



Photo by Hooff Cooksey

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SGA Elections: Not as Simple as an 'X'

Emily Kuhbach & Sam McCann

Copy Editor & News Editor

Student Government Association (SGA) leaders are elected in a process that emphasizes "special care given to maintaining the integrity and security of the voting process," according to the SGA Constitution. Formal protocols and what actually happens in one of our school's oldest processes do not match up today.

One issue revolves around the creation of offices not outlined in the Constitution, such as Historian and Class Representative, which have become a fixture of student government. In addition, in the past few years, co- and associate offices have also been created.

This issue arose when former Junior Class Vice President Dever Carney could not fulfill her duties because she was not enrolled in the Leadership class. This almost caused an entire makeover of the junior class government. When administrators, class sponsor Sandra Bobo, and the junior class officers met to discuss the matter, "The original plan was to take everybody out of office," said Carney. They ultimately decided to install Dereck Parada, Carney's former opponent, as "Co-Vice President" with Carney.

Before the incident with Carney, co-offices had not been an issue since 2005 when seniors Mike Howell and Thao Do ran in a "very close" race for class president, said SGA sponsor Joan Reynolds. "The first time [I counted the ballots] they were within five, with one of them winning. The second time, they were within three with the other one winning. So, I counted them again, and it came out that it was an eight-point margin. I went in to Mrs. Vesilind and said, 'Do you want me to do a fourth count?' and she said, 'Well, let's go with two out of three [counts].' But it was a different count each time," said Reynolds. "I don't know who exactly won; you just do the best you can do." The conflicting results led Reynolds to name Mike Howell and Do "Co-Presidents."



Photos by Hooff Cooksey

Left: Joan Reynolds meets with Leadership students. Right: Seniors Mohammed Chouat and Forrest Cox observe Leadership class from the back of the room.

Last year, the position of "Associate President" was created. Unlike the 2005 race, last spring's senior presidential election between Laura Howell and Aaron Dantley "was real clear [and] I didn't need to recount," said Reynolds. According to Article V of the Constitution, "If the ballot count is closer than 3%, a recount shall be required." The election "wasn't within 3%, but it was just right outside of that," said Reynolds. Senior class sponsor Sandra Bobo said, "I do a recount too, but because I knew that Laura and Aaron are both hardworking individuals, I thought that it would be a benefit for them to both be in the executive board." Because of this, Bobo created the position of "Associate President" for Dantley with the approval of the administration and the Department of Student Activities. Meanwhile, Howell was named President.

"We came up with the idea of an Associate President. Is it undefined? Yes, it's undefined," said Reynolds. The Constitution, which in Article V enables SGA and class

See SGA Elections, page 6



Photo by Erin Coggins

A total of 63 laptops were stolen from our school last year, accounting for over \$65,000 in losses. This theft is still under police investigation.

Laptop Theft Plagues School

Mariya Ilyas

Managing Editor

Between August 2006 and August 2007, 63 laptops were stolen from our school. With each laptop costing approximately \$1,300 each, the school lost over \$65,000. That is 63 fewer laptops for students to utilize in our classes. When materials vanish, so do opportunities.

Generally speaking, school theft is not a new issue in Fairfax County. Everything from dry erase markers to expensive laptops and LCD projectors have disappeared beyond school doors. However, our school accounts for majority of the theft in the county. "I've filled out more paperwork for missing items in the last two years than I did the entire five years before," said School-Based Technology Specialist Ms. Zina Facemire.

How could four full carts of laptops have gone astray? This larceny was filed with the

police, County Security, and the County School Security. Police reports cannot be obtained because the theft is "still under investigation," said Principal Rima Vesilind.

Fairfax County Police do not report back to the school with any new information they find out. Once the culprit is found, only then will the school be notified. However, the thief could be anyone. "It seems to be somebody who has studied this school and who was actually an integral part of this school," said Vesilind.

All laptop carts have locks on them, to which only the teachers have the keys for. "In one case, they took a crow bar and broke it [the cart] open," said Vesilind. In other cases, the thief had the keys or the carts were left unlocked.

"Fairfax County is upset that so many things have gone from [our school]," said

See Laptop Theft, page 5

Coach Charged With Embezzlement

Sam McCann & Emily Kuhbach

News Editor & Copy Editor

Freshman football coach Michael Anthony Ladwig was arrested the week before last by Officer Darryl Davis for embezzling funds from his team.

On September 8, the freshman football team held a car wash to raise money for their program. The case filed states that Ladwig's charged offense occurred on September 10. A week later, on September 17, Ladwig was charged with embezzling over \$200. A theft of that magnitude constitutes a felony in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Within two days, Ladwig was in court for his arraignment and was assigned a Public Defender. He is now free, having been released on his own recognizance. His preliminary hearing is set for November 28.

Attempts to contact Ladwig failed. He did not respond to messages sent to his county email account and was unable to be located.

Principal Rima Vesilind said, "Mr. Ladwig doesn't work at West Potomac anymore." However, like all Fairfax County Public Schools' employees, she is unable to go into more detail. Assistant Director of Student Activities, Aaron Helmick, declined to comment on the topic. Employees are not allowed to discuss the matter because it is a personnel issue.

The members of the freshman football team themselves were not notified as to exactly what happened. "The boys were told that there are certain standards that coaches and players alike are expected to maintain, and Coach Ladwig did not. The boys were told that he made a serious mistake. Some of the boys came away with the impression that he might have taken something, but they were not certain at that time," said freshman football team representative Lee Voltmer.

"Bong Hits 4 Jesus" Case Redefines Student Rights

'Bong hits 4 Jesus,' the first major students' free speech court case in a decade, resulted in a ruling against the student after a lengthy trial, riddled with indecision, blurry boundaries, and eventually outdated, conservative values.

'Bong Hits' was a blow to First Amendment rights for students, and the country faces the task of discovering the extent to which students' rights can now be limited. The lines defining what are and are not school grounds have been blurred and the designation of what is appropriate expression is no longer clear.

As this publication reported last May, the case involved high school student Joseph Frederick from Juneau, Alaska. In 2002, the Olympic torch relay came through his town and his high school released students to watch the torch runners. Frederick and his friends went across the street from the school and unrolled a 14-foot banner reading "Bong Hits 4 Jesus." The principal took down the banner and suspended Frederick. He sued the school, citing his First Amendment rights.

The morning of June 25 of this year, the Supreme

Court ruled 5-4 that the principal was within her rights to suspend Frederick. Chief Justice John Roberts wrote that the ruling was such because the event was still educational in nature (because the principal had approved it and there were teachers among the students supervising them), and because a school may limit a student's free speech when that speech attempts to undermine the school's anti-drug policies. Both of these reasons should give students reason to fear.

The decision that this event would still fall under the school's jurisdiction calls into question other situations where student expression could be limited.

In court, Frederick said that 'Bong Hits 4 Jesus' was not a message intended to promote drug use, nor was it a political statement. In fact, it had no meaning at all. The court acknowledged this, yet still was able to attribute enough meaning to it to find the defendant guilty. 'Bong hits,' they said, encouraged illegal drug use, and the fact that there was a large audience of high-schoolers solidified the sign's alleged connotation. Multiple perceptions lead to multiple interpretations of

our expressions, despite the intent. Meanings we did not intend can be turned into the promotion of drugs, sex and alcohol just because someone decides that they are suggestive. Because of this ruling, T-shirts with double entendres, a ubiquitous fashion at our school, may wind up getting students sent home. What if that same saying, posted to the Internet, was enough to get someone suspended for promoting illegal drug use in a school forum? The 'Bong Hits' decision may have repercussions in the Internet community, giving nosy schools a justified means for attacking MySpace and Facebook. We are sure that soon enough, we will see that case brought to court as an immediate result of this one.

Once a student steps into a public school, they must sacrifice some of their rights in order to maintain a safe learning community without disruptions. It is on this loose basis that the Supreme Court ruled, giving public schools the opportunity to oppress freedom of expression outside of their reasonable jurisdiction in the name of education. Hold on to your rights, kids, it is going to be a bumpy ride.

RANTS and Raves

A **RANT** for counselors not getting new laptops.

A **rave** for the early release on Flex 8!

A **RANT** for 60 degree weather in the morning and 90 degree weather in the afternoons.

A **rave** for the football team's 4-0 start!

A **RANT** for the flies and broken seats in the cafeteria.

A **rave** for when Ms. Jones says the Pledge of Allegiance in the morning!

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: kelcy.pierre@fcps.edu. All submissions become property of *The Wire*.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Seniors Not Informed of Volunteering

Dear Editor,

Two notable things happened on the second day of my senior year: the senior class had its assembly, and this year's first issue of *The Wire* was distributed. I found it interesting that *The Wire* staff remembered to report that seniors will have to do thirty hours of community service to graduate, but the administrators at our meeting mysteriously forgot.

Well, it's probably a good thing no one mentioned it, because I can only guess how loud the auditorium would have become in outrage of this new requirement. Personally, I have too many challenging classes and extracurricular activities that consume my

week to find time for this, and I work on weekends. Even if I do find time, I have to do twenty additional hours this year for National Honor Society.

If I'm having trouble with this, then I can't imagine how other students will handle this new mandatory volunteer debacle. There are hard-working students at this school who leave immediately at 2:05, sometimes earlier, and work every day to support themselves and their families. Why put one more obstacle in the road of "Project Graduation"? Kudos to *The Wire* staff for announcing this new policy; someone had to have the guts to tell us.

Senior Liz Hanson

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Previewing Potential Presidents

Are We in Good Hands? A Commentary on '08 Candidates



Victoria Narine

Style Editor

The days of super-conservative and morally superior GOP candidates are dwindling to an end. Earthy tones and organic cotton and hemp are considered vogue. A nationwide realization of the genocide in Iraq is popularizing. And the world's new views are showing in 2008's presidential candidates. But the most important question is still left to be answered: Will our sudden interest in environmental and social welfare waiver Bush's America?



Photo by Kennedy/KRT

Rudy Giuliani (R)

2008's main presidential candidates are a motley crew. As to be expected, you have the hypocritical and self-righteous, wife-cheating Republican, Rudy Giuliani. Unfortunately for him, Judi Giuliani does not bring a positive familial background to aid him; she's been married as many times as he has.

Next, you have John McCain, the politically moderate—but merely leaning towards the conservative side—former Prisoner of War. While technically losing the support of his military protégés, he is gaining the support of the drug companies (his wife was addicted to painkillers).



Photo by Goode/KRT

John McCain (R)



Photo by Toyoshiba/KRT

Barack Obama (D)

We are ultimately witnessing history in the making with our potential first African-American president, who actually has a decent chance of running our country. Barack Obama has highly respectable, non-judgmental social views and a reliable, well-deserved law degree from Harvard University. On the flip side, he admitted to being a “junkie” and “pothead” in his memoir 11 years ago.

Our next presidential hopeful didn't flirt with illegality, but more so with men's magazine readers. Dressed in the rugged ensemble of a manly New Englander, John Edwards happily graced the cover of *Men's Vogue* and his wife joined him in *Vogue*. But on an intensely more depressing note, he has been accused of choosing a possible political victory over the health of his wife; she has been diagnosed with Stage Four breast cancer.



Photo by Burbank/KRT

John Edwards (D)

And last, but certainly not the least tantalizing, you have the infamous husband-wife political duo Bill and Hillary Clinton. Her husband was a previous President, but was nearly impeached after practicing scandalous acts of indecency in the Oval Office with his intern. Now, she is trying to steal the Presidential Suite. Maybe she will get lucky in the Oval Office too.



Photo by Kennedy/KRT

Hillary Clinton (D)

To add to the incredulity of our current candidates, we cannot forget the politician-turned-actor-turned-politician Fred Thompson. His inadequate decision-making abilities are not only evident in his choice of career; his indecisiveness showed as he campaigned for a series of weeks before actually declaring his candidacy.



Photo by Kennedy/KRT

Fred Thompson (R)



Photo by Burbank/KRT

Mitt Romney (R)

Another minor presidential candidate is the Mormon, Mitt Romney. This misfit of life is not just the only Republican in the state of Massachusetts, but is also the only minority in the Republican Party (he's a Mormon trying to corrupt the religiously-intolerant Evangelical conservative society).

But all in all, be prepared for a twist, a new (and environmentally-friendly) party is going to take over.

Trial Period Causes Great Confusion

Students Disregard New Electronic Policy



Alex Fabrizio

Features Editor

Ever since the iPod and cell phone fad began, kids at our school have, against Fairfax County policy or not, brought them to school. Yes, some students have attempted, and possibly succeeded, with using their electronics in class, but almost everyone just sticks to using them before and after school to help pass the time.

With that said, the confusion that emerged from Principal Rima Vesilind's announcement on the first day of school is understandable. Her announcement explained that, for the month of September, students would be able to use their iPods and cell phones before and after school. However, if they were seen or used during the school day, teachers would not hesitate to confiscate the electronics. Vesilind emphasized that this trial period was a privilege and will be taken away if abused.

Junior Paulette Nginn said, “Hasn't this policy been going on? So, why didn't they enforce it in the first place?” Those two questions embody all of the surprise and disregard that students have for the trial period. So, what? Is the only difference between this year's trial period and last year's use of electronics that now they are possibly making it an official policy? Vesilind said she believes it is a possibility, but the decision depends on how well the students act under the trial period and how the staff feel about it. “It's when teachers feel they're trying to be sneaky or interrupt instruction, that's when it's not good,” Vesilind said about the use of electronics. She also said she thinks the trial period is good,

because it helps show that students can be responsible with their electronics.

There is always the concern of students abusing the trial or policy. Nginn said, “I think that you shouldn't be able to use it in class because it's a distraction.” Many teachers agree and do not allow the use of electronics in their class, like Mr. Brian Kerns, a Chemistry 1 and Chemistry Honors teacher. Kerns said, “I request no electronics are used in my class.”

Kerns also said that, as a teacher, he supports and follows the trial period that Vesilind has put in place. “It gives the students a sense of responsibility.” Kerns also continued to explain that the trial period is good because it gives the students opportunities to make good choices. He also said this is showing that Vesilind respects our student body.

Sometimes, as students, we choose to disregard the options we are given and take advantage of a good thing. The possibility of the trial not lasting because of abuse and use of electronics during the school day does exist.

