



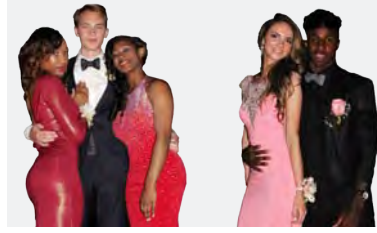
“I loved being at a school that embraces diversity.”

-Sissela Tucker on leaving Wilson P. 2



“The Tigers were not letting anything stop them this year.”

-Henry Shuldiner on Wilson baseball P. 9

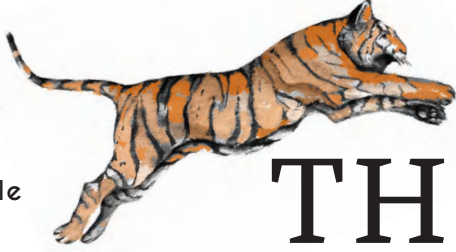


Check out our prom photos!

P. 13



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Woodrow Wilson High School

# THE BEACON

June 6, 2014

3950 Chesapeake St. NW Washington, D.C. 20016 | www.thewilsonbeacon.com

VOLUME 77 ISSUE 9

## Boundary Proposals Would Shake Up the School System

Emma Buzbee  
News Editor

D.C. officials released a revised proposal for elementary school boundaries as well as three proposals for changes to the current school feeder system for all schools on April 5, sparking waves of controversy throughout a city divided by its schools.

Problems have risen within DCPS due to an unequal distribution of students and academic performance. Wilson and Deal are both located in Ward 3 in Northwest and each boast high diversity and enrollment well over 1,000. By contrast, Anacostia High School, located across the city in Southeast, has 751 students and is 99 percent African American.

The current method for determining where DCPS students go to school is a neighborhood feeder system. Children go to the public school near where they live, or that their lower schools “feed into.” However, many out-of-boundary students are able to enter public schools outside their neighborhoods by lottery. Out-of-bounds Wilson sophomore Marquise Andrews said, “It was easy to get in [to Wilson]. I got into a feeder school, Hardy.”

Boundary lines for DCPS schools have not been updated since 1968. Wilson’s jurisdiction stretches all the way across Rock Creek Park, covering almost half the city, while the rest of DCPS high schools’ jurisdictions

CONT. ON P 3



Graphic by Mason Strazzella and Jarrah May

DCPS PLAYS WHEEL OF FORTUNE - Two out of three proposals call for a lottery system that could shuttle students far from home.

## Westboro Baptist Church to Target Wilson Pride Day

Sophie ReVeal  
Videographer

The Westboro Baptist Church plans to picket Wilson High School from 8:15 to 8:45 a.m. on June 9. The Westboro Baptist Church (WBC) is a Kansas-based church known for its radical religious beliefs, its extreme protests against gay marriage, and its pickets at funerals for soldiers.

There are 40 members of WBC, most of whom are relatives of Fred Phelps, who was the head of the church until his death in March. The church’s first service was held in 1955. Its anti-gay picketing started in 1991 in Kansas and then traveled around the country. WBC is generally considered a “hate group” and does not receive much outside support.

In 2009 WBC set out to picket Sidwell Friends School in D.C., and over 150 students met the protest with signs of their own. Some of the signs read, “There is that of God in Everyone” and “I Kissed a Girl and I Liked it.” WBC had previously referred to Malia and Sasha Obama as “satanic spawns” and, because of their attendance at



Photo by Joey Keegan

**TIGER PRIDE - Wilson students, led by Biology teacher Chris Obermeyer, gear up for Westboro Baptist Anti-Protest on June 9. One-thousand people plan on attending this much anticipated celebration of Wilson’s diversity.**

**Inset: WBC counter-protest in 2009**



Photo by Eliza Hamburger

Sidwell, chose to protest outside of their school. The same year, WBC picketed Wilson, and students reacted similarly to Sidwell’s students in 2009 with signs and a protest of their own.

Now, five years later, WBC is visiting Wilson again to protest

Wilson’s LGBTQ+ Pride Day. Immediately after WBC announced these plans, Wilson students Kellik Dawson and Brian Keyes took to Facebook and started planning a peaceful counter-protest. Hundreds of supporters, excited to stand up for their

beliefs, have already posted on the Facebook group, titled Westboro Meet and Greet. Students plan on creating posters, holding rainbow flags and standing together against the WBC.

Wilson students and outside supporters have come together in such a unified way that almost

1,000 plan on attending the WBC counter-protest in order to support LGBTQ+ Pride Day at Wilson. Principal Pete Cahall said in an email to one of the Facebook group founders, Brian Keyes, that although the school couldn’t officially endorse the protest, students would not face consequences for participating. Openly gay mayoral candidate David Catania asked D.C. residents to stand with Wilson “in support of tolerance and respect.”

Senior Josh Kennedy-Noce took to the Facebook group to share his own story growing up with two moms. “I’m super excited for this protest because I want to show these haters that family comes in so many shapes and sizes,” he wrote. This post received over 130 likes and the support of many people in the group.

“I get really passionate about stuff like this,” said Gus Marrkand, an openly gay Wilson freshman. “Who are they to tell me who I can love and who I can get married to.”

Marrkand has the support of his peers, Wilson’s principal Pete Cahall, and D.C. Council-member David Catania.

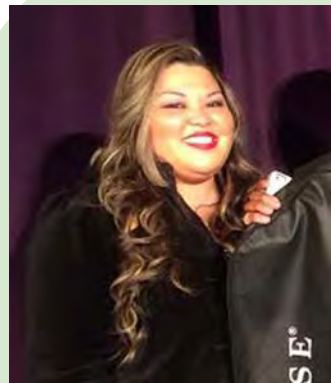
# TEACHERS HEAD OFF INTO THE WILD

by Megan Bell



## MS. KOWALEW

Kristin Kowalew, World History, AP Human Geography, and Sociology teacher, will be leaving after three years at Wilson. During her time here, Kowalew has been involved in multiple activities and clubs: WISP, the Wilson Players, Human Geography Quiz Bowl, as well as tutoring students in Russian after school. "I have particularly enjoyed working with students and staff during the Wilson Players fall and spring productions and the One Acts. There are some incredibly talented young people in our midst!" says Kowalew. While at Wilson, Kowalew has been able to develop and teach courses that have allowed her to cultivate her own vision and to "grow a lot personally and professionally." She says her favorite experience at Wilson has been, "watching students grow over the last three years, seeing them grasp the real-world meaning and identify what is most important to them from what they do and study, and witnessing their talent and creativity shine in and out of class." After Wilson, Kowalew hopes to remain active in education and community development.



## MS. HARA

After four years at Wilson, After-School Program Coordinator Sheila Hara is leaving. She oversaw various clubs, including the Hispanic Heritage Club, where she played an important role in the group's activities. Hara counts the first Hispanic Heritage assembly two years ago as one of her favorite moments at Wilson, when the group was able to embrace its culture and teach other students. "Working at Wilson has been an amazing experience. I'm going to miss so many students and our interactions, especially those students who entered at the same time who I've been able to see grow up." Hara has seen her role at Wilson extend and develop to much more than a coordinator -- she's become a mentor, a counselor, and a mother figure. Hara will continue to attend graduate school and is starting a job in the federal government shortly. "I'm going to miss Wilson dearly but I will still be part of the Wilson community."

## DR. WILDER

Dr. Anna Wilder, head of the science department and chemistry teacher, will be retiring this year. During her nine years here she's been through all the stages of Wilson: the old building, UDC, and the new building. "Over the course of nine years, there is a lot more -- and better -- science, and we've started to gain more recognition," she says. Wilder established the Honors and AP Chemistry programs and the new Oceanography class, which she credits to the fact that there has "always been a lot of science interest. We worked hard to meet the needs of all students." Her "awesome students" have been her favorite part of her time at Wilson and are what kept her going for nine years. After this year, Wilder is going back to her ten acres in New Mexico.



## MS. DEVINE

World History 1 and 2 teacher Aimee Devine has been at Wilson for four years, including one as a student teacher. For the past two years, Ms. Devine has coached the JV Volleyball team, and this year she became involved with the softball team, where she really enjoyed being surrounded by wonderful and fun ladies. As a new teacher, Ms. Devine had "nothing to compare Wilson to but has loved so many things and will cherish these experiences." During her time here, "I've grown as a person and will be forever changed by this experience," she says, and "I've really loved the one-on-one conversations that I get to have with the amazing youth of this generation." Ms. Devine will be moving to Salt Lake City and will be teaching a religious course based on ancient scripture. As a final message to Wilson students Ms. Devine says, "Be an active participant in your life!"

## MR. MERLOS

Assistant Principal Mr. Jaime Merlos is leaving Wilson after 14 years. During his time here, Mr. Merlos served as a School to Careers Facilitator, a guidance counselor, and eventually Assistant Principal, his position for the past six years. He was involved in running after school programs for Latinas, the Hispanic Heritage Assembly, the golf team, and the girl's soccer team, whose two city championships he considers to be among his favorite experiences at Wilson. "My 14 years here have been filled with diversity, vibrancy, energy and Wilson is a true reflection of D.C.," say Mr. Merlos, "I'm going to miss the energy of the kids, who keep me on my toes, and my colleagues who are my family." Mr. Merlos will be moving to Hardy, to experience working at a middle school.



## MS. TOCCO

HealthCorps coordinator and guru Micheline Tocco has been at Wilson for two years, where she has worked to make Wilson a healthier place. HealthCorps, which aims to empower students to lead healthy lives, has been active around Wilson implementing programs and sponsoring activities to promote improving health. Ms. Tocco teaches lessons on nutrition, fitness, and mental resilience, and runs various activities including the Dance Club, Healthy TiGIRLS, and Teen Battle Chef- whose first place in the regional cook-off she considers to be one of her favorite experiences. "The whole school community has been so welcoming and open to me and my programs, and we have such a diverse and amazing student body," Ms. Tocco says of her time at Wilson. Ms. Tocco is moving to Boston where she will continue to work in the health and wellness field.

