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# Woodrow Wilson High School THE BEACON

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## Athletes Reinstated After Controversy

**Erin Doherty**  
Sports Editor

Two Wilson football players who go to Lab School of Washington and had been deemed ineligible to play four weeks ago have been reinstated after Ward 3 councilmember Mary Cheh added their case as an “emergency topic” to Tuesday’s D.C. Council meeting.

Luis Flor and Kasper Tuomala had been banned from Wilson’s roster when it came to light that their parents were paying private school tuition. But Kelly Whittier, director of communications for Cheh, said the presence of the boys at the meeting was convincing.

“They approached councilmembers during breaks to talk about why playing is important to them,” Whittier said. This created a change of heart among the councilmembers, and when voting time came, 13 out of 13 members voted in support of allowing the boys to play.

Now juniors, Flor and Tuomala signed up to play football at Wilson their freshman year because their school does not have a team. Over two seasons with the Tigers, their love



Photos Courtesy of Luis Flor and Lori Milstein

**THEY’RE BACK - Luiz Flor, left, and Kasper Tuomala, right, successfully campaigned to get back on the Wilson football team. D.C. said they were ineligible 4 weeks ago**

and passion for the team grew. “Playing for Wilson has changed my life because the way Wilson teaches us football is another way of teaching us about life,” Flor said.

But this year, those bonds were temporarily broken. During preseason practice in August, Flor and Tuomala learned that their high school football careers were in jeopardy. The two were

notified they were no longer allowed to play at Wilson because they were paying tuition at a private school. They’d been mistakenly permitted to play for Wilson in their freshman and sophomore years.

Flor and Tuomala felt the situation was unfair, but they were determined to right it. “I see a lot of players on Wilson who I’m really good friends with,

and they get to play and I can’t, due to something that was never my fault,” Flor said before Tuesday’s vote. “It kills me to even watch any sort of football now. DCPS ended my road to success, and I want it back.”

Wilson students also felt for the boys. “I feel really bad about it,” senior Joyce Distinto says. “I know that football is super important to [Luis], so it’s pretty

upsetting that he can’t play.”

D.C. law states that when a public school cannot offer students with disabilities a “free and appropriate public education,” those students can enroll in an appropriate private school for free, at taxpayer expense. These students also are allowed to play sports at DCPS if their private school does not offer that sport. But this arrangement does not apply if the students pay their own tuition at the private schools. The fact that Flor and Tuomala played football for Wilson for two years made their case different. On September 23, the DCPS Football Temporary Amendment Act of 2014 declared that on a temporary basis, students attending private schools are allowed “to play on DC Public Schools sports teams when the students have already played with the team for at least two years and live within the school’s boundary.”

Flor and Tuomala were ecstatic to learn that their perseverance paid off. “We deserve it, we have worked so hard to get this, and so have our parents,” Flor said, “our goal now is to go to states.”

## Gender Roles Change Over Time

**Maria Brescia-Weiler**  
Features Editor

At last week’s National Honor Society meeting, there were only 11 boys present in a Black Box full of seniors. The president and vice president of the SGA, the senior class president, the Editors in Chief of the Beacon, and the leader of Tiger Sports Network are all females. It’s clear that in this day and age, there are plenty of leadership opportunities for girls at Wilson.

Class of 1978 alumni and current Wilson parent Emily Myers remembers that this was not always the case. “As far as clubs are concerned, I think there was equal opportunity for everyone,” she writes in an email. “I do think that boys might have been in leadership positions more frequently—editor of The Beacon, editor of the Yearbook, etc.”

For the most part, however,

it seems that Wilson has done a pretty good job in its recent history of trying to provide males and females with equal opportunities. Academic standards seem to have been consistently high for both. “I don’t recall any of my teachers, many of whom were women, treating the girls any differently or expecting any less of them,” writes Myers.

History teacher Jonathan Shea, who just finished teaching his 20th year at Wilson, came here at a time when the principal and two of the three assistant principals were women. “I have never perceived legalistic problems in regards to gender, mostly because there are so many women in leadership positions,” says Shea.

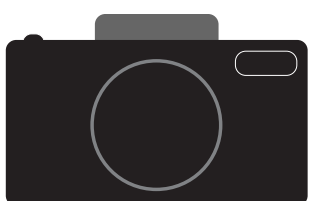
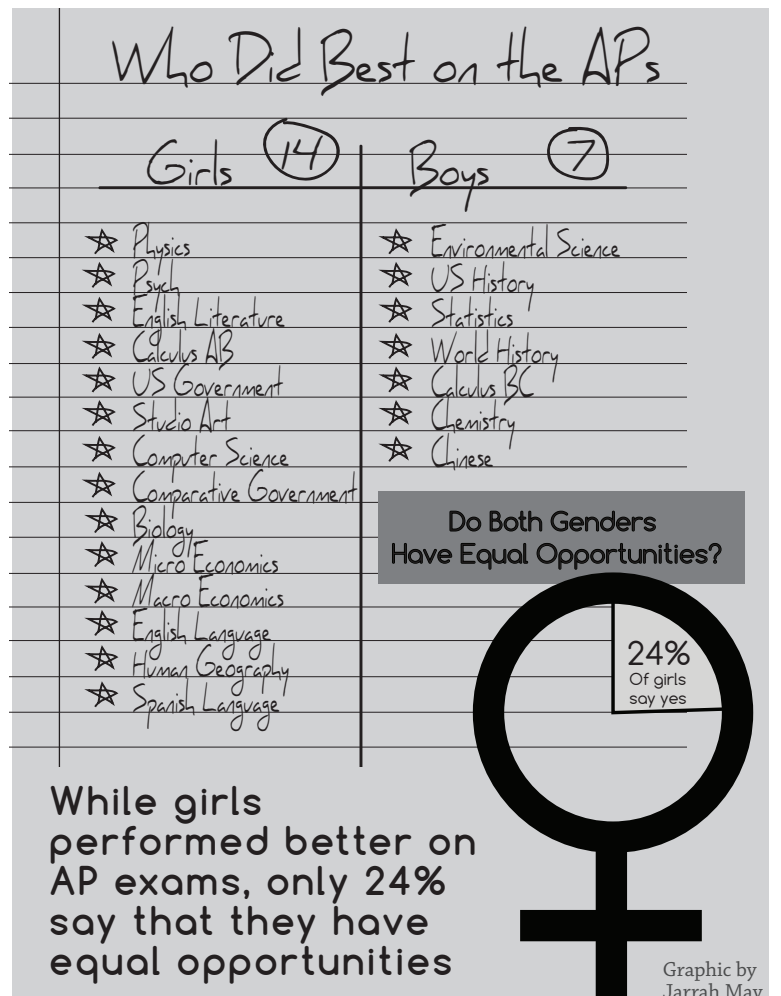
While Myers remembers there being “virtually no girls sports” when she attended Wilson, she also recalled there being few boys sports either, beyond football and basketball.

Shea too felt that, excluding football, male and female sports have received similar amounts of attention. In fact, Wilson’s girls lacrosse team was started before its boys team.

None of this is to say that Wilson is completely gender equal, nor that it has ever been. When Myers attended Wilson, the fight song started with the line “Sons of Wilson, never yielding, swords of truth and courage wielding...” She writes, “My friend Tasha agitated and agitated about it, and the administration finally agreed to change it to “Wilson students, never yielding, etc.”

Myers believes that more has changed since she attended Wilson than its fight song. Now “we expect that girls sports will be treated the same as boys, and if they aren’t, we complain,” she writes. “That would never have happened when I was at Wilson.”

CONT. ON PG 9



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## Three-Way Mayoral Race May Make History

**Zach Essig**  
Staff Writer

With less than two months to go before D.C. residents hit the polls to vote for the seventh mayor of the District of Columbia, the race is gearing up for the final push. The candidates are out on the town, talking to voters and trying to get their messages heard.

There are three candidates running for mayor: Muriel Bowser (Democrat), David Catania (Independent), and Carol Schwartz (Independent).

Ward 4 council member Muriel Bowser is a fifth-generation Washingtonian. She says her desire to be mayor stems from her desire "to make good neighborhoods great." If elected mayor, Bowser plans to ensure economic equality within the District, continue reforming schools, and improve the overall government of D.C., among other things. She is the front-runner in the race, with the polls showing a 17 percent lead over Catania, and Schwartz is running a distant third.

David Catania is one of the two Independents running for mayor. He is a lawyer and also a At-Large D.C. Councilmember. Catania has worked to push for progressive policies. He was a leader in getting gay marriage equality in the District and has worked to reform the District's schools. As mayor, he plans to fight for a more economically viable district.

Carol Schwartz, also run-

ning as an Independent, was a member of D.C. government for more than three decades. She is concerned about changes in the city that have left behind seniors, minorities and the poor, threatening vulnerable populations.

This mayoral race has the potential to make D.C. history. If Catania wins the election, he would be the first openly gay mayor of the District of Columbia. If either Catania or Schwartz prevail, the winner would be both the first white mayor and the first non-Democrat.

Who wins depends on who shows up to vote in November. The District of Columbia is primarily a Democratic city, with 76 percent of voters registered as Democrats. The remaining registered voters are 7 percent Republican and 17 percent Independent. While the numbers of Republicans and Independents are comparatively small, if they come to the polls in full, it could well be a tight race. Historically-low turnout in the 2014 Democratic primary election and lack of strong voter enthusiasm for the upcoming mayoral election increase the importance of the candidates' grassroots operations so that many D.C. residents will be drawn to the voting booth.

With the November 4 deadline quickly approaching, the mayoral race is sure to heat up. All D.C. residents can do now is stay informed about the race, and if eligible to vote, make an educated choice.

## Wilson Gets Friendly

**Megan Bell**  
Staff Writer

Following the lead of companies such as Zappo's and Nordstrom, Wilson has a new initiative committed to providing great customer service. No, that doesn't mean you can return your painful shoes to Wilson, but in its own way Wilson wants to make sure that all members of the community have positive encounters with the school.

Customer service has been identified as a key theme for the 2014-2015 school year, and the new initiative coincides with the debut of Wilson's new Academy of Hospitality and Tourism (AOHT).

Principal Pete Cahall was inspired to adopt the theme after customer service expert Bryan K. Williams delivered Wilson's commencement address last June. Over the summer, Williams led a half-day training session for the entire Wilson staff aimed to promote customer service at all levels. They formed a committee to encourage faculty, staff, and students to demonstrate good customer service so that everyone interacting with Wilson has a positive experience.

The new academy was cre-

ated with the National Academy Foundation and has introduced two new classes: Principles of Hospitality and Customer Service. The 51 student members of the academy this year will help gather information for an annual survey and set up information centers to help students and visitors.

Additionally, academy members will help "the school bank, security, deans, SGA, and teachers to recognize customer service throughout the building and to create a proposal to address the concerns and build a great customer service culture," said Beverly Reynolds, AOHT coordinator.

The initiative is also responsible for staff introductions on the TV monitors in the atrium, as well as the direction signs found throughout the hallways.

"There are so many points of contact throughout the school, so we'd like to focus on Wilson's quality of service to the public," said assistant principal Alex Wilson, who is leading the new initiative.

Have feedback or suggestions on how Wilson can improve its customer service? Soon you'll be able to share your thoughts on the Wilson website.

## Congress Revisits D.C. Statehood Issue

**Rachel Page**  
Features Editor

D.C.'s decades-long struggle to become its own state and gain the unrestricted right to vote on local issues has reemerged onto the national stage. On September 15, D.C. residents and activists gathered in the Dirksen Senate Office Building for a hearing about D.C. statehood. The purpose of the hearing, organized by Delaware Senator Thomas Carper, was to discuss a bill for D.C. representation in Congress that would officially make D.C. a state called "New Columbia," rather than the federal district it has been since 1791.

Washington, D.C. has an elected mayor and a city council, but because it is not a state it has no voting representation in either the Senate or the House of Representatives. Congress also has the ability to overturn any law passed by the City Council, something that is criticized by many D.C. voting rights activists.

Too often, says Wilson parent and suffragist Jane Malhotra, congressmen from other states use D.C. laws to grandstand on issues that will win them more votes back home. On issues where the views of Congress differ from those of the local populace, D.C. lawmakers are virtually powerless.

