



Political Issues: Educational system taking its toll

Republican and Democratic politicians speak about Virginia's education system at local rallies

Noor Javaid
Opinions Editor



Our Opinions Editor, Noor Javaid, had the opportunity to talk to Republican Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli about improvements in Virginia's Educational system.
Photo by Kausar Javaid

On September 28th, at the Tandoori Village in Manassas, Virginia Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli, and Virginia Senator Mark Obenshain addressed the issues and platforms they are running on for the upcoming elections on November 5th.

The first to speak was Cuccinelli, a Republican running for Governor. One of the main concerns for much of the audience was the educational system in Virginia. When asked about he would improve the system, Cuccinelli noted two main areas that needed to be addressed.

Firstly, he explained that he wants

to encourage local school districts to expand their math and science curriculums, reform the Standards of Learning (SOL) tests to "bring them up to the 21st century, and flexible tools for accountability," and finally, "to make room in the budget so every child can succeed."

"The second part is higher-ed," Cuccinelli said. "We want to focus on making the tuition lower to encourage them [students] first, go into the program, but for us to reward them because a lot of them get weeded out."

When asked about safety and security issues in schools in light of the

Sandy Hook tragedy, Cuccinelli said that "[Virginia is] in good hands" due to his experience as its attorney general. "We are taking some physical steps in schools to make some grant money available for localities so they can better secure the facilities."

Later in the rally, Republican Senator Mark Obenshain, who is running for attorney general, took the stage. In an interview after the rally, Obenshain indicated that it was pertinent to get as much information as possible about the current state of the educational system and how it would change for the better. He states, "First off, we've got great schools in Virginia, especially in Fairfax and Prince William ... they're really outstanding, but we've had some areas with schools failing a lot of kids."

In order to fix that, his plan would be to expand the development of charter schools and educational innovation to "[make] sure that our failing schools are no longer failing." He also envisioned safe and secure environments in the schools.

Obenshain also noted the challenges to work out the problems that Virginia is facing in the system. He believes solutions that work in northern Virginia may not work in the southern parts of the state.

The following day, a Democratic political rally was held in the house of Rafat Mahmood in Alexandria, VA. The rally was keynoted by U.S. Congressman Jim Moran and Virginia Delegate Ralph Northam, a physicist who is running for Lieutenant Governor of Virginia.

Northam was also questioned about the security and safety of students and how it will be improved. He replied that gun violence issues could be addressed in part by having universal background checks in Virginia, "so we can do the best we can to keep them [guns] out of the hands of criminals."

Northam discussed access to mental health care and providing for those with mental instabilities. He said that he plans on moving forward with the Medicaid expansion to take some of that money and use it for mental health because that is in an area he believes is lacking. He also cited mental illness as a key reason for many arrests, and by addressing mental health issues, crime could be reduced.

Congressman Jim Moran also spoke about educational issues and school security. He supported the ideas of Terry McAuliffe, a Democrat running for Governor, about investing in education, and believes improving security is up to the state and local areas. "Fairfax County invests more than most jurisdictions in their education system," Moran said, "so you're lucky to be in this county."

West Potomac soda machines changes and their origins

Noor Javaid
Opinions Editor

After a long walk or eating some chocolate in the hallways, one needs a beverage to quench their thirst. Usually a West Potomac student would go up to the nearest vending machine to find a fizzy drink or soda. But this year, however, the Fairfax County School Board has decided that they are now banning all sugar-infused drinks from West Potomac's soda machines. Seven out of 25 of the county's schools have been chosen to participate in this testing for the 2013-14 academic year.

This began in September when it was decided that West Potomac would be one of the high schools that would be part of the experiment, in a group that also Chantilly, Falls Church, Langley, Marshall, Lake Braddock, and Thomas Jefferson. According to the school district's website FCPS.edu, "soda products are not currently available

in any Fairfax County public school during the school day, except for adult purchases in teachers' lounges." I think this is totally unfair and to be honest," said senior Jenny Arevalo when she found out about the experiment. "It will blow over as an experiment that failed to work."

The vending machines have been replaced with 37 new, state-of-the-art, glass-front beverage machines. The machines now include diet sodas, diet and unsweetened teas, coconut waters, V-8 Fusion Juices, SoBe Lifewaters, Propel Zeros, and G2 Gatorades. "We've been receiving a positive reaction from that," said Ted Velkoff, member-at-large of the FCPS school board.

While some students think that this is bound to be a terrible experiment, senior Kanjana Pradhan states, "I've always liked diet anyway so it doesn't make much of a difference to me."

According to studies conducted by AskDrSears.com, an alarming 62 percent of students ranging from ages 12 to 17, and 41 percent of children from ages 2 to 11 drink at least one sugar-infused beverage per day. This concerns many dentists and doctors alike.

