



Woodrow Wilson High School THE BEACON

September 27, 2013

VOLUME 77 ISSUE 2



Photo by Nell Bayliss

TIMBER! - This ficus tree surprised everyone when it fell over on Monday, September 9, at approximately 11:20 a.m. Fortunately no one was injured. See the full story on Page 2.

Dress Code Stress: Admin Step Up Enforcement

Rachel Page
Junior Editor

The gaggle of freshman girls has almost made it to the atrium when they hear the words: "Come back!" They turn reluctantly, surreptitiously pulling down their cutoff shorts as low as they can. "Arms by your side," the teacher instructs. "No, straighter."

Shoulders raised, fingers curled, arms forward; by now, the girls know how to cut out those few precious inches that make the difference between too-short shorts and an acceptable length. Two of them get nods from the teacher. The third is not so lucky. "Your shorts are too short," the teacher says apologetically. "You're going to have to go home and change."

Students walking into Wilson over the past few weeks have been greeted with an unpleasant surprise: teachers and administrators lined up behind the

metal detectors with clipboards in hand, scanning the masses for dress code violators. Technically, Wilson has always had a dress code. But this year is the first that the administration has chosen to enforce it wholeheartedly, and they aren't backing down.

Why the sudden shift in policy? Instructional Coach Linda Wanner says the change began in March of last year, after numerous teachers and parents voiced their concerns about dress code enforcement to herself and Principal Cahall. Over the summer Wanner met with a committee of parents, teachers, and students; the last, she admits, on a less than regular basis. "Students are always busy-- they have things to do after school. They participated off-and-on," she says. With or without the help of students, the updated policy was introduced this fall, causing an uproar among the student body.

However, Wanner maintains



Cartoon by Deng Phua that the majority of students are fine with Wilson's dress code. "It's been wonderful," she says.

"The students have been very nice. I don't think that anyone has brought up anything negative with me."

Just a few blocks down Wisconsin Avenue, at Sidwell Friends School, the conflict over the dress code has gone in a different direction. While

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The Beacon is online!
Check out our new website:

thewilsonbeacon.com, for exclusive content and coverage on current events.

New to the website will be a **Top 10 writing contest!** Head over to the site for more info on how you can help write the Top 10.

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Navy Yard Tragedy Jars the District of Columbia

Claire Parker and Annie Rosenthal
News Editors

Aaron Alexis, a Navy veteran with a history of mental instability, entered Navy Yard Building 197 in Southeast DC at 8:15 am on Monday, September 16th, armed with an Altered Remington 870 shotgun. Over the next hour, he went on a shooting rampage that left 12 dead and 14 wounded, ending only when police fatally shot him. The

shooting's proximity to Wilson and students' homes made the tragedy personal to the Wilson community.

Alexis had a history of post-traumatic stress, psychological issues, and multiples arrests for violent tendencies. The Washington Post reported. He was treated twice for severe insomnia, an indicator of anxiety and depression. And in August, police in Rhode Island informed the Navy that Alexis had reported hearing voices. Despite these

red flags, on September 14th, Alexis was able to purchase the shotgun he used in the massacre two days later and retained his government security clearance.

The Navy Yard incident occurred approximately a mile and a half from the Capitol, where stricter gun control regulations were defeated in April. And it occurred less than eight miles from Wilson.

Senior Andrew Arlotto lives within 10 minutes walking distance from Navy Yard. He

found out about the shooting in second period on Monday, and his first reaction was to call his mother to ask if she was alright. At that point, it was unclear whether the gunman had been caught, so Arlotto was worriedly picturing a shooter on the loose in his neighborhood.

Arlotto said he reacted differently to the Navy Yard shooting than past mass shootings, such as those in Newtown, Connecticut and Aurora, Colorado. "Those [other shootings] were also ter-

rible, but this one really hit hard because it was just so close to my house," Arlotto said. "It was a big scare for me."

To *The Beacon's* knowledge, no Wilson students had any connection to the victims. However, one near miss temporarily devastated a Wilson family. A senior whose identity *The Beacon* will not disclose due to the sensitivity of the issue received a call from her mother during the school day on September 16, notifying her that the police

Michelle Obama Puts on the Moves

Evan Hamlin
Editor-in-Chief

On September 6 The Beacon attended an event hosted by First Lady Michelle Obama promoting her "Let's Move" campaign. The initiative, which aims to bring healthier foods and increased exercise into schools, has been the hallmark of the First Lady's time in the White House.

The event was hosted at Orr Elementary in Southeast, and featured a star-studded cast that included Olympians Allyson Felix and Dominique Dawes, President of Reebok USA Uli Becker, DCPS Chancellor Kaya Henderson, and former NBA All-Star Shaquille O'Neal.

Citing a 19% decline in pre-schoolers' obesity rate, Obama emphasized the "pivotal moment" we have reached in the struggle to make schools healthy and active. The issue of a better lunch, a specific focus of the conference, struck particularly close to home at Orr, an elementary school where 99% of students receive free or reduced lunch.

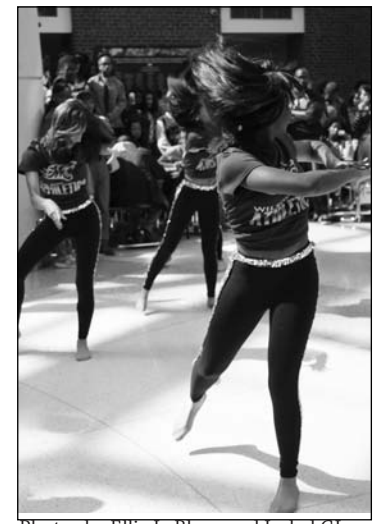
Obama touched on the positive effect a healthy lifestyle has on one's mind. Kids who eat health-

fully and exercise are 40% more likely to do well on tests and 50% more likely to go to college.

As the conference came to a close, Obama stressed the need to "leave something better for our children and grandchildren," and avoid "raising the most inactive generation in our nation's history."

Shortly after she made her closing remarks, the First Lady exited the stage and got ready to move. Hula hoops and jump ropes took the place of chairs and posters, and 45 students from Orr were brought out onto the floor. Obama, O'Neal, Felix, and Dawes stretched, skipped, jumped, and ran around a large circle as part of Reebok's "Boks" program, an initiative that has partnered with the First Lady's aim to improve health in schools as well. Some students attempted to high-five the towering 7'1" O'Neal, while others flocked to the First Lady for handshakes and hugs.

"No school is more deserving of this phenomenal visit from the First Lady," said Niyeka Wilson, the proud principal of Orr Elementary School.



Photos by Ellie LeBlanc and Isabel GLOSS

MEEEEOOOW - Members of the Kelly Kittens Dance Club, including Nariah Jones and Odyssey Wade (CHECK SP), attracted a crowd when they performed on Wednesday, September 18 as part of the Wilson Involvement Fair that took place in the atrium during lunch. The team competes in competitions around the area throughout the year.

Navy Yard Shooting

CONT. FROM P 1

had identified her uncle, who worked in Building 197, as one of the victims.

"It was nerve-wracking," she said. "Everyone in my family -- we were all shaking, and crying, we didn't understand. It was difficult for me because I had just seen him the day before." For four hours, she believed he was dead. But at a family gathering later in the day, to the astonishment of her family, her uncle walked into the room, demonstrating that the police had misidentified the body.

However, outside of DC, the public outcry in response to this shooting was muted in comparison to the responses to past shootings. (see Navy Yard opinion article on page

President Barack Obama gave his condolences at a memorial service for the victims on Sunday, and called for Congress to reopen the issue of gun control. But lawmakers say that a renewal of the debate in Congress is unlikely because they don't think politics surrounding gun laws have changed

enough for a bill tightening gun laws to pass. Instead, Congress' focus has been on mental health legislation.

Many Americans are pessimistic about the impact the Navy Yard shooting will have on legislation. Arlotto said, "I don't think anything's actually going to change. A lot of people will rally and want change, but I don't think change will come."

Mr. Ajibade DaSilva, Wilson's financial manager, agrees. "We're so dependent on our legislators, lawmakers, and our institutions for direction and leadership. But they have flaws, and can only be corrected by the populace. But if the populace only remains interested every two years or every four years, or self-motivated, then eventually, the ramifications of apathy will rear its ugly head, when we have senseless crimes like the Navy Yard shooting," he said. "We don't ever ask the question of causality. What are we doing, whether knowingly or unknowingly, to contribute to despair? And then what are we doing to counteract despair?"

Comcast to the Rescue: Students Get Internet Aid

Emma Buzbee
Contributer

Each month, families may spend over \$40 on Internet services, costs that can be a hindrance to low-income families. A lack of internet puts students at a disadvantage.

This year, Comcast's Internet Essentials program is providing a solution to Wilson students in the form of reduced Internet and computer costs. The program is designed to give students of modest means the same educational resources as everyone else.

The basic idea of Internet Essentials is to provide cheaper Internet and other technological resources to students who are already receiving free or reduced lunch at school. To be eligible, a household must have at least

one child in the National School Lunch Program and must be in a Comcast covered area. Once in, students can receive Internet at home for \$9.95 a month plus tax and then have the option to buy an Internet-capable computer for \$149.95. There are no activation fees, price increases, or rental equipment fees.

The other resource offered by Internet Essentials is training in how to effectively use the computers and technology and incorporate them into everyday life.

Thirty-eight percent of Wilson's student body is eligible to participate in the program. Art teacher Avram Walters first introduced the program to Wilson after hearing about it on the radio. He believes Internet access at home for those who don't have it will help students

complete homework and check Edline regularly.

Principal Pete Cahall agrees that technology is important to school work. "I know when my internet is down at home I have a hard time working," he said, adding that he feels that the reduced price Internet at home is more of a "convenience thing," since Wilson offers computer access through the library.

To request an application for Internet Essentials, students should call 1-855-8-INTERNET (1-855-846-8376). The application should include students' lunch forms. Comcast pledges to respond in seven to 10 days. Students who wish to purchase a low cost computer will receive a packet with information along with Comcast's response.

24 HOUR
PLAYS

Next Wednesday, October the 2nd, the Wilson Players will be hosting another interest meeting for all those who wish to be involved in the October 11-12 "24 Hour Plays". Come to the black-box theatre, room B-207, to sign up to write, direct, or act in a short, student produced play in the most exhilarating, comedic, and enjoyable drama experiences of the year!

If a Tree Falls in the Atrium...

Story Sullivan
Contributer

One of the trees in the atrium came loose and fell from its foundation on Monday, September 9, landing on top of one of the circular lunch tables that serve as an eating and gathering space for students.

The incident called the stability

of the other trees into question. Many students appreciate the trees, and find it hard to envision the atrium without them. The trees help make Wilson interesting and attractive.

The situation of the tree falling was potentially dangerous, but luckily, no one was injured. The tree fell at 11:20 am on a seven-period day, meaning that students were still in fourth pe-

riod. If it had fallen on another day of the week, it could have landed on students eating lunch beneath it at STEP.

Principal Cahall was concerned as well. In a statement to the Wilson community, Cahall wrote, "It made me sick but [I] was happy that no one was injured and that we corrected the problem."

Though the incident was

troublesome, it brought to attention the type of care these indoor trees need. While the atrium can protect these trees and plants from the intense heat of our city's summer weather to the ice and frost of the winter, we cannot forget the unique environment that they live in. In the future, Wilson's maintenance department will be even more vigilant about making

certain that the trees are always pruned to the right proportion, sodded and mulched regularly, and given the proper nutrition that nature needs to survive even the most beautiful indoor settings.