Although the hearing has made media discussion of D.C. statehood more prominent in the last week, it is by no means a new issue. D.C.'s one non-voting delegate to the House of Representatives, Eleanor Holmes Norton, introduced a bill for statehood when she was sworn into office in 1993. "The people of the District of Columbia in 1801, when we became the nation's capital, went into the streets to demand their rights," she said in an address to the House floor on September 11. "And they have been in the streets ever since, demanding their full rights as any red-blooded American would be." Norton was also present at the hearing, where she gave testimony in favor of the bill.

For as long as advocacy for D.C. statehood has been around, there has also been opposition to it. In his 1788 essay *Federalist No. 43*, Founding Father James Madison argued that placing the center of American government within an independent state would give disproportionate power to the citizens of said state. Modern oppositionists often cite the same argument, saying that statehood would create a dangerous dependency on New Columbia for federal resources like water, electricity, and police protection. Oklahoma senator Tom Coburn, who spoke briefly at the hearing, said in his opening statement that the bill would require a Constitutional amendment and would infringe on the borders of both Maryland and Virginia, constituting a "serious affront to their sovereignty."

Malhotra believes that D.C. statehood would have a huge positive impact on Wilson students and other D.C. residents. "It would change how students see themselves as citizens in this country," she says. "They would realize what their role is and what it can be."

Malhotra attended high school in Maryland, where she was able to write letters to her senator or call local representatives for help with passport issues. She says that she's astounded that so many D.C. citizens have never had these privileges-- and that they don't seem to want them.

Legislatively, statehood would give D.C. local government greater control over its laws. Malhotra cites the example of marijuana decriminalization, which was passed in D.C. over the summer. Though decriminalization won among the D.C. Council by popular vote, Maryland representative Andy Harris introduced an amendment to the law in June that would effectively block it from being enacted. Making D.C. a state would put its legislation--including decriminalization--into its own hands, rather than those of representatives that no D.C. resident even voted for.

Ultimately, the answer to D.C. representation may not be so black and white. Even if the current bill does not pass, there are a multitude of options that would give D.C. residents more representation in Congress without making D.C. a state. Some activists advocate for retroceding D.C. land to Maryland. Under this model, Maryland would take back the territory it originally gave up to found D.C., just as Virginia re-appropriated its land in 1846, and former D.C. residents would be represented by Maryland delegates with full voting rights. Others say that the United States should follow the example of Australia and other nations and create a capital territory with voting representation and autonomy, including all of D.C. except for the National Mall and federal buildings.

Whatever the future of D.C.'s political autonomy may be, one thing is clear: nothing is going to happen without public advocacy. Malhotra encourages students to make their voices heard in any way possible. "The younger you are," she says, "the more people listen to what you think."

Young activists have a long history of success, from the Little Rock Nine, who brought issues of school segregation and institutional racism to the national level in 1957, to the anti-Vietnam War group Students for a Democratic Society, founded in 1959. The best thing Wilson students can do, Malhotra says, is to "hit the streets. You go to the White House and organize a rally. You go to the Capitol and organize a sit-in."

If the local and federal governments are forced to confront the next generation of D.C. residents who want their own representation, they may be more likely to consider legislative change.

For young people who have spent their whole lives in D.C., it can be difficult to imagine any significant political changes being made to the city in their lifetimes. But maybe that doesn't have to be the case. "You look at the women's suffrage movement and the civil rights movement," says Malhotra, "that's how you change something that people insist can't and shouldn't be changed. But of course it can. If it's bad, if it doesn't work for people, then it will change."

### Ninth Grade Officers Win Unopposed

In this year's ninth grade student government elections only one ninth-grader applied on time per position, giving each of the candidates an automatic win. Participation in Wilson's student government is an ongoing issue, effectively demonstrated by this recent event. According to Jennifer Li, the student body president, "SGA [Student Government Association] is working hard to attract more Wilson students who hold a genuine interest in making a difference at this school." Li encourages any students who have any interest in impacting school policy to run for office in the spring and to approach SGA officers with suggestions. [Note: All other class elections proceeded typically.]

By Emma Buzbee

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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.

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*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*.

## OPINIONS

# English Teachers Talk Books

When asked which three books every student should read in high school, Wilson English teachers said:

### Ms. Bowser

1. 1984
2. *The Scarlet Letter*
3. *Anything by Alice Walker/Toni Morrison*

### Mr. Preacher

1. *Hamlet*
2. *The Odyssey*
3. *Their Eyes Were Watching God*

### Ms. Ramos

1. *Shakespeare (Macbeth, Hamlet)*
2. *The Great Gatsby*
3. *Their Eyes Were Watching God*

### Ms. Belew

1. 1984
2. *Things Fall Apart*
3. *Macbeth*

### Ms. Wright

1. *Jane Eyre*
2. *Great Expectations*
3. *All Quiet on the Western Front*

Erin Sternlieb  
Chief Web Editor

I love to read. A lot. I work at a bookstore, probably check my Goodreads account more often than my Facebook, and typically read upwards of three to four books a month. Yet when I got to middle school and started getting assigned reading, I found myself, like many others, uninterested.

I've thought a lot about why it is that teachers pick the books they do. Why does *Beowulf*, which is difficult to understand and took place centuries ago, have more value than a modern book that I can read and relate to? I researched the most common high school reading lists and found that they all included the same authors: George Orwell, Shakespeare, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Toni Morrison, Charles Dickens. Books by these authors are all great and important, but it seemed to me that it's more important in high school to choose books that students will want to read -- books that students can relate to that will inspire them to read outside of school.

All of the Wilson English teachers I talked to conceded that in their experience, students were way more likely to read books that were more accessible, more modern, easier to read, or obviously relatable. English teacher Molly Ramos explained that when reading certain more difficult classics, students feel like they are not only reading, but translating. Since the teachers all agreed on

this point, it seemed confusing to me that they would assign really challenging books that seem completely unrelatable to many students, knowing that many students would not read them.

When I decided to write this article, I had a strong opinion. I was going to take the angle that by pushing classics, high school English classes were isolating students and not doing enough to inspire a love of reading in students who might not do any reading outside of school. And I do still believe this, in part.

However, what I got from the English teachers I spoke to was different. Generally what they cared about was diversity. A diversity of voices. A diversity of time periods. A diversity of style and language use. How to ensure a diversity of voices is a much bigger and more difficult question when the majority of "classic" literature has been written by upper-class white men, simply because those were the people who had the opportunity.

What I realize is that what high school is about, or at least tries to be about, is exposing students to a wide variety of

subjects. While many students will never pursue math after Wilson, they are still required to take two years of it. English class should be the same way. No book necessarily has more value than any other; it is all about what the reader gets out of it, and that is different for every student.

If I had my choice I would probably never pick up a classic and only ever read contemporary fiction, but that is why I'm not the one choosing what we read. Books we read in English class should give students a well-rounded look at what literature exists; contemporary works, classics, modern classics, male writers, female writers and a spectrum of characters and time periods. Let's let students choose what they like to read, what books they value, but not limit them by lack of exposure. Assistant Principal Tennille Bowser put it well: "We are living in a diverse world...we owe it to our students to expose them to materials that broaden their perspective."

# German Student Encounters Surprises At Wilson

Johanna Kuchel  
Contributor

My first thought about Wilson: "It's an airport. This has to be an airport." In the brain of a German student, there is no place for the idea that there could be security in a school. In airports, of course, maybe even in train stations, but in schools? Not possible.

Then a security guard asked what I want to do in this school. First I thought my English was so bad that I didn't get the question right. I mean, think about it. Are there that many possibilities, what you want to do in

school?

I said, "I want to learn." I guess that wasn't the right answer, because I got some irritated looks, but I was allowed to go inside.

The first time the bell rang I was shocked and thought it was the fire alarm, because it is so high and only one long sound. In my school in Germany there are three different kinds of sounds that follow each other, one after another. They are much lower, more like "dong, dong, dung."

Another surprise is that you have to change rooms after each lesson. I had to get used to it, because in Germany, the teach-

ers have to change rooms, while students relax during breaks--which are 10 minutes, by the way. Students' classmates are the same in each subject.

I like that you meet so many new people in the American system, because each class is filled with completely different students, which is because you are able to choose some of your subjects.

The grades in Germany are written in numbers, so an "A" would be a "1" in Germany. I think I will never really understand the American grades, because I find the percentage comparing to the value of the

grade very confusing. For example, if you get a 60% in the U.S. it's an "F", but 60% in Germany would be a "3", which means a "C."

Something awkward that happens to me all the time is that I call the restrooms "toilets," because in Germany you say "toilette," and this also means restroom. It took me a while, until I realized why everybody is laughing when I say that...

It is also so weird that you need a hall pass allowing you to go to the toi- I mean restroom. In Germany you can just walk out of the class, if you want to

go to the restroom or the office. Sometimes you don't even have to ask the teacher if you can go.

I think there are so many differences between the American and German school system because the laws in the countries are very different. Gun laws, for example, are much more strict in Germany, and the attitude of Germans towards weapons is much more negative.

There are many new things to get used to and to learn in this American school, but I guess that is why they call it a school--not an airport.

# President Wilson's Name Brings Unwanted Legacy

**Elias Benda**  
Opinions Editor

"A racist, sexist, and a militarist." If you heard this description, your mind might jump to dictators like Stalin or Hitler. In fact, this is Wilson Social Issues teacher Colman McCarthy's description of the twenty-eighth president of the United States, the man after whom our school is named: Woodrow Wilson.

It is no secret that President Wilson had some views that now seem inflammatory, if not outright offensive, and stood out even at a time when the norm included racism and eugenics (the belief that the human population can be improved, especially by discouraging reproduction by people presumed to have undesirable traits—in this case, black Americans).

Prior to his presidency, Wilson ran on a platform of intolerance. According to the National Review Online, he led his campaigning in Indiana with support for the sterilization of prisoners and the mentally handicapped, a policy that he had signed into law as governor of New Jersey in 1911.

Contempt for the disabled aside, Wilson also reinforced the establishment of racism in American politics. His support for policies such as the segregation of the mail service contributes to the idea that he "brought Jim Crow to the North." Wilson hosted the first ever movie screening in the White House, playing "The Birth of a Nation," which was later used as a Ku Klux Klan propaganda film. The movie depicts black people as savages and encourages their disenfranchisement. Wilson's own book, "History of the American People," is even quoted in the film: "great Ku Klux Klan, a

veritable empire of the South, to protect the Southern country."

Despite all of this, Wilson is seen as a beacon of progressive American politicians, an argument that is not completely unfounded. John M. Cooper, a Wilson alum from the class of 1957, wrote a Pulitzer Prize Finalist biography of the president in which he applauds Wilson for his progressive anti-trust actions as well as his direction of the nation through World War I. Wilson's influence is most widely acknowledged in the formation of the League of Nations, the precursor to the United Nations, which is seen as the beginning in a shift of American political thought towards international democracy and diplomacy.

Cooper doesn't ignore the president's poor civil rights repertoire, and acknowledges that his appointed attorney general was a bit of a bigot.

Regardless, failure to emphasize the racist tendencies of Wilson, from textbooks to teaching, is dangerous. Stating that Wilson was simply an affluent white man of the early 1900s as justification for his beliefs is not only inappropriate, but wrong. Wilson used his position and establishment as president to endorse a hate group guilty of countless brutal murders of innocent black civilians, solely on the basis of his own personal racist beliefs. Just because German citizens during World War II were surrounded by an anti-semitic government does not justify their complicity in the Holocaust. Just because the citizens of Russia under Stalin may have believed that

communism was the best course for their country does not justify the slavery and starvation of their own people.

It's not as if every single white male in America at the time believed blacks were inferior. The people we glorify from the past should be those oppositional voices, who, ahead of their time, believed in challenging what they saw as an immoral norm. Martin Luther King Jr., one of the most recognizable names in American history, was one of those men who took a stand for what he believed was right. Appropriately so, there is a monument to him on the Mall, and both the central D.C. library and a Southeast D.C. elementary school are named after him.