The increase of obesity rates among the student population is one of the leading reasons why FCPS has decided to conduct this experiment.

Junior Akua Agyei-Boateng agrees with the "no soda machines" trial, saying, "There are enough snacks to deal with hunger, and then to top off the thirst, a student can purchase a refreshing drink that's all healthy."

It will be a long wait to see how the results turn out, but in the meantime, students are encouraged to hydrate their bodies with sugar free beverages now accompanying the machines around West Potomac's halls.

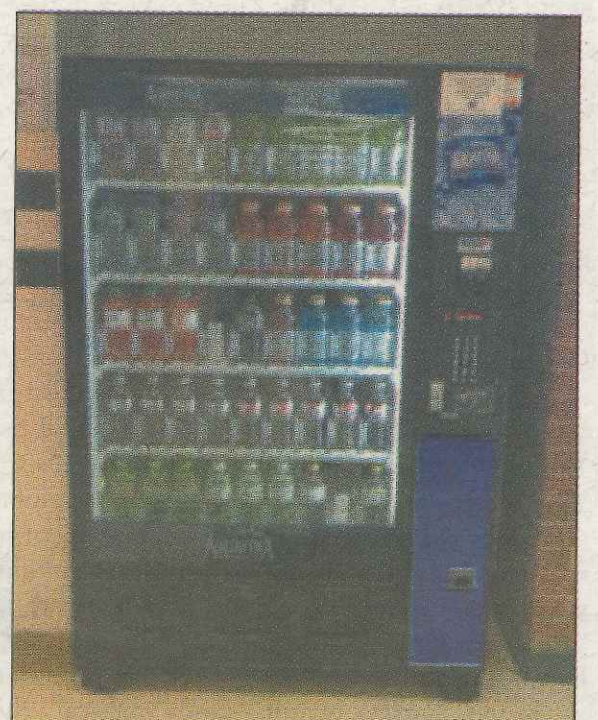


Photo courtesy Margaret O'Meara

West Potomac vending machines have been filled with sport drinks and diet sodas with signs stating "The Energy Zone has been directed to implement a regular soda ban for the 2013-14 school year. To assist us with this study please share your comments at sodapilot@fcps.edu"

STYLE

Mr. Wise



Erin Conway

West Potomac's Fashion Icons

What is your "go-to" outfit?

W: A pair of nice slacks, a nice top, and either a cardigan or a blazer.

O: Everyday it's jeans and dress shirt. I just have to make sure I iron it the night before. Iron the shirt, not the jeans. I don't iron my jeans.

What is your favorite accessory? Something you can't live without?

W: My rings definitely

O: Argyle socks for sure

How would you classify your style choices?

W: Trendy and fashion forward definitely. I also like to dress in different themes and eras.

O: "In-between" I would say. I like to wear jeans because they are comfortable, but I make sure they are nice jeans, not ratty and my shirt is ironed and nice. I like to be comfortable, but I still have to look professional it's part of the job.

Mr. O'Gra



Erin Conway

Music Rewind

Popular artists top the charts with retro styled music

Margaret O'Meara

News & Style Editor

Justin Timberlake, Bruno Mars, Daft Punk and several other pop music artists are bringing back the retro disco music vibe to the industry. This new music trend is not disrupting these musical artists careers. For Justin Timberlake and Bruno Mars, their flashback sounds are proving to be big hits.

Justin Timberlake's recent single "Take Back the Night" brings back similar sounds to '70s disco and soulful music. The song was originally released in July 2013, when Timberlake first performed it live at the Wireless Festival. The throwback sound of Timberlake's "Take Back the Night" has not stopped him from reaching the top of the billboards. The song was ranked number eight on Billboard's U.S. Hot R&B/hip-hop songs and number 29 on Billboard's Hot 100.

"Take Back the Night" is similar to the Michael Jackson's iconic sound, and has sparked a new genre in itself in the music industry. Timberlake's single reminds junior Julia Monroe of Michael Jackson's "The Way You Make Me Feel," but with a modern twist. "The background music and horns make it sound so jazzy and suave," said Monroe. "The lyrics just make me want to have a good time."

Bruno Mars, a one-of-a-kind singer and songwriter, rewound his sound back to the '70s with his song "Treasure," first appearing on

Mars's album *Unorthodox Jukebox* in May 2013. This song's unique sound gained positive feedback on the Billboard charts, ranking number 2two on Billboard's Hot 100. The music video for the song is a retro-styled musical throwback to the '70s and '80s, resembling the Michael Jackson era of pop music.

Daft Punk's catchy summer song "Get Lucky" has been the number one song in over 20 countries worldwide, according to Billboard's website. The song's low bass and smooth guitar riffs take the songs back to the '70s disco-era pop music sounds. The repetitive single was nominated for the MTV Music Video Award Best Song of the summer.

