

THE WIRE

Volume 24, Issue #2
650 Quander Road
Alexandria, VA 22307

WEST POTOMAC HIGH SCHOOL



Find out the best Halloween movies of all time. ←



Find out where our school stands in the election. ←

Thursday, October 2, 2008

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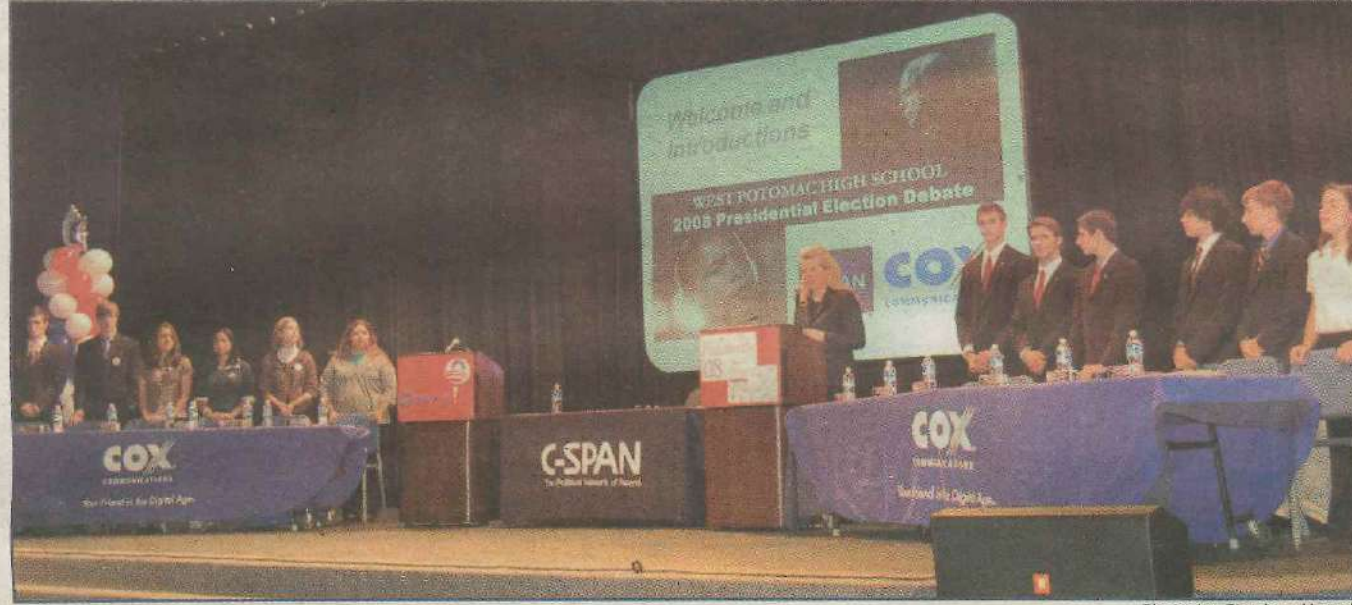


Photo by Stephen Howell

Debaters representing both candidates line up as Katherine Fault from Cox Channel 35 gives an introduction. September 25th was an election-packed day for seniors, for full coverage including a photo essay, see page 5.

Seniors Debate and Discuss in Election Event

Who do you think won the debate?

Team Obama	82.49%
Team McCain	17.51%

If the election were held today, who would you vote for?

Barack Obama	71%
John McCain	23%
Ralph Nader	5%
Bob Barr	1%

*Total of 257 seniors polled

STEPHEN HOWELL
LAYOUT/NEWS EDITOR

Thursday, September 24, was an action packed day seniors. C-SPAN and Cox teamed up with our schools Government Department and Administration for an election activities that had been in planning since early summer.

The highlight of the day was the student debate between Team Obama and Team McCain. Team McCain consisted of John Rice, Alex Snider, James Mead, Jay Wiler, Chloe Kougits, and Forrest Allen. Team Obama consisted of Mariya Ilyas, Hannah Leveridge, Joe Bradley, Anthony

Calisti, Jessica Taylor, and Ashley Irastorza. Moderated by Cox Communications news host Kathrine Fault, the debate covered many issues, including the economy, healthcare, education, the Iraq war, and energy alternatives. The debate lasted over an hour, but the senior crowd remained active, cheering after nearly every response.

"[The debate] went really well and both sides answered questions well but we did a better job of understanding the audience," said Team Obama debater Hannah Leveridge, who rallied many Obama supporters with her enthusiasm in

See CSPAN, page 6

Students Work with Wright to Read Foundation

MARIYA ILYAS
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Betty Wright and her late husband shared the belief that the ability to read is the foundation of learning. When they established the Frank & Betty Wright Foundation, they set its goal as "to give the gift of literacy."

The Wright to Read (WTR) is a program funded by the Frank & Betty Foundation and administered by The Campagna Center in Alexandria. It trains and places tutors with students in Alexandria City Public Schools, who are reading at least one year below grade level.

According to their website, "We work to encourage reading because we believe literacy is the foundation of learning."

Seniors Eric Rehe and Andreas Willis are active volunteers for the Wright to Read program. As part of the Book Buddies program, "I help children from grades 2-6 improve their reading skills," said Rehe.

Successful in the Alexandria community for over 25 years, the WTR helps only 15 students every year free of charge. These students are referred by teachers and space is filled by first-come, first-serve basis.

The WTR program is targeted to students between grades K-5, who are reading below their grade level. The program consists of three subprograms: Tutor/Mentor, Book Buddies, and Reach Out and Read (ROR), each of which provides extensive and personal attention to the student readers.

See Wright to Read, page 6

School Gained AYP Status in '07-08

MICHAELA ACCARDI
NEWS EDITOR

For the 2007 school year, our school met the standards for Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP), part of President George Bush's No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB), initiated in 2001.

Under NCLB, AYP is used to determine if schools are effectively educating their students. States are required to use a system in public schools to determine if all states, including subgroups of students, are improving and making progress towards reaching state academic content standards by 2014. These standards will be measured by scores on state tests.

In public high schools, students are required to test twice a year. These results will be compared to prior years and based on state-determined standards; the results will be used to determine if the school has made adequate yearly progress.

Adequate Yearly Progress is determined by progress each year including separate actions for Reading/Language Arts and

Math as well as four "subgroups". These subgroups include economically disadvantaged students, students from major race and ethnic groups, students with disabilities, and students with limited English proficiency. In order to make AYP, 95 percent of students in each of the subgroups, as well as the school in its entirety, need to qualify.

Our school did not make AYP last year, however if we had not made it this year as in 2006, our school would be identified for improvement. This occurs when a school does not make AYP for two years consecutively. The goal for all schools nationwide is to meet 100 percent proficiency by the spring of 2014; to do so each state must have a baseline based on the 2001-2002 school year as well as benchmarks for how students will progress each year.

Some critics argue that the goal of achieving 100 percent proficiency by 2014 will be difficult and expensive and sets schools up for certain failure. The diffi-

See AYP, page 6

Wolverines Advance in Perfect 5-0 Season



Photo Courtesy of Mary Fowler

West Potomac lines up before the snap in a muddy game with Hayfield. After a slow first half the Wolverines picked up and defeated the Hawks 17-7, moving their record to 5-0. See page 10 for an update on all of the sports teams.

STAFF EDITORIAL

Lack of Sleep Produces Unhealthy Kids

Rubbing eyes with rolled up fists and yawning, factoring polynomials is the last thing you want to do. You lean forward and drop your head into your arms on the desk—just a few more minutes of sleep. No one hears your side of the story. I got home at ten from a track meet last night. After teaching home, I began my homework. The history project took the longest. I went to sleep at 1:30 A.M.

"NO sleeping in class!" shouts the teacher, who herself is trying to run on a cappuccino. "I was just resting my eyes," you mumble. She decides to punish you. "What are the factors of the polynomial $x^2 + 7x + 12$?"

Recent studies indicate that lack of sleep increases the risk of a variety of major illnesses, including cancer, heart disease, diabetes, and obesity.

Teenagers need at least nine hours of sleep every night.

In other words, in order to wake up at 6 A.M. for school, we would have to sleep at 9 P.M. A typical high school student with AP classes, sports, and extracurricular activities goes to bed around midnight, barely getting six hours of sleep before the cell phone alarm buzzes. That excludes big projects and tests, in which case the student receives only about three to four hours of sleep. Research shows those who sleep fewer than six hours a night do not live as long as those who sleep seven hours or more. Shocked?

According to the National Sleep Foundation Survey, almost 74% of all Americans do not get enough sleep each night. If we do not work, we lose and as students, our "payment" is through our grades (not the mention the hard grading scale as is). If we do not study hard, do homework, or stay up during the wee hours of the night,

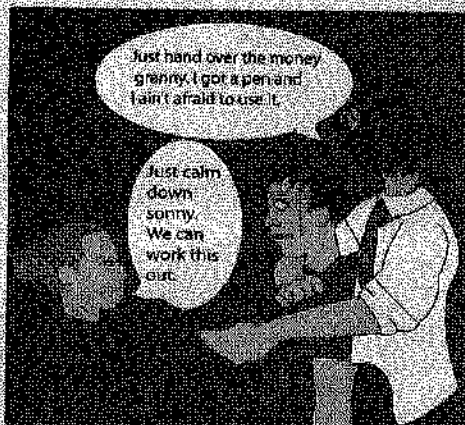
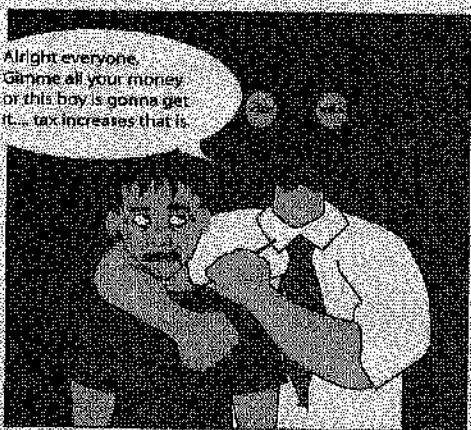
our grades go down.

Lack of sleep increases blood pressure, which is linked to heart attacks and stroke. Fatigue is a very dangerous thing to an individual's health. According to CNN Interactive, "a growing collection of research indicates that America's sleep problems have reached epidemic proportions, and may be the country's number-one health problem."

Without energy, you manage to sit up. You try to remember how to factor the polynomial. It takes a few seconds to figure out "Quantity of 'x' plus three times the quantity of 'x' plus four?" This, my friends, is cruel and unusual punishment. And that is against the law.

It seems that the expectations set by the society are unreachable. The lack of sleep is taking an unhealthy toll on many students, not only the overworked ones here in Fairfax County.

Diary of a Mad Stock Broker



By Darryl Sharp

CORRECTION

-On the front page, article titled "Reynolds Resigns After Many Years," the \$10,000 check was for a new sign board, not a smart board.

Turnitin.com- Is it Really Any Good?

An article in the September issue of *The Wire* regarding Turnitin.com makes the claim that the website is helpful rather than hurtful. However, it is a lesser known fact that the website is undergoing several lawsuits for copyright infringement. Students from as nearby as McLean are suing for copyright infringement, because once an essay is turned into the website, it is no longer the student's property. The website does not keep track of who turns in which assignments. For example, if a student was to "turn in" a Shakespeare essay in high school, then resubmit his own work for a college English class, Turnitin.com would claim he was plagiarizing. With the school's permission, the contract we sign when we join allows them to use our essays for their purposes, which we can either comply with or receive an F for our grade. I am not an advocate of cheating, but this website seems to have more pitfalls than advantages.

Junior Amanda Crowley

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: laura.zitnik@fcps.edu. All submissions become property of *The Wire*.