The trees inside our atrium represent what a unique place Woodrow Wilson High School is.

THE BEACON

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Our mission is to provide an accurate representation of the diverse views, opinions, and concerns of the students of Wilson High School. We aim to serve as the voice of the students. Through responsible, ethical journalistic practices, we strive to provide thorough, reliable news coverage of issues relevant to Wilson.

Advertising and subscription rates are available by emailing beaconchiefeditor@gmail.com.

The *Beacon* welcomes all student and guest contributions: articles, photographs, art, commentary, and letters to the editor. All submissions can be sent to beaconchiefeditor@gmail.com, and become property of The *Beacon*.

The *Beacon* is a public forum created for the purpose of expressing the views of and providing information to the Wilson student body. Thank you for reading The *Beacon*.

Syria: What You Need to Know

Alex Dorosin
Contributor

As we walk through the streets of downtown DC, questions about Syria fill our ears: What is it, what is Obama's plan, what is Russia doing and why? Although Syria has been the subject of headlines for over two years now, many of us still can't answer these questions. So let's start with the basics:

What and where is Syria?

Syria is a small country located in the Middle East, neighboring Iraq and Israel. Syria gained independence from France in 1936, and has faced political instability ever since.

Who is the leader?

In 1970, Hafez al-Assad, the father of Syria's current ruler, seized power. Al-Assad was an Alawite Muslim, while the majority of the country's citizens were Sunni Muslims. He ruled for 30 years, making himself into the country's supreme dictator. He appointed his second-oldest son, Bashar, as his successor. Bashar became the ruler after his father's death in 2000. Bashar has been widely viewed as a bad ruler.

Why is Syria in the news?



Photo Creative Commons: Freedom House

SEEKING FREEDOM - The Syria independence flag flies over a protest in the northwestern Syrian town of Bin-nish.

Then, in 2011, came the Arab Spring: a series of protests and uprisings against the many dictators in the Middle East. The people of Tunisia, Libya, Yemen, Bahrain and Egypt rioted to remove their leaders and are currently attempting to instill democratic systems. However, in Syria, when the Arab Spring began, Assad killed many peaceful protesters. This started violent uprisings, which began the Syrian Civil War. For the past two years rebels have been fighting, trying to oust Assad. Assad has responded by sending military troops, to fight rebel protesters.

Why does this matter to the United States?

Recently, a series of chemical weapons were launched towards targets outside of Damascus, killing thousands of civilians, including hundreds of children. Each side blamed the other for the strike. Soon after this happened, a UN inspection team was sent into Syria to find out if chemical weapons were used. The United States almost instantly took the stance that the Syrian regime used chemical weapons and threatened to take military action and asked Congress to authorize military force. The Russian government opposed any military resolution at the United Nations, saying that it was the rebels who were responsible.

An Appeal To John Kerry

Jackson Ross
Columnist

Dear John Kerry,
I'm disappointed in you. John Kerry, obedient manservant to Obama is not who forty eight percent of America

voted for in 2004. That John Kerry was against going into Iraq, and was vocal about it throughout his campaign. His campaign, that I may remind you, was only two to three years after 9/11. That John Kerry knew the consequences would be bad, and wanted to stay away. That John Kerry knew it firsthand, as he had fought in Vietnam, which 2004 America had become a near parallel to in

several ways. That John Kerry made waves as a decorated war veteran to stand before congress and tell them that American involvement in Vietnam was a bad choice.

When I hear you speak, I don't picture that man. I picture a slave to his party who is going along with something that, if proposed by a conservative Republican, he would be vehemently against.

After weeks of arguments and mudslinging by both sides, the United States and Russia have finally come to an agreement. Syria has agreed to join the Chemical Weapons Convention, an international agreement that limits the use of chemical weapons and would require them to destroy their chemical weapons.

Now, we are faced with the question, as American citizens: Are we satisfied by how this has turned out?

I personally think that this is a good temporary resolution, but will not work in the long run. Congress has indefinitely postponed its discussion of the U.S. military response. New events in Syria could cause more instability, leading to more problems. There is a good chance that no action will be taken for some time while the issue is dealt with in the international arena. I feel that there should still be some sort of military action plan for the U.S., otherwise we might be forced to deal with the issues as they come up, quickly and without proper deliberation. Once an emergency plan has been made, the U.S. needs a long-term solution towards ending the Syrian civil war.

But it was proposed by a member of your own Democratic party, and therefore you have seemingly tossed principles, experience and logic out the window in order to blindly go along with it. Vladimir Putin is more of a John Kerry at the moment than you are. Take some time to think that over.

To Wear or Not to Wear...

Is there such thing as a 'perfect' dress code policy?

Georgetown Day School's Bobby Asher says that in an ideal world, the dress code would be "a community conversation that involves significant output from kids." Perhaps, then, the fault in Wilson's dress code is that it is not a conversation. Students were angered by the increased enforcement in large part because it was a surprise; the majority of the student body was never involved in any form of discourse with the administration.

Wilson students represent a range of diverse backgrounds, each of which has its own distinct and valuable opinion. Instead of the administration deciding what offends or distracts us, maybe it's time for Wilson students to speak for themselves. After all, no one knows more about what is disrespectful or distracting to different cultures and groups of people than the students that belong to them. At the end of the day, students are the only

ones responsible for what they wear.

As high schoolers, we're in a pivotal moment in our lives, where we're beginning to define ourselves through the choices we make-- choices, perhaps, as simple as what we wear to school every day. Clothing is one of the many mediums we use to express ourselves, and it's an important one. The gray area that comes with restricting this right is akin to restricting the right to speech: where do we draw the line between our right to dress how we want as individuals and the right of those around us to feel safe and comfortable at school?

This question can't be answered with a few pieces of paper from the administration, no matter how good their intentions. The best way to get us to comply with the dress code isn't to punish--it's to demonstrate why the dress code matters, and the only way to do that is to hear from the students who it affects most. Most Wilson students would be more likely to wear

clothing that was dress-code appropriate if they knew who they actually were offending, or what the arguments are for dress code rules, and that requires a conversation not just between students and administration, but between students and other students. The slogan "dress for success" follows Wilson students everywhere, starting on day one at freshman orientation. It seems as if it is the school's easy way of explaining the purpose of the dress code, and what students should wear. It's not complicated, kids -- just dress for success! The implications of this simple phrase are much broader though. It implies that students who dress a certain way will not be able to succeed. It implies that if you don't dress the way the school deems appropriate, you aren't professional, and you won't be able to get a job. This is not true though; in the future, some Wilson alumni will wear uniforms to work, others will have to wear suits and ties every day, and some will work for themselves and be able to

decide what they wear. The idea of "dressing for success" is not enough to explain what students can wear, or why they should. In a realistic world, there's probably no such thing as a perfect dress code. Mandating what students wear creates divides--however unintentional--between ethnic groups, religions, and genders. Restricting the length of shorts out of respect for conservative dressers is viewed as demeaning by the girls who are targeted most.

Telling one group that they can wear their culture's traditional clothing while another group cannot will inevitably be found offensive. Even in a world where Wilson's dress code was a conversation and every opinion had the chance to be heard, it's unrealistic to think that every opinion would be manifested in the dress code policy, or would carry equal weight. But a conversation is a start. It's a step in the right direction, and maybe it's as close as we're going to get.

-The Beacon Editorial Staff



**Eboni
Ellis**

ASK EB ADVICE COLUMN

Q: Why are the white kids in Wilson so white like this is astounding, you are in a school with a majority of black kids but still manage to remain this white? Help me.

A: In a school this big it may be really overwhelming to venture out of your comfort-zone and make friends with people of other backgrounds. But, it is worth it! Being in such a diverse school we should take advantage of different types of friends. Imagine if someone asked, "why do black kids act so black," saying things like this reinforces stereotyping, and should be avoided. Think about the specific behaviors that bother you, and try to address them outside the sphere of race.

Q: What's the best way to ask somebody to homecoming?

A: The best way is to ask them straight up and in advance. Homecoming isn't prom, a simple ask out would be the best. A nice text, phone call, Facetime, or even asking them in person would be great for this situation. Also, make sure you give that person enough time to think their decision through, and to prepare for the homecoming! If you ask last minute it will add pressure to the situation.

Q: What's your advice for good grades and a good social life at the same time?

A: My advice is to keep the two balanced at the same level because they are both very important when it comes to high school. Always make sure your grades are straight and you are on top of your work, but also make sure you still have time for yourself and your friends. You don't want to let school stress you out! Work first, then have fun!

Q: What happens if there's this guy that I kinda used to like and now we have been getting closer and closer what should I do?

A: You should definitely just let you guys continue to get closer and closer and then everything between you two will fall into place as it should!

Q: I started to like this guy for a year now, but he's moving away in a few weeks, what should I do?

A: If you haven't already told him how you feel about him by now it's too late sweetie. He's going to move away regardless of how you feel about him. So just make sure that you guys keep in touch so you can still be close.

Q: If you have brothers and sisters at the school how do you distinguish your own identity?

A: There are many ways that you can distinguish your own identity! The easiest thing to do is to join different clubs and activities than your sibling and be interested in different extra-curriculars. That will cause you to stand out as an individual so you won't be known as "_____'s sister/brother" anymore!

Leaving the Lines Behind

Greg Kopetsky
Staff Writer

Before administrators established a senior entrance to the school, the lines to get into the building were ridiculous. I was late to my first period numerous times because I was stuck in a sweaty throng of people at the entrance for 20 minutes.

Some people were able to weasel their way through the crowd, while others (myself included) just had to wait it out. I witnessed some crafty line-beating tactics, most clever of which was someone pretending to have a wheelchair, yelling, "Wheelchair coming through!" Others were less creative, and able to swagger on by with a simple "excuse me." I have no idea why nobody stopped them. Maybe they're just really popular. Who knows.

Page 46 of the student handbook states, "Students are expected to plan their time effectively so that they may arrive to school and classes in a timely manner." Some mornings I arrived to school just before 8:30 and was not in my class until 8:50. In my opinion, this wasn't due to a lack of planning on my part. It is the result of a lack of organization on the school's part. Recently, however, the problem was addressed.

"Part of the issue was the delay in getting ID cards," said Mary



Photo by Brian Angel

POSH LIFE - Senior Gabe Cano enters the school through the new entrance set up to ease congestion in the mornings.

Beth Waits, assistant principal. "We got a message last week that the downtown producer of the cards has had difficulties and new cards won't be in for several weeks." Also, some of the metal detectors have been malfunctioning, adding to the disorder.

The senior entrance seems to

have made a difference in controlling the out-the-door lines. I can confirm from experience that this strategy has dramatically quickened entry time. The school has also requested 2 more scan machines in order to avoid this mess from ever happening again.

How Much is Too Much?

Garima Tandon
Contributor

Two young adults passed away Labor Day weekend due to "molly" overdoses during a music festival in New York City. The victims of the tragedy were identified as Jeffrey Russ, 23, of Rochester, New York and Olivia Rotondo, 20, of North Providence, Rhode Island. Jeffrey Russ was a recent graduate of Syracuse University and Olivia Rotondo was a student at the University of New Hampshire. Molly is a form of the illegal drug Ecstasy that has become popular among some teenagers. "This has become the drug of choice for fans on the electronic dance music circuit," says Julie Holland, a psychiatrist who researches the deadly drug, to *The New York Times*.