Bruno Mars and Daft Punk's music videos are also produced in a retro style. The music videos are throwbacks to the previous decades with bright lights, flashy costumes, and the soulful, disco-era sounds from the drums and guitars.

The hit singles from Justin Timberlake, Bruno Mars, and Daft Punk remind listeners of a disco pop era of music styling. The musical rewind from these popular artists are not setting them back in their ways. Instead, the musical throwback has launched these musical artists into the top of the charts and the number one spots throughout the country.

Grand Theft Auto Five: Grandeur than ever before

Hugh Moffitt

Reporter

Like 18 million others, I bought a copy of *Grand Theft Auto Five* the day it was released. At first it was almost too much for me to take in. *Grand Theft Auto Five* immediately plunges you into an epic single-player story that took four years and \$265 million for Rockstar, the company that developed the game, to make. But after I got settled in Los Santos, Rockstar's parodic animated version of Los Angeles, I found myself in a world that truly is limitless.

GTA 5 has many features that you could only see in a *GTA* game. For example, if you listen to the in-game radio in your player's car, you may hear ads clearly insulting other modern video games, like an advertisement for *Righteous Slaughter 7: Pretty Much the Same as the Last One*, clearly insulting the *Call of Duty* series. Other commercials heard in the cars range from advertisements for a spoof of *Fifty Shades of Grey* to an online baby-shopping service. It is this kind of humor that will make gamers fall in love with *GTA 5* and the game's developers.

Although it might sound like the game is just a harsh piece of witty satire directed towards all aspects of contemporary America, the gameplay hits it out of the park as well. When I first learned of the three-character storyline, I was unsure what to think, but eventually Rockstar won me over with it. The stories of the three different protagonists manage to intertwine perfectly over time and will leave fans extremely satisfied. Gamers can choose to spend their time enjoying

the fruits of being one of three criminals in a city with limitless abilities, or they can completely immerse themselves in the storyline and their time shaping their *GTA 5* experience with the important decisions they make.

Most of the improvements and features added to the game were to the combat system that some *Grand Theft Auto IV* players found lacking. The main improvement to *GTA 5* combat mechanics is the weapon wheel. Gamers who played *Red Dead Redemption* will be familiar with the wheel to switch or pull out your weapon. In my opinion, the best part of the wheel is when you're scrolling through the wheel to select a weapon, the game slows motion to ensure you don't miss pieces while trying to find your weapon.

GTA 5 also rolled out something completely new to the *GTA* series: customization. The game has a wide variety of weapons; and even more options available to fans who paid extra for the collector's edition or special edition. It can enhance almost every one of your cars with custom paint jobs, silenced weapons, and even scopes.

Grand Theft Auto Five gave gamers a new level of enjoyment and interaction that they never felt before in a video game. The improved gameplay, along with the spectacular storyline, help *Grand Theft Auto Five* secure the *Grand Theft Auto* reputation as the standard in open-world and urban combat games.

Photo courtesy of Rockstar Games

Blurring between lyrics and a lifestyle

Robin Thicke's recent song, *Blurred Lines*, portrays women and rape victims in a derogatory fashion.

Jensen Wainwright
Focus Editor

The line, "I know you want it" has somehow snuck its way into everyone's ears this summer, but with Robin Thicke's summer hit "Blurred Lines," do you really know what you're listening to?

"Blurred Lines" is single-handedly promoting rape culture to the youth of this nation through its repulsive lyrics. The song even goes so far to say, "The way you grab me/must wanna get nasty," suggesting that women want Thicke badly. He even elaborates on this with the repetition of "I know you want it" throughout the song.

Rape culture is starting to become normalized in today's society. Some jump to the conclusion that the victims ask for the attention by the way they dress or by the way they act when they are intoxicated. This thinking is widespread on both college and high school campuses.

In a well-publicized case recently, two high school football players, Trent Mays and Ma'lik Richmond, in Steubenville, Ohio were involved with videotaping their assault of their colleague whose name is not disclosed. Both confessed over an exchange of texts with their peers.

One text explained the horrors of the assault saying, "I should have raped her, now that everyone thinks I did."