RANTS and RAVES

A **RANT** for time consuming traffic jams in the hallways.

A **rave** for the undefeated Varsity football team.

A **RANT** for the economic crisis.

A **rave** for interims, which signify 1/8 of the school year is over.

A **RANT** for Columbus' arrival decimating the native populations.

A **rave** for Columbus discovering the new world.

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Senior Privileges Must Be Improved

ZACH FEINSTEIN
BUSINESS MANAGER

As seniors, the Class of 2009 should be given all of the privileges that we ask for and we have the right to be treated like the most important class in the school.

Before the start of school, Class President, Mariya Ilyas, created a Facebook group asking seniors to post their ideas of senior privileges they would like to have this year. The biggest hit was off-campus lunches. Realistically, however, there is no way that the administration will let us go off campus for lunch, even though people always seem to find a way to do so anyways. Senior David Aramony proposed that students' parents sign a waiver agreeing that the school is not responsible once a student leaves campus. This way, parents are well aware of the consequences if something terrible does happen.

As much as students want accessibility to off campus lunches, there are also many other options which should be explored and considered. With last year's class desperately lacking in privileges, any privilege for the Class of 2009 will suffice.

Honestly, getting out five minutes early on Fridays is not privilege; it is a sorry excuse for a privilege. Nobody even reaches their car and gets out of the parking lot in five minutes. With the buses blocking the only way of escape from school, seniors are essentially trapped and leave around the same time you would on any other day. That is why we should lobby for being let out fifteen minutes *early* every day, not just Fridays. Seniors should be able to go home early, and with the buses impeding this, it makes this task possible.

Another option that could be explored is if the administration would buy the entire senior class pizza every month. Everybody loves pizza, although debates over toppings are common. If this were ever to happen, all of the seniors would like the administration and we would feel

special. Pizza is just one choice for food; they could give us ice cream or cotton candy. The Class of 2006 had its own pizza party one day, which only seniors were allowed to attend. Everybody loves food, especially me, and everybody can come together over a pizza pie. Many of us would much prefer free pizza every month, rather than risk getting caught going out to lunch.

Another extreme option is to not make senior attendance in FLEX mandatory. Let us all get real, FLEX is a joke where students just chill out. So why make it mandatory for the most important students in the school? I am not asking for early release on FLEX days (although that would be nice), but seniors should be able to use this time wisely.

Senior Andy Lutz proposed on the Facebook group that FLEX should be used to do college applications or searching for scholarships - things that really matter to seniors. Why not use the College and Career Center and other resources if they are available? The best way to do this is by allowing students to FLEX into College and Career Center to work closely with Ms. Barbara Conner and Mr. Dale Schmidt. Just think of how many more students would be going to college with affordable tuitions. And who knows? Maybe we will even get press.

Another idea could be that seniors could bring their iPods to school and could use them whenever they wanted, as long as it did not interfere with school work. Or if seniors can't go home during FLEX, then why can we not at least be able to use our iPods during FLEX.

Seniors want to be able to look back on their last year of high school as memorable, a year that can be cherished forever. And if there are no privileges to look back on, then what did the Class of 2009 really accomplish? When we sit down to debate our privileges, remember to push the envelope.

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“With last year's class desperately lacking in privileges, any privilege for the Class of 2009 will suffice.”

Is the Media Invading Bristol Palin's Privacy?

EMILY SMITH
MANAGING EDITOR

“Do as I say, not as I do.” This age old saying seems to sum up the campaign of John McCain's vice presidential pick, Sarah Palin. For Palin, whose campaign is founded on conservative social issues and family ties, her own family situation seems to negate much of what she stands for.

“Abstinence from sexual activity is the only protection that is 100 percent effective... Therefore, we support doubling abstinence education funding,” stated the Republican Party's 2004 platform. However, Palin's daughter, Bristol, seems to have missed the memo. The seventeen-year-old was announced to be pregnant with her first child by her boyfriend, 18 year old Levi Johnston.

There is a considerable amount of controversy about the media coverage of Palin's personal issues and those of other celebrities. But as a possible leader of our country, many believe she should set a good example for adults and teenagers everywhere.

“We're proud of Bristol's decision to have her baby and even prouder to become grandparents,” said Sarah and Todd Palin in a statement to the press. Not all teenage mothers have this family support when faced with unplanned pregnancies. “The vast majority of teenage mothers never finish high school,” said Sarah Brown of the National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy in a recent interview with *The Washington Post*.

According to a December, 2007 article in *The Washington Post*, there was an increase in the teen birth rate for the first time in 14 years. However, as governor of Alaska, Palin is “opposed to explicit sex education,” according to a speech during Alaska's gubernatorial race. In fact, there is no state-wide requirement that sex education be taught at all, and the decision is often left up to local school boards.

While it is unnecessary for the media to neglect Palin's political positions to merely focus on Bristol's pregnancy, this pregnancy does raise questions about Palin's choices. What if Bristol had had information and access to birth control, provided by her school clinic? Unfortunately, it is too late for Bristol, though not for others. The country needs a leader who will help prevent teenage pregnancies, not embrace them as challenges.

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RACHEL MARTIN
REPORTER

Bristol Palin, the 17-year-old daughter of the Republican Vice Presidential nominee Sarah Palin, was announced pregnant by her mother in a short press conference.

Many people, both Republican and Democratic, are questioning whether this will have an effect on Palin's campaign. Some say Palin proved herself a hypocrite by her daughter's actions, and that her family values are actually lies. But is that fair?

It is important to see Governor Palin as a mother. This much is obvious, she is often praised in the media for being a typical American working mom. However, like every mother, all Palin can do is teach her daughter the best, and

hope for her to make the right decisions. Bristol does not necessarily have to agree with her mother on every issue. She has the right to make decisions for herself and deal with the consequences that follow.

Bristol chose to keep her baby and marry her boyfriend, Levi Johnston, 18. This shows that she has been influenced by her mother's conservative values to some degree. Even if Palin had pressured her daughter to keep her baby, it was Bristol's choice to raise the child and marry the

father. Palin showed her family values by supporting her daughter when the news of Bristol's pregnancy became public.

Bristol is Palin's family, not a younger version of the Vice Presidential nominee. She should not be subject to scrutiny by the media - it is not fair to her and her future family. It is Sarah Palin who is running for vice president, not Bristol. As Democratic Presidential Nominee Barack Obama stated during a short press conference in Michigan, “... I think people's families are off limits, and people's children are especially off limits. This shouldn't be part of our politics... it has no relevance to Gov. Palin's performance as governor, or her potential performance as a vice president.”

It is only right to evaluate Palin by what she stands for and what she offers if elected a leader of our country. She should not be accused of hypocrisy because of her daughter's mistake. After all, she is only human. Palin proved herself as graceful in the face of a difficult situation, and for that, she deserves praise.

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Photo by Kennedy/MCT

HANGING OUT WITH THE HEAD HONCHO



Photo by Kennedy/MCT

MABELLY ILYAS
CLASS PRESIDENT

I sat nervously behind the curtain as seniors cheered and roared in the auditorium. In a few moments, I would give the opening speech for Team Obama against Team McCain. Yes, it was only a matter of a few moments before they called us on stage and the crowd would cheer endlessly, but that's what I'd hope they would.

“Waiting, waiting, waiting...” By this time, a few moments had passed. *Maybe they are having technical difficulties updating the program,* I thought. Then government teacher Mr. Case came on the microphone.

Just as both teams entered the stage, the crowd went wild.

I was eager to see and meet Mr. James Adams of WRC-TV, NBC Channel 4. But to my dismay, he was nowhere to be found. *Perhaps he's running late,* I thought, trying to stay optimistic.

But when Mr. Alex Case announced Katherine Paul of Cox Communications as our debate moderator, I was a bit confused. I was sure that they had said James Adams would be coming. Where was he?

The entire debate, in my opinion, was simply amazing. In fact, it was so outstanding, I was proud of not only my team, but Team McCain as well. Both teams did a great job, addressing the topic and bringing the other team

In the meanwhile, I was still disappointed about the absence of James Adams. A professional would certainly not hold up an entire afternoon of hopeful seniors, would he? He would not dare to not show up when scheduled.

After a stormy debate, I was certain for the rest of the day. However, in the back of my mind, I still wondered why James Adams was unable to moderate our debate, as promised. I tried to stay away from the negativity and focus on the positive things, like winning the debate, and how it would be broadcast on Channel 21, as promised.

When I talked to Ms. Emily Millau, one of the history teachers who spent hours organizing the event, I found out that Mr. Adams had had a family emergency, and the PR for Fairfax County, Paul Regnier, had notified Principal Rina Veselack via email.

Ms. Millau went on to tell us that Cox Communications and NBC videotaped our debate, and that it would NOT be shown on Channel 21, as originally promised to the history teachers back in July when the preparation began. She also said that she saw Adams give the regular 5 o'clock report on Channel 4 about dogan robotics in Maryland the following Friday night.

My which day's excitement quickly faded, and I found myself frowning. I was sad to hear about Adams' family emergency, but at the same time I was disappointed. It bothered me that Oakton High School, the other school in Fairfax County that the CPAN/Cox held the same event at, would get a brief coverage of *the* debate, and we would not.

What was even more embarrassing was bragging about James Adams coming to our school to all my family and relatives, and then finding out that he never showed up. I am really sorry he had a family emergency, and I hope he is doing well, but I was just really disappointed he was not there.

Unfortunately, he missed out on a one good kick ass student debate he'll find no where else.

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Obama is Change for the Better

GWEN FISHEL
COPY EDITOR

In 1964, Bob Dylan wrote "The Times They Are A-Changin'." In an election 44 years later, the Democratic Party hopes he is right.

In the upcoming election, change is exactly what the United States needs. Both candidates have acknowledged this and are using their platforms to define the change they believe that we as a country need. In these difficult times, Barack Obama is the person who can provide that change.

There are many reasons why Obama is the best person to lead our great country. He is a new kind of politician who believes that we the people can really make a difference, and has great ideas for a better future. While many of Obama's opponents have criticized his lack of experience and judgment, anyone who takes the time to read his books or research his career in politics and community involvement will see that he has experience beyond his years and judgment wise enough to withstand the pressures associated with the presidency.

It is nearly impossible to say that Obama has not changed the face of American politics. He is the first African-American to win a major party nomination, is one of the youngest men to be on a national ticket, and is causing quite a stir among the younger voters in America.

However, his ideas and goals are drastically different from those of John McCain. Obama's ideas will benefit the middle and working-class Americans, who are the majority of the population, while John McCain would support President Bush's tax cuts that only help the wealthy. Obama has laid down a plan to help citizens and make sure that everyone is treated equally.

Obama has promised many benefits for the majority of the American people if he is elected president. His plan for taxes includes repealing the tax cuts for high income families and instead, providing tax cuts for the other 95 percent of the population. On the subject of energy, he has said that he plans to cut ties to foreign oil dependency in 10 years. In a present day where gas prices deviate from day to day and foreclosures are constantly in the news, it is necessary to repair the spirit of American citizens.

Obama has made education an important

issue in his campaign. In his acceptance speech at the Democratic Convention, he said that it is "our moral obligation to provide every child a world-class education." If elected, Obama hopes to set up a service based college experience. He pledged to make sure that all students, who want to, can attend college at an affordable price if they agree to help serve their country and community. This will also help enhance America's image worldwide.

As students, it is extremely important that we receive the best education that we can. While West Potomac is able to provide this, many other schools around the country are unable to do so. We are more fortunate than others.

While these are topics that are more important to the youth population, issues like healthcare which may not seem important now, will be important later. Obama has pledged to fulfill "the promise of affordable, accessible health care for every single American."