## MS. BAER

After five years at Wilson filled with World History, U.S History, and student government, Susan Baer will not be returning this fall. "I love the diversity that Wilson provides and have been impressed by the talents and knowledge that this student body possesses," says Baer. While at Wilson, she said she has grown as an individual and as a teacher, and has been able to meet wonderful students and coworkers. "I have a lot of favorite experiences: utilizing the many historic sites in D.C. to teach and promote history with my students, working with student government, dance parties in the classroom, and seeing the progress and growth of my students throughout the years." Baer will be heading back West and attending graduate school.



## MS. TUCKER

Sissela Tucker is currently an Intro and AP Biology teacher, the girls JV soccer coach, Special Olympics Team coordinator, and testing committee member. She will be leaving after three years at Wilson and says, "I love the soccer girls and the Special Olympics were life-changing." While at Wilson, Tucker has most enjoyed meeting all sorts of different students and teachers. Academically, she says she has loved the labs and activities, as well as the cross-disciplinary aspects of her subject. "I loved being at a school that embraces diversity, and where the teachers are here for the benefit of students and work as a family to promote success," she says. Tucker will be moving to Rhode Island where her husband will pursue a program at Brown and where she will hopefully teach and continue to be a big fan of Wilson from afar.

## MS. MATSON

Ms. Jennifer Matson, English 9,10, and 11 teacher has been at Wilson for three years. She has been involved with curriculum writing, DC-CAS test prep, and has been an active part of helping make DCCAS run smoothly and be accessible to all students. Of her experience at Wilson, Ms. Matson says, "it's been really positive. I've never worked with smarter teachers and with so many resources- it's a cool place to work." While at Wilson, Ms. Matson has enjoyed amazing teachers who are role models here at Wilson- "there is a lot of excellence here," she says. Ms. Matson will continue to teach in Prince George's County.

# E-Cigarettes Impact on Health Remains a Mystery

**Sophie ReVeal**  
Junior Editor

Over 1.78 million middle and high school students used electronic cigarettes in 2012, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The percentage of high schoolers who tried them had nearly doubled from 2010 to the time the survey was taken.

In April, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) proposed banning the sale of electronic cigarettes, or “e-cigarettes,” along with other currently-unregulated tobacco products including cigars, pipe tobacco and hookahs, to minors (under age 18). The proposal also includes evaluating e-cigarette ingredients and labeling intended use.

Major U.S. medical associations including the American Heart Association have supported the FDA’s proposed ban, pointing out the absence of proof that e-cigarettes do not cause long-term harm, as well as the suggestion that they may worsen nicotine habits and make it easier for younger kids to use this product and get hooked.

E-cigarettes are battery-powered devices that simulate smoking a real cigarette. They work by heating up and vaporizing chemicals that you inhale, including glycerin, propylene glycol, and, in most cases, nicotine, a highly addictive drug that acts in the brain and body. Real cigarettes are made up of tobacco leaves along with additives like nicotine. Smoking anything can be harmful to your lungs, and 80% of lung cancer cases are caused by smoking.

E-cigarettes were created to be a safe alternative to tobacco

cigarettes and a means of helping people get over cigarette addiction. They also allow people to smoke indoors, as they produce a byproduct of water vapor rather than smoke, another reason they have become popular.

Very soon after e-cigarettes became popular, researchers and scientists started to question if they were really safe. Mostly there was speculation around the fact that clinical reports do not have to be submitted to the FDA because the e-cigarettes do not contain tobacco. Without FDA approval it is very hard to know anything about e-cigarettes, like what chemicals they contain and how much nicotine is really inhaled. This also means there are no regulations on the e-cigarettes, which puts users at a higher risk of danger.

The University of California at San Francisco conducted a large scientific review of e-cigarettes, their advertising, and how they really affect users and those around them. In this review, published in May 2014 in American Heart Association’s journal *Circulation*, the UCSF scientists explained that the “harmless water vapor” from e-cigarettes actually contributed to indoor air pollution.

Although e-cigarettes are often advertised as a product that will help people get over addictions, the UCSF researchers also learned “e-cigarette use is associated with significantly lower odds of quitting cigarettes.” Advertising leads people to believe e-cigarettes are a safe alternative to real cigarettes, but there is still not enough data to prove this.

## E-CIG USER FINDS HABIT TOUGH TO CONQUER

*The E-Cig, which started as an idea in the 1960s, is now used nationwide. Composed of a battery, vaporizer, and e-liquid, the e-cig is meant to be used as an alternative, a vaporized solution. Since I have never smoked a cigarette (or an e-cig, for that matter) I coerced a friend of mine into sharing his personal opinion on the e-cig. My interviewee has asked to remain anonymous.*

by Michael Aniekwe

**Michael Aniekwe: How did you find out about the E-Cigarette?**

**Anonymous:** My girlfriend introduced the e-cig to me after I’ve been smoking cigarettes for some time. She was worried that I was smoking too many cigarettes.

**MA: Did you like it when you first tried it?**

**Anon:** Yeah, it was good. There were many flavors like Pina Colada.

**MA: What was your first flavor and was it your favorite?**

**Anon:** Mint, and yes.

**MA: Isn’t it different smoking an e-cig than a cigarette? If yes, how so?**

**Anon:** Yeah, it is. Well, it depends on what brand you buy? Many brands try to replicate that real cigarette feel.

**MA: Did you feel any different smoking an e-cig than a cigarette?**

**Anon:** No.

**MA: Do you still smoke cigarettes? Why or why not?**

**Anon:** Yes. People have problems, I have problems. I smoke cigarettes to chill out. I don’t like to talk about it. This is why cigarettes are bad, they work off of people’s problems. It becomes a bad habit because it comes with a positive and negative. It helps one cope with their problems but at the same time it destroys the body. It takes years for the chemicals in a cigarette to leave your body.

**MA: What can you say about e-cigarettes?**

**Anon:** E-cigarettes have different chemicals right? That are not FDA approved, you can research more about that to see if im correct. E-cigs do not have tar in them which destroys your lungs, an added bonus the cigarette provides. Also the e-cig is more portable. If you want to smoke a cigarette, you have to leave wherever you are, buy a pack, then smoke it. Whereas with the e-cig all you have to do is charge it every once in a while and change your e-liquid sometimes.

**MA: Is the e-cig a valuable way to stop cigarette smoking?**

**Anon:** No, it all comes from self control. The e-cig will only meet you halfway, the rest is up to you to decide whether or not you want to stop the addiction or not. Also if you could just quit without the e-cig, then why don’t you? Even though it is hard to go cold turkey on smoking, it pays off in the end.

**MA: Would you recommend the e-cig?**

**Anon:** No I wouldn’t. Just tackle your addiction with self-control, but what do I know, I have problems just like everybody else.

# Boundaries and School Assignment to Change

FROM P 1

are about a third that size. In a phone interview, Mary Cheh, the Ward 3 councilmember, stated her belief that “there is overcrowding of schools in Ward 3 and the underutilization of schools in other areas.”

To combat this issue, a newly formed boundary committee has to date released only a comprehensive proposal for new DCPS elementary school boundaries.

The same boundary committee has also proposed three policies, two of which could get rid of the feeder system altogether. Policy B is very similar to the current feeder system: each

student has a right to enroll in one elementary, middle, and high school close to where they live. Policies A and C involve city-wide lotteries for high schools, take away the feeder system, and give students a mostly-equal chance at DCPS schools anywhere in the city, with preferences for siblings.

The committee will make a preliminary decision on the proposals in late June which will be followed by a period of public comment. Their final recommendation will come at the end of July or August, and the mayor will decide whether or not to endorse it in September.

Cheh of Ward 3 strongly disagreed with the plans for

city-wide lotteries: “It is overwhelmingly clear across the District that people want quality neighborhood schools. If we start moving people around, it will destroy their confidence in neighborhood schools.”

She said she fears that if Policy A or C is put into action, the more affluent residents of Ward 3 will choose to send their kids to private or charter schools rather than risk the uncertainty of the lottery.

Giavonni Taliaferro, an out-of-bounds Wilson junior from Southeast, said, “Most of the schools in my neighborhood are bad. I wouldn’t risk the lottery and going to a bad school. I would try for a charter school.”

“People who do advocate for a city-wide lottery believe that the city lottery would help support diversity and help bring better access to high quality education,” said Matthew Frumin, Wilson parent and member of the boundary committee, who also said that he personally thinks the high school lottery will bring a “lack of predictability and neighborhood schools.”

Under Mayor Gray’s plan, the endorsed policy would come into effect in 2015. However, since Gray did not win the Democratic Primary and can’t be re-elected, mayoral candidates Muriel Bowser and David Catania would be able to stop the process altogether. According

to the Washington Post, both Bowser and Catania have said they can’t guarantee a continuation of Gray’s proposal if elected.

In a statement Bowser said, “Let me be clear about my position: I will only support neighborhood school assignment. This means that students must have by right, as opposed to lottery, an assignment to a school at the elementary, middle and high school levels in their area.”

Principal Cahall says that with effort, a student can get a good education anywhere, but he sees the value in a location close to home. “I like neighborhood schools. It’s crazy to have a lottery system. Wilson’s not just a school, it’s a community place.”

## OPINIONS

## PRO

by Alex Conte

It is estimated that the NCAA, a non-profit organization, earns around \$800 million per year from college sports. Also, recently, CBS and the Big 10 conference reached a TV deal that is projected to produce \$45 million in revenue for 12 out of its 14 schools during the 2017-2018 school year. However, none of this money will end up going to the players, which I believe is a mistake. Instead, it will go to pay the million-dollar salaries of coaches and NCAA executives. And while it is true many players will go on to make millions of dollars playing in the pros, it does not mean we should ignore their needs as players now.

Generally, a college athlete practices for upwards of four hours each day plus spending time in the classroom. On top of that, there is the constant travel from game to game, and with the recent conference realignment, this sometimes is a cross-country journey. As a result, playing a sport in college is like having a full-time job—one that is unpaid.