“Naturally, there is a small number of students that will test the trial period but not necessarily abuse it,” said Kerns. That small number of students could be the downfall of the whole privilege, though. A possibility exists of students abusing this privilege and making life difficult for others.

This still does not answer why they decided to officiate it this year. Vesilind said it was not already in place, contrary to popular belief (including my own). She said, “Why not?” to the idea of the trial period and put it in place to test whether or not students could handle it and now it gives the chance to show they are. “It's going really well so far. I could be wrong,” she said.

Hopefully, in the end, this seemingly already in effect trial period will last and become official at our school.



Handout/KRT

Just Talken

He doesn't see much, he doesn't write about much either.



Photo by Emily Smith

Ken Llewellyn

Opinions Editor

A month into the school year and I already have a million questions.

First of all, that SR&R test we took about a month ago mentioned a playground. When did our school get a playground and why was I not informed?

Which brings me to another question, why did they get rid of recess after sixth grade? High school students need a break, too (especially since our breaks between class have been cut by two minutes). Instead of a jungle gym, they should build a giant Starbucks and let students hang out there. Teachers have their planning period to relax, let us have 20 minutes to do the same.

Next question, what the heck do you have to do to start a club around here? I ask because I am attempting to start a new club, the lumberjack club (any faculty interested in sponsoring this club should let me know). In this club, members would get to experience life as a lumberjack. Members would wear checkered shirts, eat pancakes with maple syrup (none of that strawberry or blueberry junk), and chop down trees with axes, no chainsaws allowed.

I know what one might be thinking, “That is bad for the environment.” But we would use the trees to make paper, seeing as towards the end of the year, we tend to run out of it. Besides providing paper for the school, chopping down trees would also build muscles, as well as character. Think about it, what could be a better character building experience than going out in the woods and chopping down trees with a bunch of other dudes? Nothing, it is about time this school offered some clubs that provided a meaningful experience.

A question I think all students have on their minds is, “What the heck is in the cafeteria food?” I have been here for four years, and each year, it seems like the quality of the food has gone down while the prices go up. I think we should have other choices besides the “Energy Zone” monopoly of cardboard-based food products (with the exception of the chocolate chip muffins, which are not even made by Energy Zone). Maybe that is why the administration will not let us eat off campus, to keep up sales of vile food that I bet they themselves would not eat.

Well, I have spent way too much time asking questions, time to get back to work. But first, I will have to go to the bathroom, seeing as I no longer have enough time in between classes to take care of business. Yeah, I have it pretty tough (not as tough as O.J., though), what with not being able to empty my tank and having to take two AP tests for one class (freaking Government), but it is only the first month of my senior year, it is going to get better, right?

OPINIONS

Lowering Drinking Age is Definitely Not the Rage



Asma Ahmad

Reporter

As teens growing up in the United States, we are constantly informed about the consequences and outcomes of drinking illegally under the age of twenty-one. Despite the law on the legal drinking age in the United States, numerous movements to lower the age from 21 to 18 are gaining momentum as activists dispute that teenagers who can fight for their country and have the right to vote should also be able to drink.

Honestly, if twenty-one year-olds are drinking with younger friends in their teens, is there any reason to anticipate that 15, 16, and 17 year olds will *choose* not to drink if drinking becomes legal at 18? We have all seen uncountable disasters that have occurred as a result of drinking, whether they are accidents, harassment, or other unwanted situations. Yes, teens as young as 18 may be responsible enough to get married or brave enough to go to war, but poor judgment can play a life-changing role in any teen's life, regardless of his or her status, GPA, or great achievements. It concerns me when I see an increase in the number of supporters for lowering the legal drinking age, even though such groups of activists need a lot more support if they are dedicated to reaching their goal. Then again, the majority of U.S. citizens strongly believe in keeping teens safe, and it is becoming a harder task day by day.

According to an MSNBC article by David J. Hanson, an alcohol policy expert at the State University of New York-Potsdam, "Just like during national Prohibition, the law (drinking at 21) has pushed and forced underage drinking and youthful drinking underground, where we have no control over it." He brings up a vital point in that even at the mature age of twenty-one, it is not too hard for teenagers to access alcohol. Therefore, it is quite challenging for adults

to monitor underage alcohol use. Junior Karen Galvez said, "The legal drinking age should not be lowered to eighteen because most teens at that age are not ready to drink responsibly and may get themselves and others into trouble with the law."

Although twenty-one is one of the highest age limits for drinking throughout the world, lowering it to eighteen in the United States may not have a significant impact due to the number of restrictions that would be enforced with the privilege. Either way, some teenagers are bound to make rebellious decisions and mistakes, regardless of what the law says. Getting caught drinking or partying is not necessarily why teens drink, but in fact, it is the thrill they get out of it. Once the golden age of twenty-one comes around, it is possible that drinking becomes more of an "adult" thing to do rather than a mutinous activity for a weekend party. Having

a good time with friends and getting away from a regular night at home is the reason teens are more likely to drink before the age of twenty-one. However, there will always be those who know the difference between having a good time in a responsible manner, and those who just do not know when to call quits. According

to one student, "The legal drinking age should be lowered to 18 because teens will drink anyway, no matter what the law says." She feels that if the age were to be lowered, fewer teenagers would get into trouble because most of them would know how to drink responsibly.

The dangers of drinking and driving are taught as a part of the Drivers' Education curriculum in all Fairfax County high schools. Students learn about Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) factors, the similarities and differences between

alcoholic drinks, and the effects of alcohol on the body. Students are also provided with videos that demonstrate how real people deal with their lives after alcohol-related incidents. Having taken the nine week course last year as a sophomore, students should clearly recall being taught about Virginia laws and consequences for underage drinking. It is crucial for them to be informed about such restrictions so they understand that they will be held responsible for any illegal actions they take.

One might argue that drinking is part of a national culture, but I believe that we must change our values before we can see a positive outcome. America has had a problem with drinking since colonial times and it is about time we made a difference. So, what do we do besides listen and agree? Law enforcement continues to increase the severity of restrictions, take away individual rights, and detain thousands

of people every year. Is it working? MADD says it is, but critics think otherwise. I personally believe the current strategy is a failure and could do better by trying to change the American values that lead to the drunken driving dilemma.

According to underage drinking statistics on MADD.com, "In 1982, when many of the states had minimum drinking ages of

55% of all fatal crashes involving youth drivers involved alcohol. Since then, the alcohol-related traffic fatality rate has been cut in half!" This information alone staggers the ability to believe there will be any positive outcome if drinking were to become legal at eighteen. Although there are very few significantly threatening movements against the legal drinking age of 21, if a law allowing teens to drink at eighteen were to be passed, would a greater good come of it?

"Just like during national Prohibition, the law (drinking at 21) has forced underage drinking underground."

High School Procrastination Needs a Cure



Hooff Cooksey

Managing Editor

As the clock slowly moves closer and closer to 2:05, a person thinks to themselves, "I am going to get so much work done after school!" After practice finishes, a student goes home, eats a quick dinner, takes a shower, and finally settles down to do some homework. Hopefully, this work will be done soon enough to catch the new, outrageous reality show on MTV. Unfortunately, the afternoon almost never works out quite the way it is planned.

Many of us know that after getting home from practice, a person's body is more worn out than he or she probably expected, so instead of eating and taking a shower in 45 minutes, it is in my experience that this can take around an hour and a half. Afterwards, it is down to business, right? Wrong. All bets are that sometime between dinner and diligent work, teenagers will be compelled to squeeze in time to check their Facebook and MySpace pages for updates. Once online, the AOL Instant Messenger icon becomes a greater temptation than a

pitcher of ice water in the Sahara. A quick scan of everyone's away messages leads to a lengthy discussion of the day's gossip and, all of a sudden, two hours have passed, with nothing to show for them except a full and complete knowledge of the social scene. The outrageous reality show is on in an hour. It is time to get down to work, for real. Yet, somehow, an hour passes in the blink of an eye and very little reading or note-taking has been done. But hey, this is the episode where Sheryl and Joe finally get together. Network television takes precedence and once again, the textbooks wait. Around 10:30, the sinking reality that there is still five hours worth of homework waiting on the desk hits. The common teen feels overwhelmed and, realizing the impossibility of completing it all, he or she goes to bed and leaves the work for tomorrow. Procrastination strikes again...

Procrastination takes a heavy toll on students; it can lead to very late nights and great deals of stress that are easily preventable. "It's one thing to be blindsided by procrastination, but to plan to procrastinate shows a serious addiction," said senior Kwabena Owusu. And yes, it is an addiction. Students plan their afternoons knowing that there will be a great deal of

wasted time due to procrastination. It can lead to dissatisfactory work that had potential to be A+ material. In other cases, the procrastination is brought on by fear. "Students who are scared of failing tend to procrastinate. It is the body's natural response," said Barbara Connor, head of the Career Center. "Everyone has failed, so do not be afraid to."

However, this wasted time can be prevented. When looking to avoid procrastination, set goals and rewards for finishing your work. That will help you stay at a steady pace throughout the afternoon. "I overcome procrastination by giving myself a reward for getting my work done. For example, I can make plans to play *Gears of War* with friends for a while once I finish my homework," said Owusu. Try writing down what needs to be accomplished and when it needs to be done, then follow the schedule.

Connor also recommends breaking a task into more manageable chunks and talking to knowledgeable people, like the adults at school, about how to get things done on time. Connor added, "Juniors especially need to talk to me about procrastination, because some do not realize how important this year is."

Procrastination is a major problem amongst students today. The habits form can sometimes be hard to break, but it is not impossible. Procrastination can be defeated with mental dedication and, in some cases, help from a friend or an adult. With steps and suggestions, the chronic procrastination problem can be prevented across the nation, but more importantly throughout our school.

How Much Do You Procrastinate?

5% No Comment

26% More than 3 hours

69% 3 Hours or less

100 People Polled



"Sure, who doesn't? I try not to procrastinate, but it's not really a problem, in my opinion."
- Senior Nick Schaum



"I definitely procrastinate a lot. I plan for it most of the time."
- Junior Brent Occhiline



"Yeah, I procrastinate. It is a bad habit. You set a date and it just keeps getting pushed back!"
- Sophomore Alyssha McDonald



"I have a lot of work and extracurriculars. I really just don't feel like doing the work."
- Freshman Sasha Spriggs

The Jena Six: Two Views on One Situation

“I do not support the Jena six. I support the Jena one.”

Stephen Howell

News Editor

“Free the Jena Six!” read one T-shirt I saw on celebrated “Jena Six Day,” September 20. Seeing the massive support for the six Louisiana teenagers drew many questions: how can the country support criminals, donating thousands of dollars to their defense funds and demanding their release from detainment? However, after looking into the story, I found where I would stand on this issue. I do not support the Jena Six. I support the Jena One.

The Jena One is Justin Barker. He is the kid whose side has been seldom expressed. He is the 16 year-old kid who grew up in Jena, Louisiana. He is the kid who had nothing to do with the racially influenced outbursts he saw plaguing his small town. He is the kid who came to school on December 4, 2006 and had his head slammed into a concrete beam outside his school’s gymnasium, knocked unconscious, had an eye swollen shut, and suffered a \$4,000 trip to the emergency room.

The beating that day led to the prosecution of the six teenagers responsible. Since the story has been exposed, many have been in outrage. What is believed to be the racist over-prosecution of six black teenagers led thousands to rally in the small town on September 20. However, what has led to my outrage is

the flawed and hypocritical approach the media has taken to the case. The media is trying to use the story to promote a lesson of equality and acceptance, but they are doing just the opposite by stereotyping the town of Jena. When this story is

broadcasted, words like “southern town” and “all-white jury” are used to describe the alleged racism. Terms like those are irrelevant to the story and only add prejudice and injustice. The stereotype that small southern towns will over-prosecute black teenagers is just as atrocious as the stereotypes some blacks face today.

The attempted murder charges brought upon the six illustrated the brutality of the crime. The charges showed that brutal assault is not something that belongs on the campus on Jena High. The alleged weapons, the tennis shoes worn by the six, are not inherently dangerous but when used with the intentions the six had, they are deadly.

There are many things our school’s community can learn from the Jena six. You cannot fight injustice with injustice. Secondly, not everything is how it seems. Many of the facts in this story were blurred. The kids responsible for hanging the noose were given three days suspension, a month of alternative school punishment, and two weeks of in-school-suspension.

The country owes an apology to Jena, Louisiana. Instead of the media being the jury in this case, the country should trust the criminal justice system of America. Protestors should not be trying to bring justice to the Jena Six. Instead, the country should set aside race and bring justice to the Jena One.

“...our nation cannot deny that the Jena Six case pours an ugly stain over the whole country...”

Grace Powell

Focus Editor

Let me introduce you to my world. We do not have to travel to Jena, Louisiana to see what it is like; race is everything here.

“Because you’re black, you will have to work that much harder,” my mother says, never to discourage me, but, as she says, “That’s just the way it is.” The Caucasian members of society do not have this conversation with their sons or daughters, as it is irrelevant, yet upon entering an Honors class where I am the only minority, I know these issues are real, and am constantly aware of how my race affects me in life. There is a common misunderstanding about racial issues in high school. Yes, today, all races have an equal opportunity to succeed, but for minorities, there are unseen hurdles to overcome.

For many people, the civil rights movement has long since ended. It is the 21st century and time to move on, but we cannot. The root of many African-Americans’ frustration stems from society’s inability to understand our anger over incidents such as the Jena Six. It is not just a case of law and order gone bad for African-Americans, we know that story backwards and forwards. Rather, the Jena Six case has exposed a growing layer of the black community’s resentment over the injustices that still exist in our world.

On September 20, 2007, the black community roared. Some did not have to speak, their

clothing and t-shirts said it all: “Free the Jena Six.” Thousands of other African Americans boarded busses to Jena, Louisiana, protesting the Jena Six case. Why the protest? After all, a few weeks earlier, the boys’ charges were reduced from attempted murder. What more did the black community want? The Jena Six case heaped salt on the wounds of African-American history; it pained us to hear of the nooses, a symbol of violent hatred toward African-Americans. The boys’ trial showed that justice might once again be withheld for blatantly racial reasons. We wanted the world to hear our voice: we are people and we do have feelings. We wanted our nation to deliver a fair trial and to know that we will be waiting to see what the outcome will be.