Many teenagers think that drugs are only dangerous if you take too much and just trying them out once is harmless. But illegal drugs are quite addictive. Each time you go under the influence, you destroy your body even more. Becoming an addict has become easy because of the way our bodies respond to illegal and dangerous drugs.

Molly, after being inhaled or eaten, will flood the user's brain with neurotransmitters serotonin, norepinephrine and dopamine, which makes the user

feel elevated and full of energy. Molly can also cause hyperthermia because temperatures can go up to 105 degrees which can also cause kidney failure, seizures and even death.

In big parties or at music festivals, drugs may be easy to get. Jesse Jacobsen, a 19 year old who attended the festival says "[he] thinks the main cause of teenage drug use is escapism from their daily lives," and believes, "teenagers choose to rely on drugs to evoke euphoric emotions, a way to excite their lives apart from the obstacles every day holds."

Jacobsen was excited to be attending the popular festival that is held every Labor Day weekend since 2009. "The first two nights were great and full of thrill," he describes. "There was music and friends and dancing, there are other ways to have fun instead of catching up with drugs."

After a long conversation with Jacobsen on the tragic event, he shared some things teenagers can do besides drugs. "Life can be stressful especially in your teenage years. It's okay to have fun but just be smart and know the consequences of your actions. Try talking it out with a friend or get involved in your community! Keep yourself busy and embrace your hobbies!" Scholars, you're on the road to success, don't do anything that might risk it!

The Beacon Wins Five CSPA Awards for 2012-2013 School Year

On Friday, September 20, The Columbia Scholastic Press Association, an international student press organization run by Columbia University, announced their annual awards for student work published in the 2012-2013 school year. The Gold Circle Awards include four types of publication categories in which 12,847 entries were submitted recognizing individual achievement. The Beacon (after not winning a single award the previous year) won five Gold Circle awards. Senior Nathan Davis won 3rd place in news writing for his article "School Board Candidates." Class of 2013 graduate Shane Achenbach and Junior Claire Parker won honorable mention in news writing for their article "Boundaries to Change." Former student Anna Viemose won 3rd place in Personal Opinion: On Campus Issues for her article "Wilson's dress code for curves." Senior Evan Hamlin and Junior Claire Parker won honorable mention in sports news for their article "Tigers Disqualified." Class of 2013 graduates Izzy Jensen and Sasha Pfeiffer won honorable mention in single subject news or feature package, two pages, double-truck or special section design tabloid format for their layout of the double truck "Body Images."

Navy Yard: Close to Home, Far From Change

Erin Sternlieb
Opinions Editor

“First they came for the Socialists, and I did not speak out-- Because I was not a Socialist. Then they came for the Trade Unionists, and I did not speak out-- Because I was not a Trade Unionist. Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out-- Because I was not a Jew. Then they came for me--and there was no one left to speak for me.”

This is a famous quote by Martin Niemöller, a pastor during World War II. I heard it the

other day, and it struck a real chord with me, with all the gun violence that has been going on. First there was the Newtown shooting at a school in Connecticut last spring. This hit close to home, because I too go to school. Then came the Boston bombings and related violence. This hit close to home because Boston is a city I love, a place where my friends and family live, a place where I’ve walked blocks away from where the bombings occurred. Next came Trayvon Martin, who, while many others can relate much more than I can, I too related. His death hit close to home, because I too am a teenager, an innocent teenager.

And now there is the Navy Yard shooting. Twelve people were killed in my city, just miles away from where I live. The day before the shooting I was a few blocks away, and many friends and family live in that neighborhood. The shooting did not just hit close to home, it was home. These shootings just keep hitting closer and closer to home, and I’m not saying that to be morbid. I’m not saying that I believe that it’s going to be my school, or my neighborhood, or me that is next, but how much closer does it have to get before there’s a change? The Capitol Building, where lawmakers are currently debat-

ing gun control regulations is 1.6 miles from Navy Yard. That’s 8,848 feet, or an eight minute car ride. Maybe it would take a shooting on the mall, or at the White House, or a member of congress’ house, to force our leaders to finally do something. How ironic is it that while political leaders are failing to make the decisions necessary to curb the gun violence in our country, it is happening blocks away. The rest of the country has failed to notice this irony though, or the shooting at all. There has been much speculation as to why this shooting has gone virtually under the radar, especially after The Washington

Post op-ed by Cynthia McCabe. There have been no screaming protests, or social media explosions, and it is already past being a headline, even in the city. Maybe this is because it was at a military site, or maybe because it is D.C., but maybe people are getting used to it. It can not be that people are longer shocked by these acts of violence. How much closer to home do these shootings have to be, on how much bigger of a scale do they have to be before there is action, or are we in our city, our country willing to accept these mass shooting as an inevitable part of the future?

TOP TEN TOPICS WILSON KIDS WRITE THEIR COLLEGE ESSAYS ABOUT

1. #thestruggle
2. 8 Leadership Positions I Made Up
3. My service trip to Africa
4. My service trip to Latin America
5. Crew changed my life #dedication
6. Going to an inner-city public school but being white
7. Being bagged at Ft. Reno changed my life forever
8. I’ve learned a lot from living in the city aka tenleytown
9. Creasing My J’s: A True Hardship
10. My 1/16 Latino ethnic background has impacted my life experiences

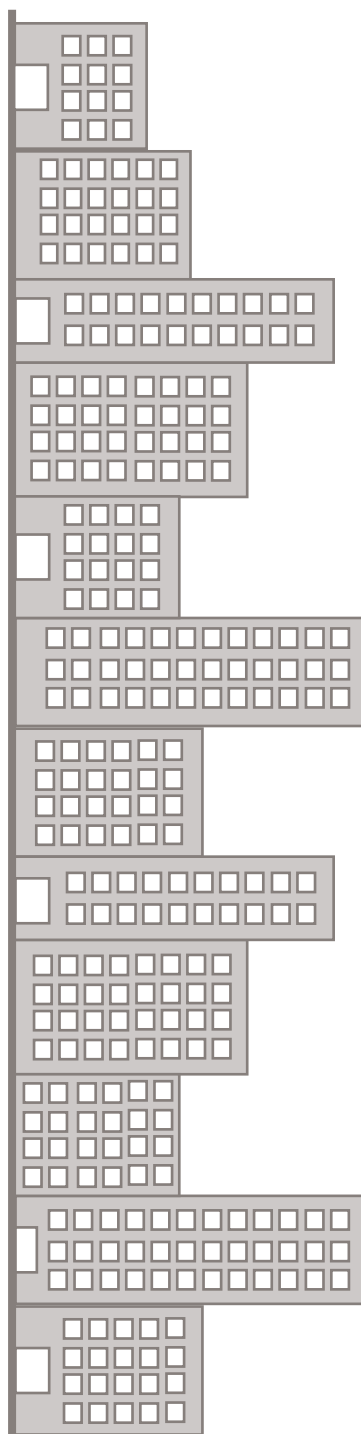
GENTRIFICATION

By Aidan Caldwell **CON**

PRO By Elias Benda

Gentrification is extremely relevant to DC and the surrounding areas. However, the definition of gentrification falsely paints it as an adverse occurrence. The definition of gentrification, by Princeton University, reads; “the restoration of run-down urban areas by the middle class (resulting in the displacement of low-income residents)”. Since gentrification is a seemingly inevitable event, it is important to try and approach it in a positive, proactive light, as opposed to immediately giving the word a powerfully negative connotation. “The renovation of run-down urban areas” is a good thing, regardless of who or how it is being funded. The problem with the definition of gentrification is the assumption that it always results “in the displacement of low-income residents”. This statement disregards the variety in cases of gentrification. Think about the possible benefits for low-income residents who live or work in or around the gentrified neighborhood. Gentrification offers new possibilities such as property value increases that give families leverage in the housing market and jobs created by the liqui-

dation, reconstruction, and renovation projects, or those that new businesses would bring to the neighborhood. This could provide an excellent, convenient source of income for the (previously) low-income residents of the neighborhood. The capital being invested in the neighborhood by the middle-class will undoubtedly draw the attention and funds of the government, resulting in investment in public services and amenities. And who is to say that the gentrification of the city in the past 15-20 years hasn’t been the reason for the drop in murder and crime rates? These examples are just a few of the innumerable positive outcomes of gentrification, and seem to benefit not only the middle-class investing in the neighborhood, but also those who originally inhabited it. Gentrification is a tool that society can take advantage of in order to improve ourselves, our neighbors, and our city as a whole.



Hey Wilson students, I know you might want to just skip to “Kids in the Hall” but I want to talk about a problem in our city, in our neighborhoods, and even our school. So listen up. This problem is “gentrification.” Washington D.C. has quickly become gentrified; especially within the last five years. To the untrained eye, gentrification in D.C. looks like regular development. Sometimes it is and sometimes it is not. Gentrification occurs when members of a higher economic class move into a neighborhood or urban area, forcing out a more economically-challenged group of people. Sound familiar? I thought so. Some of D.C.’s most gentrified areas are H Street NE, Brookland, Columbia Heights, Shaw, Adams Morgan, Navy Yard and Capitol Hill. Other neighborhoods are quickly being impacted by the same problem. And yes, gentrification is a problem. Imagine this: people who have lived in their homes for decades are forced out. They move to different parts of the city or out of the city altogether. Property taxes rise and as the neighborhood changes, people can’t afford amenities in their own neighborhoods anymore. Gentrification affects local businesses. Owners can’t come up with their rent because

the land that they have created a community around is now so high in value. Why? Because of the new bar across the street or the condos next door. We as a city are losing our culture and identity quickly due to gentrification. People who were born, raised and made their careers in D.C. are moving out to P.G. county and sometimes even further out in the DMV. A fancy new hipster bar/coffeehouse developed by some restaurant ‘guru’ from the Bay Area can’t make up for the loss of homes, neighborhoods and even livelihoods. These new and upcoming businesses don’t think twice about bulldozing local business to make a buck. One longtime owner of a legendary body shop off H Street NE, says, “It’s really a shame. It seems like each day five businesses are closing down.” He too is currently packing boxes because the owner of his building has made other plans for it. Meanwhile city officials are praising all this the expansion and development while ignoring its negative effects. There is no development in this city. There is only gentrification. Gentrification will eventually cause us to lose the thing that makes this city so great: its people.

“People who have lived in their homes for decades are forced out.”