Also, due to strict NCAA regulations, college athletes are sometimes left without the most basic necessities of life. Shabazz Napier, the championship winning point guard from UConn, was recently quoted saying that there were some nights that he went to bed “starving.” This issue has been reinforced by other players like the Vikings’ Adrian Peterson, who made remarks about being hungry during his playing career at Oklahoma. It is unacceptable that players who make the school millions of dollars are allowed to go hungry. One easy way to solve this prob-

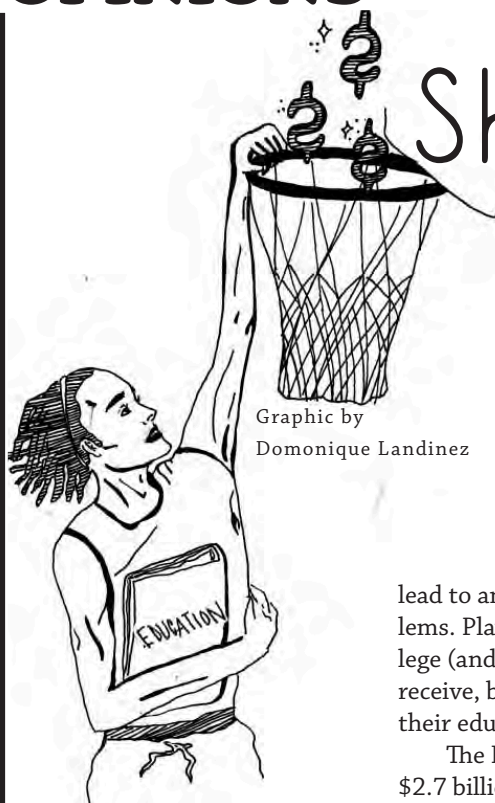
lem is by giving them a cut of the massive profit.

Every season there are stories about top programs breaking NCAA regulations. Recruiting is so competitive that often recruiters will pay athletes to go to their schools. And since often these athletes do not come from wealthy backgrounds, they accept the money in order to help their families. Eventually, this catches up with most players and as a result, the school and the players are punished.

Most recently, Reggie Bush had his Heisman Trophy taken away for violations, and the University of Miami had 13 players deemed ineligible due to recruitment violations. But in order for a program to be successful, it needs top recruits. This problem will continue unless students know they will receive a certain amount of money in college that can go to their families.

By allowing student athletes to be paid, the NCAA will become a cleaner organization and a healthier one for athletes. The amount athletes should be paid is another argument, but the evidence for payment is clear. A normal student who is given money to attend a school does not have his or her jersey sold for profit, or risk a career-ending or life-altering injury. Why shouldn’t those students who do receive a little more for what they are doing?

Also, by giving athletes money in college, they become more prepared to handle the millions of dollars they will make if they play professionally. Too often one hears stories of former athletes who blow their money and are left without anything when their career ends. Getting paid in college would allow them to learn basic financial strategies so they will be better able to handle their money in the future.



Graphic by Domonique Landinez

## CON

by Henry Shuldiner

“Sometimes, there’s hungry nights where I’m not able to eat, but I still gotta play up to my capabilities.” It’s hard to grasp that University of Connecticut Point Guard Shabazz Napier, American Athletic Conference Player of the Year, two-time National Champion of the NCAA Division I basketball tournament, could possibly have said these words.

Even before Napier’s remarks, diatribes began when the National Labor Relations Board decided to categorize football players at Northwestern University as employees, thus making them eligible to unionize and seek benefits.

These controversial stories came to attention on a national scale, and alerted the population to an important question: Should college athletes get paid?

The simple answer is no. Universities and colleges have zero obligation to pay their athletes, and paying them could

## Should College Athletes Get Paid?

lead to an array of new problems. Playing a sport is a privilege (and honor) that athletes receive, but it is secondary to their education.

The NCAA alone awards \$2.7 billion in athletic scholarships every year to more than 150,000 student-athletes, which does not include financial aid that athletes may receive from the school they attend. Athletes receiving scholarships are receiving a free or extremely low-priced college experience.

These student-athletes are being paid with an education, which includes myriad opportunities and luxuries provided to them by the school.

Many student-athletes ask the question, “Why should the school make money off my skills and abilities?” It’s a fair point, except that money made from massive college sports programs is redistributed to other sports and clubs at the school that have not received as much funding or support. The school is providing its athletes with a platform to showcase their abilities at the most competitive non-professional level.

If schools were able to pay athletes, there would be very little parity left in college sports. Schools with enormous endowments and lots of excess money would be able to offer the most money to athletes, so all of the best would flock to only a

few schools, creating another problem.

As I said before, the simple answer is no, college athletes should not be paid. But the true answer to the question is unfortunately more convoluted than that. College athletes have a dangerous job, and put their bodies on the line every day. There is a very high risk for all, but only a privileged few end up with a high reward.

College athletes should, on the other hand, be able to market their own names without repercussions or consequences. Last year, Texas A&M quarterback, and recent Cleveland Browns draft pick, Johnny Manziel was suspended for allegedly signing autographs in exchange for money. The “scandal” tarnished Manziel’s name and also cost him playing time. This should never have occurred in the first place because athletes should be in charge of what they do with their own name, without any regard from the NCAA.

Colleges should not pay athletes but athletes should be able to make profit from their skills in other ways. There is bound to be some reform in the system sooner rather than later, and it will be of great interest to see which way the NCAA rules.

Meanwhile, Shabazz Napier’s hunger should convince UConn to up the amount of free food available for their athletes.



## Teen Summer Reading

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# Sexual Assault Denies Girls the Safety They Deserve

**Erin Sternlieb**  
Chief Web Editor

This spring I have visited a few very different colleges: big, small, public, private, city, rural, East Coast and West Coast. The schools had little in common, except for one somewhat alarming object. Most schools have referred to it as the blue light system. Essentially how it works is that if a student is walking around campus and feels threatened or unsafe, they are always close to one of the blue light poles, where they can press a button and the police department will be notified and respond within minutes.

The light poles seem like a smart idea for campus safety, but what alarmed me was first that they were necessary, and second that the schools' security measures seemed geared towards females. Many of the schools also talked about programs they had for walking students to their dorms at night, even on campuses located in small towns or rural areas far from urban crime. The fact of the matter is I know very few guys who feel uncomfortable walking home at night. The more security pitches I heard, the clearer it became that the security measures are aimed at protecting girls from the growing number of sexual assaults on college campuses.

It began to scare me that college was so ridden with sexual assault that safety and security

was a selling point on college tours. I had heard the statistics, read articles, been warned by concerned parents and health teachers, but it really took the college tours for the extent of the problem to hit me.

Nineteen percent of college undergraduates will be sexually assaulted during their time at college, and this statistic includes only assaults that meet schools' often-inadequate definitions of sexual assault, and only accounts for the around 12% of women who are believed to report the sexual assault, as reported in The Campus Sexual Assault study by the U.S. Department of Justice.

For me, looking at colleges has coincided with Obama's new initiative to combat sexual assault and the flood of assault reports in recent months, along with media attention in the form of videos, viral articles, and social media campaigns. Obama's stronger stance on sexual assault, which uses Title IX to require schools to increase transparency and improve the rights of victims, stems from public outcry, and his attention to the issue has brought even more focus on the appalling facts.

What scared me on my college visits at first was that it was necessary to take security measures like the blue light system, but the more I learned about sexual assault it became clear that these measures are inadequate. Most sexual assaults

are not happening on a walk home by a creepy stranger late at night; at least 80% of sexual assaults are committed by an acquaintance of the victim, according to a publication by the New York Coalition Against Sexual Assault. Sexual assaults are happening at parties, executed by frat boys and by boyfriends when girls are unable to say no. So while blue lights might be a reassuring feature for parents and potential students, they don't even address the real problem.

The real problem is that schools are ineffective in addressing and preventing sexual assault. Many colleges have poor definitions of what sexual assault is. Often schools do little to nothing to encourage victims or witnesses to report sexual assault. And schools do not have well-trained individuals who are sufficiently independent of the school to fairly assess sexual assault complaints. In fact, colleges often exacerbate the problem by dismissing cases that implicate other students.