If we are to follow the pattern of memorializing people who deserve the recognition for their opposition to injustice, like MLK, then Wilson may not be the appropriate name for the most diverse, highest-achieving traditional public school in the city.

I support McCarthy and his petition (200 signatures strong) to change the name of our school. In the petition, McCarthy suggests a new name: Barbara Lee High School. Barbara Lee is the black female representative of the ninth congressional district in California (the thirteenth district from 1998-2013), and the only congressperson to vote against the war in Iraq. This new name will make sense in a hundred years when people look back, as we do on Woodrow Wilson, and put some critical thought toward the significance of the name and the person behind it.

**"Failure to emphasize the racist tendencies of Wilson...is dangerous"**



Illustration by Maria Brescia-Weiler

## Woodrow Wilson Exposed

### TOP 10 NAMES BETTER THAN WOODROW WILSON HIGH SCHOOL

1. FIRE DRILL PREP
2. COLMAN MCCARTHY'S PULPIT OF PEACE SCHOOL
3. CAHALL'S COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL OF SCHOLARS
4. SCHOOL WITH WALLS (AND BALLS)
5. OF MICE AND SCHOLARS SCHOOLS
6. HOT BOY HIGH SCHOOL
7. LOAFTOWN DAY SCHOOL
8. SNEAKERHEAD SCHOOL OF JORDANS
9. BETTER THAN PRIVATE SCHOOL SCHOOL
10. CLOG-SPORTS SCHOOL OF BITCHCRAFT AND BLIZZARD-RY

# Four Things to Know About Gender

By The Beacon Staff

To tackle the topic of gender and gender issues at Wilson in this issue, The Beacon did a lot of research. We conducted a survey, analyzed achievement data, interviewed teachers, students, and alumni, talked to students across the gender spectrum, and held a facilitation on gender. We found that gender discrimination is undeniably a major issue at Wilson; students of multiple genders cited the prevalence of slut-shaming and gender stereotypes. However, we also found that Wilson is a place where people of all genders have a large number of opportunities and are truly thriving. Here is what we learned and what we want the Wilson community to understand:

While sexism and gender inequality are not necessarily institutionalized at Wilson, as members of society we inherently have preconceived notions about gender that limit each of us and our community as a whole from being the best we and it can be. In all of the measurable ways, girls at Wilson are excelling. But if you ask girls here if they feel that their lives are restricted by sexism, most will still respond affirmatively. Changing the rules and policies is only the first step in solving a problem

that can only completely be solved by a transformation of societal mindset in regards to gender.

Gender issues are not just women's issues, and gender equality is in everybody's best interest. Men face inequality and are in many ways just as much victims of gender stereotypes as women. In the facilitation we held, we asked students to list words they associated with the word 'man'; responses included 'no flaws,' 'dominant,' and 'breadwinner.' These stereotypes about masculinity do not only diminish women, but limit males' ability to be sensitive and communicate. Limiting any group of people by putting them in a box is counterproductive to the advancement of all genders.

Gender is a spectrum. It is not confined to male and female, and the roles and stereotypes commonly associated with these binaries. The breadth of gender not only occupies a space between male and female, but a whole set of identities outside of the two. A person's gender identity can also differ in terms of their biological sex, identity (what gender they identify as), orientation (who they are attracted to), and expression (how they

present themselves). It's important to consider this when thinking about gender inequality issues, as the people who find themselves limited by the terms 'male' and 'female' are often the most disadvantaged. While we generally focused on males and females in our coverage, we realize that these are not the only genders that face issues at Wilson and in the greater community, and we want to communicate that important point to our readers.

If you take nothing else away from this issue, remember this: If you believe in gender equality, you are a feminist.

The negative connotation associated with the word "feminist" is one of the largest obstacles to gender equality not just at Wilson, but everywhere. Feminism is "a belief in the social, economic, and political equality of the sexes." Contrary to popular belief, feminists don't hate men, and men can (and should) be feminists. We live in an open-minded, progressive community, and we should know better than to let fears about a word's connotation keep us from doing what is right.

# Two Boys Talk Feminism

Joey Keegan

Elias Benda

Photo Editor, Opinions Editor

To be a socially responsible man, one must have the awareness that equality between the genders is a necessity. In an era that seems dominated by sexually insensitive words and ideas, advocating for a sense of mutual respect for both men and women seems obvious and logical. For this reason, there is no shame in men embracing the identity of a feminist.

There is a social stigma in modern America surrounding the word feminism and the characteristics and traits of feminism and feminists. As men, and more importantly as members of the greater community, we need to establish that feminism is solely the advocacy of gender equality. Changing perceptions of equality for either gender is a push for consciousness and equality for both genders.

There's no denying that prejudices and assumptions exist for both genders, both positive and negative. As youth of our generation, we face a whole new set of problems and situations in which gender and feminism are especially relevant. From the attitudes towards the clothing that both genders use to express themselves, to the way in which each gender is expected to interact socially, preconceived notions affect all of us.

Most people are not perfect when it comes to advocating this, on both sides of the gender divide, and expecting anyone to be is wholly unrealistic, but having a progressive attitude and an awareness and conscious-

ness when it comes to gender is an important first step that everyone should take -- especially men.

Men need to realize their role in making a change. Men need to be aware of the implications of their own actions as well as the comfort level of their peers, both male and female, around themselves and others. Often, such actions are not direct and people don't think they affect anything, but they promote a culture we should try to get rid of. Men need to rid themselves of the unsubstantiated excuse that a woman's actions or choice of clothing justifies any violation or assault or any sense of entitlement to comment on a woman's body.

We also need to realize that the generalizations surrounding men regarding the extent to which they can express their emotions or the roles they play in society are similarly debilitating. Confining men to certain roles is equally harmful to the feminist movement as doing the same to women. Men who feel like they are limited in how their gender is defined will reciprocate by maintaining the oppression of women.

Change and social action cannot come from only half of the population--it needs to involve both men and women. Men cannot keep hiding behind the age-old excuse that feminist women don't want to include their male counterparts in the struggle. We must come to the realization that what is in both groups' best interests is a united push for gender equality. Empowerment for women is empowerment for all.

# Hacked Celebs Deserve Their Privacy

Ellie Melick

Style Editor

On August 31, an extensive collection of photos was posted by an anonymous user to the public online image board 4Chan. Thousands of photos are uploaded to this site every day, but this particular post went viral almost immediately because it contained nearly 200 racy photos of over 100 celebrities and public figures.

Unless you've been comatose for the past month, you probably know which celebrity nude leak I'm referring to. Aptly dubbed "The Fapping" by internet users, the photo leak caused such a frenzy that it is a miracle World War III didn't break out amongst the chaos. For a while everyone seemed to forget the major news stories that had been dominating the media, such as the crises in the Middle East and in Ferguson,

Missouri, and billions around the world waited for the authenticity of the photos to be verified. All that truly mattered on that day were the naked bodies of Jennifer Lawrence, Kate Upton, and countless other celebrities, the vast majority of whom were females who had had their personal property stolen and then posted without their consent for everyone to see.

The anonymous poster on 4Chan claimed that the photos had been obtained in a targeted hacking of Apple's iCloud service, a claim that Apple later verified. The major breach of private accounts called into question the security of services such as iCloud, and began a discussion as to whether any laws had been broken and if those involved in the hacking should be pursued by authorities. But many simply heard the words "celebrities," "naked," and "scandal," and immediately blamed the celebrities

in question for the publication of the stolen photos.

According to such critics, the celebrities were being careless and irresponsible; if they didn't want nude photos of them getting out, they shouldn't have taken the pictures in the first place. Not to mention how wrong it is for those of legal age to take intimate pictures of themselves. Really, who could have such loose morals that they would decide to take nude selfies?

A lot of people, actually.

As it turns out, the practice of taking racy pictures of oneself is more than common, especially today, when there's a camera in every phone and a naked body under every outfit. And even though many people take nude pictures of themselves for themselves and no one else, convenient photo-sharing apps like Snapchat have helped to popularize the taking and sending of

sexual photos. Multiple studies and surveys have found that over half of adults in America have at some point electronically sent or received sexual content. So why all the slut-shaming?

It probably has something to do with the age-old notion that women are not supposed to have sexual needs or desires, and God forbid public ones. Although this idea has been thrown out by many people today, a surprising number of those who consider themselves to be accepting and understanding of female sexuality are still shocked and disgusted when nude photos of any female are leaked. But what the critics of the celebrities affected by this leak fail to realize is that people whose personal pictures are released to the public without consent are victims, not criminals.

Most people who take racy pictures of themselves, whether

celebrities or not, intend only for themselves or a lover to see the photos. When someone's private account is hacked into, stolen from, and has its contents shared with the public, the person who was attacked most likely feels violated and disgusted that random people around the world are viewing their private pictures.

When someone's personal photos are put out into the public world without their consent, it is wrong to view those pictures, and certainly to share them. No one deserves to have their private pictures shared with the world without their knowledge and approval, no matter how famous that person is. So please, respect these celebrities' privacy, as well as other victims of non-consensual photo leaks.

# ELLIE'S FOOL-PROOF TIPZ 4 STUDENTS!

Teaching is the profession that makes the world go round. Without educators, our society would be about as productive as a potato. But thankfully, there are intelligent professionals dedicated to making us smarter.

As wonderful as teachers are, it can be hard to learn and grow as a scholar if you and your teacher have a bad relationship. And it's not just a question of whether you like your teacher; it is also imperative that they like you, too. All too often scholars don't try to have any kind of interactions with their teachers besides listening to the lectures and doing the work, and as a result, neither the teacher nor student get as much out of that class as they could. So, if you want to truly grow as a student and a person this year, then pay attention to the following three tips. They'll help bring you and your teachers closer together and, most importantly, help get them to really like you.



"Teachers can get really lonely"

## VISIT AND HANG OUT WITH THEM A LOT

It may be hard getting one of them to admit it to you, but teachers can get really lonely. Their days are filled with giving notes and passing out papers, but people rarely stop by their rooms just to keep them company. So you'll earn big points if you visit them outside of class. A lot.

You should go to each of your teacher's classrooms at least once a day. For the ones you really want to impress, you should visit them every day before and after school, and at STEP. You don't just have to do work when you're hanging out with them-- in fact, they'll appreciate you most if you do real friend things with them. I suggest some bonding activities, like making dreamcatchers, playing Twister, and crocheting leg warmers over a nice cup of tea. And don't worry about only visiting them during their "office hours," because those are usually reserved for the business side of things, not the extra fun stuff. Teachers love an unexpected visitor, especially if they have board games. So go ahead and get to school early, bring them some bagels and maybe one of those matching "best friends" necklaces, and watch the beautiful friendship blossom.



## LEARN ALL ABOUT THEIR PERSONAL LIVES.

Everyone loves to talk about themselves, and teachers are no exception to that rule. Unfortunately, during class periods there usually isn't a lot of time to talk about anything that isn't school-related. So when you're hanging out and playing board games with them at STEP, it's the perfect opportunity to get to know them on a more personal level. You should make sure to ask how their childhood was, what they were like in high school and college, and how their love life is looking these days. Pretty much anything that they don't share about themselves, you should inquire about.

But just because it's your goal to learn about them, don't forget how important it is to talk about your life as well. By letting them know about your social life, hobbies, and bowel schedule, you'll be able to establish a very intimate connection that will help you guys get along all year. You'll be best friends before you even know it.



"Become BFFs with your teacher"

## ELIMINATE YOUR COMPETITORS (CLASSMATES)

Every teacher has a favorite. They can't help it, they're human. It's natural to dislike some people and really like others, so your teachers will definitely be picking out which kids they like the most, no matter how much they deny it. Of course, your biggest goal for the year should be to become #1 in the hearts of all your teachers--no matter what it takes.

Sometimes, when it comes to things as important as winning over your teachers, the moral guidelines we usually live by get blurry. And if you want something as badly as you should want to become BFFs with your teachers, that's perfectly okay.

Now, I'm not telling you to do anything that would physically harm your fellow students. That would be taking things a bit too far. But a few mental games, maybe a little sabotage...well, you can decide for yourself how committed you are to being your teacher's favorite.