DRESS * CODE

Dress Code Enforced At Wilson

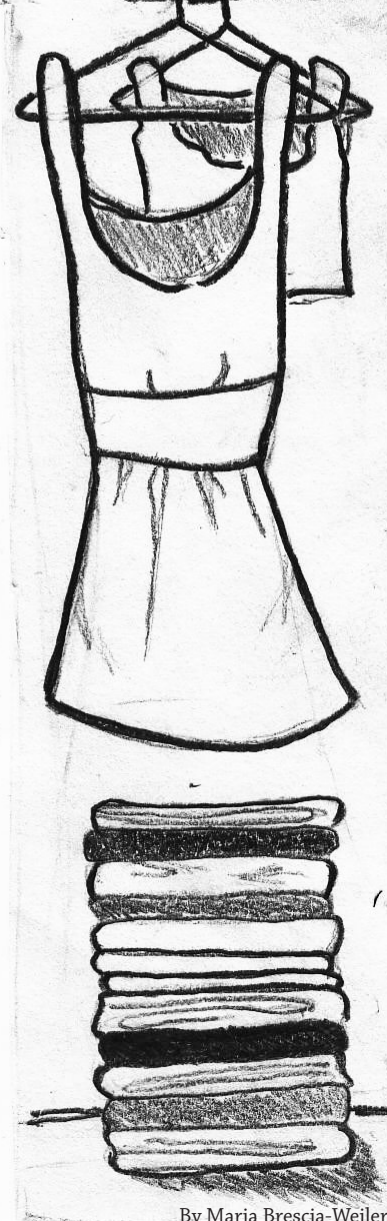
CONT. FROM P 1

at Wilson most students are concerned about how the new policy seems to target girls, students at Sidwell see bias in the opposite direction. "Girls more consistently break the dress code so administrators are more accustomed to it. Society holds women to a lower standard of bodily modesty than it does men," says one Sidwell senior who did not want to be named. Last year, the school administration allowed girls to wear tank tops but told boys that they could not. The students protested by organizing an event called "Tank Top Tuesday," in which more than 100 students wore tank tops to school. The administration seemed to be giving in, but this year the no-tank-tops-for-males rule is back in full force. On both sides of the debate, potential discrimination and gender bias beg the question of why we have dress codes in the first place. The Wilson administration's answer is a

simple phrase: "Dress for success." When they are at Wilson, students are representing their school, and shirts emblazoned with marijuana leaves or naked women would not make a good impression if the Chancellor stopped by. But the policy isn't just about how outsiders view Wilson; it's about how students treat each other, and the idea that no one should wear clothes that are offensive to another person. "We need to respect the diverse culture here at Wilson," says Wanner. "There are some students here that have to stay completely covered; they don't even show their ankles. We don't have to go that far. But we have to be respectful." Georgetown Day School, Wilson's closest neighboring high school, also emphasizes diversity and respect towards others. It was the first integrated high school in DC in 1945, and its students are taught to be accepting and welcoming to all cultures, religions, and ethnicities. However, GDS lacks an element

that the Wilson administration might say defines respect for its scholars: a dress code. "At GDS we like to joke that the dress code is 'you must wear shoes,'" says Dean of Student Life Bobby Asher. He explains that, although occasionally students are taken aside and told that their outfits are inappropriate, it's a one-on-one endeavour. For the most part, the administration trusts students to decide what they can wear to school. "We're trying to help kids navigate on their own," he says. "We want them to be able to figure out what's appropriate." Nonetheless, Asher acknowledges that a dress code at GDS means something very different from a dress code at Wilson. Parents can choose not to send their children to GDS if they don't approve of the way students dress. But at a public school, there is no choice. GDS's policy-- or lack thereof-- isn't an entirely equitable solution. Even in a school without dress codes, gender divides are still apparent. Asher sees

inequality in the way that boys are treated compared to girls; he says he feels it is a double standard when boys are able to take their shirts off during hot days or sports games, while girls are left to sweat in silence. The administration tries to be mindful of these differences, but it can be difficult. Whether you go to a school like GDS, Sidwell, or Wilson, navigating the myriad of choices and norms of how to dress can be controversial, not to mention overwhelming. The Wilson administration has yet to decide whether the dress code policy will remain a hot topic throughout the year, or slowly fade into oblivion. With the rapid approach of colder weather, one thing is certain: there are already far fewer shorts length violators walking around Wilson, and it isn't because of the rules in the student handbook.



By Maria Brescia-Weiler

Fashion in the Halls

Compiled by Nell Bayliss

Diversity is something Wilson students pride themselves on, and to many students that includes the ability to dress the way they want in school. Clothing, after all, is a key component of a person's character. This year's renewed enforcement of the dress code policy is reducing some students' opportunities for expressing their individualism at school. Fashion In the Halls took a look at students who still wear their favorite styles to school, whether or not they are in violation of dress code.



LEFT TO RIGHT: Jack Price (12), Jacinda Miller (12), Sasha Gates (12), Yana Madrid (11), Demond Powell (12), Fenice Thompson (12)

Girls Talk Dress Code

Lina Kloze and Molly Wackler
Contributors

As many students have noticed, teachers and administrators at Wilson are strictly enforcing the dress code this year. Administrators watch as students enter school to make sure that students' clothing is compliant with the dress code rules. As female students at this school, we have encountered problems with this policy, and we're not the only ones.

Already, there have been multiple students who have been sent home, including junior Ella Hansen, because their shorts were dress code infractions. When we asked her and her friend, Rose Ettleson, what they thought of the dress code, they immediately responded with, "We hate it."

Most of the students we interviewed believe the dress code is unfair. The guidelines of finger-tip length for shorts cause numerous conflicts for teenage girls.

Stores that attract teenage buyers do not carry the type of shorts that Wilson requires, making it hard for students to shop according to the Wilson dress code.

One freshman, Emma (who asked us to not use her last name) pointed out, "I don't have any problem with the dress code rules but there is some inequality." Not every student has the same body, so someone with longer arms has to wear longer shorts, whereas someone else can get away with shorter shorts. Rather than clinging to an unfair finger-tip length pants policy, the school should have a system that does not vary based on body type.

The dress code also seems to

apply more to girls than it does to the boys. Sophomore Henry Cohen told us, "The concept that it is distracting for guys is sexist," so it is not just the girls that feel they are being primarily targeted for their clothing. Sophomore Logan Seagraves, told us that he thought administrators are taking the dress code too seriously. "We should be able to wear what we want," Seagraves said.

Other students think that if your parents approve of your clothing when they see you walk out of your house then you should not be stopped at school. There are some situations where we see certain clothing that is inappropriate for school. We spoke to Junior Class President Margaret Kellogg who said she understood the administrators' perspective. She suggested that instead of students being sent home the school could continue having a box of tee-shirts and gym shorts readily available for students to borrow for the day. There are students who wear clothing that is too revealing to be worn in school. Clothing with inappropriate messages takes breaking the dress code too far. Shorts that do not fully cover your butt and shirts that are see-through or too revealing should be saved for the weekend or out-of-school functions.

In general, the majority of students we talked to believe the newly enforced dress code is unfair. The sudden placement of administrators at the door is extreme, and inevitably, the rules are applied inconsistently. Students should be able to wear the clothing that they want, but they also should choose clothing that does not reveal too much. Maybe the school should add more defined rules as opposed to ones that are ambiguous.

Boys Talk Dress Code

Henry Shuldiner
Sports Editor

Recently, the talk of the school has been about dress code and its ridiculousness. To be fair to the administration, dress code makes sense in theory. In practice, however, it does not work. I am not saying that there should be absolutely no dress code. I might even go so far as to say that the dress code right now is acceptable, and that the students here should just have to deal with it. However, the problem here at Wilson is not the question of what the dress code is; it is the dilemma of how the administration is enforcing it.

The fact that students -- the vast majority being girls -- are being sent home when their attire is in violation of the dress code is sexist, prejudiced, and shameful. In 2011, 65.7 percent of Wilson

sophomores scored proficient or better on the DC CAS. (The data from 2012 is not available). That leaves a whopping 34.3 percent who have yet to reach the acceptable score. Does sending students home really encourage students to come back and learn, and thus do better on the CAS, which is one of the main ways our school is rated? Is this really helping to achieve the 90% attendance rate which was so avidly promoted in the powerpoint on the first day of school? There are definitely conflicting interests of the administration. To make sure that all the goals and expectations for students are met, I think the best solution is to organize and prioritize whatever they believe is most important, whether it be dress code, attendance, or whatever. And let's not forget the fact that the majority of people being sent home are girls. So what Wilson's administration is saying

Q & A With Ms. Wanner On Dress Code

By Maria Brescia-Weiler

What inspired increased enforcement of the dress code this school year?

If you look at old planners there was a dress code and it was very explicit about what students could wear and it was flagrantly ignored. ...Some teachers said if we have a dress code we ought to follow it, because it is pretty pointless to have if we have so many violations.

Why is the dress code important at Wilson?

In every establishment there are certain codes of dress that are acceptable. If you go to the beach, you're not going to wear a suit and tie. A school is an academic institution and I think that there is a certain attire that is appropriate for a school.

What is the reasoning behind sending students home for violating dress code?

We have sent very few students home. The students choose to go home if they live nearby and want to go get their clothes. We have other outfits, or they can borrow clothes, or get clothes from their locker, and that's perfectly fine.

Has the enforcement of the dress code been effective?

I think it's been absolutely effective. In the beginning, some students wanted to get into an argument and we took time with those students and explained it is a multi-cultural institution, and we want to be sensitive to all cultures and sensitive to the academic atmosphere, and we want all our students to be dressed for success. Once we talked to them in that way, they've been mostly cooperative.

How many students do you stop a day?

Today, I stopped one student and she put on her jacket right away. I will say the weather has cooperated, but for the most part young men and women have dressed appropriately.

Do you have anything else to say?

Sometimes students might see someone with an inappropriate shirt on and assume they have not been addressed, but we have enough people at the doors that we talk to everyone. We know we are working with young people and they sometimes go into the bathroom and change back. Some students think we are picking on some groups and not others, but nothing could be further from the truth. We aren't trying to set a style, we just want students to be dressed appropriately at school. Parents have been extremely cooperative in talking to kids at home. Personally we like that Wilson is not a uniform school and kids can dress how they choose to, but some students say they want a uniform.



by sending these girls home is that they value boys' education, which they say is in jeopardy due to the "distraction" of inappropriately dressed girls, over the education of the girl who would be sent home.

Another major problem with the enforcement of dress code is how the administration treats people who do not meet their standards for dress code. I've heard from multiple sources, who wished to remain anonymous, that they felt insulted and even horrified at the comments administrators made to them about their attire. "How did you even get in here?", "Would you go to church dressed like that?" and similar comments are not acceptable for an adult to say to a student, a student to say to an adult, or anyone to say to anyone in a school environment.



By Annie Rosenthal

On September 12 and 13, The Beacon conducted a survey in social studies classes in an attempt to understand how racial profiling affects Wilson students. We received 716 responses to 12 questions on topics ranging from witnessing racial profiling at Wilson to experiencing it first hand. The clearest trend that the Beacon noticed was the prevalence of student on student racial profiling. Students are not only the biggest victims, but the biggest perpetrators.