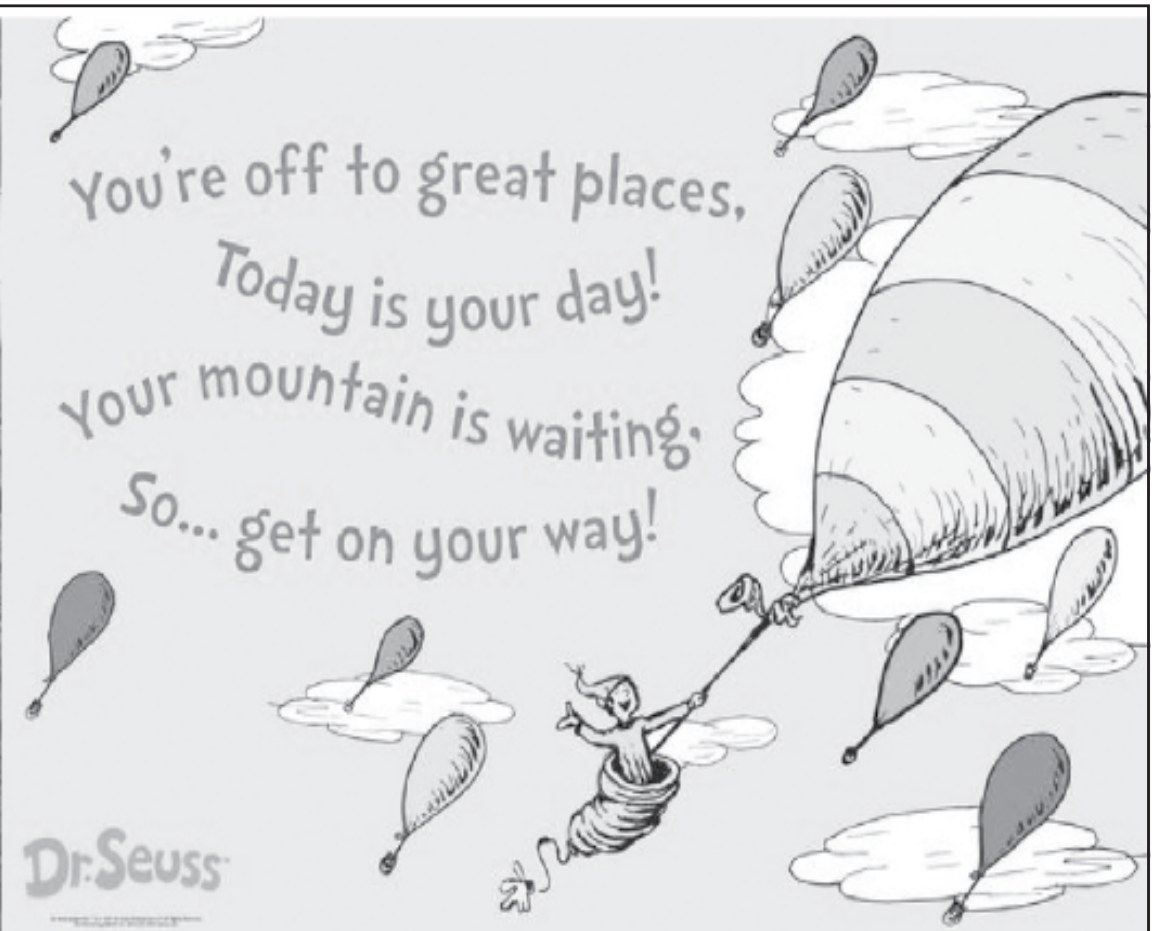
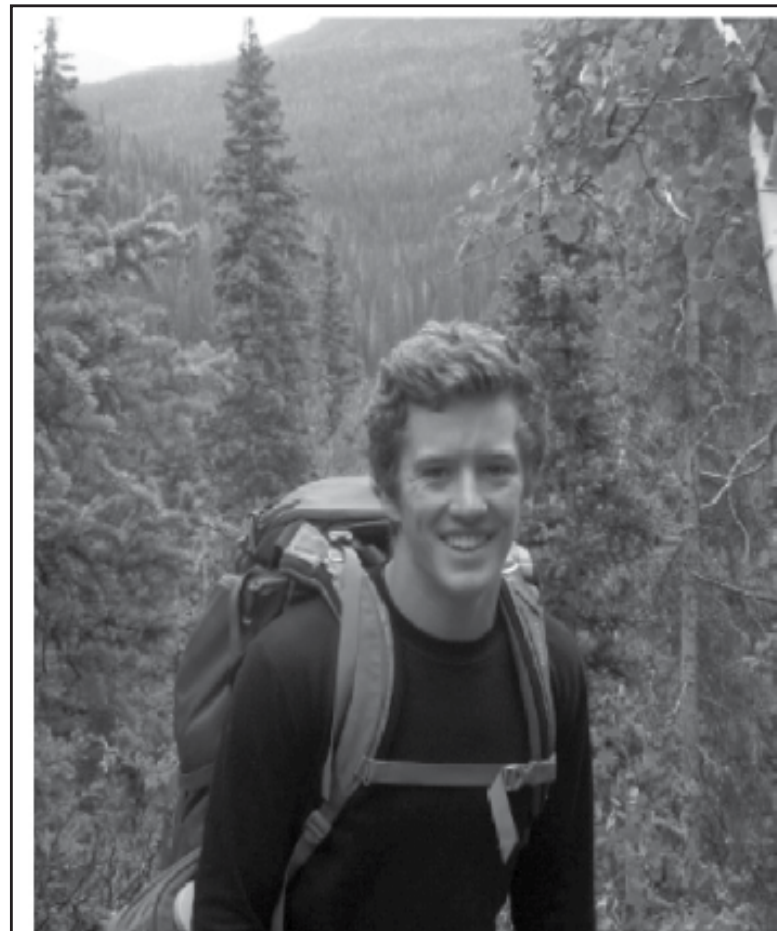
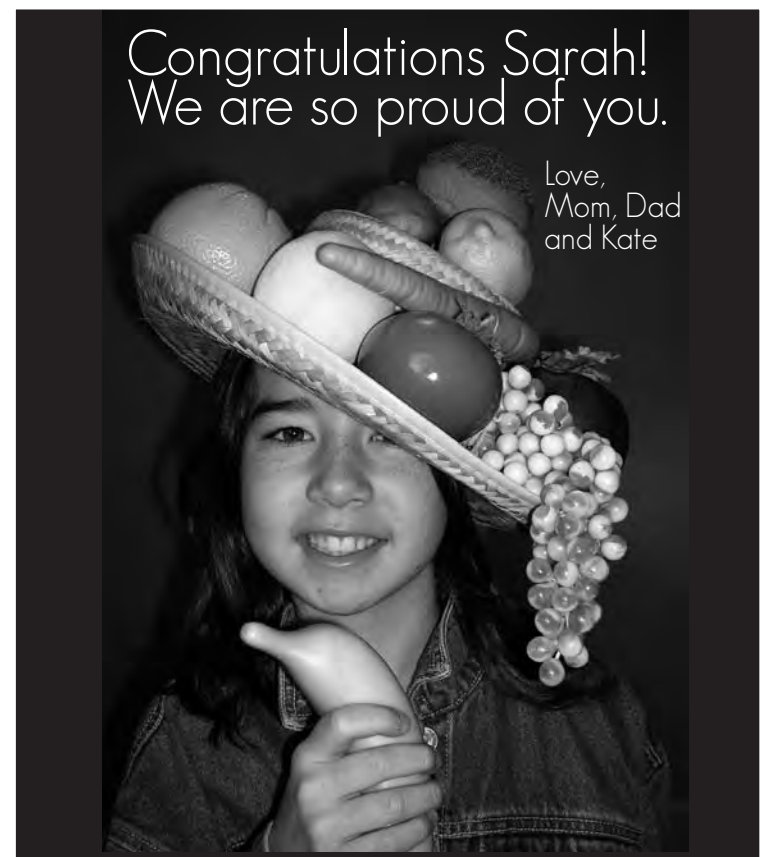
Ninety percent of rapes are committed by three percent of college men. This means that college is not a place bursting with rapists and violent men. But the truth is that the #YesAll-Women slogan that has recently been trending on social media is accurate. Not all men are perpetrators, but all women are victims of sexual harassment in some form, whether verbal or physical. The problem is that

colleges are not doing enough to punish and remove repeat offenders from campus.

While the problem of sexual assault on college campuses is all around inexcusable, what bothers me the most is that it is violating girls' right to an equal education. It is unfair that girls in my generation, myself included, are scared to go to college. It is unfair that victims spend their time in college attempting to cope with depression and other severe issues. It is unfair that the process of reporting rape is

often difficult and demeaning.

Looking at colleges and eventually going to college should be a fun and exciting experience, not a fearful one. To reduce this fear colleges shouldn't be implementing ineffective blue light systems, but should be making substantive changes to reassure girls that they won't be assaulted. And if girls unfortunately are, the school should address their cases fairly, quickly, and effectively, and provide the necessary resources for recovery.



**Congratulations, Des!**  
**We're so proud of all that you've done and all that you've become.**  
**Dad & Jane**

OPINIONS

# Prom Has Its Drawbacks

**Elias Benda**  
Opinions Editor

Prom is a major, important, and exciting event for high school seniors. Recently, this practice of an end-of-the-year dance extravaganza has been receiving some flak -- and in my opinion, rightfully so.

Much of my criticism is a result of one of prom's possible origins, as a dance for women to advertise themselves in pursuit of an acceptable husband, or a 'promenade', according to social-news website BuzzFeed.

On the practical side, prom is increasingly expensive. The average amount spent on prom in 2014 in the Northeastern U.S. was a whopping \$1,104 per person, according to U.S. News & World Report. Promgirl.com gives a range of \$175 to \$2100 for 2014. The most unnerving statistic shows that those paying most for prom have traditionally been those with the lowest income, though that trend changed for the first time in 2014.

The social implications must also be taken into consideration. Many people feel they have to go to prom, whether they want to or not, and that they must ask someone to be their date. "Promposals" have undeniably been getting more intricate and complicated, to the point where

there is almost a sense of competition for who has the most extravagant means of asking out a date.

It is no secret that some people see prom as a heterosexual event. In this sense, prom can and tends to reinforce traditional gender and sexuality stereotypes: one man and one woman together. With this mentality, it is possible that those who don't identify as straight feel excluded and unaccepted. In some places, this intolerance has led to a push for a "straight" prom, as is the case with an Indiana teacher, who said that "[homosexuality] is offensive to us". Obviously, Wilson has a decent atmosphere of tolerance, but it is nonetheless important to be conscious of others feelings. For more information, DoSomething.org, a youth social activism site, has an article in their Prom Prep Series specifically dedicated to "What LGBTQ Youth Need to Know."

There is no denying the importance of prom as a social landmark in one's life. Everyone fondly remembers their prom as a final hurrah of high school. It is a great chance to have fun and express yourself. But as future generations face their special night, it is important to think about those around you, and make sure prom is a fun, reasonable night that everyone can enjoy.



Eboni Ellis

## ASK EB

Congratulations to Eboni on her last column!

**Q** Should I work this summer or travel?

**A** This is a really good question and I have actually been in the same predicament. I definitely think you should travel this summer over working. Traveling is a great experience that lots of people your age do not get. Opportunities to make money will happen year-round, but opportunities to travel for a long period of time will not. You can always work during the school year!