Astonishingly, the rapists were looked at as the victims, and not the actual victim herself. After

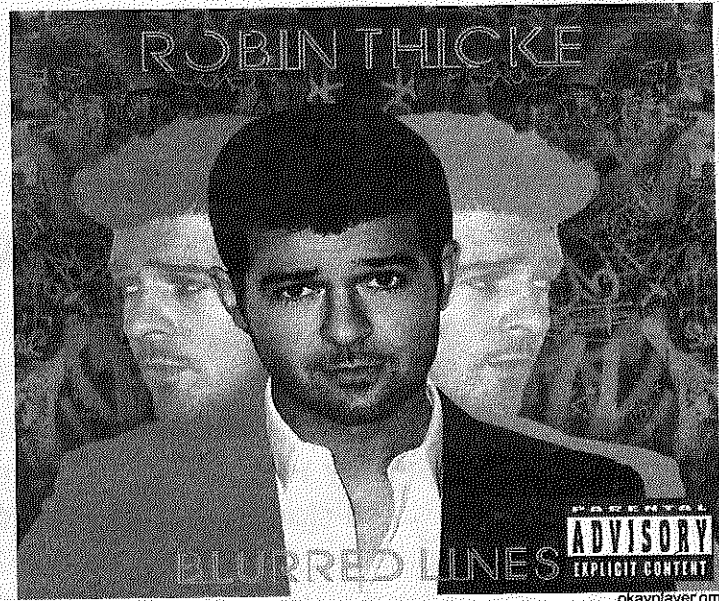
the guilty verdict was reached, CNN's Harley Pollow said, "these two young men who had such promising futures, star football players, very good students, literally watched as they believed their lives fell apart." Serena Williams joined in on the bashing of the victim over the summer, saying "she [the victim] shouldn't have put themselves in that position," directly blaming the victim, as if she purposefully went out that night to get raped.

Whether rape had occurred or not should not be judged on the victim's actions -- it should be judged on the attacker and how they forced sexual assault.

Recently survivors of sexual assault have spoken out against rape culture in what is called "Project Unbreakable." Many of the quotes said by rapists, molesters, and assaulters directly parallel what Thicke writes about in his hit song.

"I know you want it," "I know you like it," and "Tell me you want it" are just a few examples among the many.

Thicke's song takes away the real-life impact of sexual crimes. He portrays them as usable women who ask and deserve the molestation. The sad part of it all: not everyone is aware of what Thicke is promoting in his song, and just how big of a population it is affecting.



The lyrics of "Blurred Lines" are offensive to rape and sexual assault victims. They provoke an uncomfortable feeling to those that have suffered the mental abuse.



Rape victim displays her poster with lyrics from Thicke's "Blurred Lines." This has brought emotional responses from other assault and rape victims as well.

WestPo's back to school backup

Carly Mulvihill
Business Manager

Traffic at this school. It's my worst nightmare.

It used to take me 15 minutes to get to school, when there was traffic, but now, I spend at least 25 minutes stuck in traffic every morning. In addition to this, there are often issues quickly leaving the parking lots after school. The large amount of traffic every day makes it practically impossible to beat the buses at the end of the school day.

Traffic has been causing problems for many students and teachers who drive to school as well. It has also become a serious issue in the neighborhood around West Potomac because of the increase in students and, therefore, an increase in cars on the roads. Whether it is on Quander Road or in the West Potomac parking lot, there never seems to be enough space on the road for all of the cars that need to make it to the school. This year's student body is one of the largest that West Potomac has ever had, and the local traffic has become unbearable.

When asked how he avoided traffic on the way to school, junior Eric Turner stated, "I take the Parkway to avoid traffic." Turner added that the higher speed limit on the Parkway made it faster to get to school.

New math teacher, Mr. John Zacharias has a special challenge with his drive to West Potomac. He commutes all the way from Arlington, Virginia, so he often faces issues that students and teachers who live closer to the school don't have to deal with.

He explained that highways such as I-95 are filled with traffic in the morning, so the back roads make for a less-stressful commute.

I have tried to combat the traffic by leaving my house earlier and taking a round-about route to avoid the main roads. In the mornings, Fort Hunt Road is a mess, so avoiding it makes my route to school much easier. After school, no matter how fast I get to my car, the parking lot is always still a madhouse. As a senior, and holder of a \$200 parking pass, I don't understand why I am not reaping the benefits.

Recently, the traffic situation has gotten better since the school has opened up a second exit for the senior parking lot. It has cut down on the one lane traffic from the lot, and has allowed more cars to leave the parking lot before the buses.

The traffic issue at the school would best be solved by creating alternate exits to the parking lots. If the school paved a second exit for the junior and overflow lots, it would definitely cut down on how long all of us are forced to wait behind the massive lines of cars. Moreover, a large majority of traffic I have seen going in and out of the school is from parents driving their children to school. It would be wonderful if students are required to ride the bus or carpool with a West Potomac student. At this point, any of these changes would be more effective than our current system.

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With all the many dangers in the college lifestyle, one of the most dangerous things for students is themselves. Suicide is the second leading cause of death among college students, usually caused by untreated depression. Despite the fact that twenty percent of students say they are more unhealthy than they should be, only six percent say that they would seek help. The most publicized case of college suicide is that of Tyler Clementi. A gay student at Rutgers, his roommate set up a live webcam to film his date with another man and gathered other students to watch. Clementi complained to administrators about the incident, but before his room could be changed he jumped of the George Washington Bridge. Even though college students may not realize they can get help, there are many new tools available for them. Some universities, such as Miami University (Ohio), have instituted a new app called "Just In Case". The app has a homescreen with three buttons: 'I can't cope', 'I might hurt myself', and 'I'm worried about a friend'. The app then connects you to emergency responders or resources on your specific campus.