Yet, our nation cannot deny that the Jena Six case pours an ugly stain over the whole country. There were wrongs on both sides. The nooses were not a playful prank, but rather an insult. Furthermore, it is a crime to assault another person, and for that, the Jena Six must pay the consequences. However, if we place this event on the spectrum of our world’s history, will we not see a pattern of human dissension towards one another? Zoom out of Jena, Louisiana and into society. There is anger and abuse on all sides. If everyone was the same race, we would still find something else to clash over. The Jena Six case is only a symptom of a greater problem within humanity itself.

Short Time Between Classes Not Cutting it for Students



Erin Coggins

Photographer

With the new school year starting at 7:30 A.M instead of last year’s time of 7:20 A.M, the administration had to do something to make up for the lost time. Therefore, they cut the time in between classes by two minutes, giving students only seven minutes to get from class to class.

Students feel that getting from building to building and making their way through the hallways to get to class on time is almost an impossible task. Junior Derrick Barber said, “It’s too short because when I’m going from Quander to Gunston, or the other way around, it’s hard to get through,

especially with all the commotion going on in the hallways.” With close to 2,200 students at our school, one can imagine that hallways can get pretty packed. Hallways like the gym lobby and the foreign language hall can get extremely crowded. People walk very slowly and create huge backups in the hallways. The large amounts of students in the hallways make it hard to maneuver through the cluster, and can sometimes result in tardiness in class.

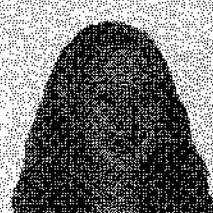
“With the time cut short, I feel that you will not have the time to stay back from classes if necessary and get to your class on time,” senior Rob Straus said. Having no time to spare getting to classes limits the understanding of a lesson students may have had. If a student has a question about the lesson, and

they wish to ask a question at the end of the period, it would be impossible for them to get to their next class on time. Some students may feel that cutting the two minutes does not do any good. It only increases the chances of getting a tardy that could lead to possible failure in their classes.

“... getting from building to building and making their way through the hallways to get to class on time is almost an impossible task.”

Administration may say that if students socialize less, they are able to reach their classes on time, but that can only go so far. Even if one does not talk to friends, but still has to go from Springbank to Gunston, or one of the other buildings, there is a huge chance of tardiness. There is also a chance of failing the classes if you get a certain amount of tardies. Three tardies count as one absence, three absences, and one fails the class. Two extra minutes really can go a long way at our school.

Senior Privileges Are Important to More than Just Seniors



Emily Smith

Opinions Editor

For some, this year is the start of their high school careers, but for others, college and the real world loom in the near future. With three years of high school under their belts, seniors deserve some privileges.

The senior class representative for this year is English teacher Ms. Sandra Bobo. Bobo feels that, although seniors deserve some rewards for their three years of high school, “some privileges have to be earned.” She has high expectations for her senior classes. Bobo absolutely will not tolerate rule-breaking of any sort from her eldest

students.

The class of ‘07 had high expectations. “I know they wanted to have a senior lounge right across from Ms. Reynolds’ room, but that obviously didn’t happen,” said Bobo. According to last year’s senior class representative, Ms. Iris Cox, the seniors of ‘07 had two main privileges. They were allowed to leave between five and ten minutes early before the rest of the school on Fridays. “The leaving classes worked out really well,” said Cox. “It kind of eased the tension of everybody getting out of here at once.” It allowed seniors to drive out of the senior parking lot before the busses began to leave, saving more time and causing fewer traffic jams. Seniors also had their own designated lunch line, which cut back on the time spent waiting their turn to buy food. The senior take-out lunch only happened once due to the amount of confusion and

trouble it caused.

Besides senior privileges, another thing to look forward to during senior year are the senior activities. Last year, the class of ‘07 had an ice cream social and a bowling party, among other events. In addition to this, on a few Fridays throughout the year during FLEX, seniors were allowed to participate in activities. Unfortunately, some teachers were not very cooperative with their graduating students. Cox said, “I wish teachers would be a little bit more flexible because it’s an important time. It’s the only year that they [the seniors] have senior privileges.”

The class of ‘08 is already thinking about what freedoms they should have. “We need more,” said senior Jill Soto, with her friend, senior Jamie Coder, adding, “They should give us free ice cream.” Senior Miguel Perez said, “I don’t think we should have to go to FLEX on Fridays or Thursdays. We should

get out earlier.” That suggestion is a big step up from last year’s seniors getting out five minutes early on Fridays. The final decisions will be made on October 17 at the senior town hall meeting. The meeting will provide seniors with a chance to voice their opinions on their privileges. The meeting also discusses pressing issues for many seniors, such as the ordering of caps and gowns for graduation.

So, why would a mere sophomore care so much about senior privileges? This year’s seniors are paving the way for more and better privileges for the classes of ‘09, ‘10, and ‘11. Senior lunch lines may be a slightly faster way of buying delicious cafeteria food, but students who have made it through over three years of textbooks, teachers, and tests deserve to take a break, enjoy some freedom and enjoy more than a meager lunch line as a reward.

AP Government Class Pairs with AP Comparative Politics

Paul Disselkoen

Sports Editor

A few months ago, when rising seniors were signing up for next year's classes, those who enrolled in AP Government did not know what they were getting themselves into. What students thought was the normal AP Government class that seniors in the past took has turned into double the classes.

This year, there is a change to the AP Government course. The class that existed in the past was joined with a course new to the school, AP Comparative Politics. Thus, the course "AP Government" is now two AP classes in one: AP U.S. Government, and AP Comparative Politics. Instead of one Government AP exam that seniors have taken in the past, seniors enrolled in AP Government now will take two AP exams on the same day. Students will take the morning session exam from eight-thirty until eleven-thirty, take a half hour break, and then take a second test from twelve to three in the afternoon. Senior Caroline Kunz said, "This

class seems like a lot more work now that we have to cover two college level courses instead of one." This news came as a shock to students, as none were informed of this news when they signed up for the class. Many students feel it would have been nice to know what they were signing up for.

Emily Millians, the social studies department head, said that the decision for the change was made last spring after a series of meetings and conferences between teachers and administrators. "Many schools in the county that offer AP Government have brought in the comparative element, so this switch brought West Potomac in-line with other FCPS schools," said Millians. When asked why students were not informed of the change, Millians said, "The counselors who met with my classes of rising juniors definitely did mention the changes in the AP Government course, even though this change would not directly impact my students." Indeed, it may have been more helpful to rising seniors rather than juniors.

As for the teachers this year, they also

have to adjust to a new curriculum brought on by these changes. Instead of teaching the material for one class, they now have to teach the curriculum for two college level classes in the time of one class. New AP Government teacher Alexander Case said, "I find it much more interesting to incorporate two courses into one. I am equally passionate about domestic and international politics and am glad that we are offering students two entry points into the political science discipline." Students, however, worry that this will make more work for them. However, Case said of more work, "Absolutely not! That would hardly be fair to our students."

Whether or not it will be more work for our seniors this year will remain to be

seen. Although the seniors were not warned of the AP Government course change and the change came as quite a shock to many of them, it will be this way for the future, so that in years to come, our seniors will be more prepared than ever to go off to school.

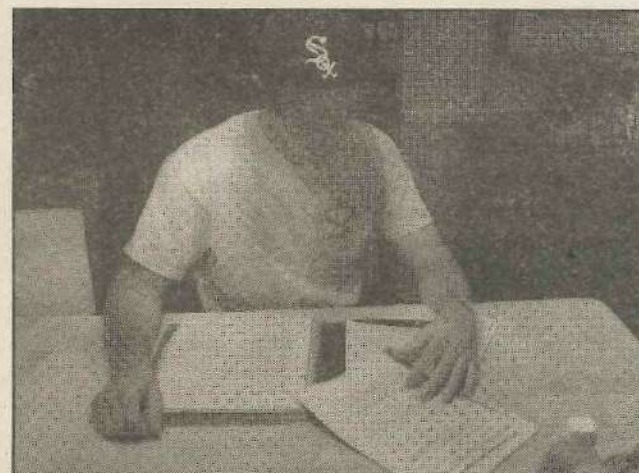


Photo by Erin Coggins

Senior Joe Coggins works on his AP Government homework early before school. This year, the class combined with AP Comparative Politics.

News Briefs



Photo Courtesy of Rashida Moore

Muslim Student Association members serve food at the Ramadan Dinner.

MSA's Ramadan Dinner a Success

On Saturday, September 22, the Muslim Student Association (MSA) held the second annual Ramadan Dinner in the cafeteria from 5:30-8:00pm. Everyone was invited to attend free of charge. The night's agenda included guest speaker Hossain Goal, Iftaar (opening of fast), and a full dinner catered by the Kabob & Curry House. The menu included rice, roasted chicken, chick peas, samosas (triangular-shaped tortillas filled with mashed potatoes and other spices), and pakoras (fine cuisine filled with onion, potato, and chili and deep fried in gram flour).

"I've been so touched by the commitment and passion of MSA as they reach out to the [school] community through events such as this Ramadan Dinner," said Peer Mediation teacher Kathryn Nelson. The officers had been planning this event since August, and the turnout of about 150 people was quite pleasing to them. "This year, the event was better organized and more people are part of the MSA club," said MSA Vice President, senior Marriam Khan.

Many teachers, staff members, and students attended the event, as well. Finance Technician Jill John said, "[This event is] very informative. I've never had a samosa before! It is very tasty, I like it." A question and answer session at the end of the program allowed the audience to ask questions about Islam and learn more about the holy month of Ramadan. The Ramadan Dinner brought people from different ethnicities and cultures together to learn about one another. "I hope understanding the differences in our community will bring unity," said Nelson.

Photojournalism Class to Launch WEPOrt

This year, the FLEX period will be a bit different. Soon, the Photojournalism class will have a 5-minute show at the end of FLEX one day a week. The show, coined the "WEPOrt," will feature news from the past week, including news from the sports team, art departments, and other activities students participate in. "I am very excited. This news show is going to be good," said sophomore Daniel Singer, who is working on the project.

"The show is going to break up that awkward time at the end of the day. It will bring closure to the school day," said Singer. "This is the first year we will have a show during FLEX," he added.

The Photojournalism class' growing popularity allowed it to field a separate class for video journalism. The class will also produce a DVD that will come with the yearbook, highlighting the school year.

Leadership Summits Underway

On Thursday, September 20, students from all of the school's different organizations came together in a Leadership Summit. The Leadership Summit is a quarterly event, hosted by the SGA, in which representatives from every club and sports team comes together to discuss and solve problems in our school. The purpose of the Leadership Summit is to facilitate communication among these groups. Senior Aaron Dantley said, "I really enjoyed the fact that we got together as leaders and began establishing a mission statement. I was thrilled to meet all the leaders." In the meeting, three topics were discussed: school spirit, school respect, and cultural diversity.

"The Summit went far beyond the expectations for it. It showed the dedication and commitment our students have to making our school a more Zen place," SGA sponsor Joan Reynolds said proudly. There will be three other Leadership Summits this year, and hopefully, they will all be as successful as the first.

Protest Results in Student's Arrest

On September 15, sophomore Patrick Commons actively participated in an anti-war protest in front of the United States Capitol building, in opposition to the war in Iraq. By the end of the day, Commons had protested, marched, and laid on the ground. After crossing the police line in front of the Capitol, Commons was handcuffed and led up the Capitol steps. After four hours of being detained, he was released with no charges against him.

Throughout the entire protest, Commons marched, shouted words of encouragement and disapproval, and when told to sit on the ground by the police, Commons and other demonstrators refused and chanted "stand up against the war." Commons' eventful day ended when he broke through police lines in front of the Capitol in the throes of protest. This action eventually lead to his arrest and detainment. This past week, Commons said, "I am going to another protest on September 29, and I am willing to get arrested if that means standing up for what I believe in."



Photo Courtesy Linda Chapman

Patrick Commons, center, lays down with fellow anti-war protesters in front of the Capitol Building, before his September 16 arrest.

Project Graduation Program Helps Struggling Seniors

Allison Leisner
Reporter

Thinking about graduation sparks the thought that it is what seniors at every school wait for. Now, imagine having that dream taken away from you because of a few "senior slump" moments. Project Graduation is a program the school introduced last year to deal with this issue. Counselor Christine Spaulding gave a preview of the program at the senior meeting on September 5. "Nancy Krelott, the senior administrator from last year, created Project Graduation last school year. This year, however, Janice Monroe, the senior administrator, will be in charge," Spaulding said.

In accordance with Project Graduation, every senior's transcript will be looked at in the second quarter. If he or she is in danger of failing a class, immediate action will be taken. Conferences with students, their counselors, parents, and teachers will be held to make sure that failure will not be in that

particular student's future. Furthermore, if a student needs additional help, either after school or during a Saturday morning session for the class they are doing poorly in, arrangements will be made. Anything and everything will be done to make sure that every graduating senior will actually graduate in June 2008. Spaulding said, "The program has various components, culminating with a Saturday School program, which offers students an opportunity to complete any previously incomplete assignments, improve their second quarter grades, and get back on track to have a successful completion of senior year, eventually ending with graduation!" "The counselors will identify the

students by looking at their first/second quarter interim grades of D's or F's in classes that are needed to graduate. Then, the students are given a contract to sign by

the student, parent/guardian, and teacher that indicates any assignments that need to be completed. Students are given the length of winter break to complete them, have their teachers sign off on it, and return the contract to their counselor. Saturday school is assigned if they do not complete this step to receive individual attention," Spaulding said.

When asked about her opinion of the program, senior Maja Blaszkiewicz was clearly in favor of it when she said, "I believe that this program can be successful if all counselors and teachers actually crack down and follow through." On the other side is senior Liz Hanson, who said, "I think that their goal, obviously, is to get everyone to graduate, but they keep putting up more roadblocks, so I do not think this program will be effective." With both sides giving input about this program, it is not clear yet whether or not students are big supporters of this new program.