The 2008 election is important because for the first time in many years, young voters really care about politics. They want to get involved, which is evident by the record numbers in which they came out to vote in the Republican and Democratic primaries. However, in the end, it is not so much who you vote for, but the fact that you exercise your right to vote and make an informed decision.

While many people agree that Barack Obama is the right person for the presidency of the United States, many students at our school do not agree. All of this is part of the election

process and that is what makes America so unique. As Barack Obama said in 2004, "There's not a liberal America and a conservative America--- there is a United States of America," and what a great America we are.

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McCain: Experience to Count on

STEPHEN HOWELL
LAYOUT/NEWS EDITOR

In a time of uncertainty our country needs a realistic President with proven experience. John McCain fits this mold and has the passion and dedication to get our country on the right track.

John McCain has the record and service to lead our nation to victory in Iraq. Barack Obama does not. He has visited Iraq eight times since the onset of the war compared to Obama, who has only visited once. He supported the successful troop surge

when it wasn't popular with congress or with the public. Despite the original skepticism and criticism the troop surge has been credited for the current all time low violence levels in Iraq. Obama has yet



Photos courtesy of Ware/KRT

to recognize this success and his views on Iraq are nothing short of delusional and unsafe. A timetable for withdrawal, the plan proposed by Obama, is a plan supported by few top ranking military officials and gives the enemy an idea of when and what to attack. McCain knows from his extensive military experience that the right plan is to keep all troops in until it is safe for all troops to return. McCain has professed on multiple occasion that he would rather lose an election than lose a war, and right now it seems that Obama cares not about the troops in Iraq but instead the voters in America. McCain has spent more time as a prisoner of war than Obama has spent in the Senate.

John McCain also has the leadership and plans necessary to solve the energy crisis. Unlike Senator Obama, he understands that the United States has the resources in itself to break our deadly dependence on foreign oil. It seems ridiculous to most that we have not have tapped in the vast oil reserves our country holds at a time where 41% of our trade deficit is due to oil imports. It also seems ridiculous that Middle Eastern nations are allowed to drill off our coast while Americans are

not. John McCain also understands that market incentive, not hope, is the best way to persuade automakers to make cleaner and more efficient cars. He will give \$300 million to whoever develops a better, more sustainable car battery that will run at 30 percent of the current costs. His plans to give up to a \$5,000 tax credit to consumers who buys fuel efficient and low emission cars will provided the incentive to help the environment and fuel the economy. Also, John McCain's aggressive cap and trade system will benefit everyone; companies will increase efficiency and the environment will become cleaner.

John McCain also has the experience necessary to fix our border problems without destroying the economy. He will address the growing number of undocumented workers by enrolling them in a program that will ensure they pay back taxes, go through a citizenship course, learn English, and that they don't receive a green card before someone awaiting one outside of the country. His bipartisan work on this issue is logical and realistic. Obama has the most liberal voting record in the Senate and will surely look at this issue with the eyes of a liberal, not a realist.

Obama's heavily deluded perspectives reter on the edge of insane and are certainly unfair. Senator Obama has repeatedly attacked McCain on his refusal to tax the windfall profits of oil companies, primarily Exxon Mobil. Senator Obama and his followers have criticized Exxon for their \$40.6 billion yearly profit, claiming that their large windfall profits are not taxed enough. Obama does not realize that treating companies fairly will help stabilize the market. His argument is particularly invalid by both logic and fact. Exxon's profit margin ratio, roughly 10% for 2007, is relatively small compared to other businesses, mainly in Pharmaceuticals (18.4%) and Technological (19.1%) sectors of the economy. If Senator Obama considers profit growth a reason for taxation then he should be alarmed at the large number of Silicon Valley companies who have experienced massive profit growth, including HP's 505% jump in 2007.

Repairing the country will be an extremely difficult job for whatever candidate gets elected. However, Obama's arguments don't resonate past fact and his experience is close to nothing. The country has only one choice if they want a leader they can trust and believe in. That man is John McCain.

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Staff's Kudos Obsession Has Overstayed Its Welcome

ALEX FABRIZIO
FOCUS EDITOR

Kudos for reading this article.

Although it may seem like a ridiculous thing to say, is it not just as ridiculous to repeatedly say it to high school students ages 14 and up? Yes, our principal, Rima Vesilind, used to work as an elementary school principal where students get giddy at the mention of a job well done. It is true that high school students too, no matter how angry or sullen, also appreciate an acknowledgment of their accomplishments, but perhaps not with the same phrases.

In certain classrooms across the school, the mention of "Kudos to..." causes eyes to begin to roll. Not because students do not want to be praised but simply because

that phrase comes across as childish to adolescents. Back during the 2005-2006 school year, Vesilind's first year here, the seniors were not pleased either. They tried to be understanding, but in the end they asked Vesilind to stop. And she did. Now for the past three years the phrase has

“ Now for the past three years the phrase has been creeping slowly back into the mouths of the administration.”

”

been creeping slowly back into the mouths of the administration. The reaction to it is somewhat mixed.

ES History teacher, Salvatore Olivo said, "I always think that acknowledging someone's accomplishment feels good whether you're five or 50, [although] it might seem childish." Olivo is a supporter of the phrase for praising both students and teachers.

Junior Brian Linnell said "I feel [it] is not real sincerity. Other terms should be used like 'congratulations,' 'you worked hard, you deserve this.'" He suggested incentives

be used to reward and praise students for their successful efforts. Some incentives could include special privileges for the well-behaved students like first pick of parking spots.

"I think that people shouldn't really get rewarded for what they have to do anyway. I think organizations and teams [within the school] that do exceptionally well should be recognized," said junior Jacob Lawlor. He agrees with Olivo that praise is "really fulfilling and rewarding" for some students and that the administration has "the right idea," but they should just change their methods. Like Linnell, Lawlor suggested alternatives like a large bulletin board in the lobby of Quander, of "what's happening?" It would be filled with congratulations and "kudos" to all students, clubs, and organizations in our school that did well.

This article is not by any means asking Vesilind and the rest of the administration to stop praising the student body but rather to become creative with their acknowledgements. Perhaps group high fives, or maybe once (especially since our school achieved AYP) we could get the real Kudos snack bars.

afabrizio@wpwire.com

CSPAN, Cox, and School Team Up in Activities Fair

Continued from page 1

Debate

the debate. Over three fourths of students polled said Team Obama had a more convincing argument.

"The debate went as best as it possible could given the democratic learning of the audience," said Team McCain debater John Rice.

After the debate, students were released from the auditorium and had a choice of seven different activities to participate in before lunch. Both the Teenage Republicans and Young Democrats had spin rooms to sway students' opinion after the debate. Local Delegate Kris Amundson along with Obama Campaign field organizers advised seniors that this election will be decided by young voters. "You have a huge stake in this election. You are new, and greatest generation," Amundson told seniors in the Democratic Spin Room.

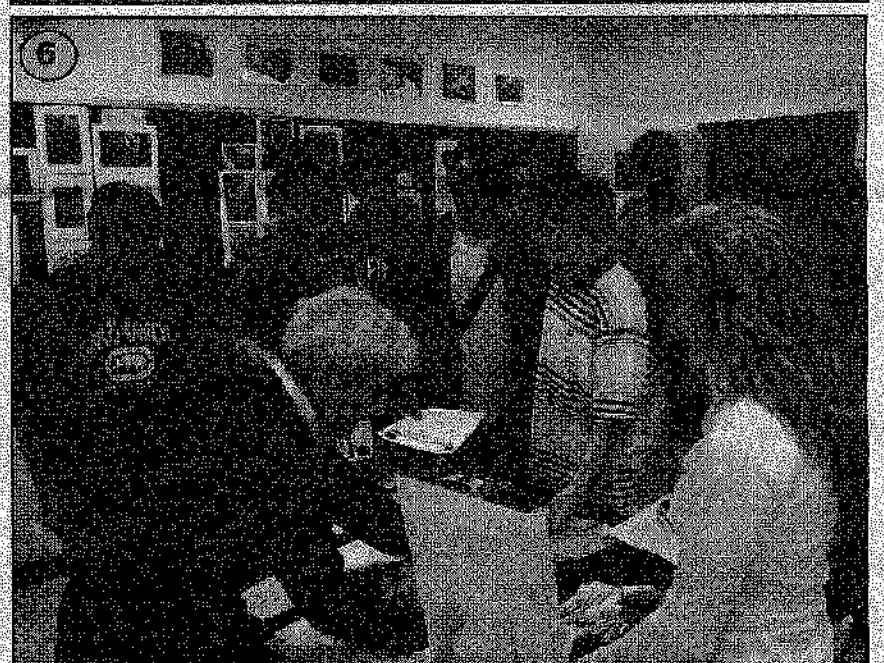
Students also had the opportunity to tour one of CSPAN's two 45-foot Campaign Tour Buses. The bus serves as a Mobile T.V. set and has featured many major political figures. Rudy Guilliani, Bill Clinton, Mitt Romney, Bill Richardson, and Mike Huckabee have visited or

been interviewed on one of the station's buses, giving students a chance to sit in the same seat as their leaders on Washington.

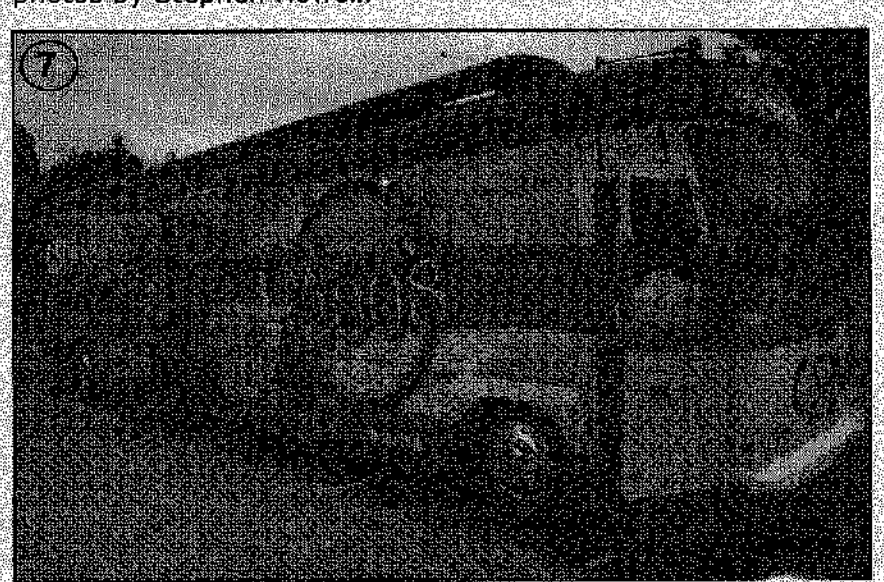
Representatives from the Bucknell Mentoring and Youth Partnership along with Fairfax's Office for Women and Domestic and Sexual Violence Services were also present. They offered ideas for Senior's services project, which requires 30 hours of community service by the end of the third quarter. Fairfax County Board of Elections also held a booth for seniors to register to vote.

The day concluded with a pizza lunch provided by Cox Communications. Many seniors said the day informed them more about issues and gave them a deeper understanding of the candidates. "It was really good to see insight about the candidates and it seemed like both sides put in a lot of work," said senior Dorothea Kamara, who added that while she found out things she didn't know about both candidates her democratic stance didn't change.

Teachers and administrators alike praised the senior audience for their maturity and involvement in the debate. "I've been teaching nine years and this was one of the top three quality projects I've been involved in," said Government teacher Hassan Mirra.