"I'm excited for [the college] being able to go out and meet alot of really cool people friends with." -Junior Jay



COLLEGE LIFE

College, and the socializing that comes with it, is a time of independence and learn how to partying that has always been a higher stakes. Drugs and alcohol than they already were due to alcohol and drug abuse comes through, some student's risky decisions can change their life.

123

The increase in Molly related emergency room visits from 2005 to 2009

3.36

Millions of students who drink and drive

1,100

The deaths on campus per year due to suicide

37%

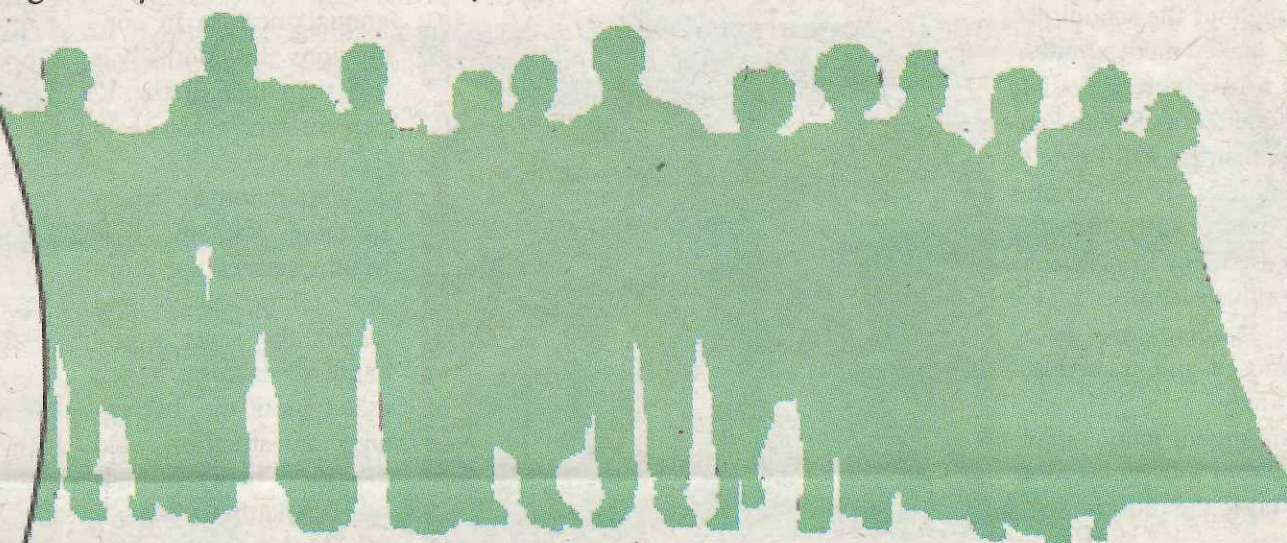
Percentage of college students who have tried binge drinking

scene] because Leigh loves
about curfew, and she's
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is

COLLEGE: A DEATH

with it, used to be a way to find your
your time. Recently, however, the
college has become riskier, with much
started to become more dangerous
trends to get wasted. Along with al-
numbers in student suicide. Unknow-
le in college made the choice between
for them.

Recently, music festivals and club drugs have become synonymous. For college kids, music festivals are a way to get off campus and listen to their favorite bands, as well as get high. The newest trend is "molly," also known as MDMA or "Ecstasy." While the drug itself has been around for years, its recent rebranding has made it extremely popular with college kids. The side effects of Molly include increased heart rate and blood pressure, which can be a warning sign to users that they have taken too much. Unfortunately, these symptoms can also be confused with the exhilaration of seeing your favorite band in concert and constant dancing, so many users don't realize they have overdosed. The name molly may denote it being cute and harmless, but the reality is anything but. The three day New York City music festival "Electric Zoo" was forced to cancel its last day after two people overdosed and died from molly. Just a week earlier, successful college student Brittany Flannigan overdosed on the same drug during her first concert at House of Blues. The reason for the overdoses is that users can never know what kind of other drugs molly is cut with, which may cause fatalities.



- **Drunk driving:** 3,360,000 students between the ages of 18 and 24 drive under the influence of alcohol.
- **Health problems:** More than 150,000 students develop an alcohol-related health problem.
- **Alcohol abuse and dependence:** 31 percent of college students met criteria for a diagnosis of alcohol abuse and 6 percent for a diagnosis of alcohol dependence in the past 12 months, according to questionnaire-based self-reports about their drinking.
- **Assault:** 696,000 students between the ages of 18 and 24 are assaulted by another student who has been drinking.