Trayvon Martin Exposed the Road to Justice that Lays Ahead

Eboni Ellis
Columnist

The infamous incident regarding Trayvon Martin and George Zimmerman took the summer of 2013 by storm. The murder trial that started in June lasted a month. This was an eye-opening event for many youths and adults all over the country. The trial was action packed and filled with witnesses. This trial was also filled with the powerful arguments of skilled attorneys who got people talking. Every TV news station was airing it, various radio stations were all over it and twitter was lit up, bringing chaos. The verdict finding George Zimmerman not guilty left many Americans outraged. Black youth all over the country now must learn from this verdict and continuously remind themselves that Martin could have been anyone of us. An eye-opening case like this was a tragedy, but it was needed to serve as a wake-up call to this country. Americans must not forget the impact the verdict of trial had on them. Even in the year of 2013 we must still be mindful of the many stereotypes and generalizations that are made about the black community. The black community as a whole must work together to make sure those stereotypes are starting to

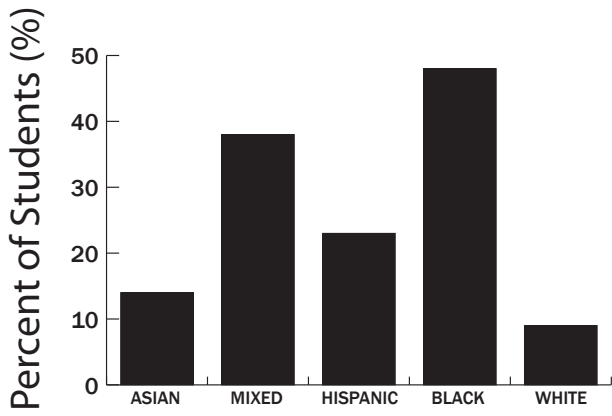
become nonexistent. The black community can no longer afford to backtrack due to incidents like these. We must take it upon ourselves to educate one another and our community as a whole about these issues and how to move forward from them. From the beginning this case really touched my heart and caused me to raise lots of awareness and try to do my best to be a part of the "Justice for Trayvon Martin" movement. I had high hopes for a conviction of Zimmerman at the beginning of the trial but the outcome did not surprise me at all. I truly believe the country I live in has such a long way to go until my people receive equal justice. The reason I felt so strongly about this case is because I can easily relate. I have friends that look like Trayvon, I have a little brother that looks like Trayvon, I have been stereotyped and racial profiled myself. It's unbelievable that a boy my age did not receive justice for a wrongful death and at the end of the day this is not a question about the fate of equality in this country but humanity period. Why is one person's life not as important as the next person's? This case has motivated me to prove all the stereotypes wrong and to also excel to make tragedies of this kind known all over the world. A death like Trayvon's was not the first and it will not be the last.



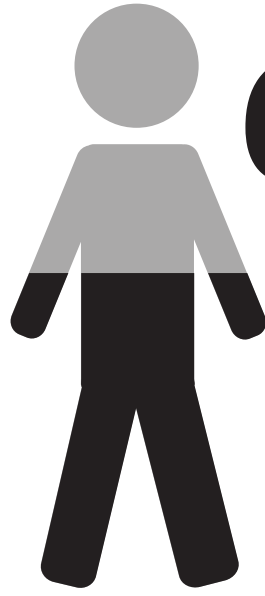
3/10 STUDENTS SURVEYED FEEL THEY HAVE BEEN STOPPED UNREASONABLY BY A SECURITY GUARD BECAUSE OF THEIR RACE.



PERCENT OF STUDENTS WHO FEEL THEY HAVE BEEN UNREASONABLY STOPPED BY SECURITY GUARDS BECAUSE OF THEIR RACE



Race of Students



62%

OF STUDENTS HAVE WITNESSED RACIAL PROFILING AT WILSON

“Trayvon Martin could have been years ago.... There are very few African men who haven't had the experience of walking across the street and hearing the doors of cars. That happened before I was a senator.”

- Barack Obama on Trayvon

I was walking along Georgia Ave and a corner store nearby had apparently gotten robbed by a couple of teenage girls and the police stopped me because I fit the description but they didn't tell me what the description was other than that they had weave and were black.
-Morgan Butler

Someone got robbed at Fort Totten and I fit the profile so the police officer thought it was me. And also, in Safeway, they thought I was stealing and they took me in the office and found nothing.
-William White

Every time I walk in the CVS or a store, I feel the workers always look at me or watch me.
-Anonymous



DASILVA'S STORY: A BLACK MAN UNDER THE LAW'S SCRUTINY

Wilson Business Manager Ajibade DaSilva talked to *The Beacon* about his personal experience with racial profiling. In 2006, he was pulled over by a police officer for a broken tail light, and the situation quickly spiraled out of control.

Claire Parker: Can you describe the incident with the broken tail light and racial profiling?

Ajibade DaSilva: Basically, I was at a red light, turning south on Georgia Avenue towards DC, which is like a block from my home. [The officer] turns on his lights. I make the first left at the intersection...he cuts me off and I see metallic flash, and I think he's holding a gun up to me. So I turn my car off and I just take my hands off the steering wheel. He comes up and rushes to the car, and says, "Get out the car," and I ask, "For what, I didn't do anything." He tries to pull me out of the car, but the door is locked and I have my seatbelt on. So I just asked him what was going on, and told him I was gonna open the door. I opened

the door, and he tries to pull me out. So I'm like, "What's going on?" concerned with the fact that I haven't done anything. And I'm still talking to him in a calm voice, saying, "Hey, what's going on? What's the situation?" and he's being belligerent, but I'm still cooperating. I have my hands up...I'm like, "Can you just tell me what's going on? What is all of this for?" And he's like, "Shut up or I'll pepper spray you." So I slowly get out of the car, and rise up, and he pepper sprays me anyways.

You know, there's a certain degree of respect men give to men. In this situation, here is the law abusing law, and I'm being civil as a person, trying to cooperate the best way I see fit, but yet I'm being abused as a person. So when I'm pepper sprayed, I feel like I'm being violated, so at that

point I grab the pepper spray before I went blind and I threw it away, and I separated myself from the officer and moved around the other side of the car, and I just started cursing at him because [the officer] wouldn't do that if [he] didn't have a gun, a badge, and these type of things. So why is he doing it to me, and right in front of my house?

Long story short, I got jumped by the police that night. They took me away in front of my mom's house, in front of my mom and my younger sister while they were in their PJs. They gave me 18 charges -- resisting arrest and all types of stuff. All for a broken tail light. I ended up having to pay 12 to 15 thousand dollars in legal fees, money I didn't have at the time. That was a tremendous impact to us at the time, since I wasn't

really working.

All the charges got dropped except the broken tail light. They dismissed everything, but the officers lied in court...The legal process is funny. Because to drop 18 charges down to just a broken tail light, to remove the 18 charges from my arrest record, I can't pursue that officer or Montgomery County legally. The only way you can have that record expunged is by alleviating the county and that officer of any civil responsibility. So it's rigged. Because why is the record important? To get a job, to go to school. I can't hold them accountable if I want to be employable in this economy.

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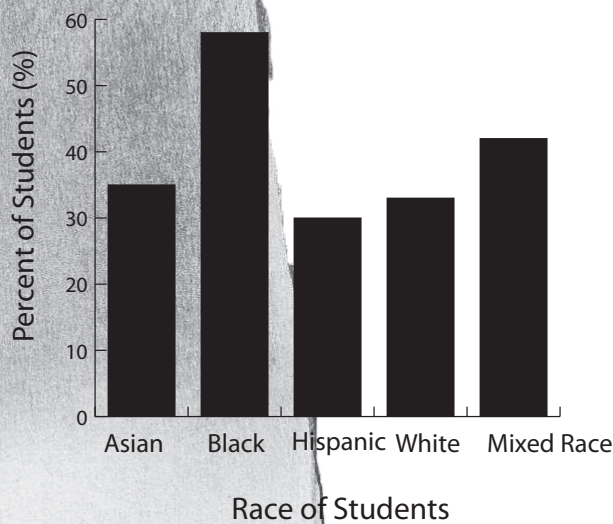
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The Fight Continues

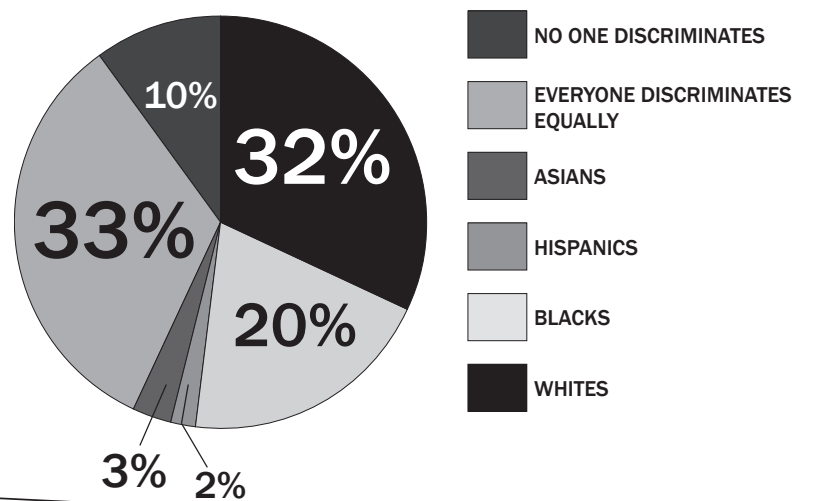
by Kiah Lewis

I am African American. I know how it feels to be racially profiled. Since I was in elementary school, there have been many instances of being followed in stores, prejudged and looked at as if I might steal. Once a store clerk left her register and came and followed me from aisle to aisle. It was a rude awakening for me to realize that someone would categorize me because of my skin color. My older brothers have been stopped standing in front of our house and walking to the neighborhood store. It appears that because of their skin color, the police labeled them guilty of something. But they were wrong every time. I believe that society's racial profiling today comes directly from slavery and the unwarranted hatred of people of African descent. This country has had a hard time evolving from its denial of civil rights for people of color. My grandparents and parents suffered more injustices than I have. Each generation has seen some improvements but racial profiling still exists. We all must continue to put forth effort to ensure equality and to teach each other to be more tolerant of others.

PERCENT OF STUDENTS WHO FEEL RACE PUTS THEM AT A DISADVANTAGE

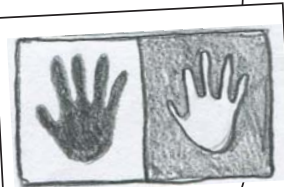


STUDENTS FELT THEY WERE MOST LIKELY TO ENCOUNTER DISCRIMINATION FROM...



Racial profiling is something that is done subconsciously, so ignoring it will do no good. It is something that we need to think about constantly before it gets better.
-Anonymous

If the roles were flipped [in the Trayvon Martin case] it could be a bigger problem. If it was a black guy they would have said send him straight to jail. Its not a societal problem but a government problem.
-Olmar Zelaya



RESTAURANT REVIEW:

By Ellice Ellis
ContributorFollow them on twitter:
@SweetMango_DCSWEET MANGO
CAFÉ

On the surface Sweet Mango appears to be just like every other Caribbean restaurant, but here the flavors are especially rich and have remarkable depth. Located on New Hampshire and Georgia Avenues, right by the Metro, Sweet Mango is reputable for their jerk chicken, plantains and even jerk tofu! The food is made fresh daily and you can carry out or eat upstairs, which has an outdoor patio.

If you order any of the meals, be prepared to taste sweet, tangy and spicy Caribbean flavor. All the meals come with vegetables, rice and beans, and you can choose from

Phone: (202) 726-2646

Address: 3701 New Hampshire
Ave NW, Washington, DC
20010

two sizes--large and medium--which are equally huge.

A few downsides to one of D.C.'s go-to places for Caribbean food are the lack of staff, slow service, uninviting atmosphere, and if you get there later in the day, your favorite dish will probably be gone.

Regardless, the restaurant has amazing food, good prices and is at a convenient location. I would recommend this for anyone searching for authentic Caribbean food.

My Life So Far: Ms. Kosman

Erin Doherty
Junior Editor

From Namibia to Luxembourg to Washington, D.C., Janice Kosman's life has been a plethora of outstanding experiences in amazing places. Her extensive international experience helps her relate to her junior and senior English students here at Wilson.