(1) Team McCain listens as Team Obama answers a question in the debate. (2) Seniors vote in a polling station. (3) A CSPAN Correspondent shows visitors how people are interviewed on the bus. (4) Team McCain member John Rice speaks to a senior after the debate. (5) The audience during the debate often held up political signs and cheered for their party. (6) A member from the Fairfax County Board of Elections registers students to vote. (7) The 45-foot CSPAN election bus parked in the Senior Lot. The other twin bus was in Oxford, Mississippi covering the Presidential Debate. All photos by Stephen Howell.



New Assistant Director of Student Activities

CATHERINE BRADLEY
REPORTER

The West Potomac community is happy to welcome the new Assistant Director of Student Activities Ms. Barbara Mahony to the athletic department. Ms. Mahony was recently hired to work alongside Mr. Aaron Helmick, the Director of Student Activities. She has previously worked at South County Secondary School and George Mason High School, where she was the head of the Physical Education Department.

She helped to open South County Secondary School and was also ADSA along with teaching four Physical Education classes and coaching the Varsity Girl's Lacrosse team. Ms. Mahony said she came to West Potomac because, "The job here is full time Assistant Director of Student Activities so I can devote all my time to this office." She has a strong background in coaching, including coaching swimming for 30 years and lacrosse for 16. When asked if she would continue coaching her answer was "No, this job precludes my being a coach."

By taking the job of Assistant Director of Student Activities Ms. Mahony will join Mr. Helmick, Mrs. Beal and Mr. Case in the Activities office. Her goal for the job is to help her new co-workers "in their pursuit of developing the best programs in the Northern Region." Although Ms. Mahony has background in the field she is still learning on the job and hopes to learn more about transportation, budgets and procurements.

So far Ms. Mahony enjoys her job and said "The Activities Office is like a family. They help me everyday as I get to know how things are done here."

WP Meets AYP

Continued from page 1

AYP

culty of these standards was also realized by students once informed.

"When I first saw the sign at the front of the school, I didn't think meeting AYP was that big of a deal," said junior Maggie Farnin. After reviewing the requirements for AYP, Farnin said, "Wow, I didn't realize that it was so hard to meet the standards. It is so hard to get everyone in each category to meet the requirements. Congrats West Potomac!"

In the long run, meeting AYP standards this year is one small step towards the meeting one hundred percent proficiency in the near future. The Wire congratulates teachers and students on meeting AYP standards.

**Looking for a fun and rewarding volunteer activity?
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The Wright to Read Program is looking for volunteers to work one-on-one with a 1st-5th grade child on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 3:45-5:00pm.

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hmiles@wcpsscenter.org
(703) 224-2357



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Continued from page 1

Wright to Read

The Tutor Mentor program is the most flexible for adults. Students have the opportunity to attend Saturday field trips to bookstores, plays, and museums with their tutors.

The Book Buddies is an after-school reading program held at two elementary school libraries. The volunteers work one-on-one. "For the first few minutes, we talk to

our buddies about what they have been doing, their interests, etc, and they write about whatever they want in a little journal," said Rehe. The buddies then read, alternating after each page. Towards the end of the session, they answer comprehension questions and play word games or activities based on the reading. Each buddy pair then shares what they read with the other groups. "The best feeling is being able to see tangible improvements," said Rehe.

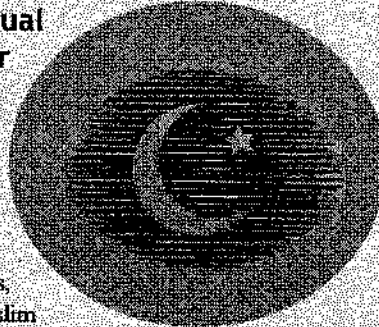
The ROR, on the other hand, is a national pediatric literacy program that encourages parents to read to their children at an early age. WTR partnered with the Alexandria Health Department to offer his program to the community. Volunteers read to children in the clinic as they wait for their check up

News

ASMA AHAMD
ONLINE EDITOR

MSA Holds Annual Ramadan Dinner

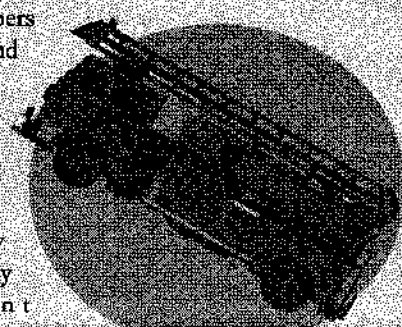
The Muslim Students Association held its 3rd Annual Ramadan Dinner on Saturday, September 13 in the school cafeteria. Teachers, students, and the local Muslim community came together to break their fast and enjoy ethnic food catered by the Kabob and Curry House on Route 1. Entrance donations will help the club to plan activities in the future and participate in the Muslim Inter-Scholastic Tournament in the spring.



Graphic by Clip Art

Fire Breaks Out on Route 1

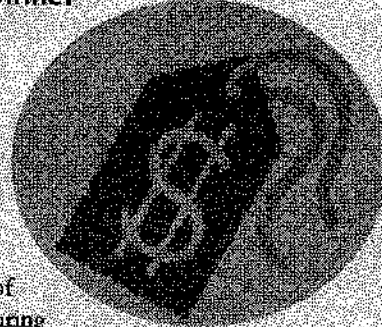
A fire broke out on the 6100 block of Richmond Highway on September 11, at around 8:40 p.m.,. There were no injuries reported and the cause of the fire is yet to be determined. According to a Fairfax County fire department spokesman interviewed by STOP News, "it took firefighters about 30 minutes to bring the blaze under control, but wind blew embers around and ignited small spot fires, including one on the roof of a nearby 7-story apartment building."



Graphic by Clip Art

Senior Class Dinner Raises Money

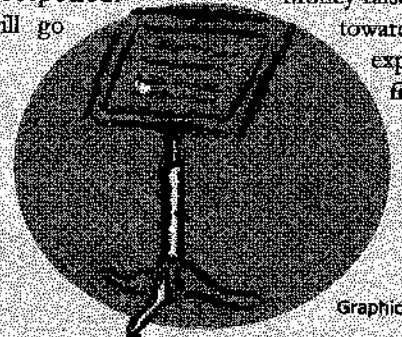
The officers of the Class of 2009 held their final class dinner on Tuesday, September 9 from 6 to 9pm at the local Applebee's. 20% of the sales made during the dinner will go toward the Senior Class. Approximately 50 seniors showed up to the event along with some school staff members.



Graphic by Clip Art

Music Department Raises Money

While many were preparing for tropical storm Hanna students from our Fine Arts Department were participating in Tag Day on Saturday, September 6. In order to raise funds for their programs, students went to nearby neighborhoods to ask for donations in groups of four or five. Tags were left at unattended doors explaining the purpose of Tag Day and how to donate money. Though students had planned to divide the work into two shifts, heavy rain caused the afternoon shift to be postponed. Money raised from Tag Day will go toward the department expenses such as field trips and activities.



Graphic by of Clip Art

Cooper Qualifies as a Semifinalist

Congratulations to senior Jackson Cooper for being a semifinalist for the National Merit Scholarship for 2009. He was the only student from our school to make the list among 16,000 gifted students from around the country. Merit Scholarship winners will be announced in spring 2009. Good luck Jackson Cooper!



Graphic by Clip Art

Fairfax County Youth Leadership Program

The Fairfax County Youth Leadership Program (FCYLP) is a very selective program for about 50 high school students across the country. Based on academic rigor, community involvement, and leadership, all juniors are encouraged to apply to this prestigious program. Applications are due to history teacher George Coe by October 31, 2008 and can be found at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb/FCYLP.htm>.



Students Earn the Wright to Read



Photo by Mariya Ilyas

Senior, Eric Rehe volunteered over the summer and plans to continue with Book Buddies, appointments.

Students are assessed regularly through Dibbles, a test that determines the progress of reading fluency of the child. "The volunteer gives instructions and the child reads," said

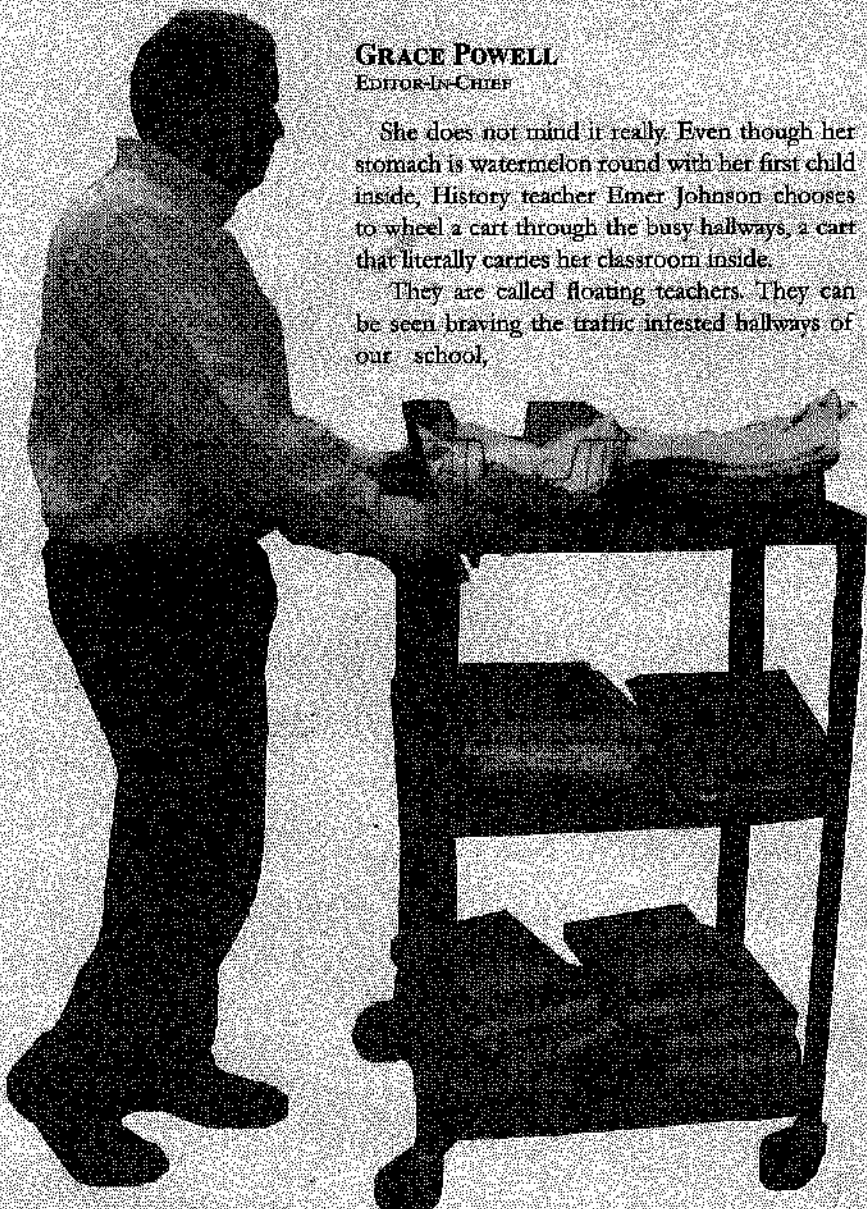
Assistant Director, Heather Miles.

The WTR is also very active with the community. "We ask for book drives throughout the year," said Miles. The Giving Circle of Alexandria that provided almost 700 summer reading packs last year.

The elementary schools are gravitated to "the cool teenagers," said Miles. High school volunteers are strongly sought by the program through many forms of advertising. "As a volunteer in Wright to Read, you are giving a child the opportunity to open doors that might otherwise remain closed," said Betty Wright.