(Source: collegedrinkingprevention.gov)

If you are trying to help someone who is depressed,
you can call 1-800-SUICIDE or go to your school
health facility and ask for assistance.

SPORTS

FCPS takes national lead in concussion prevention

Ray Rhatican
Sports Editor

With concussions on the rise in high school sports, what is being done to protect athletes?

Concussions are becoming an epidemic in schools across the nation. While they have always been present in sports, research in recent years has shown that concussions are a much more serious problem than had previously been realized. With these issues coming into the limelight, changes are being made by Fairfax County Public Schools and USA Football, both agencies taking the initiative to become national leaders on the safety front.

FCPS boasts some of the highest concussion rates in the state of Virginia. To combat the problem, the county requires the presence of two certified trainers per school, who work long hours by attending every practice and sports event. During every West Potomac practice and game, there are two athletic trainers on site, themselves trained in injury prevention and rehabilitation. The presence of trainers throughout the school district makes medical attention much more accessible to student athletes, and ensures that the well-being of the athletes always remains the first priority. Because of this, many concussions that otherwise would have been ignored are being diagnosed and treated accordingly.

Among all school-sponsored sports activities, football takes the most heat for concussion risk. According to a study performed by MedStar Health spanning from 1997 to 2008, football accounted for more than half of all concussions sustained by FCPS high school athletes. This number indicates that football produces three times the "athletic exposures," or incidences in which an athlete is involved in one athletic activity than that of lacrosse, the second leading sport in terms of concussions sustained.

One figure making a positive difference is West Potomac's head football coach Jeremiah Davis. Coach Davis himself was a high school and college athlete. During his football career, Davis suffered six concussions, the last of which prematurely ended his playing days for good. Due to this, Coach Davis says that he is especially sensitive to the issue. "I wouldn't want any kid to suffer a career-ending injury like myself. That stinks, to not be able to play anymore because of something that could have been prevented."

Some of the biggest changes brought about already in Davis's short tenure at West Potomac have been weekly days without pads and contact. Additionally, Coach Davis was part of a committee consisting of a dozen local coaches tasked with designing a practice plan, aimed at maximizing the efficiency of practices while also minimizing risks. This schedule includes neck exercises to build muscle in high-injury areas, and ample time to warm up and ease into the daily grind of hitting, while limiting the daily amount of "game-like contact" to only 20 percent of practice. The rest of contact in practice is controlled, focusing on form and making safe hits.

Other factors are also helping, including improved helmet technology and education. Helmet companies like Riddell have taken giant steps over the past decade, in efforts to create the best possible protection for the heads and brains of athletes. Because of the actions taken to increase football safety, the

annual increase in concussions in football is less than half of the 17 percent increase seen in lacrosse.

West Potomac Varsity Lacrosse captain Kyle Matthews sees the progress taking place and wishes the same would happen in lacrosse. When asked about the discrepancy in attention paid to safety between both sports, Matthews said, "I believe that football helmets have so much more protection than lacrosse helmets. A football helmet on a lacrosse field

would look stupid. However the difference in protection is absurd. As a player and captain, I wish the amount of research into concussion prevention that has gone into football helmets would go into lacrosse helmets. While the number and intensity of contacts differs greatly between the two sports, the chance of a concussion is still there."

Summing up the efforts of the football team to reduce concussions, Coach Davis said, "The biggest difference I saw was in our freshman level. They don't know a bad way to tackle; they haven't learned bad technique. Even little leagues are teaching the same thing. It's very evident that they're playing the game the right way, and in a couple years that will just be the way it's done. I think we're going in the right direction."



West Potomac football player Kevin Carter gets tackled in one of the team's live scrimmages.

Madison Condon

WOLVERINE WARRIOR

Eve Hauptle



connectionnewspapers.com

On September 24th, Junior field hockey player Eve Hauptle had 13 saves again Woodson. She has had an illustrious season this year as a goalie.

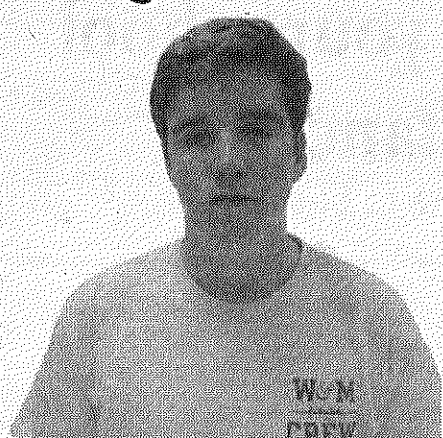
Ray Rhatican
Sports Editor

Eve Hauptle is the face of the promising crop of juniors dominating the West Potomac Field Hockey team. On a team stacked with underclassmen talent, her 97 saves are the most of any goalkeeper in Northern Virginia, and the second in the entire D.C. area. She is aided by junior classmates Amy Holm, Lizzie Wood, and Hannah Skudlarek, the team's three leading goal scorers. The top five goal scorers on the Wolverine squad are all underclassmen, setting the team up nicely for a prosperous future.