At the end of the day, the most important part of being a student is showing up, listening, and doing the work. If you do all that, you'll almost definitely learn something. But, as I said, if you want to flourish and broaden your horizons as a scholar, getting your teachers to really like you is imperative. So go on out there and give it all you've got, because if you get your teachers to adore you, you can become the best damned scholar there ever was.

# Hurdle Kid Jumps into Our Hearts

**Abby Tanen**  
Contributor

Scholars who spend their lunch hour hanging to the left side of the bleachers might already be familiar with the name Nate Bensing. He is fresh meat at Wilson but still managed to make a name for himself during the first week of school hurdling at STEP in his red Nike Free Runs.

Flash back to freshman orientation, where Nate first discovered his passion for hurdling. On that day there was a small competition where people lined up and tried to get over the hurdles. Nate found it invigorating and wanted to continue the next day. And the day after that.

"As I got support from other people it became a tradition," he said. "As other people joined, it became more of a competitive event."

Although Nate enjoys a good hurdling session, he says his priority is "more exercise than pleasure." Nate has a point: according to CalorieLab, hurdling for 15 minutes can burn a total of 205 calories!

Nate encourages others to join him on the track. His key advice for anyone who wants to follow in his footsteps is to

practice a lot, just like everything else. Bensing would agree that he is starting a hurdling movement. Fellow freshman Nick Whitman also believes in Bensing's movement, saying that he would consider joining him on the track for a lunchtime of hurdling.

Others express skepticism. While they agree that Bensing is entertaining to watch, some students don't see themselves joining him on the track anytime soon. "I don't have the hops," junior Ali Rashedi said.

Also skeptical of Bensing's power to start a movement is junior Nora Charles, who asks, "What will happen when gentle droplets of snow descend upon his fragile scalp? Will he persevere?" Well, Nora, only time will tell.

Nate is unsure who his biggest supporter is, but said he believes that for the most part the tenth grade has his back. Sophomore Innes Mackay thinks of him as a living symbol of determination and most of all, "he has guts." It seems many people recognize Nate's potential. Nate said Coach Desmond Dunham personally invited him to join the track team here at Wilson!

Despite his success, Nate is still trying to improve. "I'm



Photo by Elena Remez

**JUMPING FOR JOY - Since the first day of school, freshman Nate Bensing has spent his STEP jumping hurdles on the track. Today, more people have joined in the fun.**

practicing running in between [the hurdles]," he says. He practices outside of STEP as well, on

Saturdays at the Wilson track with some friends.

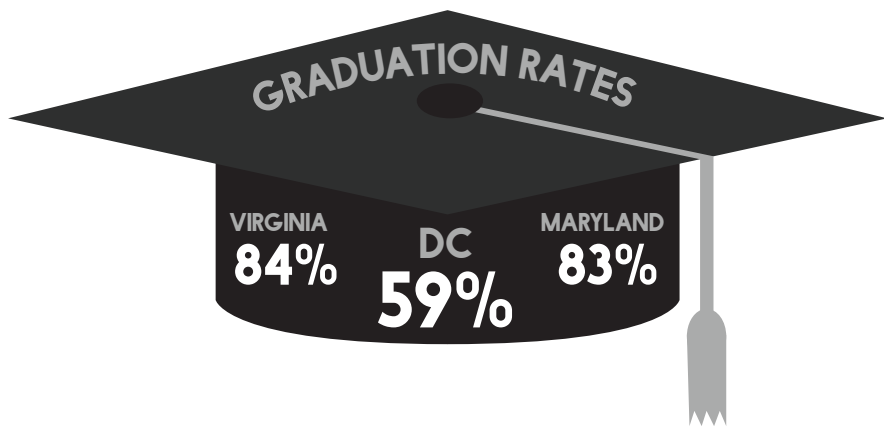
Bensing's constant hurdling

does worry some of his close friends. Hurdling is known to be a high-risk sport if the hurdles are not weighted and positioned correctly. At the 2004 London Olympics, Chinese track star Liu Xiang fell during the 110-meter hurdles but limped to the finish line. Wilson would hate to see our hurdle star fail to finish strong, so watch out Nate!

Bensing has definitely left a lasting impression at the bleachers, but those who dine in the Rose Garden aren't hip. Freshman Madeline Teems was not familiar with Nate and says that she would "probably not" switch to eating at the bleachers just to watch the sporting event. Even though this is unfortunate, Nate understands that there may be "other ninth graders who think it's stupid." Despite the lack of freshman support, he stays positive, reminding himself to "keep on jumping."

So, Wilson high schoolers, as you go through your school year I encourage you from time to time to ask yourself, "WWN-BD?" (What would Nate Bensing do?) and you'll be all right. I'll leave you with his personal motto: he's "hmmmm...thinking of a good one," and will get back to you.

# Senior Year, Take Two



**Nora Charles**  
Contributor

Some describe D.C. public schools as having a “drop-out crisis.” D.C.’s 2011 graduation rate of 59 percent has often been compared with neighboring states -- and it looks dismal. According to the “Building a GradNation” report released annually by a group of organizations including America’s Promise Alliance, graduation rates for Hispanic, African American, and other minority students are even lower. However, these rates have increased for African American kids and even more for Hispanic kids starting in 2006, with 76 percent of Latino and 68 percent of African American students nationally receiving a diploma from their high schools after four years.

In 2012, when the latest report was released, U.S. public high schools had just reached an 80 percent graduation rate, which was considered a huge milestone. “Dropout factory” schools either closed or improved. Of all fifty states, Iowa had the highest graduation rate with 89 percent, while Nevada’s was lowest, at 63 percent. If D.C. were a state it would have replaced Nevada in last place, with a graduation rate lagging behind the western state by four percent. DCPS looks bad even next to New York City Public Schools, whose rate is 66

percent, or the Chicago school system, at 69 percent.

Wilson has a much higher graduation rate than the other DCPS schools, as Principal Pete Cahall pointed out in his PowerPoint on the first day of school. However, some Wilson seniors last year did not walk out holding a diploma.

Nico Artiga-Oliver was just another freshman who walked into Wilson four years ago feeling prepared. He had gone to Oyster-Adams Bilingual School for elementary school and Alice Deal Middle School. The rest of his class graduated last June, but Artiga-Oliver lacked some of the necessary requirements and was faced with a choice: drop out or finish a fifth year of high school. He stays upbeat about it: “If it’s what I need to do, I’ll do it. It’s good to finish high school.”

Artiga-Oliver filled his schedule with classes that he wants to take in addition to his required classes: stagecraft, marine science, U.S. Government, English, and another science class, “because science is cool.” A few of his friends are in the same position, but you probably won’t see them as much as Artiga-Oliver; they are only around for two or three classes. One of his friends has dropped out of school completely, which Artiga-Oliver finds upsetting because he had never considered that an option.

It’s possible you might run into Artiga-Oliver at Heller’s Bakery in Mount Pleasant, where he’s been working the past two years making cakes. Aside from baking, he is passionate about his art, taking after his parents, grandparents, and siblings. He paints, does photography and film, and may even work for a film company in Germany next year. He says it feels nice to have time to think before going off to college or Europe.

Artiga-Oliver is a success story, someone who has persevered and is determined not to drop out. He is on track to receive his diploma in June. He’s had a good experience at Wilson and considers himself happy here. He has really enjoyed classes with math teacher Dr. Elaine Smith, English teacher Sandra Wright, art teacher Mary Barnes, and social studies teacher Julie Caccamise. But he admits that he could have stepped up his game. As one of the oldest students at Wilson, he has advice to give to the rest of the student body: “Tell them to do all their homework and not to skip class. They should spark up a relationship with teachers and counselors, like, stop by [their counselor’s office] often. They might not like that one.” And something he would be sure to tell his younger self: “It’s harder to fail than to pass!”



Photo courtesy of David Fadul

## My Life So Far: David Fadul

**Helen Malhotra**  
Website News Editor

Junior David Fadul has recently returned to Washington, D.C. from Mexico City. So far, David has lived in the United States, Turkey, El Salvador, and finally Mexico. The major difference between his move to Mexico City and his other international journeys, he says, was his age. “I thought moving to Mexico would be like moving to El Salvador and Turkey, where I could just live through it, go back to D.C. and say I did it. But it proved to be the exact opposite,” says David. The first couple of months for him were difficult. The abrupt move due to his mom’s job made it hard to adapt to the different atmosphere of Mexico City.

Throughout his ninth grade year, David kept mostly to himself. He says, “I didn’t do much but study and Skype my friends back home.” Only in tenth grade did he start to branch out and explore his new home. He started to appreciate the food more, especially the chilaquiles (tortilla chips covered in salsa and beans). His family visited many historical areas of Mexico, including the Xochimilco, with its canals and lake ideal for canoeing around, and chances to explore Mexican heritage.

Two years after arriving in Mexico City, David has returned home to Washington D.C. Regardless of his rough start, he was ultimately able to branch out, and add Mexico City to the list of many places that have influenced his life.

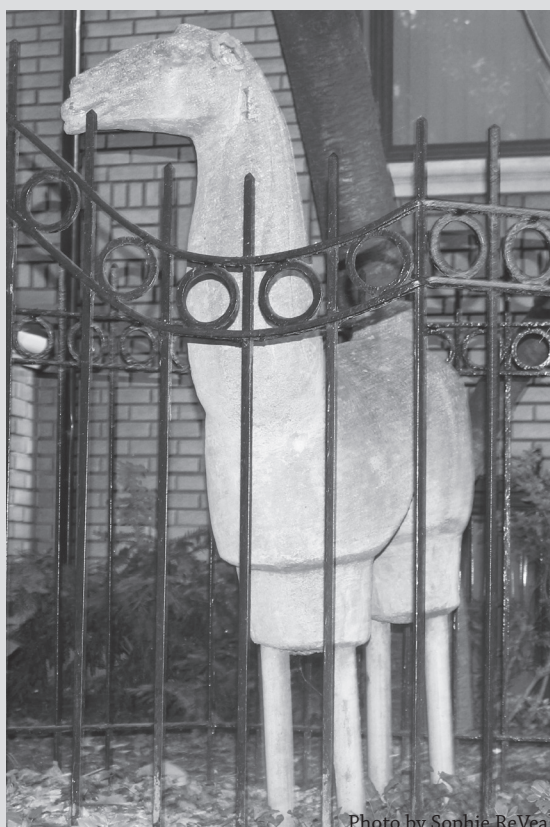


Photo by Sophie ReVeal

**GLAM LLAMA - Good thing they put a fence around them; no telling where they might run off to. These beloved statues can be found both at 2812 Connecticut Avenue and at the Potomac School.**

## CITY SPOTS: LLAMAS PERPLEX D.C.

Outside of an otherwise normal apartment building in Woodley Park, two stone llamas sit patiently on either side of the entrance. They are identical and surrounded by separate iron fences.

What were they? I had to know.

I did some research and found these llamas were made as a gift for Dr. Sidney Werkman in memory of his wife, who taught French at the Potomac School, according to the Art Inventories Catalog for the Smithsonian American Art Museum. The statues display the signature of Una Hanbury, an artist known for busts and sculptures. Una Hanbury was born in England and lived in D.C. for 25 years. Her art was known around the country and because of her love for animals, many of her sculptures are animal-based.

But that still didn’t tell me enough.

So I visited the apartment building and rang everyone on the buzzer list until someone came down to talk to me about the llamas. The residents of the apartment building had no information on the llamas and knew nothing about why the llamas were there. They even had some crazy theories, thinking the city provided them to the building as a small way to advertise the zoo just down the street.

I called looking into three additional llamas at the Potomac School and the school administration explained that Una Hanbury donated the sculptures in 1970, since she is the mother of a teacher and the grandmother of four students at the school.

According to the Potomac School’s alumni magazine, The Potomac Term, ever since the three llama statues arrived they’ve become a treasured part of the school’s campus and an “unofficial mascot.” One alum, John Chester, always loved the statues at the school and after moving to Vermont was given actual llamas from his uncle because of his love for the animal.