Kosman traces her interest in travel and living abroad to middle school. She was intrigued by her brother-in-law's experiences in Swaziland as a Peace Corps volunteer. When she graduated from college with an English degree, she really wasn't sure about what to do next.

She decided to follow in her brother-in-law's footsteps and join the Peace Corps. Kosman served as a volunteer for two years in Namibia; a newly-independent country in southern Africa. It was exciting to finally explore a country that she had only read about. Her role as an English teacher was important, because Namibians were eager to learn the language. It also was important for Kosman personally, because it helped her decide her future career.

Ms. Kosman describes her time in the Peace Corps as "one of those experiences you [either] know you want to do or you don't." She could not have imag-



Photo by Pieter Fosburgh

WORLD TRAVELER - English teacher Janice Kosman is new to Wilson, but has lots of other experiences to share with Beacon readers like Luke Kopetsky (12) and Diego Ramos-Meyer (12)

ined it working out any better.

After the Peace Corps Kosman's life took a very different turn. She wasn't quite ready to return to the U.S.; she wanted to continue to travel. Having played basketball in high school and college, she took a chance on calling a coach who she knew was living in Europe. Pretty soon she found herself in Luxembourg, a tiny country in Europe bordering France, Germany and Belgium. She says she knew she was "in the right place at the right time," -- playing club bas-

ketball, coaching, and teaching English. But she also knew that it would be hard to make basketball a career. "I never thought playing professional basketball was an option," she says.

Kosman's experiences give her insight into the challenges Wilson students face. She says that it is important to be open to new experiences and to learn what you like to do by volunteering. She speaks from experience when she says: "Try different things and who knows what will happen!"

Lunch with the First Lady

Senior David Rojas-Rosario was one of six Wilson students nominated to represent the school at the Smithsonian's Teen Design Fair last Friday, September 20. He was then selected by the Smithsonian to represent Wilson High School and DC Public Schools at a formal luncheon with First Lady Michelle Obama at the White House. He shared his experience with *The Beacon*:

David Rojas-Rosario
Staff Writer

The morning of the White House visit, I wore my gray suit, white shirt, and black-and-white striped tie. The bus ride to the White House felt surreal. I had been there on a few different occasions for tours and school trips, but this time I was about to dine with a member of the first family. When arriving at the gate entrance, everything got real: we got screened by Secret Service.

I was seated with Christopher Liedel, President of the Smithsonian Enterprise. He was a very cool guy, curious to know who we were, what our career goals and potential college aspirations might be. He later introduced us to Wayne Clough, Secretary of the Smithsonian Institute.

We were asked by Secret Service to "please be seated for the

last course of the meal." We went back and sat down. While eating our last course Liedel told Curtis and I to go to Ms. Obama's table and thank her for the amazing time and for welcoming us to her home.

She then asked us about our career goals as well, so I told her I wanted to be aeronautical engineers.

"We need more minority people in the engineering field and more teens interested in the STEM field," she said. "Don't let anyone tell you what you can and cannot do. Determine your own future."

After that Secret Service came in and cut us off because it was time for the First Lady to leave. I was so excited by that point, I was like "I GOT TO TALK TO MS. OBAMA, HOW MANY STUDENTS GET TO MEET MS. OBAMA?"

Wilson Joins the Pollination Nation

Lauren ReVeal
Features Editor

Out front of Wilson lies a quaint, beautiful, albeit mysterious garden. It's shaped like a tiger's paw, with signs poking out of it that read various phrases about butterflies, bees, moths, hummingbirds, and is teeming with foliage and insect life. When it seemingly sprung out of the ground last school year, I wondered where it came from. I kept on wondering until this year when I learned that it was a pollinator garden.

Last year, a nonprofit organization called "City Blossoms," was offering these gardens to DC schools as gifts. Thinking it would be a good opportunity for Wilson, AP Environmental Science teacher Gabrielle Riesner and former Wilson teacher Sarah Riggen applied to the project and was accepted.

Carla Burns, a representative of City Blossoms, said that their "primary mission is to collabo-

rate with community members in establishing youth driven, sustainable, green spaces."

These spaces are mostly community gardens, and elementary through high school gardens.

"There was a six week class leading up to build," said Riesner, "where one of [City Blossom's] instructors would come in once a week and talk about pollinators and the whole process."

Riggen said these six weeks consisted of watching TED talks about pollination, researching different plants for the garden, making granola bars from scratch and out of all natural ingredients, making signs for the garden, creating the layout, and finally building the garden. The reason this garden seemed to appear overnight is because the AP Environmental students built it over the course of one day.

I spoke to Dr. Martha Weiss, a Biology professor at Georgetown University and mother of

HOME TO BIRDS AND BEES - This garden is becoming more established in its second year. It was planted to attract pollinators, which is beneficial to the environment.

Photos by Isabel Gloss



junior Annie Rosenthal, to get more information about the types of plantlife. She told me that often, pollinator gardens contain nectar host or larval plants, for butterflies and caterpillars. Wilson's garden is home to a few larval host plants. This is a major perk for pollinators. The garden also offers benefits to bees. Instead of having a large hive, "unsocial" or solitary bees

can lay their eggs in nesting tubes. These are attached to poles sticking out of the dirt, and look like reeds.

Aside from being aesthetically pleasing, this pollinator garden is important. "Without [pollination]," Riggen said, "we can't have flowering plants and then we lose a large proportion of our food supply, not to mention food sources for many,

many other species."

If anyone is interested in helping out with weeding the garden, come by Room 224. Community service hours can be given to volunteers. If you would like to see more City Blossom's projects, all are open to the public, and give access to fresh produce, herbs, and of course, nature.

CONT. FROM P 9

CP: Just out of curiosity, what race was the officer?

AD: Caucasian.

CP: Would you describe your experience as a common occurrence for black males?

AD: Yes. In the prison-industrial complex...there's an institutional focus on my description [a black male]. You "fit the description," meaning typically you are being grouped in with a lot of teenaged black males. It's another stigma or institutional practice to not be more critical about who [the police] are actually looking for.

CP: Do you believe that racial profiling, accompanied by steep legal fees, could send innocent people to jail?

AD: Yes. There's a lot of information out there as to how

our criminal justice system is flawed. [As a black male] you're guilty before proven innocent. You have all of these charges, you might be locked up, you have bond; you have all of these things stacked against you, creating an uphill battle that can be overwhelming financially, mentally, and spiritually. But you can't allow it to create hate within yourself.

CP: Would you say that the way Caucasian policemen and black policemen interact with you is different? Do they approach policing from different cultural standpoints?

AD: In a setting where there's a group of caucasian officers and maybe one or two black officers, the black officers are mum. They're quiet. They're kind of removed from the situation; they don't really want to participate, and they don't want to comment to the contrary, because that

[the policemen] is their clique. They may empathize with me, or recognize 'hey, that could have been me or my son,' but they also have to work with these guys. So it's kind of frustrating when you look at them [the black officers] and you wonder 'What do you think? Why aren't you saying anything? Why aren't you bridging the gap?'

CP: What would you suggest in terms of moving forward? How can we move past and try to overcome stereotypes and the tendency to profile?

AD: Profiling is one of those ills in America. It exists. I think we could do things to better educate everybody -- the people who commit crimes, and the people who police crimes. [Education] is breaking down the institution of ignorances...That's what education provides: an opportunity for us to understand each other.

Hispanic Heritage Celebrated

Brightly colored flags hanging between poles in the atrium greet Wilson students, faculty, and staff as they walk in the door of the school building this month and next. The flags are evidence of the rich cultural diversity that Wilson has long prided itself on possessing. They are also part of Hispanic Heritage Month celebrations, which recognize the culture and contributions of the Hispanic community at Wilson and the rest of the country.

In years past, the month was celebrated by an assembly during the school day featuring Hispanic dances and music. This year, however, a lack of student interest in participation forced After School Programs Director Sheilla Hara to forego the assembly.

In lieu of the assembly, Hara organized a host of new activities celebrating Hispanic culture. The Art Department painted students' faces with the flags of Hispanic countries this week, a musical performance took place on Thursday, and a professional flamenco dancer will introduce students to the Argentinian flamenco tradition. Instead of the pizza typically sold to students in the atrium after school, on Fridays throughout this month traditional Hispanic foods such as papusas and taquitos will be sold.

Hara hopes these exposures to Hispanic culture will allow students to try new things and learn more about the cultural diversity surrounding them. The theme this year means "to be proud to be Hispanic, and to really embrace that," Hara said. "It's nice to bring different [cultural] elements to the school."

-Claire Parker

Neighborhood Spotlight:



Brookland is one of Washington, D.C.'s best kept secrets. The up-and-coming neighborhood in Ward 5 is home to The Catholic University of America and numerous small businesses. Living in Brookland isn't like living in any other part of D.C. Brookland is quiet and isolated from the hustle and bustle of Washington. The neighborhood is located in Northeast, across town from Wilson High School. In a low-key neighborhood like this one, anyone who visits can find a friend.

In Brookland you can find the

Franciscan Monastery, with beautiful gardens and friendly nuns and priests; Turkey Thicket Recreational Center, where anyone can go to swim, run around the track, play sports, or workout; the Basilica of the National Shrine; and Catholic University with its large population and beautiful campus.

One of the greatest parts about Brookland is its diversity. All different people from all different parts of the U.S., even the world, come to live in Brookland for its comfortable environment and good vibes.

By Zoe Mills & Ellice Ellis

Photo By Ellice Ellis

Brookland Spotlights

- ★ The Brookland neighborhood will soon feature "Monroe Street Market," a mix of unique apartments, arts establishments, and vibrant shops and restaurants. Located on 716 Monroe St. NE, the market will link up with Rails to Trail bike path that will lead from Brookland to Union Station.
- ★ Dance Place, a cultural community center for the performing arts is located in the heart of Brookland, on 3225 8th St. NE. Its performances, resident companies, and classes for kids and adults are expanding, and they have several studios in the area.
- ★ The Franciscan Monastery's Rosary Walk, 1400 Quincy St NE, is one of the District's nicest places for prayer and meditation. Both religious and non-religious visitors can delight in the beautiful artwork, Byzantine Revival architecture and a gorgeous rose garden.

Yoga Club: Just Warming Up

Ellie Melick
Contributer

Yoga Club. You may have heard of it, through whispers in the halls or perhaps even a notice in Principal Cahall's weekly newsletter. But does anyone really know what it is? I took it upon myself to figure out, and solve this pressing mystery of the Woodrow Wilson Yoga Club.

If I were going to successfully infiltrate this exclusive organization, I would have to look the part. I suited up in tank top, headband, and of course, yoga pants. It was Tuesday, September 17, and I was ready to go undercover in order to bring some hard-hitting journalism straight to the students of Wilson High School.

Immediately after school, I went to the dance studio



Photo by Domonique Landinez

BREATHING EASY - Wilson's yoga club provides a tranquil space for students to relieve their stresses of the day after school.

(behind the Black Box Theater, Room B207)--where the yoga club meets. Around 3:30, other

members began showing up, all wearing similar flexible clothing. The other members were very

friendly, introducing themselves and making sure I felt comfortable. So far the mission was going well, no one suspected a thing.

We began by stretching. I was told we do this to loosen our muscles so we don't hurt anything, but there is possibly a more sinister reason behind that. After that we did a series of sun salutations, a sort of choreographed set of moves corresponding with your breath. I found these movements felt good but gave me head rushes.