Despite the promise that next season holds, Hauptle has her eyes firmly set on the remainder of this year's campaign. After last season, in which she received second team All-Met honors in the Washington Post, she decided to take this past off-season more seriously in pursuit of first team honors. In addition to her own personal goals, she wants to see her team do well. "I feel like we can go to regionals, and do well at regionals," she said. "We just have to do well in our next few games." When asked about her role in the upcoming post-season push, she stated, "I feel like I am important, but I'm not the most important person. I feel like we're all 'co-important.'"

Now in her second year as the starting goalkeeper, Hauptle has assumed a leadership role. Fellow field hockey star Lizzie Wood praised her leadership. "She's a good motivator, a good leader. She gets everyone pumped up before games and during halftime." About her own leadership, Hauptle said, "I hope my influence can help to form a strong team in future years."

Meet our Sports Editor: Ray Rhatican



BY THE NUMBERS

- 1,241: Demornay Pierson-el rushing and passing yards
- 6: Overtime games played by field hockey
- 17: Receptions by Wide Receiver Jordan Alexander
- 128: Saves by field hockey player Eve Hauptle
- 3: WP golf took 3rd in regional tournament

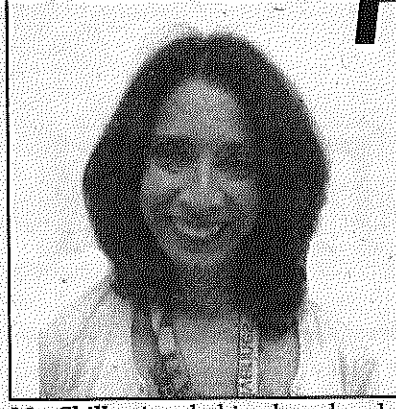
FEATURES



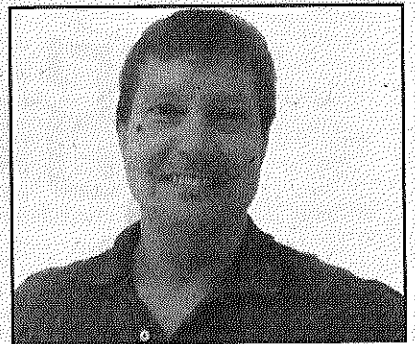
Ms. Zoretich roots for the Steelers, Penn State and Virginia Tech



Ms. Cohen is a former Capitol Hill lobbyist and stay at home mom



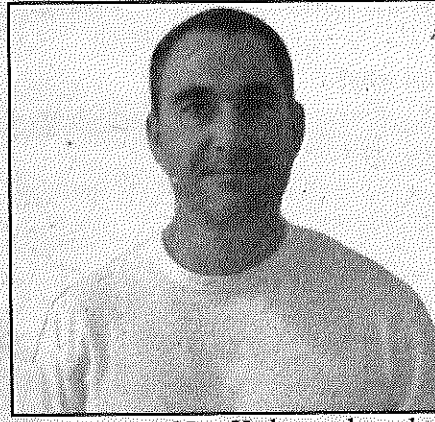
Ms. Chill enjoys baking bread and growing vegetables and flowers



Mr. Zacharias was the high-scorer on his college football team



Ms. Lee is originally from South Carolina and has an identical twin sister



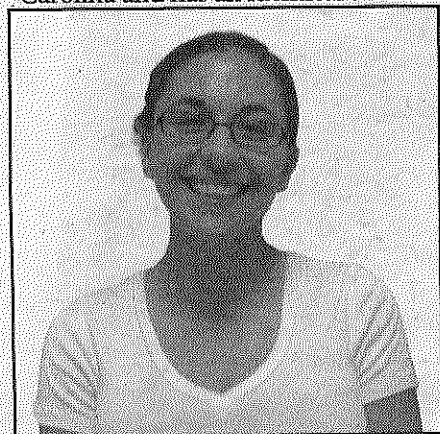
Mr. DiPirro is a New Yorker and taught at Annandale and Arlington High Schools