Rehe, who volunteered over the summer and plans to continue with Book Buddies, found out about the program through an email from the College and Career Center, listing volunteer opportunities. "It is an extremely gratifying experience," said Rehe. "You truly get to have a positive impact on a child's life."

Cart Teachers Teach without Classrooms



GRACE POWELL
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

She does not mind it really. Even though her stomach is watermelon round with her first child inside, History teacher Emer Johnson chooses to wheel a cart through the busy hallways, a cart that literally carries her classroom inside.

They are called floating teachers. They can be seen braving the traffic infested hallways of our school.

patiently pushing their carts toward their next class. Johnson said she chose to continue wheeling the cart this year simply because "it is easier." She said that using the cart eliminates having to decorate a classroom and since she will be on maternity leave, another teacher can use the room she might have had.

School administrator Nancy Kreehof said the carts are no new addition to our school. "Fairfax County builds rooms for students, not teachers," said Kreehof. As a result, almost every school has a teacher left without a room to teach in.

English teacher Mary Mathewson mutters frustratingly as she waits for the elevator doors to open, instead it makes funny noises. "I don't mind it...I volunteered to do it," Mathewson says on being a floating teacher. "The only thing I do not like about it is the elevator situation. I won't get on it...I put my cart on, then walk up. And often the elevator is broken."

"If you're not an organized person, you can forget it" said Social Studies teacher Cynthia Hawkins. Hawkins economized the cart. "What I did with my cart was, I set it up like a desk." Hawkins used filing folders in her cart for her worksheets and bins for colored pencils and markers, she also utilized the different levels of the cart to structure her materials. "My cart was so organized," she said.

Several History teachers including Johnson, adopted her method of organization. Overall, Hawkins enjoyed using the cart, admitting she was probably more organized when she used it than now, in her own classroom. "The only thing that was horrible about it was that there was no place for kids to find me after school," she said, otherwise, "I lived by the cart."

It is Friday after school and substitute teacher Brett Dunlab prepares to let his cart rest for the weekend. "It's a little bit annoying...having to push all the things you need in classroom," he said. Yet like many teachers, Dunlab finds something nice to say about the cart. "Honestly, it does save money," he said instead of the county having to use extra money to build more classrooms, the cart puts that money to other uses.

So unless the county decides to build more rooms, the floating teachers will remain, packing all their materials like groceries into carts, ready to feed their hungry students.

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Increase in DWI Arrests

MICHAELA ACCARDI
NEWS EDITOR

This past year, thirteen alcohol-related crashes occurred in Fairfax County, in which four people died. With the rising death toll, arrest rates have risen as well.

As of August 20, 2008, police officers have arrested 1,975 people for driving while under the influence of alcohol in Virginia. For the same period of time in 2007, police arrested only 1,578 people for driving while intoxicated.

Fairfax County Police officers and Virginia State Troopers from Division VII conducted a sobriety checkpoint to "deter and apprehend intoxicated drivers" on Friday, August 22, from 11 p.m. until 2 a.m. Saturday. This checkpoint was done in conjunction with the 2008 Checkpoint Strikeforce Campaign and in this particular instance was done in the Franconia Police District.

The 2008 Strikeforce Campaign was launched under the guidance of Governor Timothy M. Kaine and combines enforcement and education efforts to raise public awareness about drunk driving. "Virginia will continue its tough stance against drunk drivers and we will not allow back road escapes for people driving under the influence," Governor Kaine said, according to Virginia.gov. "We must remain vigilant to decrease these preventable traffic fatalities throughout the state."

The checkpoint on August 20 was not a one-time event—checkpoints will be held at least once a week by law enforcement agencies in Virginia for the remainder of 2008. The campaign will also include a \$1 million ad campaign to remind Virginia citizens of the dangers and consequences of driving while impaired.

During the sobriety checkpoints, all motorists will be stopped and drivers will be checked to ensure that they are fully equipped to drive and are not impaired by alcohol or drugs.

With Homecoming fast approaching on October 11, the importance of driving sober is even more important, especially to teens. In addition, being arrested for a DWI (Driving While under the



Photo Courtesy of Clip Art

With the increase of DWI arrests, students plan to be more cautious especially around the Homecoming season along with the increase of bad weather conditions.

Influence) can have grave affects on obtaining and keeping a drivers license.

When the term "drunk driving" is used, it refers to driving a motor vehicle with a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) at or above 0.08% (this is the point at which you can be arrested). Impaired driving can also be defined as the point at which one's skills including judgment, coordination and response time are affected before a person's BAC is at 0.08% or if they have been using drugs. This is explains why someone can be arrested if their BAC is less than 0.08%. If proof (such as substances found in the car) is found that the driver's skills are impaired, the driver can be arrested for DWI even with a BAC of zero.

Being caught under the influence can have devastating results, and by initiating programs like the Strikeforce Campaign, the Fairfax County Police Department aims to raise awareness about the increasing problem.

"I've never actually seen [a sobriety checkpoint], but it would keep drunk drivers off the road if initiated," said junior Alex Butler. Most students like Butler have not experienced or seen a sobriety checkpoint, but hope that it will have a positive effect on improving the safety of our roads especially after dark as well.

Personal Data Exposed

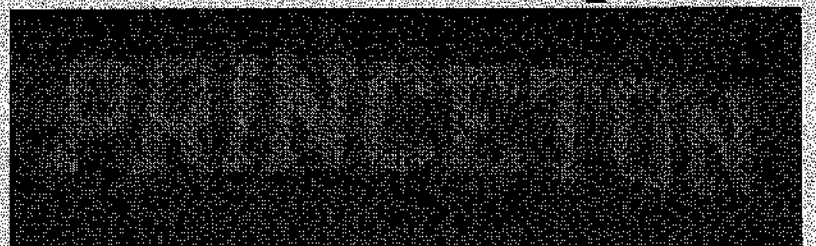


Photo by Emily Smith

The above logo represents the Princeton Review, as the Princeton Review made an error that caused personal information of many Fairfax County students to be exposed.

JESSICA TAYLOR
REPORTER

75,000 Fairfax County students had their personal data exposed online due to an error made by the Princeton Review this summer.


This information was available for a period of six weeks in June and July. It came from a file from 2006 with data the Princeton Review acquired when Fairfax County hired the company to help improve students test scores.

The information was meant to be protected by a password, according to Princeton Review, but was accidentally made available when the Princeton

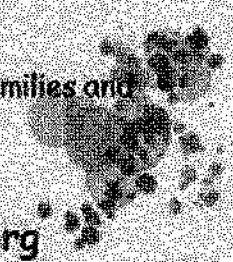
Review moved its website to a new Internet provider. Among the data released was students' schools, student ID numbers, their sexes, and dates of

birth. In addition, about 3,000 Fairfax County teachers' names, along with the schools they teach at, were also exposed.

The information leak became known when a second test-prep company stumbled upon the files of 34,000 Sarasota, Florida students. The company informed the *New York Times*, who reported the security breach in mid August. *The New York Times* notified the Princeton Review shortly before publishing the story and the company promptly shut down access to the web sites after the notification.



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It's our time

GWEN FISHEL
Cory Editor

This election is about us.

Our generation is directly affected by this election's outcome. Issues that are of little relevance to us now will become our responsibility later on and ultimately our future.

It is nearly impossible to say that the face of American politics has not changed in this election. Barack Obama is the first African American to win a major party nomination and Sarah Palin is the first woman to ever be on Republican national ticket.

For all Americans, this election is about change. For the younger generation, our generation, the election signifies a crossroad in our future. The candidates running for office hold our future in their hands. They control the cost of our college educations, our future job prospects, and the elementary school education of our children.

This election has attracted a huge number of voters, especially those in the younger age categories. With Young Democrats and Teenage Republicans, there is no end to the opportunities presented to high schoolers to campaign for their candidate, and to be active in politics. From canvassing, distributing literature around neighborhoods, to phone banking, calling home phones to ask who the resident is voting for, teenagers have been volunteering their time and energy to the presidential election.

Those of us over 18 are responsible for voicing our opinions, and those too young to vote have still been working. This election is about us, and we should not waste this opportunity to be a part of the big picture, to take hold of our future.

141 out of 247
students said they were
Democrat.

141 out of those 141
students said they would vote for
Barack Obama.

6 out of those 7
students said they would vote for
Barack Obama.

7 out of 247
students said they were
Independent/None.

1 out of those 7
students said they would vote for
someone else.

7 out of t
students
Barack



to speak up!

1 out of those 39 students said they would vote for someone else.

1 out of those 39 students said they would vote for Ron Paul.

16 out of those 39 students said they would vote for John McCain.

39 out of 247 students said they were Apolitical.

20 out of those 39 students said they would vote for Barack Obama.

3 out of those 51 students said they would vote for neither candidate.

51 out of 247 students said they were Republican.

51 they would vote for Obama.

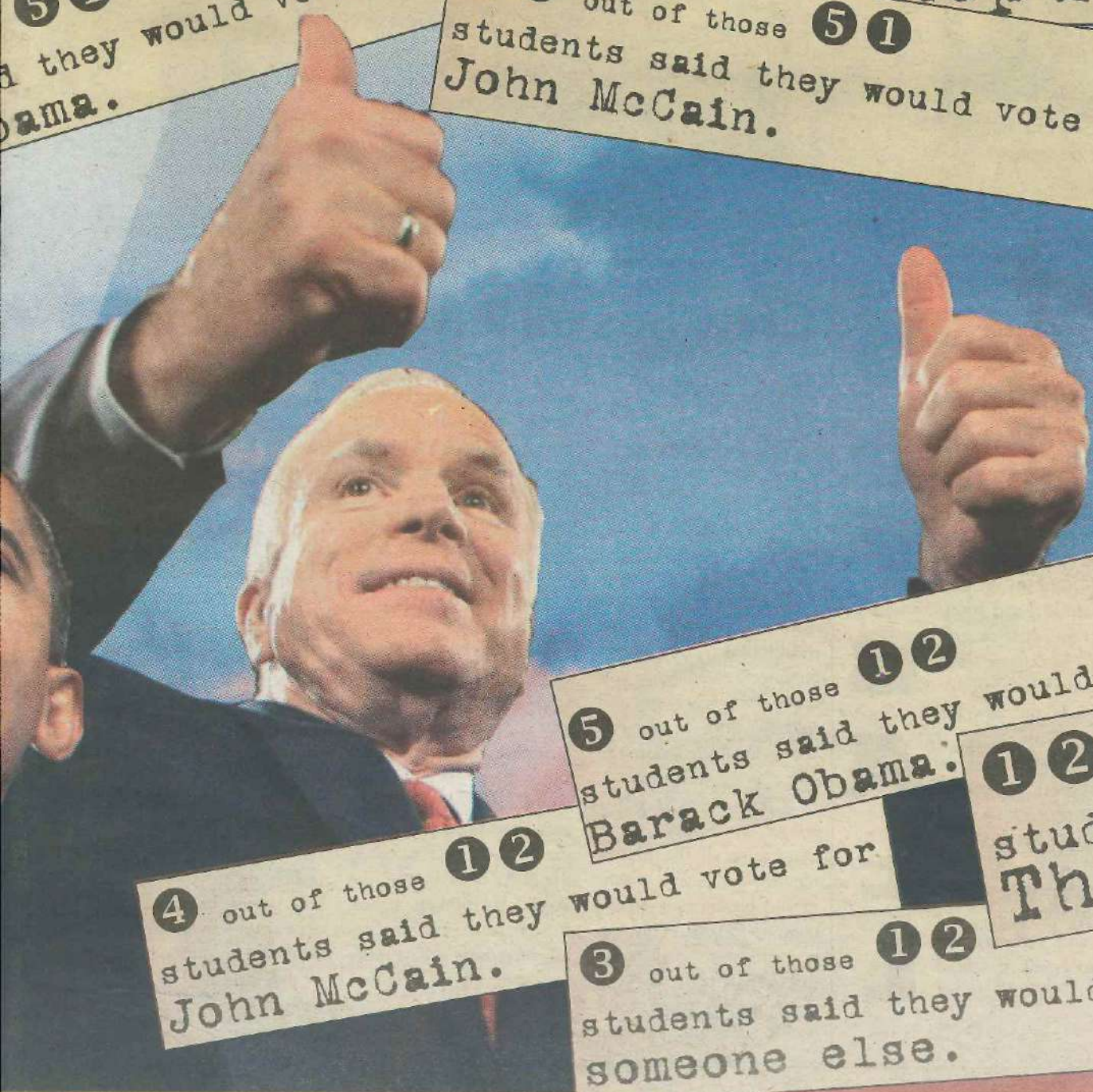
41 out of those 51 students said they would vote for John McCain.