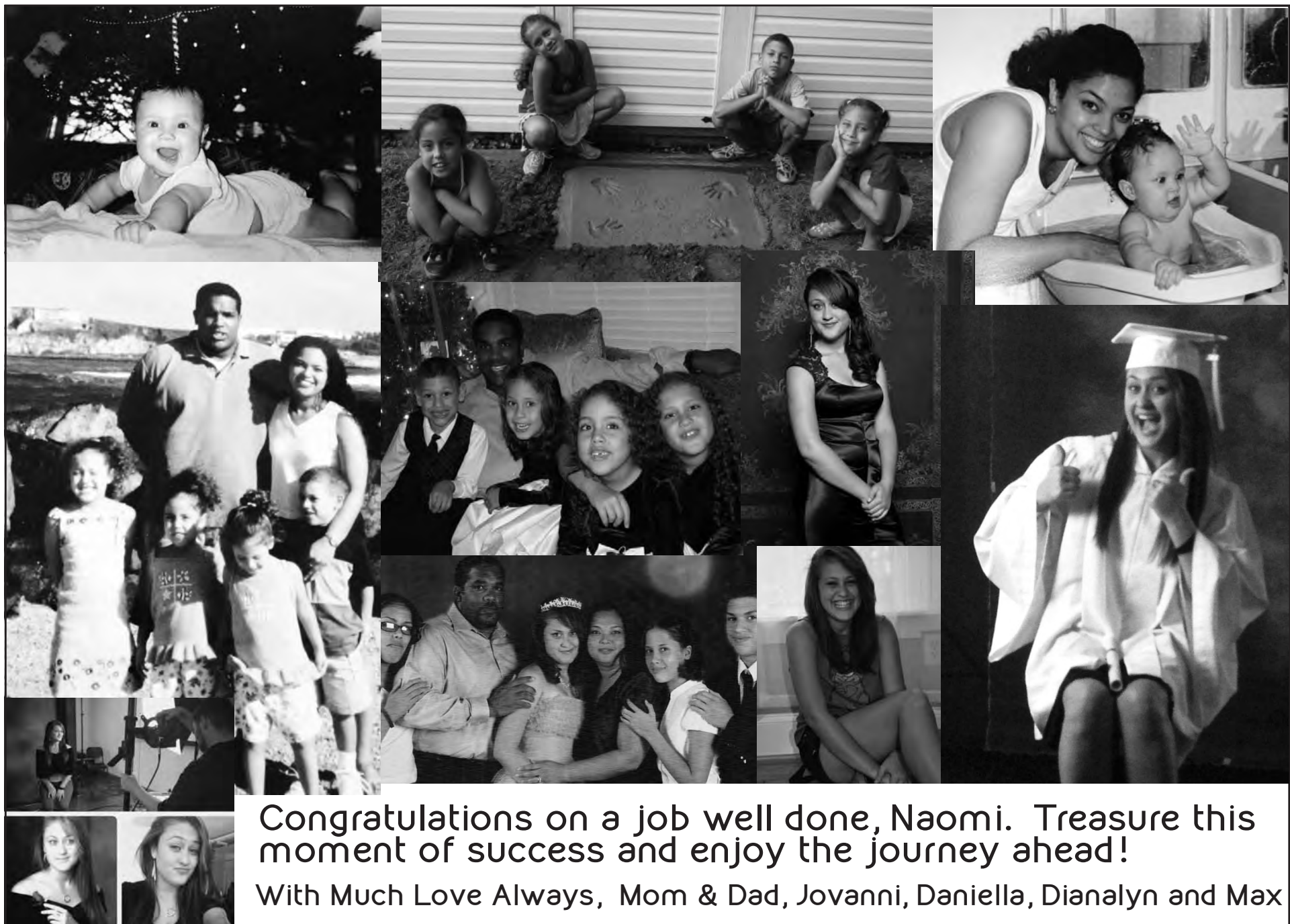
**Q** I'll be going off to college soon and don't know what I should do regarding my relationship with my girlfriend. Can you help me?

**A** Wow, you are in a really awkward position at this point and time in your relationship. I personally would continue on with the relationship while in college just to see how things pan out. Breaking up before even experiencing how a long distance-type relationship might work out, is not smart. When people do that it is usually out of fear. Things might change in the relationship but the distance will really be a test to see if you guys should stay together or not. I also advise to tone down the seriousness, because it is college and you both will meet new people. Just let the cards fall into place over time; don't force a breakup, but also do not force keeping the relationship together.

**Q** How can I turn things around over this summer to be prepared for senior year?

**A** I'm so happy that you're interested in using the summer as a time to better yourself for the next school year. Senior year is very important, so being prepared is a good idea.

- Having a set plan or idea will allow you to have goals for senior year that are narrowed down; for example, picking a career path or major makes things a lot easier than being undecided.
- Looking at the Common App when it opens up (August 1st) will really be helpful if you're planning to attend college. That will allow you to get a headstart on writing your essays and getting the materials together for applying to college.
- Forming a resume will be a good idea as well, whether it's for a job or college application. People always want to know what you've done and your experiences.
- Lastly, prepare yourself to answer lots of questions about your future, whether from your peers or adults. Senior year is the time where you get nagged about your plans after high school almost daily. Be prepared to give answers to those interested without attitude, sometimes people have really good advice or connections along the path you might be planning to take!



Congratulations on a job well done, Naomi. Treasure this moment of success and enjoy the journey ahead!

With Much Love Always, Mom & Dad, Jovanni, Daniella, Dianalyn and Max

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

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

## OPINIONS

# Picketing Provides Opportunity to Promote Equality

By The Beacon Editorial Staff

As a Staff, we've talked and thought a lot about the Westboro Baptist Church's upcoming visit to Wilson. We've realized that the fastest way to make the WBC go away would be to ignore them. Hateful organizations feed off publicity and attention, so if we simply went about our daily lives every time the WBC picketed a school or a funeral, it's quite possible that their cult-ish organization's influence would fade.

But maybe that's not what we want.

Our country was founded on the principle of free speech, and free speech is what creates change. As Jonathan Rauch pointed out in a November Atlantic editorial, knowledge is born when many opinions are considered and all but the most valid are found wanting. Hate speech, when contrasted with reasonable counter-arguments, highlights the flaws in hateful beliefs.

In publishing their poorly-spelled press releases and using foul language to attack high school students, the WBC is hurting their cause more than helping it: even the Klu Klux Klan has denounced their organization. The Southern Poverty Law Center has labeled them "arguably the most obnoxious and rabid hate group in America." And it seems that the angrier the WBC gets about it, the faster the legislation expands to allow gay marriage.

When the WBC picket their

way into the news, they highlight the homophobia that exists in our society. And they give us an opportunity to prove them wrong.

The coming protest has united Wilson and our community in a way that most of us never could have imagined. The Westboro Meet-and-Greet Facebook event, created by students, now boasts nearly a thousand members. The page is filled with supportive messages and comments from students and adults all around the D.C. area, from Georgetown Day School to the spoken word poetry group Lyrikal Storm Poets.

As The Beacon Staff, we have never been more proud of our school. But as we prepare our counter-protest, Wilson students and allies need to ensure that we act in the most effective manner to demonstrate our support for the LGBTQ+ people in our community.

Wilson's counter-protest needs to be respectful. We cannot lash out at the WBC, because doing so would detract from the message we are trying to send. And even though this is a counter-protest, we must keep that message positive. Our demonstration isn't about attacking the WBC, it's about showing our school's solidarity and pride, and the love and support we give one another.

If the WBC decides not to show up, as it has been known to do, June 9 is still an opportunity for us to express our pride

and support for Wilson's and D.C.'s LGBTQ+ community.

But all this solidarity and love can't just be a one-time display. Wilson students can't stand up for gay rights only when Wilson as an entity is attacked. We can't chant our slogans for half an hour, then go to school and forget about the whole thing. We can't only fight the overt violence of the Westboro Baptist Church, because it's covert violence that has the greatest impact on members of the Wilson community--not just on June 9, but in our day-to-day lives.

Though we've been praised (or insulted, as by the WBC) for being an accepting school, homophobia within Wilson's walls is still very real and very much an issue, and often it appears in forms much more damaging than a couple of people with posters.

It is not enough to fight homophobia with signs and slogans. We must fight it by educating ourselves about LGBTQ+ history, by correcting friends who use words like "gay" as insults or make jokes about sexual orientation, by joining or donating to organizations that advocate for LGBTQ+ rights year-round.

The Westboro Baptist Church isn't the real enemy, or at the very least it isn't the only enemy. Our protest against homophobia shouldn't start in front of the school at 8:15 in the morning on June 9, and it certainly shouldn't end there.

# Departing Editors-in-Chief Say Farewell

It's definitely hard for either of us to imagine life without *The Beacon*. Having our Tuesday mornings without staff meetings, our afternoons without story researching and the end of our months without production nights is a bit of a shock to our systems. Having invested four years in *The Beacon*, we both feel a pretty strong connection to it. While the break from the stress and work is quite a relief, our feelings are definitely bit-

tersweet.

We'd like to thank all those who worked on the paper with us this year: our writers, editors, and advisers were all a pleasure to work with, and all helped us grow, as writers, managers, and people. The ways we've both developed this year have definitely been influenced by our work on the paper.

Most of all, we look forward to the future. While seeing every paper this year was incredibly

special because of the effort we put into it, the thought of seeing all of the upcoming issues by next year's staff (and issues by staffs to come) is an incredibly exciting prospect. We both are certain that the paper is going nowhere but up and can't wait to watch the improvement as it happens.

Best of luck to everyone on next year's staff. It's been real.

-Evan and Nathan

# Top 10 Wilson Rites of Passage

1. Get your fork taken away by security
2. Be an extra in a "WorldStar" fight video
3. Awkwardly witness sexual activity in the halls
4. Attend a yogurt social and not win an iPod
5. Get forced into a flash mob in the atrium
6. Get abandoned on a field trip
7. Get called sweet by people you don't know
8. Use a slang term you don't understand
9. Get hit on by freshmen at least a foot shorter than you
10. Get pushed out of the way in the hall and apologize



never\_insecure

11 likes

ever\_insecure #TBT Miami.. Beautiful Water, Vibes



never\_insecure



23 likes

aver\_insecure #TwinDay #SpiritWeek We Killed It



30 likes

never\_insecure Last Night On My Way Home,



Ravanni,

I have watched you grow up as I was just a kid myself when I had you. I was still in high school and would get you to daycare all before my full day began. We have had our good, bad, ugly, and wonderful times. Now you are going off on your own. You have the skills to survive and have been equipped with the ability to make the right decision. Over the past 3 years, you've endured a lot from the passing of your grandfather to the sudden death of your stepfather, yet you've remained focused and maintained your composure during some obstacles that have come your way.

I'm proud of the young lady that you are becoming and I'm sure grandpa is as well...and what do you think "L" or Rasheem as some called him would say? Things can only go up from here. My oh my how time flies.

We are happy for you and wish you the best. Love Mommy and your sisters (The Rascals)

**HOPE A. OLSON  
CLASS OF 2014**

**Congratulations, Hope.  
We are so proud of you!  
Love, Lee, Mom and Papi**

**Congratulations**  
TO WILSON VARSITY LACROSSE SENIORS. YOUR DEDICATION TO THE SPORT IS INSPIRING AND WILL TRANSLATE TO SUCCESS WHEREVER YOU GO. COACH ARLOTTO

**JERMAINE, VERY PROUD OF YOU!**

**LOVE,  
MOM  
& FAMILY**



# Wilson Makes Strides in Baseball Playoffs

**Henry Shuldiner**  
Sports Editor

On a warm June 2, 2013, the Wilson varsity baseball team took the field at Nationals Park against Maret in the D.C. Baseball Classic. The weather was great, the fans were cheering, and things looked very promising for the Tigers. The team built up a 1-0 lead, and kept it all the way through the fifth inning. Right when the elusive city title seemed to be in Wilson's grasp, the skies opened and it began to pour. The game was postponed because of heavy rain, and was rescheduled to resume three days later at Maury Wills field. Everything went downhill from there. At Maury Wills field, Maret had a resurgence of energy and momentum, and was able to completely turn the game around and overpower the Tigers, eventually winning the championship game with a score of 10-1. Wilson was devastated. How could they have let the victory slip away?