Ms. Kennedy has lived on the West Coast her entire life until now

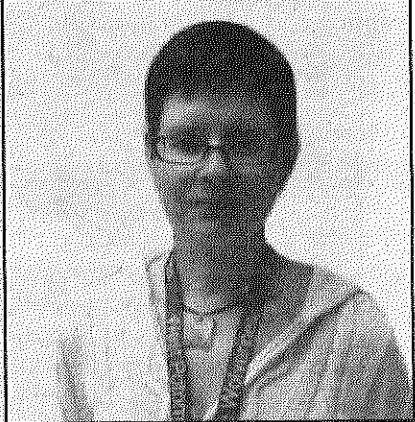


Ms. Cruz has completed multiple triathalons

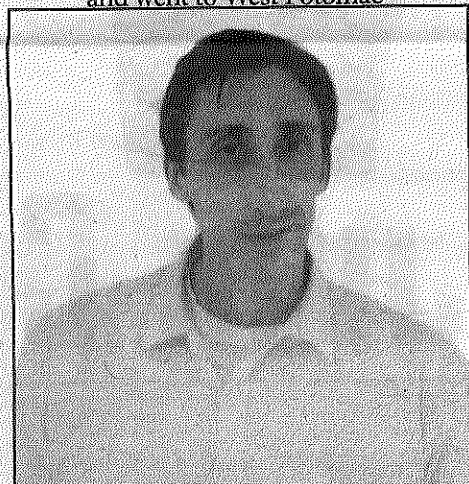


Ms. DeCoster grew up in Alexandria and went to West Potomac

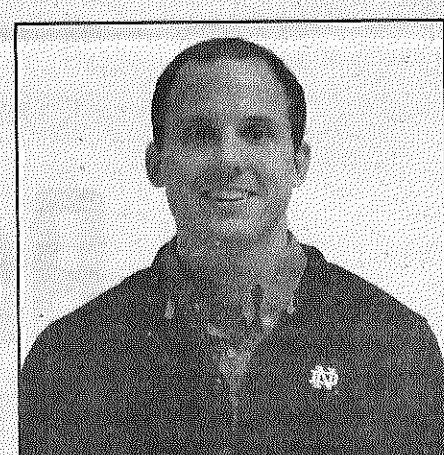
MEET OUR NEW STAFF!



Ms. Widmayer has taught in Prague and Austria



Mr. Wilbur was a professional musician. He played the guitar and bass



Mr. Pryzwara is the new JV basketball coach.



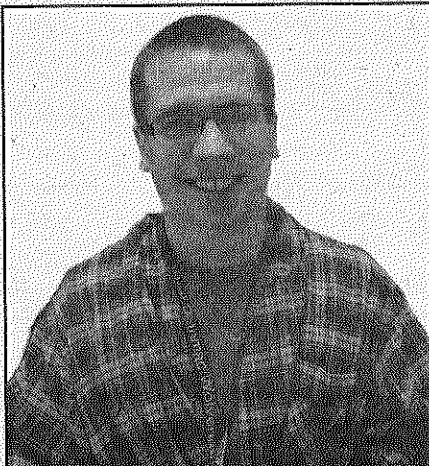
Ms. Clark studied abroad in Switzerland during college



Ms. Christensen is the new Gourmet Foods teacher at WP



Ms. LaFontaine has travelled to Egypt, Palestine, Israel, and India.



Mr. Kerr was in a film in college that documented the civil rights movement



Ms. Fontana's favorite book is *Jane Eyre* and movie is *Jurassic Park*



Ms. McBride hiked the Italian coast this summer

As our student population grows, our staff grows too!
We would like to welcome these staff members, plus those not pictured, to our Wolverine family.

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

Erin Conway
Reporter



CRIS S

Describe your experience at Boys State/Governors School

A: It was the best experience of my life. Everyone there was so amazingly talented and smart, unlike regular school.

C: It was a really unique and humbling experience because you're not on the high end anymore; you're equal to everyone. I loved it and learned a lot.

Where do you want to go to college and why?

A: This is hard. I'm applying to about 12 different schools, 10 of which are audition schools. Right now I don't really know where I want to go.

C: I really want to go to UVA, it's my top choice. I want to go there because the campus is nice, and I love their pre-med program. They also have one of the best business schools on the east coast.

What do you like to do in your free time?

A: I like to sing in my free time and because I plan on majoring in musical theater, do shows, and I am now taking dance lessons.

C: Well, when I have free time, I love going to parks or exploring something I haven't seen before.

In three words how would you describe yourself?

A: Bossy, controlling, and a good friend.

C: Inquiring, determined, and goal-driven.

What are you most excited for your senior year?

A: We have the perks of leaving early, but I did that my sophomore and junior year anyway. Also, the hype squad is fun, I guess.

C: I'm most excited for second semester when everything is done and I can just enjoy my classes, not have to be super worried about my grades, and just enjoy the time I have left with peers and teachers.

If you were a color, what color would you be and why?

A: Teal because that's my favorite color.

C: I would be dark blue because it's an intelligent color and it looks very good on me.



ANJUM C

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