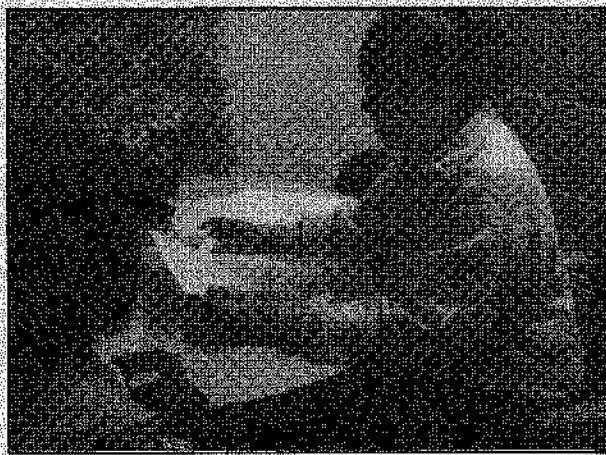


Photo by Erin Coggins

Counselor Christine Spaulding meets with a student. Spaulding helps with Project Graduation, a new program designed to help seniors graduate.

SGA Elections from page 1

presidents to "add... members of a Cabinet," does not explicitly give this power to sponsors.

Before positions were even decided, the general student body faced obstacles during voting. Students were not always able to view candidates' video speeches. Technical difficulties, teachers not using class time for elections, and speeches during FLEX last year, in which attendance could not be taken, all affected voting.

FLEX also "brought up problems," said Student Advisory Council (SAC) representative Megan Donovan, when it was used for voting last year. Due to students Flexing out, the number of ballots Leadership students sent to each class did not always match the actual number of students in class. Just like with the videos, some teachers did not use class time to vote. "Sometimes we've had teachers refuse to do elections at all and hand us back a full envelope of [unmarked] ballots," said Donovan.

Either way, some students did not vote in these elections, which is a right guaranteed by Article IV of the Constitution. "I know my math class didn't vote [last year]," said Dantley.

This situation put unmarked ballots back in the hands of the Leadership students distributing them. It is expected that "people who are handing out and distributing these ballots bring them back to [Leadership] class, empty or

filled [out], and be responsible," Donovan said. At the same time, "I have circled [my name on extra] ballots for my own election in a previous year," one Leadership source said. "It's been something that's been going on in SGA for quite a number of years."

One measure to ensure the security of the ballots is to prohibit students up for office from distributing them. "If your name's on the ballot, you don't pass them out. Of course, everyone else passes them out. But you don't pass them out," said Parada, now SGA Vice President.

SGA is also cautious during the counting process, although the exact precautions are unclear. According to the election checklist, a list of guidelines that every potential candidate receives, elections require sponsors to "establish a team of at least three adults to serve as election officers to count ballots and to report the official results."

Donovan's firsthand account explained a different procedure. "It's not just Leadership and it's not just the sponsors [who count]. We do a rough estimate count of [ballots], and we leave three or four classes unaltered. We give our tally list to the sponsors, or Mrs. Reynolds, and they do the final count. The final tally is never left to Leadership," she said.

Meanwhile, both Bobo and junior class sponsor Denise Green-Osment maintained that it is solely the sponsor's responsibility to count class ballots. Iris Cox, another sponsor, said class sponsors did "90%" of the counting

during the spring elections. Last year's freshman sponsor Christine Ingeman, in contrast, said she was "never ever involved in counting ballots or anything like that." She said SGA counted rising sophomore ballots last year, which Reynolds confirmed. In response to the idea of sponsors counting their class' ballots, Ingeman said, "There would be a conflict of interest if you counted your own ballots, wouldn't there?"

Despite the precautions taken, Reynolds said there is no way to completely prevent ballot forgery under the current system. She employs her own method of detecting it. "Some of us get good enough and have done it long enough—like Laura Howell's one of the best. She'll look at [ballots] and... say, 'These are all done by the same pen and it's the same X'... An 'X' is not secure—it looks like it should be—but you have a kid draw [a distinct 'X'] five times and you can catch them. I can't always, but Laura always does, and she'll bring them up and she'll say, 'What do I do with this?' and I'll say, 'Throw them away, throw them all away.'"

SGA is making efforts to improve the current system. For instance, this year's freshmen ballots were sealed before distribution and after voting. In addition, the organization is considering using FCPS Blackboard to conduct elections.

Danica Hawkins contributed to this report.

Laptop Theft from page 1

Vesilind (see note above.) With a campus population of nearly 2,200 students, it becomes difficult to monitor every student at all times. Being the only high school in the county with a three-building campus, it is also impossible to supervise the activities of everyone who enters and leaves the school.

Some of the laptops are being replaced by the county. However, if the school loses any more laptops, "[the county] will not replace them," said Vesilind, "and we don't have school funds because our school funds are very tight this year. So if our kids' laptops get stolen, then the kids lose."

In 2003, the Department of Homeland Security gave Fairfax County a \$250,000 grant for high school security. The county decided to give all of the money to Mount Vernon High School because of their exceptionally high incident rate. Currently, our school is leading the theft rate in Fairfax County, and no similar grant has been granted yet.

This year, we have four assistants in our security department. One time, Mount Vernon High School, a single building school with approximately 1800 students, had eight security assistants. "Where is the justification for that?" Haire questioned.

One device that can benefit our school in such cases like this one is cameras. However, we are currently number eight on the list of schools in the county who qualify for such funding. Three buildings means three times the costs. "I'm sure that comes into play when they figure out which [school] they want [to give money to]," said Security Specialist William Haire. Our college-like campus does not weigh

heavily in the argument for cameras and funding—not even for safety and security of students. "We are doing what we can" is the answer we receive from the county.

Despite the growing number of thefts, this year the county replaced two hundred old computers with new laptops. The catch? These laptops are for teacher use only. Among the many advantages of laptops is the added flexibility; teachers can now take their schoolwork home, making grading possible outside of the building. As a matter of fact, they are allowed to take the laptops anywhere for school business; however, they are responsible for them. "It is a little bit stressful to have such an expensive piece of equipment but it is a responsibility I take seriously. I think it is worth the extra stress," said Social Studies teacher Salvatore Olivo.

Security measures have definitely tightened in regards to the laptop thefts. Some locks have been changed for greater security in the future. The gates at the end of most hallways come down and are properly locked on a regular basis. Teachers have a greater responsibility to be careful and keep their eyes open for anything suspicious. "I keep my door locked when not in the classroom and have a locking cabinet when I need to leave the laptop in my room," said Olivo.

Students are encouraged to report any suspicious activities they see. Everyone, please be cautious and have a "neighborhood watch" to keep our school a safe environment for learning. As Haire advised, "Be aware of what is going on around you."



October Calendar

- 5 Varsity football vs. West Springfield at Home
- 5 Tailgate Dinner @ 5 - 7pm
- 6 SAT Test
- 8 Columbus Day- No School!
- 9 PTSA Meeting
- 10 National Honor Society Meeting
- 13 Eid al-Fitr
- 14 FCPS College Fair at Fair Oaks Mall
- 15 College Night at Hayfield
- 17 Senior Class Meeting in Auditorium
- 18 Underclass School Picture Makeups, Early Closing @ 12:35
- 19 Varsity Football vs. South County at Home
- 22 Cheerleading Districts, Orchestra Concert
- 24 Cross Country Districts at Burke Lake Park
- 25 ASVAB Career Test
- 26 Varsity Football vs. Annandale at Home
- 27 Homecoming Dance!
- 29 Choral Concert Opening Night

From Woods

Comparing Our Gen

Clothing

Caroline Staples

Style Editor

Once a year at our school, we have "spirit week," which consists of fun, goofy days designed to promote a positive attitude throughout the student body. One of the days is "Decades Day," when students dress up in clothing from a certain decade. What students may have forgotten, however, is that their parents were wearing much of that same apparel when they were our age in a time when it was not silly or goofy, but stylish.

Over the last thirty to forty years, clothing has drastically changed. The clothing once worn by our own parents is very different from the clothes we, as teens, wear today. During the sixties and seventies, when our folks were teens, most clothes were worn in demonstration of a belief they held in areas such as politics, the Vietnam War, and birth control (at least for women). In many ways, it is similar to today's t-shirt designs that say things such as "Bring Our Troops Home," or "Remember 4-16-07."

Other similarities include the accessory of headbands that were popular in the sixties and early seventies. They have recently made a comeback over the past few years.

The major differences, though, include the seldom-structured dresses worn by mothers from the late sixties to mid-seventies, the "mom pants" (as they are now known, known for their high waist that comes up to the belly button, and the eccentric patterns of oversized printed flowers on pants, shirts, skirts, and dresses.

The average teen today would probably never be caught dead walking down these halls wearing bell-bottoms that flare out more than your average pair of pants or a paisley-printed button-up shirt with a peace chain around his or her neck. Even so, one fashion law remains true through the ages: people will follow whatever style is "in," not realizing until many years later just how

Morality

Grace Powell

Focus Editor

"Kids these days..." The millennial generation tends to hear this phrase a lot. Despite the fact that our generation is the most technologically-advanced and best-educated, we have also been labeled as angry, impatient, and lacking the respect our parents grew up with.

One painfully early Monday morning, I found something that usually did not exist on metro buses: common courtesy. A lady probably in her early sixties stepped into the quiet bus and proceeded to ask the driver how his weekend was. She then went to her seat and addressed the riders, "How're y'all doing this morning?" Even on her way out, she gracefully added, "Y'all have a good day now." Just like that, she made my day.

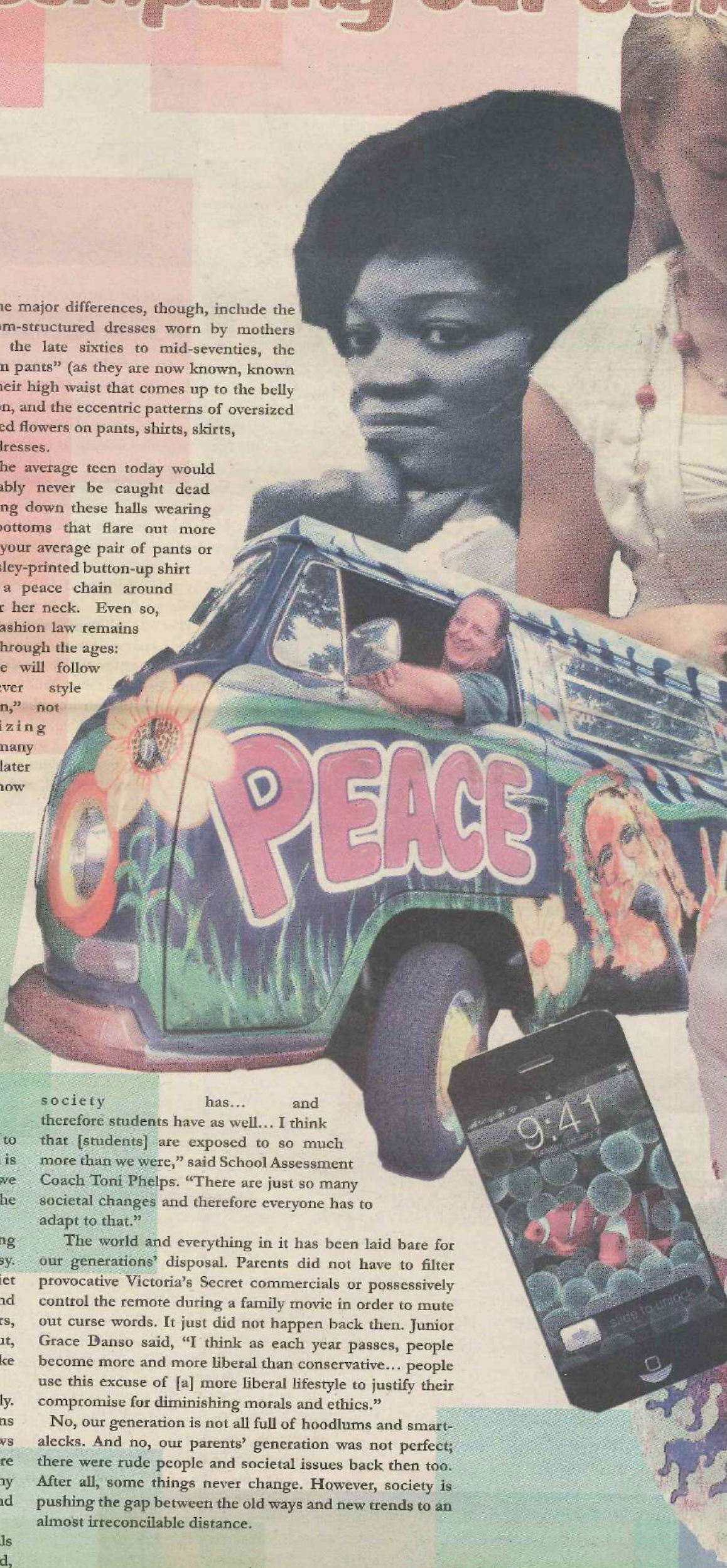
In our generation, common courtesy is often used sparingly. Since kindergarten, our parents have drilled into our brains never to talk to strangers. We only need to turn on the news to see what can happen to "overly" friendly people. We are also members of a fast-paced nation. Among the many distractions of life, it is easy to forget a simple "please" and "thank you."

Is the millennial generation self-absorbed or have the morals of yesteryear dwindled away? "Morals haven't changed,

society has... and therefore students have as well... I think that [students] are exposed to so much more than we were," said School Assessment Coach Toni Phelps. "There are just so many societal changes and therefore everyone has to adapt to that."

The world and everything in it has been laid bare for our generations' disposal. Parents did not have to filter provocative Victoria's Secret commercials or possessively control the remote during a family movie in order to mute out curse words. It just did not happen back then. Junior Grace Danso said, "I think as each year passes, people become more and more liberal than conservative... people use this excuse of [a] more liberal lifestyle to justify their compromise for diminishing morals and ethics."

No, our generation is not all full of hoodlums and smart-alecks. And no, our parents' generation was not perfect; there were rude people and societal issues back then too. After all, some things never change. However, society is pushing the gap between the old ways and new trends to an almost irreconcilable distance.



Rock to Wii ation to Our Parents'

Social Life

Shannon Bowdring

Reporter

Flashing colors lighting up the dance floor, "Disco Inferno" blasting from the speakers (sans 50 Cent). Sounds like a typical Friday night. Okay, so maybe the social scene has changed a little since the seventies, but the song titles have not.

Growing up in the sixties and seventies meant a weekend filled with drive-in movies and roller discos. These activities may sound out of this world for kids growing up in the technology-crazed new millennium.