We also practiced poses such as downward dog and cat/cow, which actually felt really nice and helped with my headache from the sun salutations. After that we practiced Shavasana (the act of lying down and let-

ting your mind wander) to calm down and simply relax. This part was my favorite. It was basically like sleeping, but somehow more relaxing.

After spending an afternoon with the yoga club, I found my initial suspicions about it were wrong. The club was not mysterious. Everyone was really nice, and the actual yoga part was actually really fun! I left the dance studio feeling refreshed and relaxed. I will definitely be back.

If you would like to infiltrate the yoga club yourself, feel free to meet them in the dance studio on Tuesdays, at 3:30. The club goes to about 5 p.m. I'm sure the members would be happy to have you.

Namaste, everybody!

Q&A: COACHES ROUND-UP

COACH SAL CACCAVALE, BOYS SOCCER

Q: Coach Sal, how is the team doing?

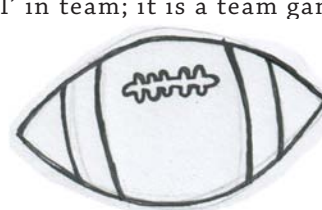
A: The team is doing quite well at this time, we actually played a game on the 18th against McKinley Tech, a 12-0 game. Since McKinley is a new team in DCPS it was a struggle for them and it gave everyone on the team an opportunity to play and work on some things that will help us [in the future]. We don't want to be hogging the ball, we want to be passing it. We want everyone to get involved in the game.

Q: How many games are in the schedule and do you have any predictions for your standings?

A: We have about 20 games in the schedule. My prediction is that we'll finish 1st in D.C. Public Schools and go on to the citywide tournament which includes some of the private schools as well. Hopefully we will compete to win a title in the city tournament.

Q: Any stand out players?

A: We have Senior Jesse Lauritsen, #3, he is our organizer; he keeps everything under control kind of like a quarterback. He's the guy we need the play to go through, and we want him to get the ball as much as possible. He plays simply but effectively. Also, our right defender is RJ White, #6. RJ is our most athletic player, one of the most athletic players I've seen in a long time. He's been working very hard on his skills to become a better soccer player. I'm looking forward for him to step up and lead the defense. Hopefully chip in some goals on the attack as well.



COACH MARK MARTIN, VARSITY FOOTBALL

Q: How is the team doing?

A: The team is doing well. We are progressing and getting better each week. We had a tough loss against Duval High School. We didn't play the way we should have, but overall the team has been playing hard.

Q: How does the schedule look this year?

A: The schedule is tough, we have three tough scrimmages. Myself and Mr. Gore set up the scrimmages to get the team ready to play. We had a scrimmage at McKinley Tech, Dunbar Baltimore High School, and Roosevelt & Douglas High School. Douglas is #14 in the area.

Q: How many games are you playing and what do you predict your standings to be?

A: We hope to play 14 games, be in the Turkey Bowl and the state championships. The team and I really want to go 12-0, and I hope to be having Thanksgiving Dinner at home this year. I don't want to make any predictions or anything; I just want to take one game at a time.

Q: Any standout players?

A: Quarterback Scot Beumel, Running Back Abdul Adams, Offensive line, Joe Green. On defense, Acey Calhoun, Kareem McDonald, Don McFerguson, and Richard Scheler. We don't have a superstar, all the players are working together, playing together. Everybody is working as one. There is no 'I' in team; it is a team game not an individual one.

PERETTE ARRINGTON AND PATRICE ARRINGTON, VOLLEYBALL

Q: How is the team doing?

A: The team is off to a good start, we started practice on August 12th. We started off strong this year because we had no graduating seniors, and everyone returned. We also pulled two players up from the Junior Varsity squad, Blair Townsend and Mickey Ruckarash. Their contributions to the team are excellent, because they are very knowledgeable about the sport. We are getting stronger as a cohesive team.

Q: How favorable is your schedule?

A: Our schedule is the standard DCPS one, and 5-6 private school matches because our DCPS competition is not as strong. We want to win the DCIAA Championship because we have won the last 14 out of 15 years. We also added Sidwell Friends, St. Johns, Stone Ridge, Georgetown Day School and Maret to our schedule. We host our own tournament, the 3rd annual Tiger Paws tournament, on October 19th. We are doing a dig pink match, which is to represent October's Breast Cancer Awareness month, with the Side-Out Foundation for the research of breast cancer. That is another tournament we are in favor to win.

Q: Are you guys feeling confident about an undefeated season?

A: We are very confident because we are much more skilled than the other DC Public Schools. We (the coaches) have immense experience in the sport of volleyball, both of us have coached at George Washington University. My sister (Perette Arrington) played for Seton Hall and I (Patrice Arrington) coached at Fordham University.

Q: Any stand out players?

A: Junior Alexis Coates (who wears a different colored jersey on the court). She is our defensive specialist. Senior Cristina Johnson has been playing for us for four years, a left side hitter. Our Junior transfer from Mckinley, Abigail Bibb, came in knowledgeable about the game because she has played before and she runs our offense as the setter. Marissa Donnelly is another person to look at because she is very versatile. Our other senior Elizabeth Dunn is versatile as well and will probably be seen on the right side. We have 13 players on the roster and all 13 players contribute to our team. That is rare, we have not had that in a long time.

Compiled by Michael Aniekwe Emmanuel Atufu

Wilson Alumni Athletes Go the Distance

Luke Thomas-Canefield
Contributor

No matter what sport we play, Wilson alums keep winning even after high school. Take Melvin Tuten, an offensive lineman who was drafted by the Cincinnati Bengals and later won a Super Bowl with the Denver Broncos. Wilson graduates have been tearing up collegiate

and professional sports for years.

From the class of 2013, Varsity football placed the most athletes at the next level of the game, with a whopping 11 players currently playing college ball. Varsity Baseball had the second most athletes to play in college, four players from last year's team, Pedro Mateo (Grambling State), Sean Kelley

(Carleton), and Noah Lipshie and Joe Greenberg (both at Oberlin). A Wilson swimming dynasty has been built in New Haven, with sisters Elizabeth and Callie Fosburgh swimming at Yale. Wrestling phenom Sam Paulay is now wrestling for the Virginia Military Institute. From Wilson's crew team, rower Max Cronyn is currently rowing for Wisconsin. Wilson also gradu-

ated three soccer players who now play for their college teams, including Isabel Albee who went north of the border to play for McGill University in Montreal, Claudia Merlos who is playing at Trinity, and Laniyah Elam for Fairleigh Dickinson.

In the past, there have been Wilson grads in professional sports. Emmanuel Burriss was drafted by the San Francisco

Giants in the first round of the 2006 MLB draft. He played in the infield for the Giants from 2008-2012. Van Johnson, a wide receiver for Wilson's football team went on to play for Temple University, and after was signed by the New York Giants. Currently, however, there are no Wilson alumni that are playing professional sports. Hopefully that is a subject to change.

Long Swings Into the Limelight

Matthew Smee
Contributor

To most, golf is a relaxing game played by businessmen and retired people. To Lennard Long, a Wilson junior, it is much more. Long, who has only been playing golf for three years, has dedicated more time to the sport than most of us do to any other commitment.

Typically, people who play sports competitively get into a sport through a parent or a sibling. Lennard is the first person in his family to play golf. He says "I just got tired of playing basketball. I tried out a bunch of sports," he says. "I liked golf."

Since then Long has won multiple tournaments and earned an undefeated record his freshman year playing for the Wilson golf team. The team started recently at Wilson but did not compete last year. After a strong first year playing for the team, Long hopes to continue where he left off this spring when the season opens and will be coached by history teacher David Heckler.

To keep his play up to par, Long says he practices five days a week at a variety of courses in the D.C. area: "I arrive at the course at 4:30. I putt for one hour. I drive at the range for two hours, and then I putt for one



Used with permission from the Long family

LOOK FOR HIM ON THE GOLF CHANNEL! - This weekend junior Lennard Long will be competing in Pebble Beach, California with some of the nation's other top student golfers.

more hour."

This evidently rigorous practice itinerary has made Long one of the most elite golfers in the area and landed him a spot

in one of the most commendable youth golf tournaments in the country. On September 26, Long won't be taking his talents to South Beach, but rather to

Pebble Beach, to play in the Nature Valley First Tee Open.

Pebble Beach is one of the most historic golf courses in the country. For close to 100 years,

the course has been host to such annual golf tournaments as the National Pro-Am tournament and the First Tee Open. Long was selected to be one of 81, 14- to 18-year-old golfers competing in this year's tournament.

He will have the opportunity to meet and play golf with big names such as Clint Eastwood and Arnold Palmer (the two chairs of the committee) and will battle it out against, arguably, the 81 best youth golfers in the country. The tournament is set to take place from September 24 through 29, and will be nationally televised on the Golf Channel.

Wilson's very own Lennard Long has achieved so much as a golfer and will undoubtedly achieve much more. He looks up to and models his playing style after golf greats Lee Trevino and Charles Schwartzel. If Long doesn't make it on tour as a professional, he says he would like to teach golf.

"Golf has taught me that you have to be respectful to all [and] aware of your surroundings," he says. "You meet some amazing people [playing golf] and you learn that they really do want to help you...and care about you."

ATHLETE OF THE MONTH SCOT BEUMEL

Ben Gutman
Staff Writer

Ever since Wilson's questionable disqualification from last year's DCIAA football championship, veteran senior quarterback Scot Beumel has had a chip on his shoulder. After leading the Tigers to an impressive 8-3 regular season record last year, including a 7-1 record in DCIAA play, Beumel set some high expectations for Wilson football this fall.

The Tigers have been challenged early on in the 2013-14 season, coming up with a 2-2 record at the start of a fairly formidable schedule. "The coaches put more responsibility on me this year, so I've got to work hard and play well to prove that I deserve the oppor-

tunity," Beumel said.

Beumel and the Tigers went to work fast with a striking 55-12 blowout of Perry Street Prep School in the season opener. Beumel completed 26 of 35 passes for 241 yards and three touchdowns, along with a rushing touchdown to boost Wilson past their long-time rival.

Wilson continued its unbeaten streak against DCIAA teams, which dates back to September of last year, with a 30-14 win at Anacostia avenging their only loss to a public school last season. Beumel led Wilson with two touchdown passes and an early 1-0 record in league play.

However, Beumel isn't the only one who deserves the credit for recent outstanding offensive efforts. "My offensive line and receivers are the best in

the city and they really help me out," he said.

Two tough losses against two very competitive Prince George's County Public Schools Surrattsville High School from Clinton, Maryland (3-0) and DuVal High School in Lanham, Maryland (ranked 14th in Maryland), has, however, brought the Tigers down to a 2-2 record. While Beumel led a daring fourth

quarter comeback throwing three touchdown passes against Surrattsville, Wilson was unable to capitalize, losing 20-19 on a botched two point conversion attempt in the last few seconds of the game.

Beumel has displayed

unyielding dedication and success on the field, throwing for an average of 144 yards per game with seven touchdowns. "The team is working really hard to get back to the Turkey Bowl to prove it wasn't just a one year fluke," Beumel said.

Photo by Evan Hamlin



Fashion Adaptations

Jack Price
Staff Writer

America is amalgamation. We are a land of mimics, early adopters. We cull, combine, and improve. This melting pot nature is apparent in every part of our national DNA, from our government, which borrowed as much from Thomas Paine as it did from Plato, to our food: this is the country that invented the cronut.