Although both sets of statues are the work of Una Hanbury, I never learned how the two ended up at the D.C. apartment building. While both the faculty at the Potomac School and residents at the apartments were unaware of the other set of sculptures’ existence, they were pleased to hear there could be more to the story. Even though there is no proven reason for the llamas’ presence outside of the apartment building in D.C., it is safe to say that all five of the llama statues are loved, no matter where they are.

By Sophie ReVeal

# GENDER AT WILSON: A HISTORY

FROM PG 1

After teaching AP World History for 20 years, Shea has noticed some differences between the way males and females perform in his class. "Gender does seem to play into assessment success. Girls seem to do better when they have time to prepare, whereas if it's just in-class multiple choice, boys' scores shoot way up," Shea says. He attributes this to the fact that "girls are more likely to worry about it ahead of time while boys are more likely to just walk in [to a test] and say 'Here I go'."

This pattern has been subject to change over time. "When I started here if you asked most teachers which gender they preferred to teach they would say, 'Give me an all girls class,'" Shea says. "I don't think that's necessarily true any more, partially because girls have become a lot more aggressive over the years." He connects this increased assertiveness to

the fact that often girls feel like they need to be pushier to be successful, although it is also important to remember that girls are labeled as "aggressive" more often than their male counterparts simply because society expects them to be more passive and accepting.

Shea believes that not just Wilson but society as a whole has made male behavior the normal or standard human behavior. "Women who want to get ahead 'act more male' whereas a guy who adopts traditional female characteristics is considered somehow a failure," he says. Wilson is no exception to this culture. In his time at Wilson, Shea has seen all of the traditionally "girl" classes get cut, with cooking and typing being some of the first to go in the late '90s and sewing one of the last just three years ago. Meanwhile, many of the traditionally "boy" classes have remained staples to our education system.



46.9% of boys + 18.6% of girls think feminism has a negative connotation

THE BEACON SURVEYED 150 HEALTH STUDENTS ON THEIR PERCEPTIONS OF GENDER EQUALITY

63% OF GIRLS IDENTIFY AS FEMINISTS

28% OF BOYS IDENTIFY AS FEMINISTS

My experience with being a transgendered male has been a more peaceful and (thankfully) pleasant transition than most. My new name is Dannie (or Danny, for a few other people). I knew I was trans after my 5th grade year when I began feeling very uncomfortable with the way my body was forming. It was a very difficult time for me. I had no clue what to do or who to go to about something like this; but as time progressed and I gained more friends I realized that there was absolutely nothing wrong with me or the way I am.

I came out recently on Facebook (although I blocked a few people from seeing the status), and honestly it was the most terrifying thing ever. But I got much support from a few close friends who knew before the post that I was trans, and they told me that they will continue to support me no matter the outcome, and that was all I really needed.

When the post went up, I got a flood of love and support. And I was pretty relieved! So, I started to get more comfortable with who I was and started coming out to teachers. I've gotten the same support that my friends and other Wilson students have given me, and they've all started to refer to me as the pronoun I feel most comfortable with (He/His/Himself).

The transition is still very difficult, and I suffer a lot of depression because of the body I was given, but I am still hopeful that I'll be happy soon with who I am. I've had a few run-ins with people who do not accept or support my choices, I've even been threatened once, but I do not let that affect the choices I have or will make. I just really hope that soon everyone will be accepting of me, and the rest of the LGBTQIA+ community.

DANNIE AGUILAR



# THE F-WORD: STUDENTS TALK FEMINISM

**Claire Parker**  
Co-Editor-in-Chief

Wilson students' ideas about what feminism is are as diverse as its student body: "A fight for social, economic, and political equality for the sexes." "Anti-male." "Promoting equal rights for women." "Female domination." "The advocacy of equality for all men and women." "I don't know. I've only heard about it once, in 'The Big Bang Theory'."

Students are divided even over the basic question of whether there is a feminist presence at Wilson. Senior Skyler Mackey says that not many people at Wilson are feminists: "It's not our generation. In D.C., we're not really exposed to feminism as much as they are in the Southern states," because sexism isn't as much of an issue here.

Senior Emma Keyes disagrees. "[Feminism is] not necessarily a coherent presence, but I definitely think there are a lot of voices on different issues. It can be partly shown by the whole dress code debacle last year, and everyone speaking out against that. That was feminism. So I think it is very largely present, whether or not people are actively identifying themselves [as feminists]."

According to senior Graciela Barada, the feminist presence varies with race, grade, and social groups. In her experience, Wilson's outspoken feminists are mostly white. "I've noticed that in Wilson's black community, especially on social media, people don't want to identify as feminists," she says. This observation seems to reflect the nationwide trend that accompanied Second Wave feminism,

the movement in the 1960s to 1980s often criticized for its white, middle-class leaders' exclusion of minorities. Feminism has since experienced a revival nationwide as Third Wave feminism, sometimes referred to as post-feminist feminism, that took root in the 1990s.

I interviewed a diverse group of students to get a sense of what forms the movement takes at Wilson.

"I identify myself as a feminist," says senior Angel Cox. "I would say women's rights are very important. Women are never really taken seriously -- they're always stereotyped like 'she should stay in the kitchen, she should clean,' but women are way more important than that."

"I believe that women should have equal say in politics, social situations, and in general," says senior Suzy Carnevali-Doan on why she is a feminist.

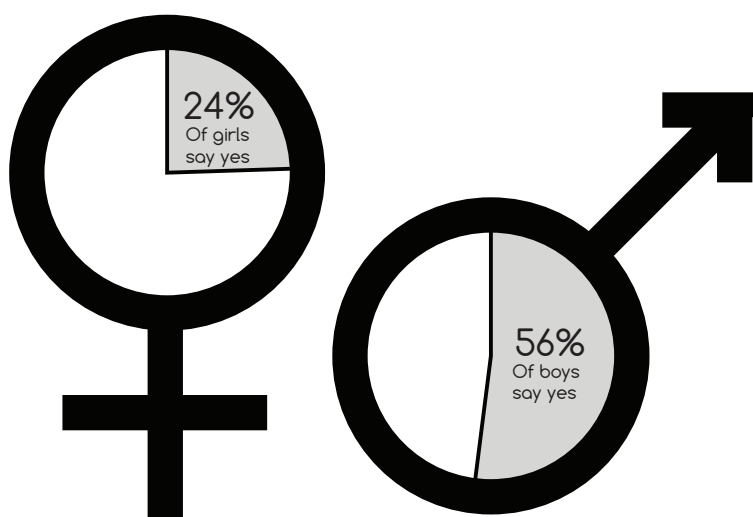
Keyes takes it a step further: "Everyone always says it's about equality between the genders, which is true, but that's the end goal, not the approach. [The question is] who do you want to be equal to?" Keyes says. "You don't want everyone to be equal to the straight, white man -- what you need to do is dismantle the system that puts them in a place of privilege in the first place. So in a way it's all about liberation first to achieve equality."

The word 'feminism' often stirs controversy, confusion, and debate. Its connotations are complex, derived from centuries of activism, movements that sometimes reached extremes, struggles to break free of gender roles, and a barrage of societal

**CONT. ON PG 10**

FOR A VIDEO OF THE GENDER INEQUALITY ISSUES DISCUSSION HOSTED BY THE BEACON AND OUDC, SEE [THEWILSONBEACON.COM](http://THEWILSONBEACON.COM).

## Do Both Genders Have Equal Opportunities?



Graphics by Jarrah May, Mason Strazzella, Sarah Torresen

# GENDER EQUALITY ISSUES AFFECT STUDENTS

## MUSIC



Throughout interviews with Wilson students and a discussion on gender issues that The Beacon helped host, misogyny and the sexualization of women in music was a recurring theme. In senior Angel Cox's experience, most people "support rappers who disgrace women and put them down, so they don't really care about women's rights."

"Most rap songs are not the most respectful towards women," says senior Katie Kearns. Senior Lillie Bufkin agrees, saying, "We get so used to hearing the derogatory terms thrown all over the place."

Although rap is often highlighted in mainstream criticism of sexism in music, the reality is that women are sexualized in almost every music genre, from Robin Thicke's rape-culture-promoting hit "Blurred Lines" to country singer Tyler Farr's "Redneck Crazy," which boasts the line "you know you broke the wrong heart, baby" and is sung from the point of view of a man threatening violence because his girlfriend has broken up with him.

Kearns thinks that negative portrayals of women in music and pop culture are so ingrained in society that they can't be changed. "It's how our generation was raised," she says. "I don't think anyone's gonna try to change that."

## SPORTS

Inequality in sports has been a persistent issue at Wilson and throughout DCPS. The National Women's Law Center brought this issue to attention in 2013 when they filed a lawsuit against DCPS for failing to comply with Title IX, the law that mandates equal opportunities for girls.

Senior Madison Summers says disparities are still visible at Wilson. "The football players and basketball players...have more privileges and they get off with stuff easier, because they're special to the administration," she said. "A girl wouldn't get that treatment. Not only is it sexist, it's also just kind of not fair."

## SLUT-SHAME



"Slut-shaming is the thing I have to see on a day-to-day basis," says Senior Graciela Barada. According to the New York Times, slut-shaming is the widespread cultural phenomenon of "stigmatizing female promiscuity." Barada says that it is prevalent at Wilson, where she often hears students calling girls "slut," "whore," and "hoe." This name-calling is one of her biggest pet peeves, and she thinks it is reflective of a

societal obsession over girls' sexual choices.

High school is ground zero for slut-shaming. Senior Tristan Huber says that when two heterosexual students decide to have sex, the boy is often congratulated, while the girl is judged. Both males and females are perpetrators of this slut-shaming. "I feel like a lot of girls are mean to other girls, which is not good," said Suzy Carnevali-Doan, who attributes her choice to become a feminist largely to slut shaming. "As a girl, you need to be especially ready to defend another girl," says Barada.

## DRESS CODE



Policy-wise, students cited several persistent disparities at Wilson that create gender inequality. The dress code was the most obvious. "Dress code is one major, major thing, because it especially targets young girls," says Barada, explaining that since girls are at a vulnerable age, when society is telling them that what they look like is integral to their identity.

Senior Madison Summers says the dress code seemed to blame girls unfairly for 'distracting' boys. "Nobody told a boy to look at your arms and your back," says Summers.

While the administration relaxed the dress code considerably this year, Carnevali-Doan is still sometimes criticized by administrators for what she wears. "I've been stopped for what I wear, but I just don't think it should be an issue," she says.

Compiled by Claire Parker

CHECK OUT A MALE TAKE ON FEMINISM ON PAGE 5

# Neighborhood Spotlight: Cleveland Park



Photo by Joey Keegan

**UPTOWN GIRL-** *Nora Canellakis is proud to be a native of Cleveland Park. Her neighborhood is home to the historic Uptown Theater.*

**Nora Canellakis**  
Contributor

If you're ever looking to explore a new part of D.C., look no further than Cleveland Park. Its heart is located at the intersection of Connecticut Ave NW and Porter Street. Conveniently centered around Cleveland Park Metro Station, the neighborhood has a wide variety of interesting stores including Firehook Bakery & Coffee House, Spices Asian Restaurant and Sushi Bar, and Yes! Organic Market. Cleve-

land Park also offers entertainment in the form of painting ceramics at All Fired Up, and seeing movies at the AMC Lowes Uptown Theater.

Cleveland Park's Walgreens was actually once a Chinese restaurant that served as a meeting place for American and Soviet negotiators looking to resolve the Cuban Missile Crisis. Right next to Walgreens is your local Washington D.C. Fire & EMS Station, a historical building, one of the oldest D.C. fire stations.

If you want to get in some extra studying, visit the Cleveland Park Branch Library, and stop for a break at the calming Transcendence-Perfection-Bliss of the Beyond, an gift shop featuring items inspired by spiritual leader, Sri Chinmoy. Proceeds from the store support this group's work.

Hungry? Grab a cup of frozen yogurt at Yogiberry, and a treat for your pet at PetCo. Cleveland Park also has a number of its own spas including Toe Tally Nails, Bubbles for hair, and

Cleveland Park Day Spa. If you're running low on gas stop right at the Exxon and fill up your tank. You can get your shoes repaired, clothes dry cleaned, and your dog groomed all within two blocks of Connecticut Avenue.