Although the titles of our parents' social activities differ from our own, kids around this area are spending their free time the same way their parents did. High school football games, concerts, dancing, and movies are the same things our parents used to do, except we watch the movie inside a building and do not pull moves featured in "Dance Dance Revolution."

Maybe our generation has more options than our parents did because of the huge number of malls and fast food restaurants springing up like daisies, but the way we socialize is similar. Teacher Jean Coder said, "[The party scene] is probably the same as it used to be...you guys are a lot smarter than your parents think, but there's a lot more trouble to get into." With websites like Facebook and MySpace soaring to new heights, kids need to take caution, especially if they want to be allowed out of the house to even have a social life.

All in all, parties are still being thrown, high school sports games are still being attended, and dance bashes are still in full swing. So, even though kids these days do not "Rock Around the Clock" at drive-in movies, we are still "Rockin' the Suburbs" at the local cinema.

Music

Asma Ahmad

Reporter

Rocking out at a Beatles concert or to a Led Zeppelin hit was the highlight of almost every parent's musical lifestyle as a teen. Although we may doubt that our busy and boring parents ever had a life, the 60's, 70's, and 80's were all about rock and roll, tie-dyed T's, and disco tunes.

"MTV started when I was in high school. My friends and I used to love watching the music videos," said Kathryn McCullohs, a parent and English teacher at our school. As a 17-year-old, her favorite music groups included Duran Duran, Pat Benatar, The Go-Go's and A-ha. "I always bought the 45 records for the 'Top 20' songs, which I paid for with babysitting money," she said. Just like iTunes today, records then were only 99 cents.

Talent shows for people with a passion for singing and music, such as "American Idol," are important to the modern teenage culture. Our parents also watched reality music contests, such as "American Bandstand," which was

quite similar to "American Idol." "American Bandstand" featured teenagers dancing to the top hits of the season, whereas "American Idol" is solely a singing competition. Both shows are known for loving audiences.

Most teens that grew up in the 90's are familiar with the "grunge" culture that encompassed elements of punk rock, heavy metal, unkempt clothing and aggressive, nihilistic songs. Today, top-rated hip hop, R&B, and pop artists such as Jay-Z, Kanye West, and Justin Timberlake define present-day pop culture worldwide.

Music in past decades was aimed at expressing one's feelings about love, life, and even politics. Artists such as Stevie Wonder and John Lennon sang to get a message across to their fans. Today, a lot of music portrays violence, drugs, and sexually-explicit lyrics. However, artists such as Kanye West have recently produced albums about current worldly issues we face as a human race.

Often, parents and their teenage children do not understand each other, but one thing is for sure: the music of their generation greatly impacted our musical interests.

Photo Illustrations by:
Erin Coggins and KRT

Laughing from the Bench

Get Your head
in the game
Clinton Jeeze.

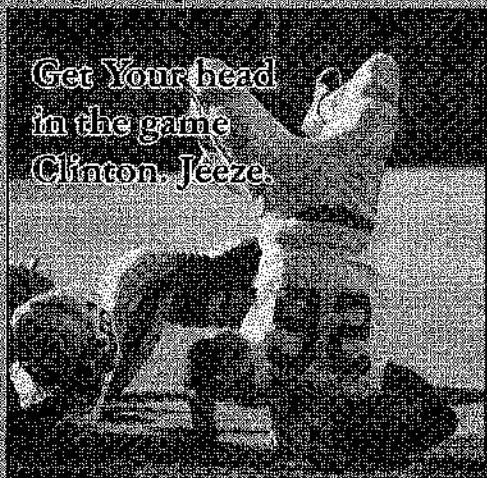


Photo By Harry E. Walker/WR

Taylor Dankmyer

Editor in Chief

Not Bending it Any More

Six games played, 310 minutes, one goal, four assists. That may be all Americans get out of soccer "star" David Beckham after he suffered a knee injury on August 20, putting him out for most of the MLS season.

Back it up to last year, when Real Madrid left Beckham out in the cold. Former manager Fabio Capello benched him for periods of time, and eventually cut ties with pretty boy Beckham.

So Beckham decided to come to the U.S., where he could play fewer games against fiercer competition that is not nearly as talented as it is in Europe, and get paid millions in endorsements. He would be the star of the league, and try to popularize soccer in America.

But that ended quickly.

For weeks, I have been told Beckham is the "greatest player in the world" and he is "amazing." Let me correct you all. He is "great" and he is "amazing." Beckham came to the MLS, and within five minutes, was commanding the team, telling them what to do and where to go. He was the equivalent of Peyton Manning on the (American) football field.

The problem is, even after the injury, he is still being called the greatest soccer player in the world. When, in reality, he is playing in a league that, by international standards, is fairly mediocre. It is the equivalent of the Canadian Football League (CFL) in football.

Beckham's future is not looking so hot. Americans may ask why a team like Real Madrid, that has won thirty league championships, would give away such a great player. Well, Real Madrid seems to have gotten rid of him at just the right time, and they do not look so stupid any more. At the age of 32, Beckham may not have much left in him. However, for all the hopeful fans out there, he will be playing in a friendly match against the Wellington Phoenix, in New Zealand on December 2.

October: One of the Best

On to more important things, it is now October, and I am extremely excited. No, not because of Halloween, silly freshmen. October is a glorious month for sports fans of all kinds. The NFL and college football are just getting going, the MLB post-season is starting, and NBA teams are reporting for training camp. Not only that, internationally, many European soccer leagues are starting up as well. Gone are the days of summer when all there was to watch was... well, nothing.

Redskins Report

With one of the Redskins starting offensive linemen out, blocking is something to watch in the coming weeks. It did not look that bad against the Giants.

Speaking of which, that had to be one of the ugliest two-minute drills ever. Campbell fumbled once, fell down on another play, and nearly threw an interception. Also, two penalties in a row on center Casey Rabach almost killed the drive.

However, the Skins miraculously got a first down, moved down the field, and then failed to get in to the end zone from the five yard line.

If Washington has just won that game, then one has to look at this team more seriously. However, after not showing up in the second half of the Giants game, they have me worried as usual. Their playoff chances remain in the "maybe" category.

Speaking of Football...

West Potomac football is now 5-0, and 17th in *The Washington Post's* top 20. It was not long ago that this team was 1-9 in freshman year. Congrats, Wolverines.

Cole Walter Proves Worthy

Cha'Vais Summers

Sports Editor

The emergence of junior Cole Walter, the young quarterback of our school's football team, has filled the void left by last year's quarterback Chris Farquhar. Walter has given fans reason to believe this football season should outshine those of the past. Starting a young quarterback, as a coach, can be a big risk and play a major part in the success or failure of the football team on any level. The pressure is running high and it is easy to let one's nerves get the best of them, but Walter maintains. Some would think the pressure of a scrutinizing audience week after week is overwhelming, Walter said otherwise.

"I work harder every day to become a better football player, hard work erases the pressure," said Walter, when asked how he responds to the pressure of starting.

A philosophy that is bound to win games has in fact done just that. Four games into the season, Walter has given fans nothing but great expectations for the team. In the home opener against Centerville, he threw two touchdowns, (as well as three interceptions) and the team came away with the victory. Walter greatly improved his performance in the opener with a more-than-exceptional stat line against Mount Vernon, going sixteen for twenty two for 313 yards and five touchdowns, earning him a top performer spot in *The Washington Post*.

Cole Walter #17

Quarterback - Junior
Season-to-Date

Comp	Att	Yards	TD	Int
57	84	830	14	6

Date	Opponent	Comp	Att	Yards	TD	Int
9/20/07	Robert E. Lee	18	24	190	4	3
9/14/07	Yorktown	11	17	127	3	0
9/7/07	Mount Vernon	16	22	313	5	0
8/31/07	Centerville	12	21	200	2	3

Info. box by Cha'Vais Summers

Next game, he went one for 17, for 127 yards and three touchdowns (two to senior wideout Robert Byrd), in the rain for a 42-21 win against Yorktown, a game in which a high-power offense dominated the opponent. In the highly anticipated game against Lee, Walter threw four touchdowns, and three interceptions, in a 31-7 win over the Lancers. Walter has lead our school to the first 5-0 mark since before 2000, and a number seventeen ranking in *The Washington Post* early this season.

On the field, no one will hesitate to discuss how much Walter means to the team and how far they will make it this season. Walter has the faith and trust of the entire team and they will all admit it.

"Cole is the most important player on our team. I think if he plays well

and takes the lead as our quarterback, then the sky's the limit for us," said Byrd, speaking of the part Walter plays in the success of the team.

Coach Eric Henderson has placed his trust in Walter, and he definitely is not the only one with high expectations for his success, as well as the overall success of the team.

An undefeated mark of "10-0" is what Walter and the team are aiming for this season, and with an untarnished record after the first five games, the dream is still alive. The team continues to work hard every week to achieve their goal. With the help of his supporting cast and a shutdown defense (allowing only 58 points in just the first three games), Walter has a good chance of making the dream a reality.

Support for All our School Sports

Patrick Dunford

Reporter

Athletics are a core focus at our school, but are all of the sports and athletes receiving the support they deserve?

Think of the last sporting event one attended for this school. For most, the answer is a football game. While the football team deserves significant recognition for their impressive accomplishments, as well as attendance, there are additional sports events to consider. In fall alone, our school has at least fifteen field hockey games, fifteen cross-country meets, eleven golf matches, and seventeen volleyball matches. Add these to the football games offered and it totals to seventy-nine opportunities to show support. This is an impressive number of sporting events to consider, and the impact of student attendance is more powerful than one might think.

One of the greatest boosts an athlete can receive during competition is the roar of appreciative fans cheering them on. Home team advantage can be a vital tool to professional teams, and in many cases, it has an effect upon the outcome of an event itself. There are few experiences which give an athlete a stronger boost in the middle of a race or game than the support of his or her peers. When senior cross-country captain Kelly Carmichael was asked if he believes a following of students at games is a positive factor, he said, "Yeah, the football and basketball teams seem to play better when lots of people are there." By having a strong student/faculty presence at sporting events, not only is support shown, but the athletes reach higher potential.

Nothing compares to seeing a sport up close and personal, when one can be literally inches from the action. At cross-country meets, for example, one can stand right on the line separating the fans from the course. Sweat can be seen pouring down faces as determined runners jockey for position and get pushed to their limits, and the rumble of pounding shoes can be heard in the final stretch. Being so close to the event places one right in the action, up close and personal instead of relegated to stands behind a fence. One is more than a face in the crowd; the proximity



Photo courtesy of Rosey Carmichael

Senior Forrest Cox leads the pack in the Monroe Parker Invitational at Burke Lake.

to the runners allows athletes to distinguish friends and family among the throngs of spectators. The indoor sports of volleyball and basketball add an additional dimension of intimacy through the experience of distinct sounds. At a football game, the majority of sounds to hear consist of screams and moans from the crowd. At indoor sports, every squeak of a shoe and grunt can be heard without an ambient buzz. This effect magnifies the experience of the game, as attendees see and hear exactly what the players see and hear. Why only watch when there is an opportunity to feel as much a part of the action as anyone there? Next time a free night opens up, check out some other sports at our school.

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Redskins Piling Up Wins

Sam McCann

News Editor

Perhaps Joe Gibbs, head coach of the Washington Redskins, spoiled D.C. in his first stint with the team. After all, he came away with three Super Bowl titles and retired just a year removed from his last championship. Obviously, Redskins fans had reason to be excited when he announced his return for the 2004 season; their pigskin savior had returned.

Towards the end of the 2005 season, Gibbs looked every bit the part of a championship-caliber coach, as his team ended the year on a tremendous roll (5 wins in a row). They were narrowly edged by Seattle, just two games away from a return to another Super Bowl. The die-hard burgundy-and-gold fans were anticipating an improved 2006 squad, after the team added several high-priced veterans that built on an already strong unit. They even revamped the coaching staff with a new offensive mastermind, Al Saunders. Plus, with Gibbs at the helm, what could go wrong?

The 2006 version answered that question in a variety of ways. The passing game was abysmal. The running game struggled early. The defense looked inconsistent at best and downright porous at times. That vaunted coaching staff came up with ineffective game plans that often left fans scratching their heads. Clearly, changes were necessary to establish a successful new season. So, now a month into the season, can the Redskins faithful look forward to a return to glory? Will all the promise that came with Joe Gibbs' return back in 2004 actually be fulfilled in this, his fourth year back? Here is a closer look.

Passing game:

The Redskins seem to march a new quarterback out onto the field every time they play, and are still searching for the one that finally sticks. Jason Campbell looks like he may just do that. Despite not putting up jaw-dropping numbers, the third-year passer

looked solid in his debut. He made the plays that mattered and got better as the game dragged on. He continued to pass effectively against Philly, and despite some suspect throws, showed improvement. **Outlook:** Somewhere around league average passing game, which is more than the team has had in some time.

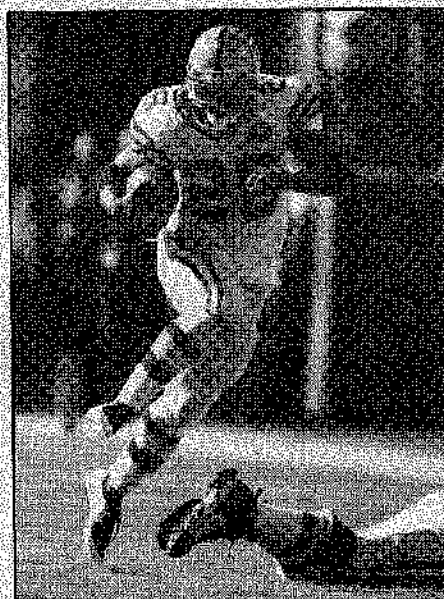


Photo by Harry E. Walker/KRT

Redskins tail back, Clinton Portis, has lead the Redskins to a 3-1 start this season, with his powerful running.

Running game:

For years, NFL teams have relied on a single back to carry their rushing attack. However, some teams have begun to employ the running-back-by-committee approach to the position. Among the latest adopters of the system are the 'Skins, who are now splitting carries between Clinton Portis and Ladell Betts. The tandem worked effectively in the opener, particularly Portis, who broke off several runs reminiscent of his 2005 season. Betts provided a useful change of pace on the ground. The two should work well together, allowing fresh legs to be on the field at all times. **Outlook:** With two

established backs, the Redskins have to be happy about the ground game. However, the loss of two starters on the offensive line and the goal-line falter against the Giants is definitely cause for concern.