5 out of those 12 students said they would vote for Barack Obama.

12 out of 247 students are Third Party.

4 out of those 12 students said they would vote for John McCain.

3 out of those 12 students said they would vote for someone else.



Fall Sports Wrap Up

STEPHEN HOWELL
LAYOUT/NEWS EDITOR

Girls Cross Country:

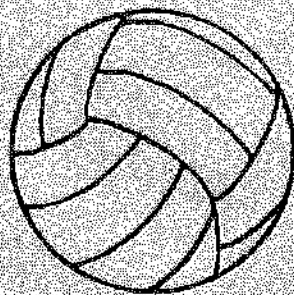
The Girls Cross Country team is steadily rebuilding after losing four starting runners last year. However, underclassmen on the team are providing huge hope. The Freshmen and Sophomore Girls team finished second out of 43 schools in the Outlands Invitation Meet in Leesburg on September 21 and the Freshmen and Sophomore Boys finished fourth out of 53 schools competing. Returning All Region Selection Kelsey Rosenberg, a junior, established her first place position on the team in Time Trails. However, Junior Julianne Bigler has a close second. Captain Amelia Cooksey is battling a continuing knee problem but team members said that she remains positive and supportive during the difficult practices.

"Amelia Cooksey's our captain and she's been battling a knee problem, but she's the best captain we could ask for—always positive and supportive," said Coach Don Beeby.

"This last week we started our big speed workout (which we've all come to dread and hate)—mile repeats. It's where you run a mile at full speed and you jog around (the edge of Ft. Hunt Park) to the start, and do it again...and again...and again. It is really unpleasant but it helps our finishing speed so much," said Beeby. This year Beeby is really stressing consistency and keeping healthy during the season.

Volleyball:

The current record is of the Volleyball team is 1-8. The captains of the team this year are Leigh Blair, Katy Bradley, and Jessica Harrington. The hardest district opponent is West Springfield. The team has been practicing really well and has been working on improving their practices because the way they play in practices is the way that they play in the games!



Courtesy of MCT Campus
The Volleyball team still has their spirit.

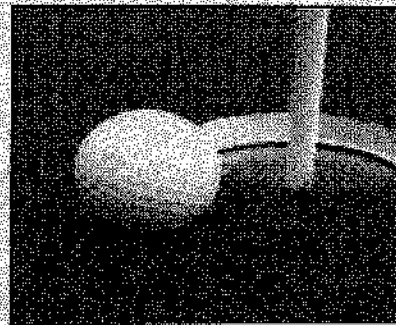
The team is looking forward to the West Springfield game the most because they lost to them in District Finals last year, thus they hope to come back and beat them this year.

Golf:

The Golf team finished the regular season 6-3-1. The team placed third in the District behind Lake Braddock and South County, who both qualified for the Regional tournament. Senior Forrest Wilson qualified individually for Regionals and finished with the best score of any non-qualifying team individually and fourth overall. The team will work in the off-season on focus and strategy for the courses.

Boys Cross Country:

The team is doing really well in developing the running skills. Everyone is improving with each meet. Despite this advancement, there is still room for improvement if they wish to win the Patriot District again this year. Our key runners would definitely have to be Khoki Bernier, Jr., Peter Stebbins, and Senior captain Ben Hammond. All three always give their all in every race and everybody knows it. Our biggest district opponent is Lake Braddock, who always has a huge line up of top runners finishing fast. The Boys Cross Country team has been practicing a lot. Coach Don Beeby is always saying that he can not take a "day off" because if the body rests, it will take a long time to get it back up to speed. Overall, the team are looking pretty good, not quite Patriot District Champions yet, but they are hoping that they can get there by the time the District Meet comes up around the end of October.



Courtesy of MCT Campus
Senior Forrest Allen played very well this golf season.



Courtesy of MCT Campus
A West Springfield Spartan race to the finish line.



Courtesy of MCT Campus
Washington Redskins quarterback Jason Campbell is sacked by Dallas Cowboys Chris Canty in the first quarter at Texas Stadium in Irving. Jason Campbell was considered a star in his local high school in Taylorsville.

Raising Football Stars In the Making

JESSICA TAYLOR
REPORTER

There are many football legends who emerged from their high school football teams to do the impossible. One of the coaches, Tyrone Strother believes that three of the varsity football players will be the next big football legends. He said he sees these players putting in extra practice time by "throwing the ball, running routes, lifting weights or watching [football] films."

The three players that go above and beyond expectations are Cole Walters, Kristian Rodriguez and Aaron Loney. "[They] are the main ones I know want to play after high school. We're fortunate to have a lot of players that have the ability to play in college," said Strother.

Senior Kristian Rodriguez begins his day by "waking up [early] with [his] body sore [from the practices]." He mentioned

that during football season all he thinks about is football, school, and "working hard at practice."

A way that Rodriguez stays motivated is "knowing that people know who you are and what you [can] do on the field." "The coaches are all good [and] they know how to get us ready for every game on Friday night," Rodriguez said.

Senior Cole Walters, who is best known for his quarter back skills and how he focuses during a game.

He said that he must "stay on task in school and all [of his] work." Despite the difficulties with managing time with practice, games and school, Walters tries to "be a leader on and off the field," by helping out in class and helping to lead the team to victory.

Walters did leave us with a message for emerging athletes, "do [well] in school and have a great work ethic."

FOOTBALL



Courtesy of MCT Campus
The Crew Team fundraises all year long, and put many hours of hard-work and dedication.

Crew Sits on a New Fundraiser

JESSICA TAYLOR
REPORTER

With the spring sports season five months away, most spring sports have not yet begun to organize. However, this is not the case with the Crew team.

Students on the Crew team set up a table in the main lobby, recruiting new members, as students collected their schedules, and sold flip-flops at the Fall Sports Pep-rally before the school year even began.

Crew, which is not a school sponsored sport, must raise all the money required for paying coaches and buying new equipment on its own. This task is even more challenging than in past years, as President of the Crew team senior Brienne Wilson

said, "Last year, we had a launch damage the bow of one of our boats, and now have to purchase an entire new boat along with more standard equipment." One eight-person racing-shell, like the one the Crew team is attempting to replace, can cost over \$30,000.

Tag Day and the Row-a-thon are the two largest fundraising events for the Crew team; however, this year Crew has also been fundraising at home football games. Both rowers and their supportive parents have been promoting their newest fundraiser, the "LAZBOY Fan of the Week" at football games. Rowers have been wandering the crowds, selling raffle tickets during the first half of the games.

One winner each game

is announced during Half Time, and gets to spend the rest of the game lounging in a LAZBOY recliner, which is placed at the 50 yard line.

The victory chair allows the winner to have an up close and personal view of the game. The chair, a red leather recliner, was donated by the LAZBOY store in Kingstowne, the first time the store has made a donation to a local non-profit group, such as the West Potomac Crew team.

The fundraiser got off to a rough start, due to the rainy weather present during the first few football games; however, the crew team remains hopeful about the amount of money they will make with this exciting new fundraiser.

The Big Four: Cricket, Curling, Horse Racing and Rugby

Zach Feinstein
Business Manager

Everyone is familiar with the common high school sports: football, basketball, baseball, and lacrosse. But beyond ESPN one and two, there are many other sports enjoyed equally around the world, such as cricket, curling, horse racing, and rugby.

These sports are all very interesting, and are often ignored by most America teens. Here is a recap and a preview of what is going on in the sports of cricket, curling, horse racing, and rugby.

In the world horse racing, all of the American and foreign trainers, as well as the horses, are getting ready for the season ending championships. The Breeders' Cup World Championships will be hosted at Santa Anita Racetrack Arcadia in California on October 24 and 25. For the second year, it will be a two day event with Friday being called "Ladies Day" because all of the races are for fillies and mares only.

This year's best match-up is going to be between Curlin, the reigning Horse of the Year, and Big Brown, this year's winner of the Kentucky Derby and Preakness Stakes in the Breeders' Cup Classic. The twist for this year's Breeders' Cup is that the main track races are

not going to be run on the traditional surface of dirt, but on an artificial surface called "Pro-ride." The total purchases for this year's Breeders' Cup are a new high of \$25.5 million dollars.

Another odd sport not commonly followed in America is rugby, an invention of the British. Although it is slowly catching on among college students in America, it is mostly popular throughout Europe, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, and many other formally British colonies.

In the Magners League of Ireland, Wales, and Scotland, the Osprey Rugby Team from Wales is currently in the lead and on September 9, defeated the team Cardiff Blues in Wales.

In the Tri-Nations, which are an annual competition between Australia's All Blacks, New Zealand's Wallabies, and South Africa's Springboks. Australia and New Zealand are both tied with three wins over South Africa's two.

The series ended September 13 with New Zealand winning the series.

Curling, a sport involving the pushing of a rock on ice, is another sport largely forgotten by most Americans. It is not, however, forgotten during the Olympics. With the 2010

Winter Olympics in Vancouver just around the corner for the curlers, the U.S. team qualifying events are in Broomfield, Colorado from February 21-28, 2009.

During the last Winter Olympics in Turin, Italy, the U.S. womens team's medal went to Norway and in the mens team's medal went to Canada. After the U.S.'s poor performance in both areas, they will have to regroup and prepare for the next winter Olympics.