Cleveland Park is like its own city within D.C. that practically fits all needs. Cleveland Park has a strong sense of neighborhood community. Occupied by a large number of families and young people, it is host to social events including neighborhood block parties. Kids play

tag and ride bikes in and around back alleys. College students and young adults live in apartments and generally fill up the streets and restaurants in the early evenings. People walk dogs and take runs in the afternoons, while families can easily walk down to the National Zoo. Long lines usually stretch down Connecticut Avenue outside of the Uptown Theater, as fans wait to watch the next highly anticipated film. Come take the next bus down and check it out Cleveland Park for yourself.

## Wilson's Feminists Discuss Their Beliefs

FROM PG 9

backlash.

In a Wilson D.C. History class discussion hosted by The Beacon and Operation Understanding D.C., a non-profit organization focused on raising awareness about cross-cultural issues, and students participated in an activity in which they labeled posters with words they associated with a term. Scrawled on the 'feminism' poster were words like 'bitch,' 'gay,' and 'often ignored.'

In a Beacon survey of Wilson health classes, 54 percent of males and 19 percent of females said the word 'feminism' had a negative connotation. "The word 'feminism' is a controversy.... It's kind of embarrassing. It's seen as a bad thing," junior Gabriella Saccocio says.

"What I view feminists as is 'Yay, women!,' and anything degrading to women is wrong, even if it's unintentional," says Mackey.

Senior Charlie Feller says, "I've heard people call feminists 'annoying,' and I think that's

a somewhat common assumption." When asked who makes that assumption, he replied, "Mostly men."

When Barada tells people she's a feminist, the revelation is usually met with dismissive jokes. She says that her male friends don't really get what it means, and react defensively, as if they are under attack. Barada thinks this reaction stems from social conditioning that begins at a very young age. "A lot of people are just afraid of things they can't identify with," she says.

Twenty-eight percent of males The Beacon surveyed identified as feminists, as opposed to 63 percent of females. Males often feel a pressure not to identify as feminists, since the term is often associated with femininity and perceived as being anti-male.

The word's connotations have deterred senior Tristan Huber from ascribing to it. "I believe in equality, but I

wouldn't say I'm a feminist," he says. He says that if the name of the movement was changed to 'gender equality,' then he would support it.

"There probably are a lot of misconceptions....that only women can be feminists. I think guys can be feminists too," says

**"The idea that everyone who is feminist is anti-male is completely wrong," says Morin.**

Cox, who boasts with a smile that her dad is a feminist.

Junior Charlie Steinman is one of the few male students who identifies as a feminist. "People have this image of a feminist that is constructed by patriarchal norms as something you don't want to be," Steinman wrote in an email. "One of the interesting things about being a guy is trying to defend your masculinity at all costs. So being a feminist or associating your-

self with feminism... makes you some sort of wimp."

Wilson's girls are quick to debunk the misconceptions surrounding the term. "The idea that everyone who is feminist is anti-male is completely wrong," says Morin.

"I get really sad when I hear comments like 'I am not a feminist, I like men.'" wrote senior Alex Fognani in an email. "It is about equality for ALL people, so I don't understand why you wouldn't want to support something relevant to you, and your own rights. I think that if you believe in gender equality, you are a feminist."

Feminism is rapidly evolving, as issues like rape on college campuses make headlines, and celebrities publicly identify as feminists and call attention to the movement. Most recently, U.N. Women's Goodwill Ambassador and world-renowned actress Emma Watson spoke about why she is a feminist and

issued a call to arms for all men and women to join a new U.N. campaign, HeForShe, to fight for gender equality.

Going forward, as feminism changes "there has to be a focus on intersectionality," says Keyes. "Feminism can't be led by straight, white, middle-class or upper middle-class women. It has to include discussion about the intersection of different privileges, not just male-female gender inequality -- you have to talk about race, and sexuality, and gender identity, and all this stuff, because they all intersect. Ignoring one doesn't give you the whole picture."

Barada believes that teaching children from an early age about gender equality and doing away with institutionalized sexism are the keys to progress. Bringing awareness to feminism and talking about gender inequality issues are also important. Says Carnevali-Doan, "I think people should be aware of what's going on, and they should talk about things that make them uncomfortable, because you have to talk about it."



**Helen Malhotra**  
**Ellie Melick**

Web News Editor, Style Editor

This year's season of Baewatch, Wilson's #1 recommended dating service, kicked off with a September 11 date between junior Bela Ortiz and sophomore Brian Keyes. Each potential love bird, completely unaware of who they were paired with, entered The Beacon's Love Cafe with an open and excited mind. Then they saw their date.

If you aren't familiar with

the beef between Brian and Bela, don't worry; it isn't super interesting. But the basic gist of it, or at least how it was before their date, is that the two weren't fond of each other. The mutual beefing was a result of vague subtweets and passive-aggressive favoriting on Twitter, meaning the two had never really talked in person before.

The goal of Baewatch is usually to bring two people from completely different corners of Wilson together, so that they can spark up a passionate, loving

relationship with someone they wouldn't have met otherwise. But for this issue, friends of both Brian and Bela recognized that a date between the two could do them good. And considering both had signed up for Baewatch, it just made sense that these two be put together.

The outcome of the date was what we had hoped: both Brian and Bela realized how lame their fight was and that they have more in common than they had originally thought. During the date, the pair talked about music, classes, and Bela's little

brother, who is close friends with Brian.

Neither Brian nor Bela felt the date was life-changing, but both considered it an overall success. Brian "enjoyed it for the most part," and Bela thought it "was pretty nice." Both rated the experience a seven out of 10, which means that it wasn't awful, but the chances of their relationship becoming romantic is very, very low. According to The Beacon's definitive date ranking scale, a seven means "Maybe we'll say hi to each other in the halls?"

But despite the overall friendliness of the interaction, there was some tension in the room. Brian addressed this in his post-date interview, asking the interviewer, "Why did you do this to me?" the second Bela was out of the room. During her interview, Bela expressed pleasant surprise over how Brian seemed to her, saying "he wasn't, like, you know, like, he's not like Twitter."

Bela put her feelings on the outcome of the date nicely when she mentioned how the two "never would have talked if it wasn't for this, so it was a good experience." The aim of this Baewatch was to clear the air between Brian and Bela, and because of the nice comments and ratings from the two participants, we consider this mission accomplished. Baewatchers signing out.

## THE DEFINITIVE DATE-RANKING SCALE

- 10-"We got married while you guys weren't looking!"
- 9-"I think I've finally found The One!"
- 8-"It was super fun and I think it will go somewhere!"
- 7-"Maybe we'll say hi to each other in the halls?"
- 6-"It wasn't the worst but they smelled kind of funny."
- 5-"We sat in silence and stared at our hands."
- 4-"We got in a heated debate over whether or not the Redskins name is racist, so now things are kind of awkward."
- 3-"I threw up a little in my mouth when I first saw them."
- 2-"Did you seriously try to set me up with a serial killer? Again?"
- 1-"They started crying halfway through about their dead hamster."
- 0-"I got stood up."

DATE RANK  
7

# Timing is Everything: How Cahall Got Famous

**Annie Rosenthal**  
Co-Editor-in-Chief

It's been almost four months since Principal Pete Cahall came out to the student body at Wilson's LGBTQ+ Pride Day, and he still gets emails from fans every day. President Barack Obama acknowledged him in a speech. He was personally invited to meet the POTUS and First Lady, and the three of them took a picture together that hangs on the door of his office. DailyMail UK published a story about him. The Ellen DeGeneres Show profiled Cahall on their website, and told him to expect a call about appearing on the show. He's been invited to speak at an educators' convention in Bosnia later this year. People recognize him on the street.

"I'll be walking in an airport and folks will say, 'Aren't you the principal that's gay?' I'll say, 'That's me.' What else am I gonna say?" Cahall tells me, shrugging. And that's happened more than once, he says, albeit humbly: "Just a couple of times, in different places."

Local news coverage of his June 4 announcement was to be expected, but the celebrity hullabaloo that ensued surprised everyone, Cahall included. Between patting him on the back in the hall and tweeting #Love-MyPrincipal, many people in the Wilson community wondered

why his coming out got the international reaction it did.

Part of the reason for the initial press seems to be good timing: Pride Day and a mayoral press conference had brought local reporters to Wilson that day, so when Cahall finished speaking, representatives of several major publications were already feverishly scrambling to get in line for interviews.

"If Mr. Cahall had made a quiet announcement at school without the mayor and the local media present, the story may have gone unnoticed," says Brett Zongker, who covered the event for the Associated Press (AP). Video coverage of the announcement also allowed anyone who hadn't been in the atrium that day to be a part of the emotional moment and share it with friends, he says.

Sally Buzbee, the Washington Bureau Chief of the AP, thinks the approaching Westboro Baptist Church protest also generated interest in the story: "The fact that there was something interesting that happened, it got a lot of attention, and then a few days later there was another linked event...just meant that news organizations stayed with the story longer. And that created a second wave of interest."

Even outside the Wilson community, the timing of Cahall's announcement could not have been better. The Supreme

Court is expected to take on the national issue of gay marriage legislation in the next few years. Public support for and interest in gay rights are higher than they've ever been. Over the past year, athletes like Jason Collins and Michael Sam have opened conversation about sexuality in sports. And although educators have

come out to their school communities before, no past announcement has been so public or received such a positive response: Just last year school administrators in Oregon and Washington were fired when their homosexuality became public knowledge. In contrast, Cahall says that positive feedback he's received has entirely dwarfed any negative reactions: He found one small book about the dangers of homosexuality in his mailbox, and he has a binder that holds his favorite few hundred of the several thousand kind emails he's received.

"After many decades when LGBT teachers and principals

felt they couldn't reveal this part of who they are to their students, here was a principal who came out very publicly in front of his students and the mayor to talk about this. So we found it newsworthy," says Zongker.

Ellen McCarthy, the Washington Post reporter who wrote an in-depth profile of Cahall, agrees: "[The positive reaction] is telling

about what sexuality is gonna be for your generation--which is, a non-issue," she says.

But Cahall's story didn't just get attention because it was relevant, Buzbee says. People paid attention because his story was personal.

"The video of Principal Cahall making his announcement was pretty compelling--the emotion, the fact that he was shaking so much. It just captured the emotional intensity around this issue in a very real and human way, regardless of what side of the issue a person is on," she writes in an email.

The personal nature of the narrative was appealing to

reporters, McCarthy says: "This was an opportunity to do an intimate story about a guy's life and what he was living with. As a reporter, when you get a chance to do a story like that, you jump at it."

And, perhaps most importantly, Cahall's story was inspiring. "He said that he got courage to come out because he was trying to live up to the courage of his students...There's something hopeful and uplifting about students who care and principals who care and teachers who care, and when you have some type of interaction between a principal and students like this, that's just a story people like to read," Buzbee writes.

It wasn't just journalists who were inspired. The vast majority of emails Cahall receives are thank you notes: people who tell him he's made them feel less alone; mothers who say his announcement brought them to tears, that they wish their gay sons had had a mentor like him. In a time when much of the news is about deadly epidemics and political gridlock and terrorist threats, a story about an educator emboldened by his students was exactly what many people needed.

Says McCarthy, "Gene Weingarten [humor columnist for The Washington Post Magazine] says every story should be a story about the meaning of life. And this one definitely was."

"The video of Principal Cahall making his announcement was pretty compelling...It just captured the emotional intensity around the issue in a very real and human way."

# Girls Soccer Faces Tough Competitors

**Danielle Breslow**  
Contributor

Varsity girls soccer kicked off the 2014 season with a tough 5-0 loss to St. John's College High School. The team was looking for a game to bounce back after the loss, but their next opponent would prove difficult as well. The team suffered a second defeat against Maret, losing 4-0.

"Our first two games were hard losses, but we've moved on and are now focused on what's ahead," freshman Lucy Kellogg said. "We plan to compete with the best schools in the city, private and public, so as a team we've committed to raising the intensity level and pushing ourselves to be the best."