Defense:

Greg Williams's heralded squad had an off-year last year. At least that is what Redskins fans hope, since their stifling defense is what led them to the playoffs two years ago. This year, the addition of London Fletcher-Baker and re-acquisition of Fred Smoot seemed to promise a return to that dominance. Thus far, the unit has looked good. They downright frustrated Miami in the opener and got the job done against Philadelphia. They even drove Eagles fans to boo Donovan McNabb and held their division rival without a touchdown. The second half struggles in the Giants game were, at least so far, an anomaly. **Outlook:** A return to the upper-echelon of the NFL in this area should mean this unit anchors the team.

Coaching:

Through the first couple of games, the coaching looked significantly better than last year. However, that is not saying much. The offense still struggled, and the play call was especially frustrating at the end of the Giants game. However, everyone seems more comfortable in the second year under Al Saunders offense. The defense looks promising, but at times it has been extremely frustrating and inconsistent. **Outlook:** Better than last year, but still not justifying the exorbitant salaries.

Prediction:

The 2007 Washington Redskins look vastly improved over last year's squad, and the team might have a chance to jump to the top of the NFC East. Philly's offense looked lethargic in the early going and both Dallas and New York look to have inferior defenses. If the team catches some breaks, the Redskins may be a force to be reckoned with in the playoffs. **Prediction:** 10-6, NFC East Champions.

IN THE NUMBERS

17

The rank of our school's football team in *The Washington Post*. The team is 5-0 with victories over Centreville, Mount Vernon, Yorktown, Lee, and Hayfield.

2

The rank of our school's quarterback Cole Walter and running back Josh Wells in the region according to *The Washington Post* in their respective positions. Receiver Robert Byrd is ranked number 4.

16:45

Time run by freshman Graham Cole in the 5K race in the Patriot district all-Corners meet at Fort Hunt Park, an incredible time for a first-year Cross Country runner.

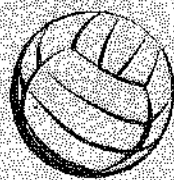
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Number of games the Washington Nationals will play at RFK Stadium next season. The Nats will play in their new stadium in 2009.

Covering All the Best of Fall

Volleyball - The team is 2-3 right now with wins against Madison and Washington-Lee.

8/22/07 At Scrimmage: Woodson
8/28/07 At Scrimmage: Jefferson
8/30/07 At McLean
9/5/07 Edison
9/6/07 Madison
9/11/07 At Stuart
9/20/07 At T.C. Williams
9/24/07 Washington-Lee
9/26/07 At Lake Braddock
9/27/07 Falls Church
10/4/07 At Mt. Vernon
10/10/07 At Wakefield
10/11/07 Lee
10/15/07 At West Springfield
10/18/07 At Hayfield
10/24/07 Annandale
10/25/07 South County



Cross Country - At the Monroe Park Invitational, the always excellent varsity boys came in third out of seven teams. The team also did very well at the Brentsville

Relays.

9/1/07 Time Trials
9/8/07 Monroe Parker Invitational
9/15/07 Brentsville Relays
9/18/07 WS, WP, SC & LB
9/25/07 Patriot District All Corners Meet
9/29/07 Oarlands Invitational
9/29/07 Roy Griak Invitational
10/2/07 SC, TCW, WP & Lee
10/6/07 TBA
10/9/07 Ann. Hayfield, LB, WP & WS
10/13/07 Glory Days Invitational
10/18/07 Patriot Festival
10/25/07 Patriot District Championship
11/1/07 Northern Region Championship
11/10/07 Virginia State AAA Championship



Football - Our school's team has always been about excellence, but this year, excellence was stressed more than ever. The seniors this year have been with Coach Eric Henderson for all four years here as head coach, so this is a special year for the seniors. Winning all four of the games they have played, the football team looks solid. With all eyes set on states, this year's team is ready to take on any team in the northern region.

8/31/07 Centreville
9/7/07 At Mt. Vernon
9/14/07 At Yorktown
9/20/07 Lee
9/28/07 At Hayfield
10/5/07 West Springfield
10/12/07 At Lake Braddock
10/19/07 South County
10/26/07 Annandale (Homecoming)
11/3/07 At T.C. Williams



Field Hockey - The team has a record of three wins, two ties, and one loss. The varsity team's record is 2-2 with wins against Stuart and Falls Church. The losses are against Washington-Lee and Mt. Vernon.

8/17/07 Scrimmage: Fairfax
8/22/07 Scrimmage: Jefferson
8/24/07 Mt. Vernon
8/27/07 At Washington-Lee
8/29/07 At Falls Church
9/5/07 Stuart
9/7-8/07 At Herndon Tournament
9/17/07 At Wakefield
9/19/07 West Springfield
9/25/07 South County
10/1/07 At Lake Braddock
10/4/07 At Hayfield
10/8/07 Annandale
10/10/07 Lee
10/15/07 At T.C. Williams @ Minnie Howard MS



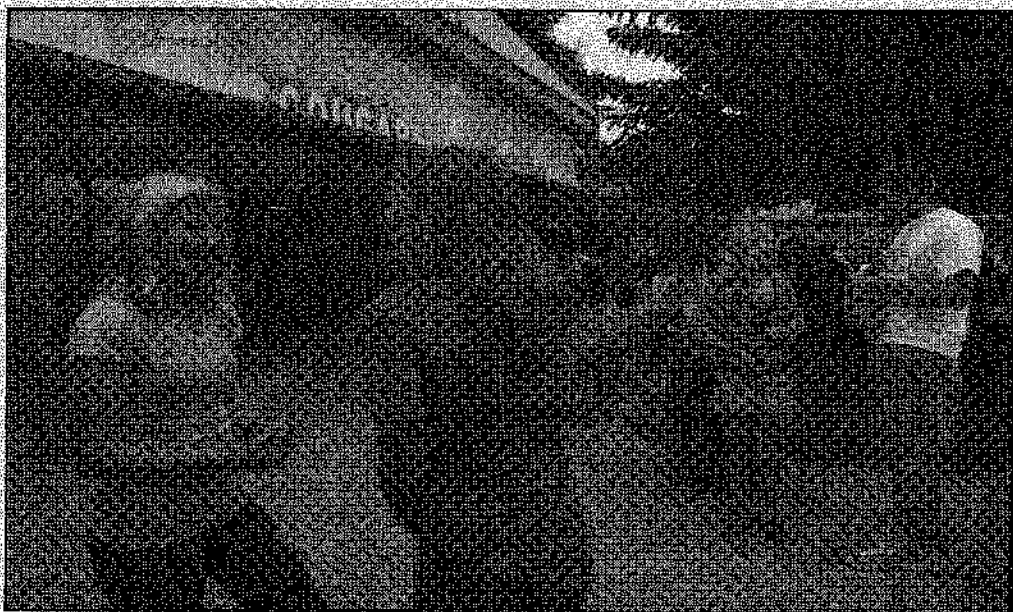


Photo by Susan Tripp Pollard/KRT

"Newport Harbor: The Real Orange County," More Like "Chesapeake Bay Harbor"

Emily Kuhbach

Copy Editor

Every Wednesday night at 10:30 pm, 9:30 central, I can be found plopped down in front of the TV tuning into "Newport Harbor: The Real Orange County," a product of our generation's fascination with watching each other squirm on TV. What makes these people slightly more interesting than your average Joe is three simple traits: money, beauty (where the money goes), and time (which they fill by spending the money). Who cares if it seems like they do not even attend school? Who cares if they throw around said money like it is going out of style? We see them as TV stars, traversing the beach with the wind blowing back their perfectly tousled hair while the latest Top 40 hit plays in the background. In reality, however, these kids are just like us, which leads me to think, why can't we have our *own* reality TV show? We have teenagers, which means we have drama, and Fairfax County has one of the highest median incomes in the country. Not to mention, we have plenty of kids who look, act, and sound the same. That's right, kids: "Mount Vernon Estate: The Real Lower Fairfax County" is coming to a cable channel near you (filling the time slot right after raunchy grabber "Michael Con-Vict"). It is the ultimate spin-off of a spin-off ("Laguna Beach").

"Mount Vernon Estate" enters uncharted waters for shows of this kind: school. It chronicles the lives of our very own Wolverines. You would think three buildings would spread people out and diffuse some of the drama, but that is far from the truth. Watch Suzy and Johnny flirt during PLEX! Figure out how Betty's earning a ROAR card threatens her clique's dynamic, could she be the new Queen Bee? Watch Mary grapple with the stress lines her extracurriculars are causing her as she decides, are they worth it? Not only do we observe these Wolverines in their natural environment (school),

but we also follow them to AMC Hoffman, any of our five malls within thirty miles, Shadowland, and Friday night's football game. Journey with us as we study the effect of assemblies and one too many afternoon announcements on our very own social dynamics and physical appearances.

It is true that "Mount Vernon Estate" bears few actual similarities to "Laguna Beach" and "Newport Harbor." For one thing, the closest things we have to beaches are the Parkway pull-offs along the Potomac River, which are beautiful in their own way. Second, not everyone here *does* look the same, and come from the same background, which only makes a more vibrant show, and, on a greater scale, place to live and grow up. We are not all of the same color, and I am not talking about shades of blonde hair dye.

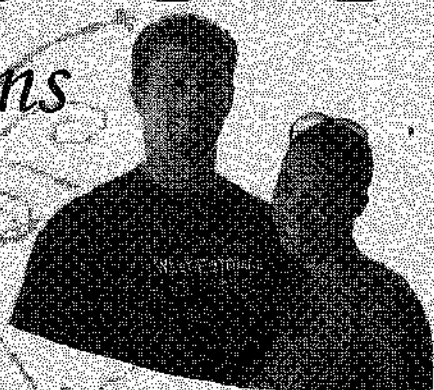
What it boils down to is that both these unaware starlets and we ourselves have insecurities and a desire to be seen and heard, whether we act on it by joining every club, joining no club, buying the newest Fendi purse, or branching out and trying out a Louis Vuitton. There is something to be learned from watching shows like these, for it shows us that even the most drastic change of environment does not deter adolescence. We must realize that these kids are just (unnaturally) better looking, wealthier embodiments of the insecurities we feel everyday. Their conversations are (to some degree) our conversations (granted, I like to think that we are a *little* more articulate), except that theirs are filmed, edited for dramatic emphasis, and broadcast on national television.

Perhaps, we will get our own chance in the spotlight someday. We do not need waves or sunshine; we have minivans, a wide variety of fast food options, and a population more diverse than LC's shoe collection. It is our own version of wealth and we are ready to flaunt it. Roll the opening credits.

Congratulations

on your Engagement,

Mr. Lundin and Ms. Beck!



SHRED SHED STEREO AWAKENING

Brad Lupton

Opinion Editor

One has probably met the members of Stereo Awakening at one point or another in their ventures around the school. Whether it was by going to one of their shows, being in their classes, or just seeing them in the halls, these musicians have made their presence known at school. Their characteristic loudness and high-energy shows are the final products of tons of hard work they put into their music.

The Stereo Awakening lineup is senior Paul Disselkorn on vocals and guitar, senior Graham Jenkins on drums, senior Joe Bradley on bass and voxes, Bishop Ireton senior Jake McConville on vocals and guitar, and Brooks Point High senior Kyle Marshall on lead guitar and vocals. Disselkorn and Jenkins are two faces that have appeared many times in the theater department. They participated in practically all of last year's shows and musicals. In fact, Disselkorn was nominated for a Cappie, an award for performance in theater, along with many others in the theater department for his lead role in the play "42nd Street." Bradley actively participates in Spanish teacher Eugene Fischer's after-school improvement club.

As one can see, the band keeps busy when they are not performing. The after-school activities, like theater and clubs, provide quite a challenge when it comes to balancing work with studying. Not to mention, all of them strive to do well in school and maintain high grades in their classes.



Photo by James Adams

Bishop Ireton senior Jake McConville (left) and senior Joe Bradley jam at Jaxx Night Club in Springfield, Virginia.

The band is an aggressive mix of pop, punk and alternative rock, resulting in crowd-pumping guitar riffs and soaring vocals. Each member does a variety of things that allows for a lot of creativity from song to song. For example, one song may feature McConville leading with his "in your face" style on lead vocals. His rhythmic guitar riffs cut the music and leads to a driving sound. Then, another song may have Marshall on vocals, which leads a chill vibe to the music. On other songs, he just plays the guitar, which allows another showcase his speed and skill on solo. Disselkorn, who also plays another guitar, uses his wide vocal range to add intense emotional drive behind the lyrics. Jenkins brings a hardcore flare to the band with his fast drumming style and use of double bass. Bradley adds a lot of post-school DC hardcore flare to the band with his look, scream, rocking out, and bass playing.

When asked about their style, each one of them gave individual influences and goals that come together to make a unique sound. Bradley said, "Mostly punk music influences me, bands like Rancid, The Clash, The Unseen, that kind of stuff. My life experiences also play into my music." Jenkins said, "Hardcore stuff and hard rock influence me. I like Velvet Revolver, Fives Set To Kill, and Stone Temple Pilots." McConville said, "My influences are definitely Trading Back Sunday and Dashboard Confessional." The wide range of influences on each musician allows for a lot of elements to meld into a slick, fresh sound in their music.

The band has achieved a pretty large fan base at our school. Senior Ali Chaudhri usually goes to their shows on breaks and during the summer. Chaudhri said, "Their shows are really intense. They have a really good stage presence and the music is pretty badass, awesome."

Stereo Awakening is an awesome band, homegrown in these hallways, that rocks really hard. They are currently playing many shows and you can catch them out at their website www.stereowakening.com and on Myspace at myspace.com/stereowakening. Show your support for them, check out their shows, and listen to their new CD titled *12:00 AM 1:00 AM*.

From Public School to Home School

Emmanuel Koduah

Sports Editor

Back to school is usually an exciting time for a lot of students. There is the anticipation of meeting one's new teachers and reuniting with old and new friends. But what if the classroom was one's own living room, one's teacher was one's mother, and the closest thing to classmates was one's own siblings?

At the end of last school year, junior Colin Chadduck made the difficult decision to spend the following school year being home schooled. "My friends' reactions were like, 'Why are you doing this? Is this what you really want to do?' It was nothing I did not really expect," said Chadduck. For those of us that have been attending either private or public school our entire lives, it is hard to imagine being home-schooled. Chadduck, who was having a hard time keeping up in school and fell drastically behind, decided that home-schooling was the best option to help him catch up with his peers.