This year, for the first time, the D.C. Baseball Classic was played as the official D.C. High School Baseball Championship operated by the D.C. State Athletic Association (DCSAA). The new tournament included an expanded field of eight teams in a bracket. First-round games were played at the higher seeded team's home field. Wilson was awarded the #5 seed and Maret the #4. This meant a first round rematch of last year's championship game and an opportunity for the Tigers to extract their revenge.

Almost a year later, Wilson

would take the field against Maret again, only this time at Jellef Boys and Girls Club in Georgetown. Yet again, the weather was great, the fans were cheering, and things looked very promising for the Tigers. Wilson was up to bat first and took an early lead after Sophomore Luke Wallis hit an RBI groundout to score Junior Devin Rivera. Junior Pitcher Will Gibson would let in one run in the bottom of the first, tying the game at 1-1. In the second inning, Senior Liam Fisher hit an RBI triple, scoring sophomore Henry Cohen, allowing the Tigers to go in front again.

The Tigers defense really began to heat up after the first two innings. Senior catcher Scot Beumel picked off a Maret runner at first, after the runner took too big of a lead off the bag, to end the second inning. Beumel would also throw out a runner at second base during the third inning. In the fourth inning, Gibson made a spectacular bare-handed diving catch off the mound to end the inning.

It was the fifth inning, and the sky was beginning to look more murky than most would find pleasing. First just a few drops fell, but then rain began to cascade down from the sky. It was déjà vu, the Tigers had a lead and were so close to victory, but the weather refused to act in their favor.

The Tigers were not letting anything stop them this year. Because the field is astroturf, the umpires allowed the game to continue. Wallis would hit another RBI, followed by a Gibson double which brought Wallis to



third. Junior Alex Conte hit an RBI single scoring Wallis and, after a mishandling of the ball by a Maret outfielder, Gibson. It was 5-1 in the bottom of the fifth, and it was raining cats and dogs.

During the sixth inning, Rivera would bunt in another run, followed by another Wallis RBI single scoring two more runs. During the bottom of the sixth inning, the game was delayed due to lightning and thunder; it would resume 30 minutes later. The score was 8-1 heading into the seventh. Senior Pitcher Jack Price would come in to close out the game and secure the victory for the Tigers with a final Score of 8-1.

Although the team wanted to celebrate, there was still much work to be done on the baseball diamond. The Maret game was only the quarterfinals, and



Photos by Henry Shuldiner

**SLIDING HOME - Wilson Varsity Baseball makes it far in the playoffs. They beat Maret 8-1 on the road to the DC Baseball Classic.**

Wilson faced the #1 ranked St. Johns in the next round.

The Tigers had a quick turnaround, and two days later the team travelled to the Nationals Academy in Southeast to face the St. Johns Cadets in the

semifinal game. The Tigers were able to keep the Cadets scoreless through the third inning, but eventually St. Johns was able to penetrate the Wilson defense. St. Johns won the game 4-0, ending the Tiger playoff run.



Photo courtesy of Jacqueline Beliveau

**CROSSING THE FINISH LINE - Wilson boys and girls outdoor track team wins the DCIAA. Girls win DCSAA, boys are runner ups.**

## Wilson Runs the City

**Sophia Cordes**  
Staff Writer

After an impressive year, the Wilson track team has become one of the top programs in the D.C. area. Following a devastating defeat at the DCIAA championship during the indoor track season, the Lady Tigers were looking for redemption in both the outdoor city and state championships.

The Wilson Tigers track team arrived at the DCIAA outdoor city championships on May 15 ready to show how far they had come this season.

Since early March, the Wilson track team had practiced rain or shine, preparing for any obstacles that might come their way in the championships. Ultimately, the months of hard work paid off. The Tigers made history as both the boys and girls won the DCIAA outdoor city championships, the boys earning their first win since 2006, and the girls since 2003.

Helping to lead the Tigers to their win was senior Ross Pendergast, who ran a personal best of 9:55 in the 3200-meter race, earning first place against long-time rival Abdur-Rahmaan Kelly from Roosevelt. After taking

time off earlier in the season due to injury, Pendergast returned to the running scene just in time for the city championships, and went on to win a DCIAA race for the first time. Pendergast will attend the University of Michigan in the fall and plans to run for their club track team.

Another Wilson Tiger who made history at the city championships was senior Acey Calhoun, who became the first DCIAA runner in 20 years to win the 100, 200, and 400-meter races, while also assisting his team in the 4x100-meter relay. Calhoun will run track for North Carolina State in the fall.

The Wilson girls faced a tough matchup against Dunbar, but came out looking strong. Senior sprinters Ashley Younger, Deonna Diggs, and Harper Randolph all placed in their events. Younger won both the 100 and 200-meter dash, with teammate Randolph coming in close behind. Diggs went on to win the 100-meter hurdles, while underclassmen Asia Amis and Jordan Dean earned first and second in the 400-meter race. In the girls 3200-meter race, the Tigers swept the podium, with freshman Mayim Lehrich placing first.

Even with tough competition from the other D.C. public schools, Wilson remained consistent and successful throughout the two-day city championships. Even though the team had earned one memorable victory, the state championships were still to come the following week, and the Tigers would have to face Dunbar once more.

The state championships would be a much bigger task for the Wilson team, with the threat of competitive private school teams and a second face-off against Dunbar. Wilson went on to make history for the second time in two weeks, with the boys team earning second place behind Georgetown Day School, and the girls team winning first place in the DCSAA state championship meet.

Head Coach Desmond Dunham had nothing but positive words to say about the team's accomplishments this spring, "I feel like we came together as a family. Everyone on the team was a part of the winning effort this season." Members of the Wilson track team will continue to train this summer, in preparation for the fall cross-country season.



The boys lacrosse team had a spectacular season, winning the WILL championship. Go to [TheWilsonBeacon.com](http://TheWilsonBeacon.com) to read Ben Kostyack's article on the team.

**GOOD LUCK TIGERS!**

**COACHIE & COACH PATRICE**

Columbus, thank you for keeping score and running the scoreboard for us. Having you help out and support us for home matches was wonderful. I knew you and Joe had everything under control. Congratulations and best of luck to you!

Joe, what can I say? You have been a blessing to our team the last three years. You keep score, run the scoreboard, get the water bottles, help with the equipment and you're the team DJ! I will never forget the team wobble! Best pre-match game ever. Thank you, thank you! Congratulations!

Elizabeth, you took barrel rolls to a new level! You are the epitome of hard work and determination. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for the last four years. We love you and will miss you.

Marissa, you have grown in so many ways over the last three years. Your determination, commitment and passion for volleyball has opened the door and paved the way to the next chapter in your life. Congratulations, and we wish you all the best at Cal Poly. We love you.

Congratulations Kristina! Four years seemed to just fly by. We will miss your dancing during water breaks, entertaining commentary, bright smile, and all the laughter. Who will lead the team in our pre-match cheer? "Wilson Tigers how you feel? Fired up! How you feel? Fired up! Who are we? Tigers!" ... Best of luck to you. We love you!

**COACH DOLAN**

Seniors, I am so proud of you and our team. That Senior point at States was perfect. Congratulations on graduating and I wish you all the best luck in the future.

**COACH DRICKEY**

Thank you to the Senior ladies of the City Championship winning Soccer team! Without your leadership and commitment, my first year at Wilson would not have been nearly as successful. All of you bought into the chance in philosophy and playing style and ran with it. Thank you for getting acclimated to the "Wilson way" and helping me get unlost in the building. I am sad that we only had a year together, but I look forward to seeing you guys in the stands supporting all of the underclassmen you leave behind. I know each and every one of you will go on to do AH-MAZING things in the next stage of your lives and I can't wait to hear all the new stories and new conquests. Good luck and keep playing Ladies! "We are just the guys who guide and inspire the players to get get better. The more you play, the better you get." -Jurgen Klinsmann

**COACH O'STEEN, BELIEVEAU & DUNHAM**

Shout out to all of our track seniors. (Acoy, Givon, Ross, Matthew, Elijah, Jacinda, Tenelle, Chandler, Rachel, Deonna, Tajah, Harper, and Ashley) You all will be missed dearly. Thanks for an awesome experience and way to go out making history!

**COACH A. AND COACH E.**

Congratulations from your coaches! We want to thank the seniors (Matt, Rio, Max, Andrew, Julian, Josh, Drew and Kirk) for your commitment, hard work and leadership. You have earned your place in the legacy of lacrosse at Wilson and in DC. You compiled a school best record of 13-5, 8-0 in the league and were champions! We are proud to have been your coaches and wish you the best in the future.

**COACH WHITENER**

Dear Seniors, My sadness at knowing that you won't be here with our team next fall is equally matched by excitement about your amazing potential when you get out in the world. It is a confusing place with way too much feedback and criticism at every step, and too much focus on things like winning an Oscar, hitting the jackpot, becoming a star, and having a lot of followers. Those aren't bad goals, but they probably aren't relevant to your interests and life choices. I like this quote from Antoine Williams, Wilson graduate and founder of D.C. Dynasty Baseball, because it can be applied to any worthy endeavor. "Don't think about winning; think about doing what it takes to win."

Graphic by Jane Martin

## GIRLS LACROSSE

The intimidating girls lacrosse team had a very productive season. Junior Suzanna Carnevali-Doan gave the season a thumbs up, saying "This season was the most intense it's ever been! Everyone really worked as a team and improved tremendously." The lady Tigers boasted a 7-6 record.

## CREW

Despite the unforgiving winter, the crew team put their work in and got results. Sophomore rower Thomas McCarren explains, "Our first couple of races did not meet our expectations, but as the season went on, we got better and better." Boys crew earned a bronze medal at Nationals, while the girls placed 19th in the nation.