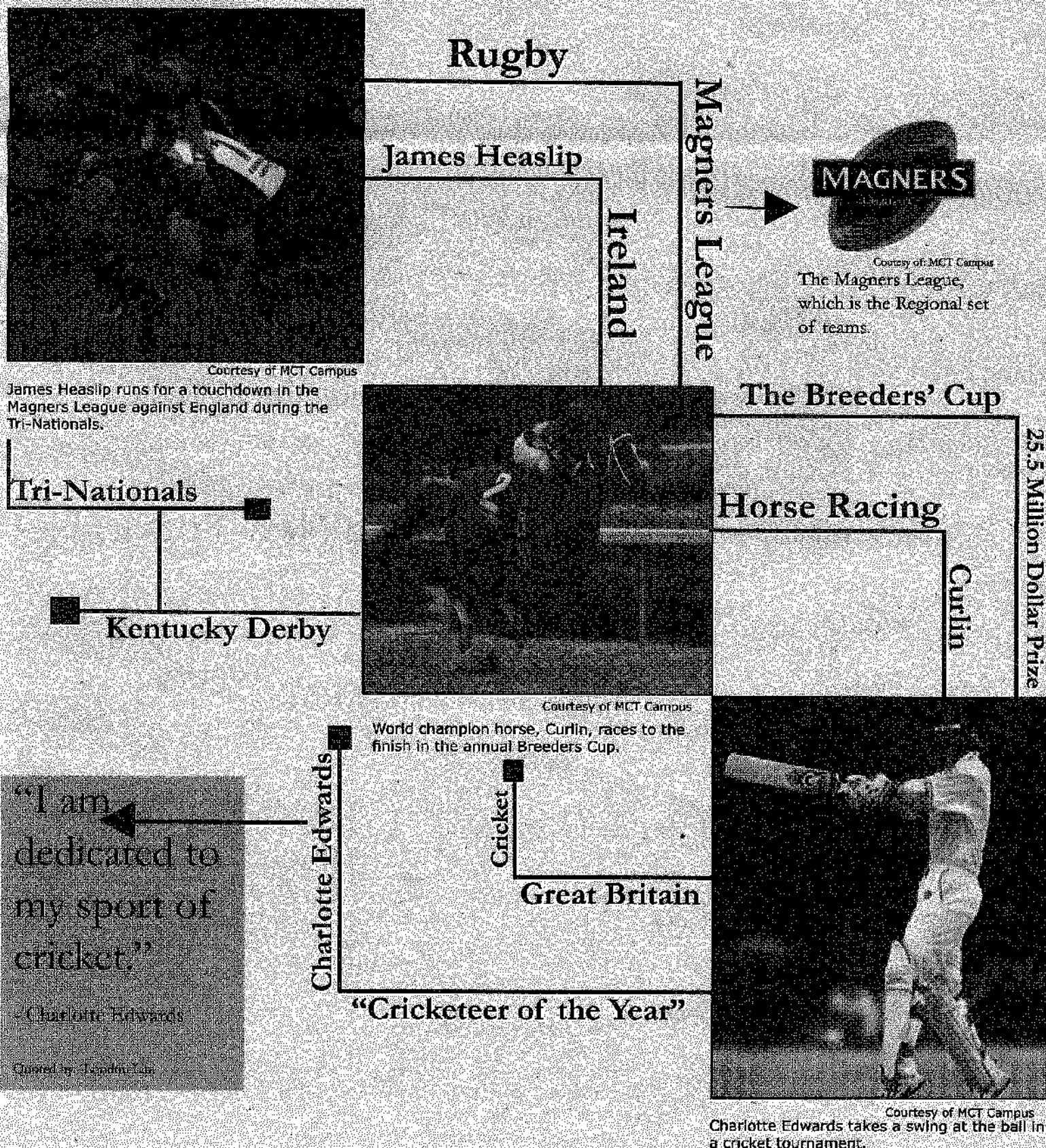
The final recap of an obscure sport to the American public is cricket, which is extremely popular in India, Australia, Europe, Pakistan, South Africa, and many other former British colonies.

According to the awards given from the International Cricket Council (ICC) awards, West Indian player Shivnarine Chanderpaul was named Cricketer of the Year. Charlotte Edwards of Britain won the Women's Cricketer of the Year Award.

Throughout the world, cricket, rugby, horse racing, and curling are all extremely popular, but are not in America.

While these sports might not be as fun as basketball or lacrosse, they show that most countries have something in common: a love of sports.

Sports Map



In The Numbers

4

Football victories over Centreville, Mount Vernon, Yorktown and Lee.

842

Passing yards by Cole Walter to date. 9/27

1990

Last time the varsity football team won the AAA Football Championships.

2005

The last time the Varsity Cross Country team won a Regional title

20

Awesome cheerleaders on the Varsity Cheer Squad

2

Goals scored against Stuart High School by Junior Michelle Gilmore in Field Hockey.

Top Ten Scary Movies

LUCAS ALEXANDER
OPINIONS EDITOR

photos courtesy Clip Art



It is early October and once again, Halloween is fast approaching. But with each year, the actual Halloween day becomes less and less important to high school students as they grow older and stop trick or treating. As students grow more mature, it starts to become more about the theme of horror and fear, which is well shown by their interest in scary movies. Here are ten of the all-time best horror films.

The Exorcist (1973) - Based on the 1971 novel by William Blatty, *The Exorcist* tells the story of a demon possessed girl. Her mother desperately wants to bring her back to normal, so she asks for help from two priests. It is up to them to save her, especially when it turns out she is possessed by the Devil himself.

The Saw series (2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, with five planned in 2008 and six planned in 2009) - The *Saw* series tell the story of a man who is very bitter about his life. He watches others then kidnaps them and traps them in a building where their worst fears come to life. A group of people are then forced to fight their way through the building, and ultimately to their doom.

Nightmare on Elm Street (1984) - Set in the imaginary town Springwood, Ohio, this movie tells the tale of a serial child killer named Freddy Krueger. Krueger haunts people through their dreams using a glove with four blades on it. If you do not wake up from your nightmare before Krueger catches you...

The Amityville Horror (1979) - *The Amityville Horror* tells the story of a family who moves into a household haunted by its bloody past. The family encounters odd occurrences including whisperings from the dead and even demonic possessions. The film is one of the first movies to tell the legend of a haunted house.

Night of the Living Dead (1968) - *Night of the Living Dead* is about two siblings who are on the run from a group of zombies. The zombies are deceased humans that came back to life because of the radiation from a Venus space probe that exploded in Earth's atmosphere. They are now out to eat human flesh and are chasing the siblings.

Psycho (1960) - *Psycho* tells the story of a man and a woman who are in love but cannot marry due to money problems. In order to solve them, the woman steals \$40,000 from her office and flees to California to meet her lover. However, she runs into a cop on the way and her anxiety raises his suspicions. Worried, she stops at a motel, and while there, is murdered. The rest of the movie is the investigation that explains the psycho dual personality of the motel owner.

Texas Chainsaw Massacre (1974) - *Texas Chainsaw Massacre* is about a group of five friends who are terrorized by a cannibalistic family. The five friends are followed and some are kidnapped and killed, while the others are forced to help look for them and to try to save themselves.



Photo courtesy of KRT/Handout

Friday the 13th (1980) - *Friday the 13th* tells the story of the haunted Camp Crystal Lake. Jason is a young boy who drowned in the lake in 1957 because two camp counselors snuck off and were not able to save him. Because of it, he haunts all of the counselors at Camp Crystal Lake. The movie tells the haunting story of Jason's quest to murder all the camp counselors.

Halloween (1978) - This movie tells the story of a young boy named Michael Myers who murders his 17 year old sister on Halloween and is sent to a psychiatric ward to be studied. 15 years later, he is set to be tried as an adult for the murder so he escapes the ward and heads back to Illinois. He stalks a young girl, eventually and she becomes very worried about the situation. This eventually leads to an attack by Myers, and tells the story of the attack.



Photo courtesy of KRT/Handout

The Shining (1980) - This movie is based on the Stephen King novel. It tells the story of a haunted cabin where a man killed his family and himself, and a family that is staying there in the present. Jack, the father of the family staying at the cabin, goes through a transformation similar to the one of the father in the story of the haunted cabin. His son and his mother have to find a way to escape from the evil transformation of Jack.



The Family That Preys Together Stays Together?

TIDAE JOHNSON
PHOTOGRAPHER

What happens to a family when a year's worth of sibling rivalry, greed, and lust consumes them all? Suddenly family members prey on each other like wild animals attacking each other's weaknesses and devouring them at first chance.

The Family That Preys takes place in Atlanta, Georgia, where Charlotte Cartwright (played by Kathy Bates), is the owner of a successful multi-million dollar company and enjoys every moment with her dearest friend Alice Pratt (played by Alfre Woodard). The good friends take a cross country road trip to let loose and live life. While they are gone, the life they left behind goes haywire.

Alice's money-hungry, self-centered daughter Andrea (played by Sanna Lathan), who recently married, has an affair with a family friend. However, her husband Chris (played by Rockmond Dunbar) is completely unaware and thinks the relationship is fine.

While Charlotte is out of town, her only son William (played by Cole Hauser) tries to gain more shares of their multi-million dollar company, to gain control and vote her out. However before Charlotte set out on her adventure, she was appointed a new C.O.O., Abigail (played by Robin Givens). In the meantime Alice's younger daughter Pam (played by Taraji P.

Henson), a "mommies girl" who takes no prisoners, often gets in heated arguments with her old sister about money, and the lack of respect she shows towards the "un-wealthy," and her husband Ben (played by Tyler Perry), often tries to guide her in a more positive direction.

The Family That Preys is an awesome movie which teaches you why some sibling and family rivalry last for years, even lifetimes. The slick humor of references to other movies the actors were in previously is hilarious. Although it was about two hours long, it did seem short, as I was hungered for more family drama. But the message and the overall movie were great.



Photo by MCF CAMPUS

Photo by MCF Campus/ Rodney Turner

Kathy Bates and Sanna Lathan are some of the notable stars in Tyler Perry's *The Family That Preys*.

Google Upgrades to Chrome

ASMA AHAMD
ONLINE EDITOR

The Google search engine has yet to disappoint many of its avid users and the launch of its new internet browser has only enhanced its reputation on the web.

Google Chrome was released on September 2, in hopes of modifying the web browsing experience for many users. Though it is in direct competition with the domination of Microsoft's Internet Explorer and Mozilla's Firefox, the new browser offers a completely different approach to applications and browsing.

It gives users a lot more control and easy access to their most commonly viewed websites, activities, and resources. Emphasis is placed on being able to multi-task through the use of numerous tabs and an efficient task manager.

On most browsers, if one tab encounters a problem, the entire window needs to be restarted. With Google Chrome, one can easily re-retrieve data because each tab works independently.

In addition to its high speed and versatility, the new browser has also tackled the web security issue with full force. Anytime a website is detected for a potential threat, such as malware or phishing, a warning message is displayed allowing the user to proceed to the website or turn back. Even with all its new features, Google Chrome offers a straightforward and simple approach to browsing.

"Like the classic Google homepage, Google Chrome is clean and fast. It gets out of

your way and gets you where you want to go," said Sudar Pichai, the engineering director of Google in a recent blog post.

The engineers have definitely made their point about versatility with the new browser by making every user's homepage consist of frequently visited websites, which minimizes the time and energy that goes into searching for websites.

However, considering Google Chrome is a fairly new program, there are still some glitches that need to be resolved and critics are taking every chance they can get to scrutinize the new browser.

Senior Michael Snowden is one of the many tech savvy students at our school, who have already

spotted some issues with Google Chrome.

"Right now the biggest thing, that Chrome has going for it, is its parent company..Google. As for how it compares to

(my personal favorite) web browsers like Firefox, Chrome still has a ways to go," said Snowden.

Though some of the features may seem generic, Google has hopped on the bandwagon "by putting tabs in as a standard feature." "Also I have to say that the default 'Blue' theme it has is very pleasing on the eyes," said Snowden.

Only time will tell if internet users are pleased with Google Chrome, but for now, it seems like a browser worth downloading.

With all the new features and an easy access front-page, users may be pleased if they are either fed up with their current browser, or just want to try something new

It gives users a lot more control and easy access to their most commonly viewed websites, activities, and resources.

A Tribute to Hispanic Heritage Month

Tina Johnson

As we celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month, we honor the rich and diverse contributions of Hispanic Americans to our nation's history, culture, and identity. From the arts and sciences to politics and industry, Hispanic Americans have made significant and lasting impacts on our society.

Hispanic Heritage Month is a time to recognize the achievements of Hispanic Americans and to promote a greater understanding and appreciation of their culture. We encourage everyone to take the time to learn more about the history and traditions of the Hispanic community.

Dreams Coming True

Dreams

We have a dream
To find a better life
Leaving our family and
Ethnic ties behind
Crossing the borders between
Two countries
Remaining loyal and true
and speaking the common
tongue of the host
From my childhood dreams
Remember my future to be
In what is a strange country seems
On my way will be
Hungry and ask my life
Instead my dreams come true
And my destiny came on an end... I had arrived

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New iPhone Creates Problems

EMILY GRIFFIN
ASSISTANT STYLE EDITOR

One of the main problems with the new iPhone is that people can easily obtain personal information such as private contacts and e-mails, regardless of whether or not the phone is locked.