The transition from public to home school was an interesting one for Chadduck, with both positive and negative aspects. "I get to learn at my own pace, so I am actually learning a lot more information than I was at school," he said. Chadduck's school day is similar to ours, except he does not have classmates. He learns through a textbook made especially for home-schooled students with the help of his parents.

Chadduck has the option of after-school extracurricular activities. "I am going to play for a baseball league for all home-schooled kids in the area," said Chadduck. Besides baseball, Chadduck, along with other local home-schooled students, has the opportunity to participate in almost every sport and every club available to students who attend a school. "There are lacrosse teams, football and basketball teams, computer clubs, debate clubs and just about everything you can think of," said Chadduck.

Some aspects of Chadduck's transition have been difficult. The solitary life of home schooling has taken him away from most of his friends. "That's definitely one of the hardest things about this, just not being able to see my friends every day, even though it is hard to believe I have friends," Chadduck said. Chadduck had to sacrifice the social learning that others receive from interaction with their peers at school.

So, what is next for Chadduck? Technically, as a high school junior, he will be faced with the same pressures and stress of the college applications that all seniors experience next year. His process, however, is a bit different. Since he does not receive grades, he has no GPA to be concerned about. Also, all military and most large schools do not accept home-schooled applicants so his choices are limited. Locally, George Mason has special programs instituted just for



Courtesy of Aidan Chadduck

Chadduck chose to be home schooled rather than going to a public or private high school.

home-schooled students. Chadduck has dreams of attending the University of Guelph in Ontario, Canada and has not yet decided his major. Chadduck jokingly said, "At least when it comes to class rankings, I'll know I'll be number one."

After experiencing both, when Chadduck was asked whether he preferred home-schooling or public school, or whether he would return to public school for his senior year, he said, "Ask me a year from now and I'll be able to tell you."

A Day in the Life of...Michael Knapp

Neil Burke

Reporter

Contrary to what the hearing community may believe, to the Deaf community, hearing loss is not considered a disability. In fact, this is far from the truth. Many of those who are deaf thrive in their life and activities in spite of what is perceived to be their "setback." Members of the Deaf culture just communicate in different ways that the hearing community may not be acquainted with.

Our new American Sign Language teacher, Michael C. Knapp, is determined to help bring down this barrier through introducing students at our school to the Deaf culture and community. Teaching American Sign Language (ASL) is just a part of this. The only thing that a majority of students may know about Knapp is that he is hearing-impaired. However, they may not realize that he is also a highly-motivated, ambitious individual. When he gets up, he is "ready for a new day and am excited, knowing that I am going to teach my students."

Knapp had thought about teaching since he was young, when he would play "classroom," where he "dreamed about being a teacher, working with deaf and hearing students." It is apparent that those dreams have now become a reality for him at our school, where he can be found in his classroom signing with his students, always with a smile. So far, he has enjoyed our school, noting how friendly all the students and staff are.

Junior Zack Riviere, a third-year American Sign Language student, believes that having Knapp as a teacher is a good learning experience due to his personal familiarity with the Deaf culture and community. Riviere's initial impression was "the year was going to be interesting." On the first day of class, he had a hard time keeping up

with Knapp's rapid signing, but after a few days, it got easier. It also helped that Knapp is entertaining. "He is very goofy and likes to incorporate humor into his lessons," Riviere said.

Knapp's main goal is to help bring his students further into the Deaf community than they may have been able to go before. By teaching ASL, he helps students take the critical first step in understanding how the unique Deaf culture communicates, which in itself is the first step to bringing the Deaf and hearing populations together. As a result of these expanding communication skills, students are now helping to bridge the gap between these two separate communities, and in turn, making them more united than they had ever been before.

The Wire is happy to welcome Mr. Knapp to our school and wishes him a successful, productive year.



Photo by Kevin Fowler

American Sign Language teacher, Michael Knapp, uses his hands and body to speak to his students.

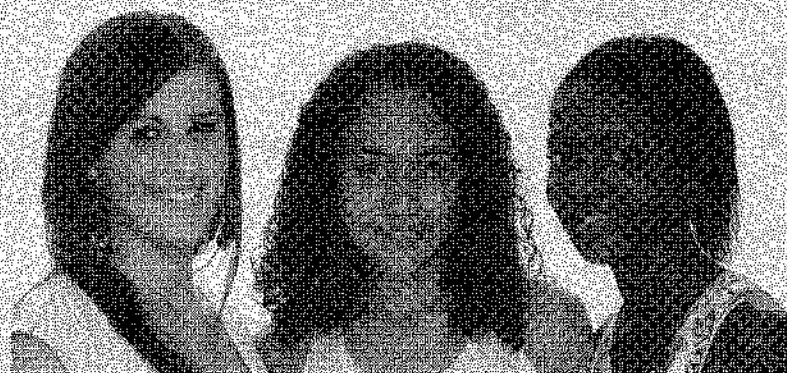
your sexual health matters
make informed decisions - know the facts

FREE & CONFIDENTIAL services:

pregnancy information & testing

STD information & testing referrals

help with relationship issues



APHC

Alexandria Pregnancy Help Center
703-780-4700 - www.slm pregnancy.org
8305 Richmond Highway, Suite 13A
Alexandria, VA 22309

Tune Into Fall T.V.



Photo by Justin Stephens/KRT

Main character Ned (Lee Pace) of the new ABC series "Pushing Daisies" brings back his childhood sweetheart, Charlotte "Chuck" Charles (Anna Friel).

Sandy Shipton

Capt Editor

Students are now in the midst of another school year, and many may turn to the inventive television programs that networks have to offer in order to help pass the time. With countless returning favorites and plenty of interesting new television shows to choose from, many networks are gambling on viewers to help spread the word on the quality of returning favorites and new shows hoping to make new audiences. The following are a few of the most buzz worthy new programs of the season:

- **"Kid Nation"** (CBS, Wednesday 8-9 PM, premiered September 19) - CBS hopes it has the latest reality sensation with "Kid Nation," which explores the potentially fascinating grounds of what 40 children (ages 8-15) can accomplish when left to their own devices. In a groundbreaking premise, these children must work to establish and maintain their own town for a month without the comforts of their parents and homes. Unlike most reality shows, there are no eliminations, and the children only go home if they want to. A swirling controversy has enveloped "Kid Nation" recently, with many declaring the contracts parents signed to be confusing and negative press resulting from minor injuries the children sustained on set. This is one program everyone will have their eye on.

- **"Private Practice"** (ABC, Wednesday 9-10 PM, premiered September 26) - ABC hopes to strike gold again with "Private Practice," the spin-off of the wildly successful "Grey's Anatomy," which will continue to air on Thursdays. Leaving behind the rainy weather and messy relationships of Seattle Grace Hospital, surgeon Addison Montgomery (Kate Walsh) packs up and moves to Los Angeles, joining Oceanside Wellness Center, a practice run by two friends from medical school. Promising many of the quirky situations that occur on "Grey's" without much of the serious drama, "Private Practice" sounds a chance to make a mark as a show independent of its predecessor.

- **"Pushing Daisies"** (ABC, Wednesday 8-9 PM, premieres tonight) - One of the most critically acclaimed new shows of the season, "Pushing Daisies" is a quirky, whimsical program combining light romance, comedy, drama, fantasy, and crime-procedural mystery. Ned, a mild-mannered baker, has had a "gift" since childhood: the ability to revive the dead. A miracle occurs when Ned saves his childhood sweetheart from death and she inexplicably manages to stay alive. However, Ned is plagued by a predicament: if he ever touches her again, she will go back to being dead. In the meantime, Ned becomes a private investigator's assistant, reviving victims and asking them to name their killers before they expire once again. With a creative premise and promising advance word, "Pushing Daisies" is another series that could become a breakout hit this season.

Hosseini's Splendid Read

Zach Feinstein

Online Editor

A Thousand Splendid Suns, the follow up to the Khaled Hosseini smash hit *The Kite Runner*, is another in-depth look into Afghanistan's recent chaotic history and shows how women are treated in Afghan society. The story portrays two women throughout the book: one who comes from a very poor background and another who comes from a privileged family. However, both of them experience the hardships that many women throughout Afghanistan had to endure during the last twenty five years.

The first part of the book begins with Miram, a daughter of a Herat businessman who was born out of wedlock. After her mother commits suicide over Miram's decision to leave home, her father forces her into marrying a businessman from Kabul because he does not want her in his family. At the time of her marriage, she is only at the tender age of fifteen. Once in Kabul, Miram becomes acquainted with her new home city and her new husband, Rasheed.

Rasheed is a very conservative Muslim and asks that Miram wear a burqa, which is a traditional Muslim dress that women use to cover their faces and body. When Rasheed tries to have sex with Miram, it is disturbing because she is only fifteen and he is more than thirty years older than her. She does become pregnant, but has a miscarriage. This goes on to be one of seven miscarriages that Miram has throughout her marriage. Because she could not produce a child for Rasheed, he starts to distance himself from her and become increasingly abusive.

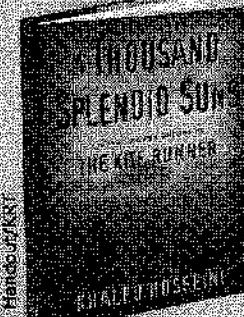
The second part of the book shifts to Miram's neighbor, Laila, and her family. The lifestyle Laila leads is the complete opposite of Miram's. Her parents make her go to school, she has friends, and enjoys being a young girl. Then things start to go south for Afghanistan as they are invaded by the Soviet Union. Thousands are killed and a jihad is soon developing against the Soviets. During the Soviet occupation, women across Afghanistan are being given more rights than they ever had before. This is why Laila's father forces her to go to school.

During this time, she becomes closer with her best friend Tariq. Once the Soviets leave Afghanistan, things start to get even worse, as different factions from the Jihad turn against one another. During this constant fighting, Laila loses her two best friends, her mother, and her father. Because of the fighting, Tariq is forced to flee to Pakistan while Laila remains in Kabul. Knowing that she has no place to go, she marries Rasheed and becomes his second wife.

The second half of this book is unbelievable, so I just leave it to the reader to figure out what happens to Miram and Laila. I recommend this book to everyone, regardless of their religious background, race, or political views. This book will show how women in Afghanistan were treated from the time of the Soviets to the dreadful times under the Taliban. Junior John Thompson said, "I thought it was a really good insight of the social status of women in Afghanistan."

Another great aspect of *A Thousand Splendid Suns* is that it gives a great insight to how people, especially women, were forced to live under the rule of the Taliban. Some of the most normal activities in America were forbidden by the Taliban, such as dancing, singing, watching films, kite flying, and painting pictures. For women, the rules were even stricter. For example, women could not show their faces, could not wear jewelry or makeup, were forbidden from laughing in public, and were not allowed to attend school. The burqa that Miram wears was what women were forced to wear when out in public.

Compared to *The Kite Runner*, *A Thousand Splendid Suns* shows the viewpoint of women in Afghanistan's culture and their status in society. This book can help everyday Americans who do not understand Afghan culture and show them how women had to live with all the problems because of it. *A Thousand Splendid Suns* is a beautifully written book about the everyday struggles Afghan women have to go through. English teacher Mrs. Kimberly Thompson said, "I will probably read everything he [Khaled Hosseini] writes." I think many students in our school would most likely agree with her.



Graduation Hits the Nation

Kate O'Connor

Editor-In-Chief

On September 11, Kanye West's third CD was released to growing anticipation, critical diversity, and a slew of controversy. In its first 24 hours, it sold nearly 500,000 copies and outsold both 50 Cent and Kenny Chesney, who released their newest CDs the same day. *Graduation* is, without a doubt, one of the top albums released from a hip-hop label this year, but compared to West's previous two releases, this one comes up short.

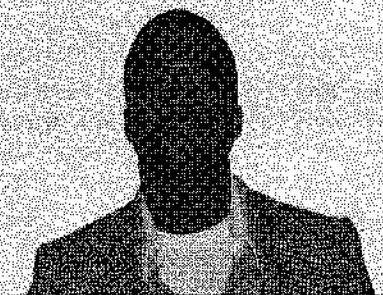
West has been branded "the rapper with angst" for his carefully considered songs and stripped down point-of-view. His audience extends past the legions of gyrating rap enthusiasts, sparking interest in a less stereotypical group of listeners. West's diverse following is evident in his recent duet and the bonus single on *Graduation*, "Bittersweet Poetry," which he recorded with pop singer John Mayer.

Sure, he has got his share of sexual innuendo, but all of his songs should be taken with a grain of salt, as if he is subtly mocking the industry to which he owes his millions. In the song "Drunk and Hot Girls," off his new CD, West's tongue-in-

cheek rap lyrics explain the "hardships" of dealing with intoxicated women. It is a topic rappers cover often, but rarely with such scathing sarcasm that will, no doubt, cause the listener to grin.

In *Graduation*, West continues to update and remix classic songs, making them his own. Some criticize him for dismantling hits like Ray Charles' "Gold Digger," but Daft Punk would be crazy not to be impressed with West's interpretation of their hit "Harder, Better, Faster, Stronger" in his latest single "Stronger."

That is not to say that West is without shortcomings. There is disappointingly less substance in the lyrics on his latest CD than he had on his others. His innovative single, "Diamonds from Sierra Leone," featuring the James Bond theme song "Diamonds Are Forever" by Shirley Bassey, not only questioned cultural attachments to diamonds as symbols of wealth and status, but also addressed their bloody, third world origins. In his 2004 single "Jesus Walks," West addressed the separation of religion from pop culture. Listeners hoping for a deep message may be disappointed by *Graduation's* often superficial and self-centered lyrics.



Lionel Hahn/KRT

This international superstar came from modest suburban beginnings in Chicago, Illinois. He dropped out of Chicago State University to pursue music and began producing for major celebrities like Jay-Z, Eminem, Janet Jackson, Alicia Keys, and John Legend. His first CD was released in 2004, which West named *The College Dropout*. His second CD, *Late Registration*, debuted at number one in 2005. The album was critically acclaimed as a great achievement for West and proof of his talent and breadth.