# SPORTS SEASON WRAP-UPS

By Henry Cohen and Jake Radack

## GIRLS SOFTBALL

The softball diamond was full of victories this year. Junior Hannah Thompson, former All-Met Honorable Mention, reported, "The softball team really came together this season. We have a winning record, (13-4) going undefeated in league play." On May 30, the Tigers won the DCIAA city championships, crushing School Without Walls 20-0.

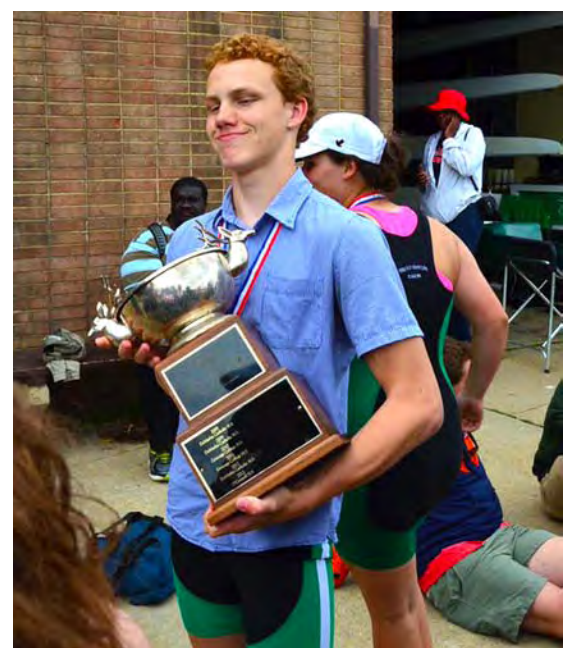
## TENNIS

According to Wilson tennis player Yannick Roots, the team had a successful season, with both JV and varsity winning the majority of their matches. In the DCIAA Championship, junior Muhammad Ismail defeated sophomore Francis Dragulet in a tiebreak set 10-8. Wilson swept the singles podium for boys, winning first, second and third. Junior Suzie Newell persevered through early rounds of the girls bracket before being defeated in the semifinals. Wilson also finished first for team points overall.



**BOYS CAPTURE BRONZE** - Wilson's varsity boys crew team earned 3rd place at Nationals on May 23. Pictured to the left, the team throws coxswain Cleo Krupa (10) into the water. On the right Peter Maeder (10) celebrates the team's bronze metal.

Photo by Carl Stewart



# WHERE WILL THE CLASS OF 2014 TIGERS MAKE THEIR MARK?



Number of 2014 Wilson graduates attending college in each state



\*this data was provided by the College & Career center and is current as of June 2nd

Graphic by Ellice Ellis and Mason Strazella



## Nathaniel Remezz

Has danced ballet for 12 years and is planning to pursue it after high school at the San Francisco Ballet School.

**Claire Parker:** How does ballet school work?

**Nathaniel Remezz:** The San Francisco Ballet School is basically a feeder program housed in the same building as the San Francisco Ballet. The idea is that you go to the school, work your way up through the levels, and then eventually you go to the company or another company...[But] there are a lot more kids in the school [than make it]. There's a lot of competition.

**CP:** Do you think you'll be competing a lot with your classmates?

**NR:** I feel like I'm not a very competitive person. I feel that I'll do what I have to do to get where I want to go, but I'm not going to have to worry about anyone else. I'll end up where I'm supposed to end up.

**CP:** What made you decide to pursue ballet beyond high school?

**NR:** I think that I kind of realized maybe in the first or second year of high school that [ballet] is what I want to do as a career. I got injured and I couldn't do anything for a while, and I realized how important it was to me. And then it became a reality last summer when I went to SF Ballet (their summer program), and they asked me to stay for the year last year. I was almost able to do that, but in the end I decided with my parents to come back home, finish high school, and then move on from there.

**CP:** What reactions have you received from people about your plans?

**NR:** There are two major reactions I get. One is people are very interested and excited; they ask me questions about it and they think it's cool. Or the other reaction I get, which is actually kind of fun to get, is that people are so confused about it that they just like stop talking and have to walk away and recompose themselves, which is kind of funny to watch. But mostly, people are interested by it.

**CP:** What advice would you give to younger students who might be interested in doing a similar thing?

**NR:** I think that if you are interested in a legitimate thing, [with which] you can get a legitimate job, and college stands in the way of it, you should go for that thing, because you can always go back to college, and the opportunities you have [right now] aren't always going to be there.

# 2 Seniors Choose Alternate Paths

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



## Calvin Lewis

plans to start the D.C. Firefighter Cadet Program in January 2015 to train to become a firefighter.

**Claire Parker:** What made you interested in becoming a firefighter?

**Calvin Lewis:** Actually, this is something I always wanted to do growing up, and I believe if you stay focused on becoming something in life and put in the work for it, you will have a great outcome. The Fire Department will also pay for your college education.

**CP:** Did you think about going to college or doing something else?

**CL:** Well since the program does not really start until January 2015, I have planned to attend Clark Atlanta University in the fall of 2014 to get my college experience and start working on my majors.

**CP:** What have been the reactions you've received from people about your plans to be a firefighter?

**CL:** There have been mixed reactions. Some good and some bad reactions. Some say I should just go to college and then pursue my career in becoming a D.C. firefighter once I finish college. Some say that this is a good idea but it is a dangerous job.

**CP:** What do you hope to accomplish as a firefighter?

**CL:** I would like to become a Lieutenant first and then Captain and possibly even the D.C. Fire Chief of the Fire and EMS Department. In order to accomplish my goals, I should always be better than the next man. Never be average; always strive for the best.

**CP:** Do you think that Wilson and D.C.'s education system focuses mostly on preparing people for college and encouraging them to go?

**CL:** Yes, Wilson and DCPS have encouraged many students to go to college. They also encourage you to visit places such as the College and Career Centers at your school where you pick out your route for the future after high school. I think that is a good idea for some students that want to attend college after high school but [for people like] myself, I believe they should also focus on vocational training because college is not for everyone. [But] without the College and Career Center at Wilson, I would have never found out about the DC Firefighter Cadet Program.

SHINE BRIGHT  
LIKE A DIAMOND  
PROM 2014



Photos by Henry Shuldiner & Elias Benda

For more prom photos check out [thewilsonbeacon.com](http://thewilsonbeacon.com)

# GSA Talks Prom and Pride Day

**Rachel Page**  
Features Editor

“There were no gay people when I was in school,” says social studies teacher and co-sponsor of the GSA (Gender and Sexualities Aligned) Michael Garbus. He allows himself a laugh at this statement.

In the back of the room, a small group of students-- members of the GSA-- are engaged in quiet discussion over what type of sticker to give out at the upcoming Pride Day. Here at Garbus’ desk, however, it is 1973 again. “I didn’t think there were any gay people in New Jersey,” he continues. “The year I graduated, my English teacher came out and was fired.”

As a teen growing up in New Jersey, Garbus didn’t know anyone who went to prom as an

out couple. He says there was nothing positive in the media about the LGBTQ+ community at the time; it wouldn’t have even occurred to people to think about non-heterosexual couples going to prom together. Forty years later, Wilson’s senior prom is more than a little bit different-- but has it changed enough?

Freshman Joey Horvath doesn’t think so. As a ninth grader, her actual experience with prom is limited, but she knows enough to be able to criticize its basic premises. To her, the traditional high school event remains heteronormative.

“The idea of a prom king and queen reinforces gender binaries,” she says, “and they’re supposed to be a couple.” She suggests changing the name of the pair to “prom royalty” to make it less gendered. By the

time she attends prom, Horvath wants to see prom as a safe place to bring anyone you want, not just another space for heterosexual couples.

Creating safe spaces is a common theme in Wilson’s GSA. The group has been busy planning this year’s Pride Day on June 4th, an event that calls together LGBTQ+ organizations from around the city for an exhibition in the atrium. “I’m excited to create a space where people can be themselves,” says teacher Christopher Obermeyer, who has been involved in the GSA since last year.

For the GSA, Pride Day is the antithesis of prom; a day to celebrate differences in backgrounds and to make the community more open and welcoming. Horvath sees it as a time to bring attention to the

GSA and educate the members of the Wilson community about identities and orientations.

For Obermeyer, it’s a symbol of safety and acceptance for the underrepresented students at Wilson. “I spent most of high school hating myself because I was gay,” he says. He wishes that he could have had a Pride Day of his own when he was a teen, so that he could have seen that he wasn’t alone.

Senior Charlotte Hovland sees the day as beneficial for another reason: to make the GSA and its goals more public and visible. “We’re usually in a little insular room,” she says, “so this is an opportunity to get in touch with the school.” Hovland recognizes the difficulty in maintaining an organization that on one hand should be active and public in the student body, but on the

other be intimate enough to be a safe space for those who need it. “It’s hard to balance,” she says.

Despite its potential difficulties, the GSA remains an integral and essential part of the Wilson school community. Events like Pride Day represent just how far our school and society as a whole have come in terms of openness and acceptance since the days when teachers could be fired for coming out. However, the GSA reminds us that some classic school events, like prom, may still be stuck in the past.

Interested in joining the GSA? The club meets every Wednesday at STEP in room 223, and new members are always welcome.