Of course, soon after the public found out about this flaw in the iPhone's security system, Apple released a statement to the public saying that a solution was in the making.

An Apple spokeswoman reassured the public that there would be a software update for the new iPhones. However, she failed to mention the date that the new software would be available.

Later, the same spokeswoman commented in an e-mail that the users should use the iPhone's "Home" button instead of its "Favorites" menu to access music. This email was sent to all customers who had purchased the iPhone.

Students, with the original iPhone at our school, have

said that they were happy that they did not spend money on the new iPhone, after hearing of these glitches.

Sophomore Veronica Clarke said that some of the reasons why she likes the original iPhone is because "it is really straightforward and easy to use." She also likes "all of the different application[s] [on the phone]."

Clark also mentioned that she likes that the new iPhone has "a much sleeker look than the original iPhone." However, she is not interested in buying the new phone.

The original iPhone which was released late in 2007 had very good ratings, with only a few negative ones. Most of the problems consisted of the customers not reading the manual.

The main problem occurred was when people confused the iPhone with a PC. This just means that people downloaded too much stuff onto their iPhone.

There were a few other problems that students have stumbled upon with the original iPhone.

One problem is that it cannot send picture text messages to other people.

Also, you also cannot make videos on your phone, so you have to get a video camera in order to make videos for your friends.

Then, there is the common cell phone problem where your phone call is dropped or you are unable to hear the person for no apparent reason.

Apple recently released another statement saying the problem has been fixed and that the internet connection is better than ever.

MSNBC said that Apple was focused on fixing the problem, "after receiving a flurry of online complaints from customers around the world." Hopefully, they will stick to their promise and deliver a better iPhone in the future.

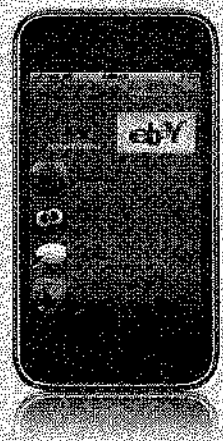


Photo Courtesy of MCT Handout

The new iPhone has flaws in the security system, and makes personal information about customers easily obtainable.

Students Coming from Distant Lands

From Uruguay to the United States

GRACE POWELL
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Just when the prospects for playing on the Uruguayan national rugby team seemed close, junior Francisco Jiménez's father announced that the family would be living in America for the next five years.

In Montevideo, Uruguay, rugby is life. Boys train in the sport as young as four years old in the hopes of one day playing in the Rugby World Cup. Jiménez had a shot at playing on the national team that is, until his father's job with an oil company forced them to move to the US. "I was the saddest person in the world," he said. Jiménez describes a life of serenity in his country,

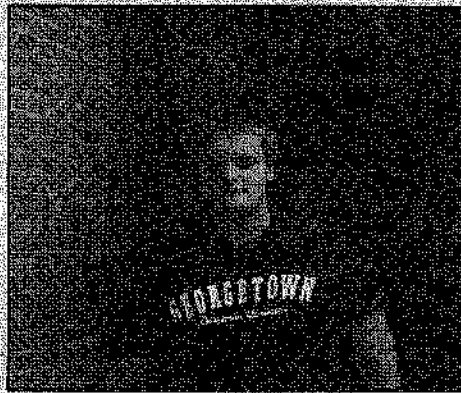


Photo by Grace Powell

filled with sports, friends and family. On the weekends, Jiménez would go to the soccer stadium to watch a "fútbol" game. Then he would travel to his grandparents' farm, tending to the horses, chickens and cows. "I like the farm," Jiménez said. Working side by side with his grandfather mirrors how the family interacts in Uruguay. They work together and eat dinner together; there is a closeness. "It is a very unique family," Jiménez said.

Small. That is how Jiménez felt when he entered this country. "All is big here, that's a big difference." Even the people are comparably

big. In Uruguay, Jiménez was the biggest in his class. "Here I'm normal," he said.

Jiménez fits in surprisingly well. He has joined the school's football team. He is learning to adjust to the six am wake up calls, (in Uruguay classes start around noon). He finishes his math tests early because he has learned most of the information, and he likes to read newspapers in his free time. The only thing that gives Jiménez away is his rich Spanish accent; he admits that it is sometimes hard to communicate coming from another country. Yet mostly, Jiménez finds that he is like most individuals in this area, diverse. "In Uruguay, there are two types of people...

here there are people from all the parts of the world." Jiménez likes how his world is now painted differently, as he said "I open my mind to different people."

The familiar still follows Jiménez. After hours of football practice, he goes to D.C. to play rugby. "Here it is the same," he says. "I have more time with my family." Life in Uruguay is kept updated by emails from Jiménez's friends. When the time comes for Jiménez to choose his path in life, he said he wants to go back to Uruguay, to play rugby and tend to the horses on his grandparents' farm.

"Hallo" from the Center of Germany

EMILY GRIFFIN
ASSISTANT STYLE EDITOR

Along with the freshman class, a new student named Sjad Geiersbach traveled all the way from Germany to go our school just a week before the new year started.

Sjad came from a town near Kassel called Wolfhagen which is in the center of Germany. He left his friends and family behind to come to the United States and see how American schools function.

Sjad has noticed that there are many differences between our school and schools back home. One of the differences is that West Potomac has counselors while German schools do not. Sjad adds, "I really like the counselors for the U.S. school." For Sjad, "it has been easy [making friends]. The people are very open and nice here." He also mentions that teens in the United States text more than those in Germany. He said, "cell phones are more expensive in Germany."

Although Sjad is not trying out for any sports, he does plan to have a career in music. However, he did confirm that he will attend the West Potomac football games with his hosting family, the Jones's. He does not really know

what career path he wants to take but he does say, "Maybe something with music." Music is a favorite of many people, including Sjad. "I love listening to music and I also like playing [the] cello and singing in choir." His favorite music artist



Photo courtesy of Sjad Geiersbach

is the famous jazz artist Roger Cicero and a band known as the Wise Guys. Even though Sjad is from Germany, he still does normal teenage things, such as hanging out with friends at their homes.

It may have been hard to leave his family behind, but most of his friends are in the exchange programs as well. He says, "Most of my friends went [to] the same foreign countries. So we all have things in common [about experiencing new cultures]."

Sjad did say he would like to come back here to graduate, but he plans "to graduate in Germany." On the other hand, he still has "thirteen years of school in Germany" left to complete. So, right now Sjad is not too concerned with figuring out which college he wants to go to.

He said "Ich bin froh, hier zu und freue mich auf mein auslandsjahr!" or "I am glad to be here and I am looking forward to my exchange year!"

A Day in the Life of Mr. Relton

Science teacher Gary Relton reveals an interesting past and fulfilling career

PETER COFFEY
REPORTER



Photo by Peter Coffey

Many students see Science teacher Garry Relton and his smiling face in the hallway or in the class room. But there is a story behind that smiling face, a glorious one.

Relton was born November 28, 1957 in London, England. He lived there for 10 years and then his family immigrated to America in 1968 and settled down in St. Louis. His father worked for the *St. Louis Dispatch*, the city newspaper, while Relton attended the 4th and 5th grade. After the 5th grade his family moved to Massachusetts and his father again worked for the local newspaper the *Boston Globe*.

Before he started high school, Relton's family moved once again to Annandale, Virginia, where he attended Annandale High School. While at Annandale, he was an athlete playing soccer for all four years. In the spring of 1975, he graduated from Annandale High School and then attended Randolph Macon University in the fall of the same year. He started as a biology major then decided that really wasn't his thing and switched to a bio-chemistry major then again he felt that the biology part really didn't fit him at all and ended up being a chemistry major. College was also the time in Gary's life when he started singing formally in various school musicals.

After college, he got a job at a printed circuit factory. One day while he was hard at work he managed to get acid in his eyes. This incident nearly caused him to go blind but Garry Relton being the

strong man he is he pulled through it.

After this incident, he decided he wanted to join the Navy and be apart of the nuclear subdivision. Unfortunately during his interview when he was asked why he wants to join the navy he said, "Well of the Army, Marines, and Navy, the Navy seemed like the easiest" and the guy interviewing him did not like this answer and rejected him. After that he got a job at a wonderful grocery store, Giant. Luckily he got sick of this job and decided to start teaching.

He started teaching at South Lakes High School in 1982 but he did not teach chemistry but instead he taught algebra. He only taught there for a half a year because that's they didn't need him for a full year. He then moved to Annandale High School where he started teaching Chemistry. Again he moved to another school. This time after a year of teaching, he moved to Ft. Hunt High School. He stayed with Ft. Hunt when they merged with Groveton and became West Potomac.

To this day, Relton is still teaching at our school. He has contributed greatly to this school by not only teaching but by also coaching the soccer team for 8 years and singing at the chorus department's annual Spring Show. Relton has many exciting plans for when he retires in the near future including working at a bookstore and doing a lot of reading. Anyone itching to hear Relton sing need not be disappointed, he can be found at Cameron United Methodist Church on Sundays.

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MADYSON MILLER
AST. STYLE EDITOR

Julia McCullohs

What career path are you planning on taking?

I want to go into the Air Force and be a missionary.

What is your sign?

Capricorn

What is your favorite hobby?

I'm not sure. I do sing in a band. It's for my church.

What are you planning on majoring in?

Criminal Justice

What is your greatest fear?

I guess the fear of the unknown

What is your favorite class and why?

I would have to say English, because of Mr. Russell. The class is a lot of fun.

What electives are you taking?

ROTC, art, and weight training

What is your dream Halloween costume and why?

A ballerina

ROTC, Teacher Cadet, and Photo Journalism 1

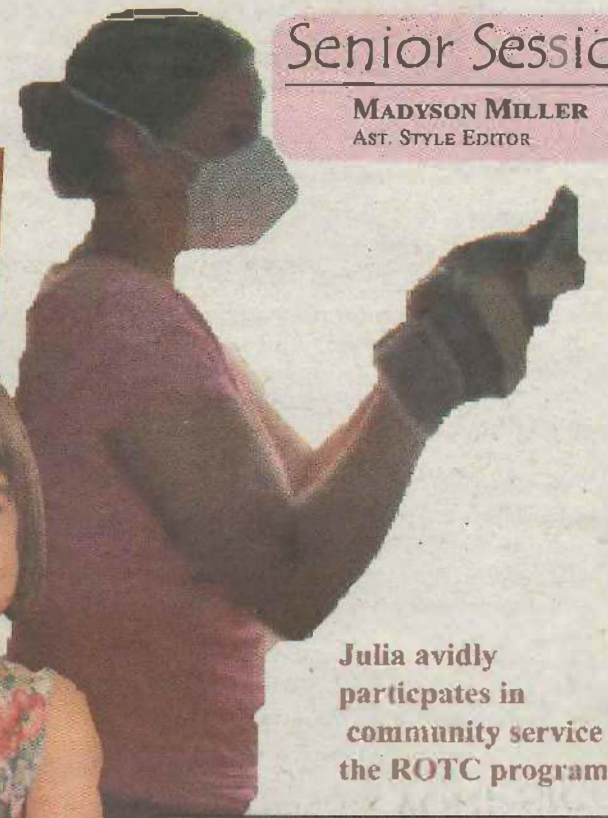
What electives are you taking?

Victoria O'Connor and Jeff Feinstein
Is there a teacher who has inspired you?

I would like to be the girl from the Grudge because I was told I look like her

What is your dream Halloween costume and why?

I would be



Julia avidly participates in community service and the ROTC program.