His final CD is appropriately titled *Graduation* because, although this college dropout never walked across a stage to receive a diploma, there is no doubt that with his latest album West declares he has arrived.

"Gossip Girl" is the New "O.C."

Michaela Accardi

Focus Editor

"Gossip Girl," the popular teen book series by Cecily von Ziegesar, premiered as a television show on The CW at 9 on Wednesday, September 19. Producers of "The O.C." *The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants*, and "The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air" took part in this series that is sure to be a drama-filled season.

The new series features socialite Serena van der Woodsen (Blake Lively) and her mysterious return to Manhattan's Upper East Side. The local prep school teens know all the details about Serena's life through the all-knowing and secretive online teen blog "Gossip Girl." Both Serena's departure and return to Manhattan are surprises to everyone, including her mother (Kelly Rutherford) and best friend Blair Waldorf (Leighton Meester). However, sources point the reason of her return to her younger brother Eric (Connor Paolo) and Blair's boyfriend Nate (Chace Crawford).

The tension between Blair and Serena is apparent not only to close friends like Chuck Bass (Ed Westwick), but also to loyal Gossip Girl readers. Serena has been gone for over a year at boarding school and Blair is not ready to give up her spot as Queen Bee. Maybe Serena is not looking for her old place? Who knows why she is back, but "Gossip Girl" will certainly be the first to find out.

The show also features the Humphrey family, Jenny and Dan, the typical out-of-place teens at the prep school. The two middle-class kids are forced to go to the local prep school by their former rock star father Rufus (Matthew Settle). Suddenly, Dan finds himself dating the most glamorous, gorgeous and popular girl in school, Serena. Dan's sister, on the other hand, is trying desperately to fit in, while Dan seems to accept his low social status.

Drama will soon change everything. Tension not only exists between Serena and Blair, but also between Serena and Blair's boyfriend, Nate. Some sense a past between the two that is desperately trying to be kept secret. Many other twists and turns are soon to come in the new fall hit. Girls around the nation will definitely be tuning in at 9/8c for this new hit drama. With two producers of the successful "The O.C.," it is sure to be a success.

Many avid readers of the series are looking forward to the

new series with excitement. How close will the show be to the original book series? Will the actors represent the characters well? According to freshman Lizzie Persekian, "I didn't think that Serena would be as big or as tall as Blake Lively is, and with a different nose. Blair is really pretty, but Nate is so ugly and when you read the books, you get the impression that he's really cute."

The majority of the fans looking forward to the series are the people who have also been passionate readers. Persekian learned

of the book series through her friends, just like many other teens. "[The books] are fun to read. I mean, you know they're dumb, but they still manage to keep you on your toes and you always want to know what happens next." However, she does not have high expectations for the television version of Gossip Girl. When asked if she expected the show to be as good as the books, she said, "probably not. Movies are never as good as books, but this one does look pretty good."

With a mixture of well-known successful actors and actresses and a handful of up-and-coming stars on the stage, the cast seems more



Handout/KRT

The fifth novel of the Gossip Girl series will bring twists and turns to the TV shows.

than well-fit for the job. In addition, the presence of the books could both lay the groundwork for interesting plotlines and also help create new ones. The show has drama, glamour and much more than needed to create a great success among teen girls throughout America.

Sum 41 Shakes the Stage

Erin Parker

Photographer

After an hour's worth of waiting in line, it was time. The drums were beating so hard that one's heart would take to the beat. Monty Are I, Amber Pacific, and Sum 41 were ready to rock D.C.'s very own 9:30 Club.

Monty Are I was first up. A good opening show should get the crowd pumped, and the adrenaline rushing. The Rhode Island natives' distinctive post-hardcore sound did just that and more. They delivered a performance that stunned the crowd of roughly 500 and made their presence known, even though a majority of fans had never heard of them before.

"It was actually the first time we ever played the 9:30 Club and it was amazing. The vibe was so legit and the crowd really seemed to be into the whole show. [We] can't wait to come back," said Monty Are I's lead guitarist, Stephen Aiello.

Then, D.C. got a little taste of the west coast when Seattle natives Amber Pacific jumped on stage. The pop punk band brought a taste related to Sum 41. By this time, fans that were crowded together on the floor were beginning to drip sweat as they started circle pits and jumped in tune with Amber Pacific's lead vocalist, Matt Young.

Both opening bands have handfuls of national tours under their belt, including Warped Tour. Amber Pacific had also toured with Matchbook Romance, and Monty Are I's tours included bands such as My Chemical Romance and Story of

the Year.

As the stage crew set up for Sum 41, fans were getting restless and the whole 9:30 Club was chanting, "SUM 41! SUM 41! SUM 41!" Drummer Steve "Steve" Jocs entered onto the stage and the crowd let out a big roar. Lead vocalist Deryck Whibley and bassist Jason "Cone" McCaslin followed.

The Canadian-born band started off their show with the song "Underclass Hero," coming off of their new album, *Underclass Hero*, which was just released July 24. As of 2006, the band has performed more than 600 shows and do not seem to be wearing out anytime soon. They know what they have to do to please the crowd. Whibley had the crowd sing the chorus of the songs and let two young men show off their skills on his personal guitar.

Sum 41 delivered an excellent performance even without lead guitarist David Baksh, who left Sum 41 in the spring of 2006 to focus on his new band, Brown Brigade. However, Sum 41 took steps to help remedy this situation that may have otherwise proved messy. A day after Baksh left the band, Deryck Whibley made an official statement that Baksh would be replaced by a touring guitarist,

Thomas Thacker, but would not have any decision-making power, nor be involved in the band's music videos or photo shoots.

After an array of songs, even a cover of The Misfits' song "Attitude," the band ended on a powerful note by playing the famous "Fat Lip" off their second and best-selling album to date, *All Killer, No Filler*. The song is about teenage rebellion, which was a perfect description of the crowd, who were pumping their fists and jumping to the heavy beat.

The band then said their warm good-byes and threw their guitar picks and drumsticks into the crowd for the satisfied fans to scrap for. Fans exited out of 815 V St. with ears still ringing from the blaring music that was Sum 41.



Photo by Erin Parker

Sum 41 singer Deryck Whibley and bassist Jason "Cone" McCaslin pump up the crowd by singing an old favorite.

New iPod iFlawed?

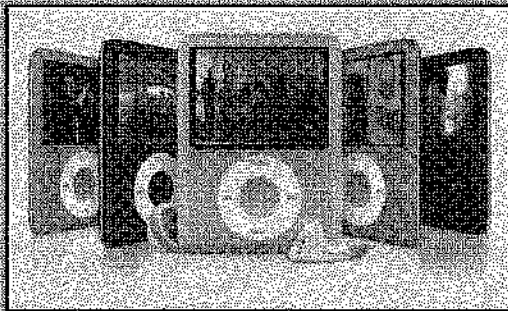


Photo By Handout/MC

The iPod Nano's redesign makes watching TV shows, movies, and music videos possible.

Taylor Dankmeyer

Editor-in-Chief

In the press video of the Apple electronics conference, CEO Steve Jobs paces the floor as eager Mac lovers watch the giant screen behind him, waiting for the next slide to pop up so everyone can see the new iPod. For months they have heard rumors of touch screen iPods, a new Nano, iPods with wi-fi, and more.

Steve Jobs and Apple have released a new iPod every year since 2001. He does presentation after presentation after presentation, showcasing the newest and sleekest portable music player on the planet. However, this year, the entire iPod lineup was changed drastically.

Apple introduced a whole new way to use an iPod—a touch screen, previously seen on the iPhone, which was released in late June. In fact, the "iPod Touch" (its formal name) has the same design as the iPhone, except thinner.

Apple also updated the iPod Nano, going from tall and thin to short and wide. The reason for this was to make the screen bigger, going from a 1.5 to 2-inch screen. The Nano will also be able to play video and look at photos, giving it all the features of the iPod Video. However, the Nano will continue to come in four and eight gigabytes (GBs).

Jobs also coined the term "iPod Classic" during the presentation, referring to the first six iPods made, and the newest classic, which was released on September 5. The new iPod Classic looks exactly like the iPod Video, however, the nanos received a major upgrade, and it comes in two extremely large hard drive sizes, 80 and 160 GBs.

But clearly, Jobs was not done with his presentation. What was this "touch screen iPod" everyone had heard about? And that is when a message came up on the large screen which read, "We're not done yet."

The iPod Touch introduces quite a few new features. One is the ability to sync music on iTunes on the actual iPod Touch. Through the new "iTunes Wi-Fi Music Store" one can browse the iTunes music store, preview songs, buy them and then listen to them. When you sync the iPod to your computer, that song shows up in your iTunes library.

The iPod Touch, simply put, is an iPhone without the phone and camera, but cheaper.

However, the iPod Touch falls short in one major category: hard drive size. The iPod Touch is, by definition, an upgrade in the iPod line. However, the size of its hard drive got smaller. This is the first time this has happened in the iPod's short history. Sure, Apple did release the "iPod Classic" with a larger hard drive, but who wants that when you can have the iPod touch?

When a product is updated, it is given more features, or certain features are upgraded. For example, the iPod, on every new release, has been given a bigger hard drive. Now, a drastic change is made in the iPod and the hard drive is made smaller. The iPod Touch looks awfully cool, but the hard drive space is a product killer.

However, it is hard to complain, because these iPod Touches are, well, extremely cool.

FEATURES

INSIDE THE MINDS OF THE MATTS

MP= Matt Persekian
MM= Matt Marinello
MH= Matt Husband

Stephen Howell
News Editor



Marinello

What does it mean to be a Matt?

MP: There's a lot of respect behind it. It's a special name, even a great name. Not everyone can be a Matt. It takes a special type.

MM: I don't even think words can describe it.

MH: I don't think it means anything to be a Matt, but to be a Matt, you have to mean something.

What is the most embarrassing moment you've had here?

MP: I got paddled in front of all my friends.

MM: Seeing my sister in the same school as me.

MH: Well, I shanked a two-yard punt.

If you could take anyone out to dinner, who would it be?

MP: Genghis Kan. I imagine he'd be quite funny.

MM: Probably Jesus. He could teach me a thing or two.

MH: Jessica Alba, for obvious reasons.

What's the meanest thing you've ever done to a girl?

MP: When I was younger, I dumped my girlfriend on her birthday.

MM: My friend had a girlfriend I didn't like, so I wrote a fake letter to her, dumping her, pretending I was the friend. The girl cried and didn't talk to the guy for the whole day. He didn't figure out it was me until the next

day. The girl still doesn't believe him.

MH: I was really hungry one day at lunch, and I forgot my money, so I told a girl it wouldn't be a good idea to eat her Twinkie and Snickers bar. So, she didn't eat her lunch that day and she gave it to me.



Husband

What's the nicest thing you've done for a girl?

MP: One time, I took a girl out to Ruby Tuesday. We shared the appetizer sampler. I got a lemonade and hamburger. She got a caesar salad. I called her the next day and we talked about our feelings.

MM: I ask her out on a dinner date. We never went, so I spent the money I saved on a video game.

MH: I took a girl out to *Sbreak 2* and bought her a large popcorn.

What can you do better than anyone at our school?

MP: Easy. Longboarding. I usually long board with my best friend, Taylor Smythe.

MM: Play drums with my hands.

MH: Kick them field goals, if you know what I'm talking about.



Persekian

If you could be anyone in the world, who would you be?

MM: Matt Husband.

MH: Bill Gates, of course.

CONTEST CORNER



Photo By Starling Carter

Congratulations to this issue's contest winner, sophomore Starling Carter. Carter's photo shows artistic ability while sticking to the Fall theme. The theme for next issue's contest is "What are you thankful for?" To have your photos or artwork featured in *The Wire*, submit your entry to Ms. Pierre in room 418 or email it to sbowdring@wpwire.com or afabrizio@wpwire.com

POETRY IN COMMOTION

Don't tase me

Don't tase me, bro! Don't tase me!

A figure walks in, quick as a bee.

At University of Florida, listenin' to Mr. Kerry,

He starts tryin' to fry, but he looks a bit wary.

Soon conflict breaks out; the kid is resisting the police,

I like his shirt though, looks like fleece.

They tug at him and he lets out a yell,

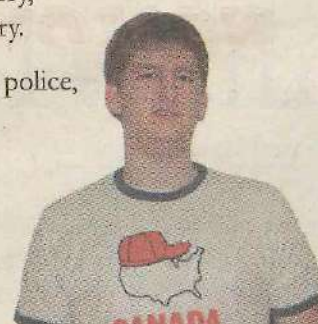
This situation isn't looking too swell.

Don't tase me, bro! Don't tase me!

Zap! Looks like they got you bro,

Now you are lying on the flo',

Looking really silly on this YouTube show.



Too bad you went looking for attention in the wrong place,
Too bad campus cops are overzealous with their taser and their mace,
Next time think before you act like a goon,
Then maybe you won't be all over the internet, looking like a buffoon.

- Brad "B-rad" Lupton

College Checklist

Things to Complete by November to Make Sure You Are on Track

Laura Howell
Reporter

Seniors:

- If you are applying early decision or early action, you should be close to finishing your applications! You do not want to be rushed at the last minute and deadlines tend to be very early November.
- Begin to submit your transcript request forms. You do not want to be late!
- Ask for your recommendations in advance, so your teachers and counselors do not have to rush. It will be easier on everyone.
- Sign up for the SAT, SAT Subject Tests and/or ACT if you are planning on taking them (and if you are, study!) You can purchase study materials at local bookstores.
- Begin researching scholarships and financial aid tools.
- Attend College Fair and College Night program*
- Be sure you have requested that your test scores are sent to the colleges of your choice.

Juniors:

- Begin looking and signing up for a SAT prep class, or purchase a review book.
- If you are planning on switching out of one of your classes, make an appointment with your counselor. You want to make sure that this is the best year for you.
- Attend College Fair and College Night program*
- Continue to study hard and keep your grades up- junior year grades are crucial for college.

TESTING

SAT Date	Deadline to Sign Up
October 6, 2007	September 10, 2007
November 3, 2007	October 2, 2007
December 1, 2007	October 30, 2007
January 26, 2008	December 26, 2007

ACT Dates	Deadline to Sign Up
October 27, 2007	September 21, 2007
December 8, 2007	November 2, 2007

Upcoming College Fairs
October 15

7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Upcoming College Night

October 14

7:30 pm - 9:30 pm