Most recently this season, the Varsity girls played Episcopal High School on Tuesday, September 16, for the team's first home game of the season. The girls played a well-fought game and came out on top with a 1-0 win. On Saturday, September 20, the girls played the National Cathedral School for NCS's homecoming. The girls played tough but lost 4-0.

The JV girls soccer team has three new coaches this year: Daniella Neves, Michael Gallamo and Freddy Bonilla. So far they have led the team to a steady start with a 2-2 tie against Potomac, as well as a 3-3 draw against St. John's. The team also came up even against Bullis, tying 1-1.



Photo by Carolina Bayon

**KICKIN' IT - The Wilson girls soccer team looks to turn it around after a rocky start to the season. Their next game is 9/29 vs. Cardozo in the Tiger Den, so come and support!**

Finally, the JV girls pulled out a 3-0 win against Washington International School. "It's funny how a lot of us just met a

couple of weeks ago," sophomore Nicole Distinto said, "but are already comfortable with each other and play great together."

Both the varsity and junior varsity teams' seasons runs through November and are sure to have more wins to come.

# Fantasy Football: the Insider Breakdown

**Sam Masling**  
**Sam Radack**  
Contributors

It's that time of year when Sunday means spending your entire day eating chicken wings from a bar, loafing on your couch, or occupying any sitting location where you can watch a screen for 6 hours straight. Yeah, that's right, we're talking about fantasy football season.

For those of you who don't know what we're talking about, fantasy football is a national pandemic that sweeps across the United States every fall. From the start of football season to the end, you can't focus on anything else; whether it is the constant status and injury updates, those incredibly annoying failed drug-test suspensions, or dropping your number one draft pick who only got you one point last week.

The most important part of any fantasy football team is coming up with a clever name. Whether it's an inside joke with the rest of your league, or a pun with your star player's name, a funny name is essential to your fantasy football team's success. If your team name is "(insert your name here)'s team" you might as well quit now because you've failed at fantasy football.

As head coach of your own

team, your job is much more important than any "NFL" head coach. Being an NFL head coach is just a fancy title for someone who is too afraid to play the real game and make a fantasy team. Every week you have to decide who to put on your team's bench and who to start.

In every league you have your stereotypical team managers. You always have "Big Ben," that one guy who thinks he's amazing but in reality sucks every single year. Big Ben goes around bragging about his team 24/7, always claiming this is his year to finally be recognized as that cool kid who won the league.

Next, you have "Aladdin," the guy who takes everything way too seriously. Aladdin spends more time preparing for fantasy than he does sleeping. He gets his phone confiscated at least once a day because he is checking the waiver wire during his classes. His bathroom-reading list consists of over 20 different types of fantasy football magazines.

There is also the Trade Abuser-- we will call him "Avi." Avi is the type of guy that will try trading his bench-warming center for your star quarterback. Another stereotype is Mr. Excuses. He will be heard on multiple occasions saying, "Just because your team beat mine doesn't

mean they're better." No matter how badly he gets stomped on, he obviously just got unlucky that week.

In most leagues there is one girl, and she absolutely dominates everyone else. We'll call her "Queen B." She always has an inherent sense of how to screw over everyone else by drafting the best player in each round and eventually coming out on top of the league. This increasingly frustrates our "Aladdin," eventually turning him into the Rage Monster. (See below.)

Finally, essential to every league, is the Rage Monster. This guy is likely to go off the deep end at any moment. When his kicker scores less than 10 he's probably going to break a chair. Worst of all, it's probably going to be your chair. The Rage Monster is likely to go through 10-16 laptops over the course of a fantasy season.

While winning is obviously the main objective, what you really want to do is avoid losing. Whoever finishes in last place MUST undergo a series of humiliating punishments to make them regret sucking. These punishments range from wearing a tank top and booty shorts to school, to shaving your head straight down the middle. If you take anything from this expert article, take away this: Don't Lose.

# Boys Varsity Soccer Takes Down S.W.W.

**Val Pehrson**  
Staff Writer

On September 17, the Wilson boys varsity soccer team took on School Without Walls at Alice Deal Middle School. Walls won the coin toss, and elected to kick off in the first half. It was a seemingly rocky start for the Tigers, with Walls making two deep runs at the goal early on in the game. Wilson would quickly recover, however. The Tigers responded with several aggressive runs into Walls' territory, led by (senior) Paul Rock and (sophomore) Mati Cano. By and large, the first half was a clean, well officiated half. The only major incident came when (senior) right-back RJ White was given a yellow card for committing an alleged foul against a Walls midfielder. Neither team was able to find the back of the net, but Wilson looked strong nonetheless. Co-captain (senior) Alex Montalbano, Matthew Smeed, RJ White and Theo Biddle put on a strong defensive effort to limit the Penguins' time of possession. When Walls did breach the defense, goalkeeper (senior) Henry Shuldiner was alert, recording three saves in the first half. Offensively, the Tigers did not get many shots on goal, but they did appear not only more aggressive, but more confident. Seniors Merf Finney, Paul Rock, and co-captain Liam Walsh continually pressured the defense for the full forty-five minutes.

The second half began, and Wilson picked up right where they left off, testing the Walls defense and keeping the Penguins away from their goal. After fifteen minutes of play in the second half, Wilson drew first blood. Walsh scored on a well placed shot from just inside of the penalty area, putting the Tigers up 1-0. After Walsh's goal, the Tigers never looked back. Ten minutes later RJ White scored on a penalty kick, increasing Wilson's lead to two goals. The game remained heavily in Wilson's favor for the next ten minutes, and despite a lack of scoring, Wilson was as poised offensively as when the game first began. In the 75th minute, Senior Miles Getler ripped a shot from right outside of the penalty box that was just saved by the crossbar. Had Getler put just a little less power behind his shot, the Tigers would have taken an insurmountable lead of three goals. In the 80th minute of the game, Wilson's defense finally cracked and Walls found the back of the net despite a heroic effort from goalkeeper Shuldiner. However, the Wilson defense was able to hold on for the final ten minutes, increasing the Tigers' record to 4-1, and placing them atop the DCIAA standings. Overall, Wilson looked sharp versus Walls. If the Tigers are able to continue this level of play for the rest of the season, they should have no trouble winning the DCIAA Championship for a third straight year.



Check out the Tiger Sports Network for sports updates and videos.  
Twitter: @watchtsn Youtube: tigersportsnet

ATHLETE  
PROFILE:

## ABIGAIL BIBB



Photo by Lauren ReVeal

Senior volleyball player Abigail Bibb has been named as this edition's Athlete of the Month. Just last year, Abigail moved to D.C. from New Mexico, made the varsity team, and was named MVP at one of her tournaments. This year after showing great team leadership her coaches named her co-captain. With Bibb at the helm, Wilson's volleyball team has a chance to win a seventh straight DCIAA championship this year!

How did you get interested in volleyball?

I started playing volleyball in third grade and ended up getting really into it with my sister.

What position do you play?

Originally I was an outside hitter but then when I came to Wilson, the coaches moved me to setter (the player who lofts the ball near the net for a teammate to spike.)

Do you see yourself playing volleyball in the future?

Maybe not on a college team, but I would like to play on some kind of recreational team for fun.

What is one of the most important things your coaches have taught you at Wilson?

Even though they can be tough, they are really good at pushing us and showing us that we can push ourselves further than we think. It's a mind over matter thing. They see the potential in us.

By Isaac Furmkin

## STYLE

Corcoran Begins  
Bittersweet  
New Chapter

Garima Tandon  
Staff Writer

Focused on the power of creativity, The Corcoran College of Art and Design, founded in 1890, is the only college of art located in Washington, DC. The Corcoran's active community offers a range of degrees and various opportunities, including culturally diverse study-abroad programs. But unfortunately, for a long time coming, the college has been dealing with major financial trouble. Because of the struggles Washington's oldest art institution has faced for a number of years, it did not come as a major surprise when, after a seven-day hearing, D.C. Superior Court Judge Robert Okun adopted the proposal that the National Gallery of Art inherit much of the Corcoran's collection, and George Washington University take over the school.

Many tried providing support to keep the Corcoran independent, but in the end, the Corcoran's leaders decided that the Corcoran's legacy could be

best maintained by well-funded partners rather than the institution itself. Though many are saddened to see the independent era of the Corcoran end, many agree that its unity with GWU will be beneficial to the institution's community and students. Though the Corcoran will be losing a very important aspect of its original mission, which was to interact freely and locally with young artists and, it is the hope of many that George Washington University and the National Gallery of Art will see that its purpose is upheld. "I think this place is going to jump in a way that we haven't had the money for... [in] over a decade," said Peggy Loar, the president of the Corcoran. The organizers have stressed that the majority of the art will remain in Washington, and that the galleries will be free and none of the art will be on sale. So though the Corcoran has hit a rocky patch, organizers are making sure that they keep the lively, endearing and educational impact of one of DC's most influential art institutions alive.

"Strange  
Desires"  
Captures  
the Teen  
Experience

Brian Keyes  
Staff Writer

Everyone has bad days. Everyone has terrible days. "Strange Desires" is an album for one of those terrible days. This debut album from the band Bleachers captures the existential dread that comes with being a teenager.

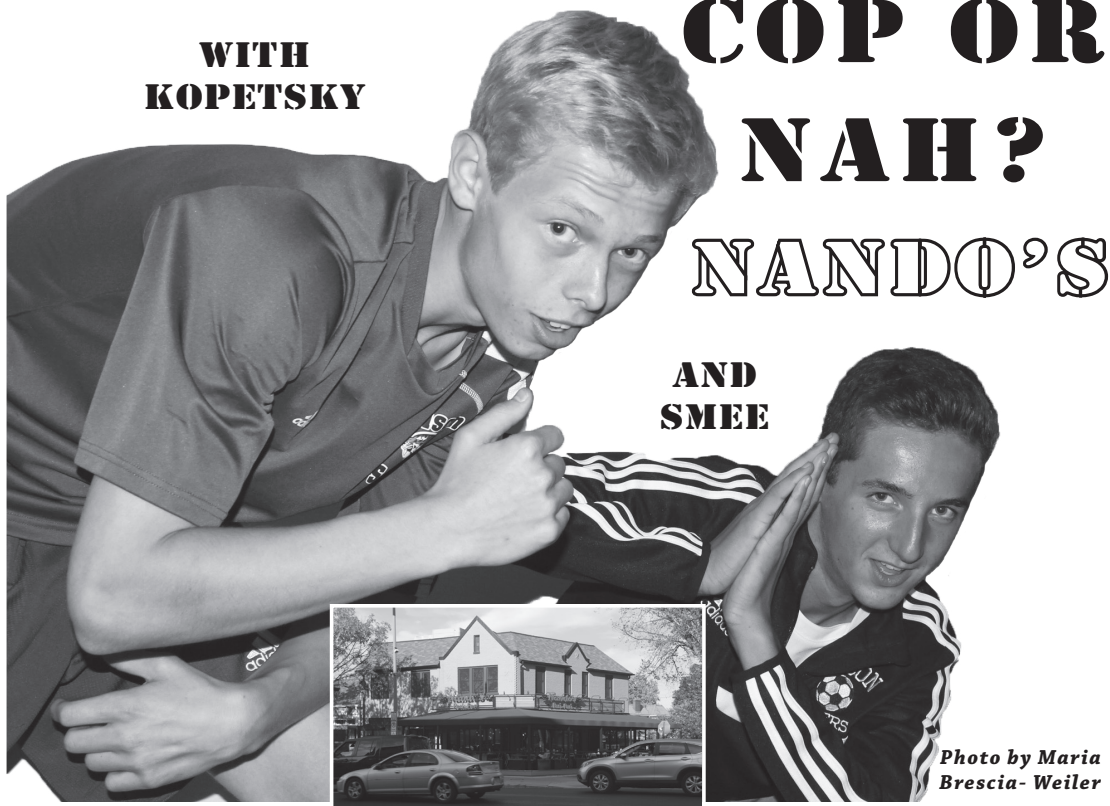
The album is a follow-up to the band's popular single "I Wanna Get Better", which was released back in February. Jack Antonoff, the band's lead singer and lead guitarist of the band "Fun," reflects on his experience struggling with his sister's death when he was only 13, and lines like "everything must die for anyone to matter" from the song "Wild Heart" make it clear this album's purpose is not to be just another mindless pop piece. The



album seems to be stuck in the 1980's, in the best way possible. The entire album could easily just be a secret soundtrack to a never-before-seen John Hughes movie. Antonoff even admitted in an interview that when he wrote the more upbeat rock song "Rollercoaster", he took cues from the Bruce Springsteen song "Dancing In The Dark."

