this year. This way, she feels that she can be a more active voice for the class.

Wong also participates in the Marching Band as a member of the Color Guard. In addition to being in the Marching Band, Wong is a member of the Orchestra, sitting first chair violin. She said, "I love playing the violin because it is an outlet for any stress in my life." She is also the Co-President of the Chinese club and Honor Society.

Aside from her school-based activities, Tori also takes a beginning ballet class and volunteers regularly at the UCM (United Christian Ministries) food pantry.

While her activities basically control her schedule, Wong remains focused on her academics as well. She is currently taking three AP classes, and took two last year.

After high school, Wong plans on attending college, though she is not exactly settled on a school yet. When asked what she wants to be when she grows up, Wong responded, "The idea of PR [Public Relations] really appeals to me, but I really have no idea what I'll be doing in ten years!"



Wong enjoys participating in color guard along with the many other school activities.

Photo by Brittany Cain

Fabulous Friedrich

Jocelyn Finrock
& Jayne Steward

Staff Editor & Wire Reporter

Chances are you've seen him, whether it is around school helping out a friend or on the field taking out an opponent. "A hard worker, personable, and one hell of a dancer." These, as senior Nick Friedrich describes, are his best qualities. Friedrich is an incredibly well rounded guy; captain of the football team, member of the Teenage Republicans and philosophy club, and president of our school. Anyone from teachers to coaches will tell you that Friedrich is not only a great guy, but a great leader. Holding these very important roles, it is more than obvious that Friedrich is a natural born leader. Football coach, Daniel Lundin, stated, "He is a quiet leader; he leads by example and always helps and encourages the younger kids. He is a dedicated, tough kid who has committed to the success of the football team." When asked what he liked

while he was telling her about his latest wrestling diet, jokingly said that, "Nick is my husband; I love him more than life itself."

Unlike most seniors in high school, Friedrich has a unique love for classic rock; according to Friedrich, "Eric Clapton is God." Do not be surprised to see him driving down the road while rocking out to his favorite radio station, 94.7 Classic Rock. Although he has many unusual interests, he, like any normal 17-year old, enjoys, "Playing Madden, all the time, hanging out with

friends, and drinking milk." Friedrich is not all fun and games, though; his schedule this year is anything but that. With classes such as AP Literature, AP Biology, AP Government, AP Statistics, and Spanish 4, he has his work cut out for him.

Friedrich has big plans for himself after graduation. After high school, Friedrich said that, "I want to go to college and eventually

start law school. I would like to spend some time in the military." The community also has high hopes for him. Feinstein, who was Friedrich's AP U.S. History teacher from junior year, said, "Nick is going to be very rich and successful. He will be the most well respected member of his community." It is definite and certain that we will be seeing great things from Friedrich.



Friedrich excels in all aspects of his life, making him an ideal role model for the entire student body.

Photo by Drew Smith