Everyone copies everyone in America, and nowhere is this more apparent than in our style. In the 1990s, African-American rappers wanted to present themselves as wealthy. They needed to convince the public that they were as rich as they said they were, and to do that, they mimicked the wealthy white elite. They thrust heritage sportswear brands such as Polo Ralph Lauren and Tommy Hilfiger back into popular culture. And teenagers ate it up.

As rappers such as the Notorious B.I.G and the Wu-Tang Clan became themselves icons of wealth, the Coogi sweaters and Clarks Wal-labees they wore became equally desirable. In the same way that early humans often donned lion- and bearskins, hoping the skins would imbue them with the power of the predator, white suburban youths began to buy Polo sweaters and six-inch Timbs. But instead of transforming into an army of albino Method Men, all the poor white boys ended up looking like their grandpas. White people were very sad for a while, but then they discovered The Smiths and Urban Outfitters.

But the times are changing. Rap is still a dominant force in American culture, but its style has evolved, splitting and diversifying alongside the genre. For every kid in a Polo shirt and Air Force 1s, there is a Kanye West Zara knockoff in Air Force 1s (see Deandre Cash for future reference).

The Internet has made style more accessible, more democratic; the nobody in an Ohio cornfield can influence a CEO. If what's popular isn't your cup of tea, you can find something on Tumblr or some lame blog that isn't as good as mine. The Internet democratized the Middle East, and now it is democratizing fashion. Anything is possible. Except for Diamond Supply Co. You all can stop with that.

SWEATER WEATHER

September ~ Earth Wind and Fire

Same Mistakes ~ Drake

Orange crush ~ REM

Hard to live in the city ~ Albert Hammond Jr.

Between Two lungs ~ Florence + The Machine

Chasing pavements ~ Adele

Crawlersout ~ Purity Ring

Massachusetts ~ Ra Ra Riot

Life is simple by the moonlight ~ The Strokes

17 ~ Youth Lagoon

Sweater Weather ~ The Neighborhood

Playlist compiled by Nell Bayliss



Rated **R**: Raw and Uncut Movie Reviews From J Ross the Boss

Jackson Ross
Columnist

There is no doubt that Robert De Niro is one of the greatest actors ever, though teens may only know him from recent fare like the *Fockers* movies and other low-par comedies and thrillers (the man loves a paycheck). But films such as *Raging Bull*, *Goodfellas*, and more recently, *Silver Linings Playbook*, show the man's immense talent.

One of the better scenes in his new movie, *The Family*, shows this. Two characters discuss the ability of De Niro's character to use a certain unprintable four letter word. Co-writer and director Luc Bes-

son demonstrates this character quirk throughout the movie, letting De Niro use the word as a reaction to everything from anger to exhaustion to utter confusion flawlessly.

De Niro's character, Giovanni Manzoni, is a former mob boss who snitched on all his cohorts to avoid jail time, and is now hiding out with his wife and kids in Normandy, France, under the alias Fred Blake. De Niro has no trouble playing mobsters, be it serious, (*Goodfellas*, *The Godfather Part II*) or comedic (*Analyze This*), so it's refreshing to see that he actually put in a bit of effort instead of floating through it as he's been doing so often lately.

The problem with the movie

isn't that the material isn't good; it's that there's barely any material at all. Besson, a native of France but familiar with America, is clearly attempting to skewer the lifestyles of both countries, but we won't get many of the jabs aimed at France, and the only one for Americans seems to be that all mobsters are violent.

The idea of a crime family relocating to a small European village seems funny on paper, but it proves hard to milk. Most of the jokes consist of the "Blakes" beating anyone with whom they have a minor problem into a pulp. It's funny the first few times, such as when they host a barbecue and Blake pictures himself shoving an

obnoxious neighbors head onto the lit grill, but most of the time it's just stupid and pointlessly violent.

Gratuitous violence as a pull for a movie can work if the main idea and the violence itself are clever enough. Just watch the first *Kick-Ass* to see that. But things don't get a lot more creative than that grill scene. Poor Michelle Pfeiffer, as De Niro's wife, doesn't have anything to do the first hour and a half other than burn down a supermarket because they don't have peanut butter.

Not until the last 25 minutes or so, when Manzoni's old mob pals find out where he is and send several hitmen into the village, do things pick up, and

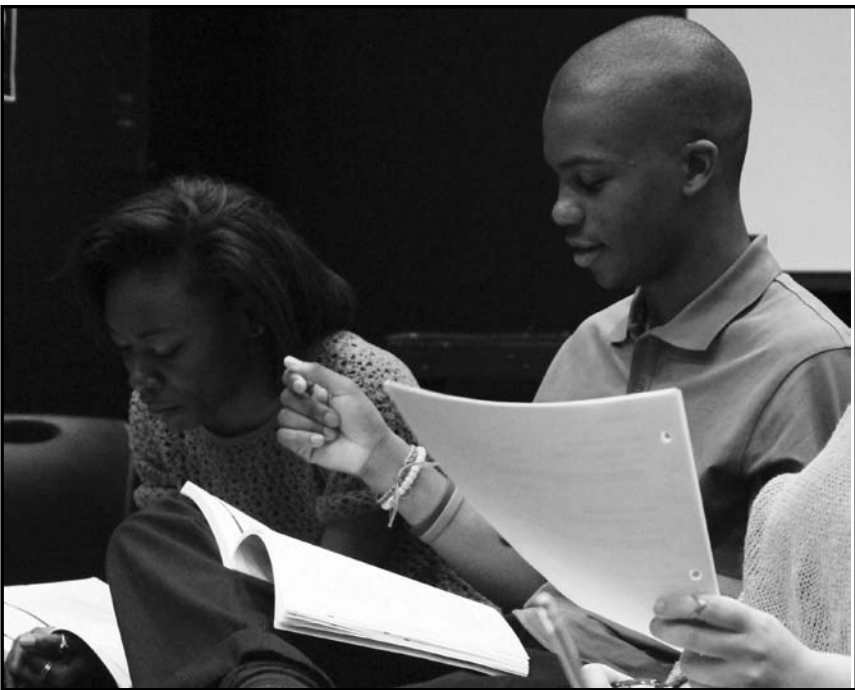
Besson's wicked cinematography techniques come into play.

Besson has made some visually marvelous action films such as *The Fifth Element* and *Leon: The Professional*, and a scene where Pfeiffer looks through the nearly empty midnight village in one revolving shot is more absorbing than any of the comedy in here. Besson can be witty, however, and there are some very funny moments, a lot of them involving the Blakes' teenage son, Warren.

This movie is not one of his stronger offerings, but don't give up on Besson. And definitely not De Niro.

West Side Story

Rehearsals for this year's fall musical are in full swing under the direction of drama teacher Harriet Bronstein and assistant director Jill Roos. Actors meet several times a week to work on songs, dancing, blocking, and learning lines. Clockwise left to right: Teo Topa (9), Alex Carroll (11), Zack Nachbar-Seckel (10), Cleo Krupa (10), Michael Bayliss (10), Ethan Bohorquez (10), Gigi Gonyea (11), Tristan Huber (11), D'Mani Harrison-Porter (12), and Fenice Thompson (12)



Photos by David Rojas-Rosario

DC Rappers On the Rise

SDMG by Fat Trel

By Martin Sakansong

In D.C. we have many people who aspire to be artists; to be known, talked about, and listened to. All across the country, D.C.'s very own Fat Trel is on the rise. He grew up at 1600 E Street, near Benning Road.

Fat Trel has just dropped a new mixtape: "SDMG." SDMG is about Fat Trel's everyday life: women, what it is like finally to be making it in the music industry, and living in California, Miami and D.C.

Junior Patrick Paniagua is an avid listener of Fat Trel. He says, "I thought some of the songs on the mixtape were awesome, like 'We4min' and 'Willie Dynamite.' But [this mixtape] cannot compare with 'Nightmare on E St' [another one of Trel's mixtapes]. Nightmare on E St was probably the best mixtape he has released up to date. We will just have to see what [else he] has in store."

Though some argue that this mixtape might not be his best, others argue that it is. I recommend listening to this mixtape to hear good music from a real D.C. rapper.

Fat Trel is making a name for himself across the country and may soon be big. The District of Columbia is already known as the capital of the United States, but it hasn't really been known as the origin of good artists. But with Fat Trel making it in the big leagues now, this may make way for new artists from D.C. to become just like him. We just have to see what's in store.

Law 2 by Shy Glizzy

By Val Perhson

Coming from the opposite end of DC from Fat Trel, Shy Glizzy is the other rising DC rapper. Shy Glizzy actually first rose to fame because of a beef with Fat Trel that started when he re-mixed Fat Trel's "Respect With the Tech", and then from beefing with Chicago native Chief Keef. Apparently his diss track "3milli" was so good that Chief Keef himself had it on repeat. Glizzy hails from 37th Street Southeast, and is the polar opposite of Fat Trel. While Trel's style is a barreling, avalanche-like flow, Glizzy has a nasally and at times sing-song-like delivery. In his recently released sequel to his mixtape *Law*, Glizzy returns just as raw as before, but this time with a lot more help. With *Law 2*, Glizzy stepped up his beat selection, and raps over synths from hot young producers like Metro Boomin, and Izze The Producer. Not only is the production an obvious improvement, but the people that Glizzy raps with are an improvement as well. Although *Law* did see a feature from DMV native Wale, his was the only big name feature on the tape.

It has been said that it's all about the features in rap, and *Law 2* sees a definite improvement on that front as well. With features from Yo Gotti, The Migos, and Kevin Gates, *Law 2* definitely has the potential that Shy Glizzy needs to gain recognition. Wilson junior Alex Rochon shared his thoughts on the mixtape, saying, "Law 2 is a step forward for Shy Glizzy, and puts him a step ahead of Fat Trel." DC rapper, and junior at McKinley Tech, Zayy Capone thinks that "Law 2 is better than any of his previous projects." While plenty of people may disagree with these statements, it's obvious that Shy Glizzy is about to blow up.

What is the weirdest dream you've ever had?



I was afraid of a dandelion
Lisa Truong, 11



The whole planet was abducted by hot dogs
Stephanie Cuffy-Jeffries, 11



I was getting chased by pizza
Monique Edwards, 12



There were a bunch of dancing skeletons who kidnapped my dog and threatened to blow him up
Eoin McKenna, 10



My sister was roasting an ox with her friends at a satanic party on Alton St. and I had to stop it
Isaac Sarnoff, 11



We dreamed about being unicorns and jumping from building to building
Tymathi Martin, 12
Tymara Burton, 12



Cahall was rapping "No Worries"
Aidan Parisi, 12
Silvi Weiser, 12



I [Sarah] was Beyonce and Rose was Blue Ivy
Rose Ettleson, 11
Sarah Marion, 11



My guinea pigs turned into demons and attacked me
Isabella Albamonte, 12



A clown was living in my basement and when I went to do the laundry it pushed me into the dryer and I couldn't get out
Juliette Fratto, 9



All my hair fell out, and grew back orange
Leah Bender, 10



I saved the world from a race of aliens by sacrificing my life for the greater good of mankind
Sam Longman, 12



I was a dinosaur and I flew to Wilson to play soccer
Sebastian Duque, 12