Most of the album harkens back to the calmer side of synthpop with glo-fi elements, creating a very chill atmosphere. With electronically modified vocals and tracks that almost seem as if they are looped, it is very easy to fall asleep to this album-

-especially with Antonoff's soft, calming voice. Their mega-hit "I Wanna Get Better" is also on the album and is easily one of the best tracks. With lines like "I didn't know I was broken until I wanted to change," the song acts as a break in the melancholy overtone to deliver one amazing dance-pop song. Special tracks to look out for besides "Better" are "Wild Heart", "Roller Coaster", "Wake Me", and "You're Still A Mystery". This album could definitely be the background for a 80's teen movie marathon, or the basis of any playlist labeled "sadboys."



WITH  
KOPETSKY

# COP OR NAH? NANDO'S

AND  
SMEE

Photo by Maria  
Brescia-Weiler

The newest addition to Tenleytown's set of fine eateries is Nando's Peri Peri. Joining the ranks of 7-11, McDonald's, and Popeye's, Nando's is beginning to make a name for itself among the Tenleytown greats, hoping to one day achieve Guapo's status.

Just five minutes from Wilson, Nando's is a viable alternative crush option to the boring after-school Panera or Whole Foods run. And when we say crush, we mean it. Practically everything on the menu is a steal and they never skimp with their portions.

With chicken rivaling that of Crisp and Juicy, Nando's success comes as no surprise. The quarter chicken platter, unlike the fixed flavor option at Crisp and Juicy, is available in different varieties, such as "Mango & Lime" & "Lemon & Herb." For just \$7.45 this unique chicken dish will give you a West African tang you're guaranteed to have never tried before. That being said, multiple anonymous reports (for their own safety, their names have been withheld) claim this dish is a bit dry. If you're looking for something juicier, another great choice is the Chicken Breast Sandwich, which is a bit more tender and comes with special Nando's Peri Peri sauce.

A main focus of this restaurant is variety. Not only do they have one of those awesome touch-screen Coke machines, but they also have many different sauces you can toss on your chicken.

Another huge plus to this establishment is its bottomless frozen yogurt. With flavors changing daily, and a good price at just \$3.25, Nando's gives Bloo Moo a run for its money. But be careful, one bowl quickly turns to twenty when the bowl has no bottom.

We're glad the delicious flavors of Nando's Peri Peri have made their way to the swamp for all Tenleytownians to enjoy.

## FINAL VERDICT: COP

# Ed Sheeran Connects With Crowd at Merriweather Post

Clare Shaw  
Contributor

Despite a severe thunderstorm overhead, Ed Sheeran gave his fans an amazing show at Merriweather Post Pavilion Saturday, September 8th.

After the Brit-band opening act Rudimental rocked the stage, Ed Sheeran walked out to a huge, cheering crowd, and opened with "I'm a Mess," a track off his new album "X." At the beginning of the set, Sheeran said "It's my job to entertain you and it's your job to be entertained," a quip that fits with the laid-back attitude and style he is known for. He cracked small jokes between songs and asked if the crowd was having a good time--though the excited screams and applause made it obvious that everyone was.

For quieter songs such as "One," "Tenerife Sea", and "I See Fire", the audience could clearly be heard echoing Sheeran's vocals. On his hits, "Drunk," "Give Me Love" and "The A Team," he asked for participation and received a tidal wave of response.

But sometimes the crowd got carried away. Before singing his heartbreaking song "Afire Love," written about the death

of his grandfather, he asked the audience to be completely silent during the song. Every time someone yelled or sung along they were attacked with shhhh-hhhs from the crowd.

This is Sheeran's first U.S. tour. Equipped with only an acoustic guitar and a loop pedal, the British star played with vivacity and immense energy, layering harmony and rhythm, and slowly building up his vocals.

There were moments, however, when he overdid it. The song "You Need Me, I Don't Need You" had so much going on that the original song was lost under layers of sound. The show's silly visuals, spread out across nearly 10 screens behind him, were distracting from the simplicity of his songs.

Sheeran's ability to connect with his audience and please his fans is undeniable. "I want you to wake up tomorrow and still be singing," the 23-year-old Brit said as he skipped offstage after nearly two hours of performing. As the crowd made its way out of the venue, you could hear everyone humming along to his final song "Sing".

# FASHION IN THE HALLS

Compiled by Narmin Alimammadova

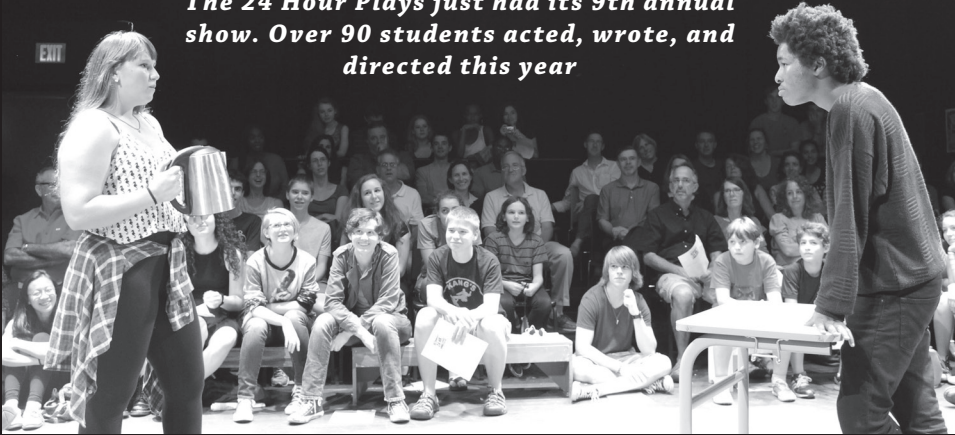


CHECK OUT THEWILSONBEACON.COM FOR MORE FIFTH PHOTOS



# 24 Hour Plays!

The 24 Hour Plays just had its 9th annual show. Over 90 students acted, wrote, and directed this year



► For more 24 Hour Play pictures, go to [thewilsonbeacon.com](http://thewilsonbeacon.com)

Photos by Elena Remez

**Meredith Ellison**  
Contributor

After school on Friday, September 19, the Black Box Theater was quickly filled with students eager to take part in the ninth annual 24 Hour Plays. One of Wilson's most popular theatrical events, the 24 Hour Plays are a performance of around a dozen short plays, written, directed, staged, and rehearsed all in 24 hours.

The craziness kicked off after school on Friday with workshops in playwriting, directing, and acting. Local professionals were brought in to work with the students in the area—acting, writing, or directing—that

they most wanted to work in. At the conclusion of the workshops, writers relocated to office spaces in Dupont Circle, a space generously offered to Wilson's 24 Hour playwrights for the past nine years. Students quickly got to work, and many were there until 1 a.m. The next morning (Saturday), play directors met at Starbucks at 7:00 a.m. to choose which plays they would direct. At 8:30, actors arrived at Wilson ready to begin rehearsing the plays in which they were cast.

Many of the directors and actors agree that one of the things that makes the plays so fun is that students produce everything. But having students in complete control of

the process can create problems, although often times the hastiness of the plays just make them funnier.

"The reason why 24 Hour Plays are so great is because nothing ever goes as planned," said senior Mariah Fraker, one of this year's directors, "so it sucks, and it's pretty much the funniest thing you've ever seen in your life."

But creating and performing plays in a 24-hour time period can be stressful, and the pressure to put together a hilarious play only adds to this stress. A common concern among writers especially is that the play they write is not going to be funny enough, and many actors worry about not getting

cast in a comedic role. Nevertheless, a lot of participants recommend that everyone get involved in the 24 Hour Plays at some point in their Wilson career.

Wilson's 24 Hour Plays first took place nine years ago, when there were only 28 participants. This year there were 96. MT Connolly, the former Wilson parent who brought the plays to Wilson, said doing the 24 Hour Plays is a very different experience from doing any other style of play, because of how much needs to be done in such a short amount of time.

Over the years, the 24 Hour Plays have grown so large that Wilson's Black Box theater, where the plays have

always been held, is getting to be too small. In previous years, the Black Box has had seating on three sides around the stage. This year, the plays were performed in the round, so there was seating on all four sides of the room, and still some people were turned away. All of the plays this year were original and entertaining, but what got the audience most excited was when junior Peter Maeder appeared on stage with a newly shaved head, for his role as Principal Cahall.

The 24 Hour Plays are a great way to get involved in Wilson theater. If you missed out this year, you'll have another chance next fall!

**By Emilia Mejersik**

Almost a year ago, senior Paris McMillan stood in front of thousands of mesmerized fans after her beautiful performance of the national anthem at a Wizards game. Many aspiring artists audition for the chance to sing at the Verizon Center, but Paris's manager was contacted and the center's staff offered her this amazing opportunity.

Her nerves were running high, but she did it. "As I sing every note I can feel the weight lifting off and it feels like flying," she says.

Paris had her unlikely start in Wilson's vocal program when her general music teacher overheard her singing and had her audition for vocal teacher Lori Williams. To Paris's surprise Williams placed her in Wilson's senior choir even though she had just begun her freshman year.

"My mom said I started singing when I was 10 months old. She would play music and

I would start humming along," she remembers. Her first professional singing experience was in a gospel choir. "I hated it so much, it made me not want to sing," she says.

Paris's passion for singing was reborn in Williams' vocal ensemble, and she refers to Williams as "her mom at school." The other students in choir have

always been supportive and encouraging of Paris. "We have grown into one big family," she says.

Alley Youth Orchestra.

Paris's talent is evident to anyone who has heard her sing.

With the help of her teachers and peers, Paris has fine tuned her singing over the last four years. She came in third place at the DC-Capital STARS competition her freshman year and recently was chosen as lead singer in the Blues

When asked to describe her style, she said "I love jazz, metal, opera, 80's synth pop, Top 40 and alternative, and I strive to master them as all artists should."

Despite the amazing places her singing has taken her during these last four years, she realizes that being a famous singer is most likely unrealistic. Still, she knows music will always be an important part of her life. She hopes to study psychology and work with patients suffering from mental illness. "Instead of using harmful drugs [to cure themselves] I want to help people in a fun, healthy way through music," she says.

Paris has plans for an upcoming EP that will incorporate blues and rock and give listeners a glimpse into some of the most emotional points of her life. Help support Paris this winter by listening or purchasing her EP!

Photo by Elena Remez



# KIDS IN THE HALL

September 26, 2014

Compiled by Anna Bucknum and Maya Edwards

## What is the worst advice you have ever received?



*"If you're being bullied, just bully them back"*  
**Destiny Wade 11,  
Yemanie Allen 11**



*"Follow the crowd"*  
**Lexi Hidalgo 10**



*"The security cameras at Wilson don't work"*

**Kestrel Carr 12,  
Amanda Pedrick 12**



*"Make the first move"*  
**Garima Tandon 10,  
Isabella Cruz 10**



*"Be more naïve"*  
**Sydney Johnston 11, Shakirah McDonald  
11, Jordan Wheeler 10**



*"Skate in the snow"*  
**Evan Pisani 12**



*"Go through the pool entrance"*  
**Javier Garay 12,  
Eric Amaya 12**



*"When in doubt, lie it out"*  
**Ehmahni Grant 9, Anna  
Conley 9, Indya Heyward 9**



*"Don't reach for the stars, they're too far away"*

**Paola Camba 10, Anabel Forte-  
Fast 10**



*"Just try, it's okay"*  
**Izzy Suarez 10,  
Rena Holzman 10**



*"Just steal it"*  
**Makail Johnson 11,  
Alexandra Radifera 10**



*"Use a set scarf instead of edge control"*  
**Avery Crocker 11,  
Destinie Scott 11**