## WILSON’S ALUMNI ASSOCIATION CONGRATULATES

### THE 2014 GRADUATION CLASS

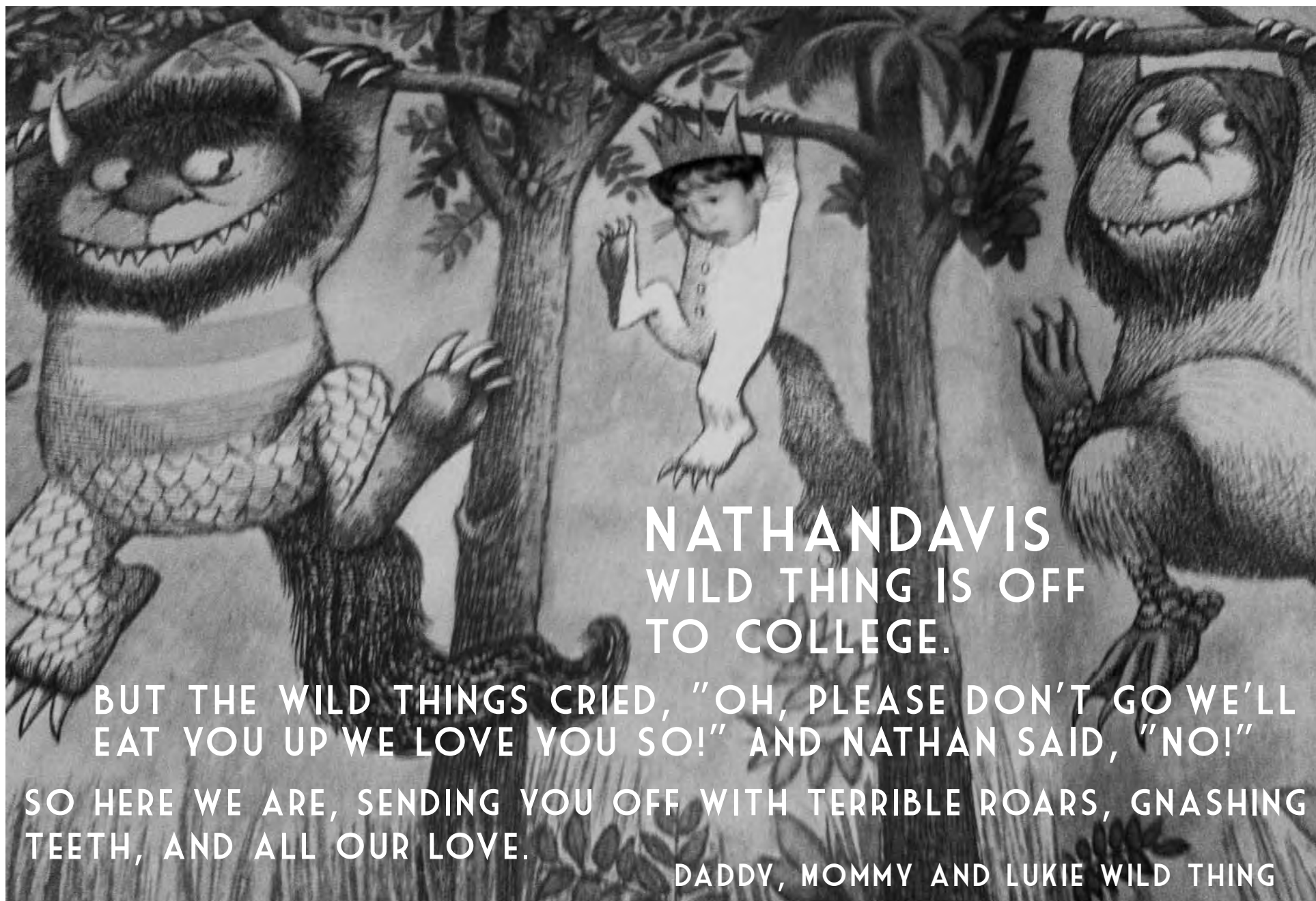
To learn more about the association go to Wilson’s website and click on alumni.

[wilsonhs.org](http://wilsonhs.org)

## BRAVO!

### TO THE WILSON THEATER DEPARTMENT'S AND WILSON PLAYERS' GRADUATING SENIORS

FROM THE WILSON THEATER BOOSTERS



## NATHAN DAVIS WILD THING IS OFF TO COLLEGE.

BUT THE WILD THINGS CRIED, "OH, PLEASE DON'T GO WE'LL EAT YOU UP WE LOVE YOU SO!" AND NATHAN SAID, "NO!"

SO HERE WE ARE, SENDING YOU OFF WITH TERRIBLE ROARS, GNASHING TEETH, AND ALL OUR LOVE.

DADDY, MOMMY AND LUKIE WILD THING

# My Life So Far: D'Mani Harrison-Porter

**Matthew Smee**  
Web Sports Editor

Hearing the name D'Mani Harrison Porter, for most Wilson students, is closely associated with the number 1,000. While the rest of us struggle to get in our community service hours, he faces a struggle of his own, a race against time: to beat the DCPS record for most community service hours before he graduates this month. He is just shy of the current record of 1,238 hours and although he says, "after a while I stop keeping track," he isn't done working.

D'Mani has more to his name than just "the guy with 1,000 hours," however. Aside from dedicating an incredible amount of time and effort to bettering the community by, say, founding the Wave Club, which donates sandwiches made by students to shelters around



Photo by Will Hamlin

**COMMUNITY CUTIE - Senior D'Mani Harrison-Porter has over 1000 community service hours. He will be attending Morehouse College this fall.**

D.C., he plays an active part in school life. A longtime member of the drama program, D'Mani has been in just about every play

put on in all four of his years at Wilson.

He is also a member of the choir, where he sings as well as

plays the role of right hand man or choir administrator to teacher Lori Williams, tasked with handling social media for the choir, making sure everyone is aware of trips, and more. A lot of his hours are spent using his talents in these two fields. For example, he helps out at Alice Deal Middle School with the drama program. "I've always found myself to be a student who does a lot of extra-curriculars, so I took advantage and found a way to help people," he says.

D'Mani's community service hours pay off quite a bit, although he says "I don't do things to get recognition, but it feels good to get it." Recently he has been nominated for multiple awards, including the President's Volunteer Service award for community service and the Standing Ovation award from the WorldStrides Heritage Performance music competition,

where he represented Wilson, beating out ten kids from ten schools across the country.

His extensive resume has helped him a lot. Next year he will attend Morehouse College in Atlanta, where they will undoubtedly appreciate all his hard work.

D'Mani's modesty and kindness are among his many great defining features, which complement his achievement on and off the stage. When I asked to sit down with him, we had to postpone our interview because he was the front man in a flash mob put on at STEP. This truly embodies who D'Mani is as a person and as a member of the Tiger community. He is the Renaissance man of Wilson.

Go to [thewilsonbeacon.com](http://thewilsonbeacon.com) to read Ellie Botsford's most recent article in Spanish.

CONGRATULATIONS  
ETHAN CANAN!

TO OUR SON,  
**ARIEL L. WATSON**  
CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2014  
ON YOUR GRADUATION AND THE COMPLETION OF YOUR  
FIRST STEP ON A JOURNEY TOWARDS A WONDERFUL LIFE!  
LOVE MOM & DAD!

**GR8 JB EV!**  
**COLORADO**  
LOVE, MOM, DAD, WILL + MOXIE

# BEACON BAEWATCH

by Ellie Melick and Helen Malhotra



Editor's Note: The Beacon set up two students on a blind date, each hoping to find the Kim to their Kanye. If you are interested in having a blind date for next year's BaeWatch scan the QR code or visit the URL provided and we will do our best to set you up with your soul mate.

www.tinyurl.com/beacondatelab

DATE RANK  
out of 10  
**7.5&11**

For this edition of Bae-watch, The Beacon decided to get fancy.

The lovely people at Pete's Pizza bestowed us with a beautiful \$30 gift card for the happy couple to use on their date. But that isn't the only reason why this month's BaeWatch was so special. Sophomore Zoe Mills and Junior Martin Sakansong had a great time talking about their hobbies, despite the fact that Martin doesn't have any. They also hit it off talking about soccer; Zoe plays on a travel team and Martin tried to play as a kid but said he wasn't very good. Finally they talked a lot about the student elections, discussing the various candidates and their super complicated platforms.

Before the date, Zoe admitted that she was mostly looking for friendship. "I'm a strong, independent woman," Zoe said. "Besides, life

is short and friends last longer." Martin, on the other hand, has been looking for love. But not too seriously, because "it's whatever." At the end of the date, once the pizza was finished and the gelato was gone, both Zoe and Martin were feeling pretty good. The couple returned to school and headed on to their respective 5th periods, but it's safe to say that the two will

remain buds.

The date was rated off the charts by Zoe, with a rating of 11 out of 10. Martin gave it a 7.5, which was still really good! The two really had a great time, and they'll be sure to wave at each other as they walk between classes.

Sadly, this date just about wrapped things up for the 2013-2014 editions of BaeWatch.

Four dates were set up by the Beacon, and we are proud to say that all eight participants still know each other's names. If you're as upset to see BaeWatch end as we are, don't worry because it will be up and running next year, with a whole new set of prospective romances and gift cards to Pete's. Be sure to sign yourself up; who knows, maybe you'll also rate your date an 11 out of 10!



Cartoon by Jarrah May



## LEARNING THE A.B.C.'s

**A** BRING YOUR FAMILY

**B** BRING YOUR FRIENDS

**C** BRING YOUR SCHOOL ID AND GET 20% OFF YOUR ENTIRE CHECK

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OFFER CAN NOT BE COMBINED WITH ANY OTHER SPECIAL. DISCOUNT DOES NOT APPLY TO ALCOHOL. LIMITED TIME OFFER.



Congratulations Zoe! Lots of love from Dad, Mom, Ali, Jophie, G-Ma, Ice, Yuki, Ambrose and Ruby

## Congratulations!

Mattie Friberg, MaryBeth Burst and Andrew Arlotto:

Ms. Frances '00  
Peabody '02  
Watkins '06  
Stuart Hobson '10  
Wilson '14

Love, the Arlottos



## Nathaniel Remez

We are proud of you and what you have accomplished. We are excited about what's ahead as you leap into the future. With Love and Tiger Pride, Mom and Dad



**Jack Price - the life of the party since age 1!**

**We're SO proud of you!**

**Love, Mom, Dad, Addie and Charlie**

# advice to the grade below

Compiled by Maria Brescia-Weiler

Get your work done but remember, this is your senior year, you're the kings and queens of high school so make the most of it. --Adam Pine

Always remember your dream, don't let it get behind you. --Me'shel Davis

Don't make "save your grades week" a quarterly thing. --Shela Hasugian

Don't follow your friends, be a leader. --Jazmyne Lomax

class of 2014 → class of 2015

class of 2015 → class of 2016

In every walk with nature one receives far more than he seeks LOL. --Charlie Feller

Do your work the week it's due--don't procrastinate. --Yana Madrid

It's easier to keep up than it is to catch up. --Lucas Lytel

There's no such thing as a due date. --Ethan Tanen

You might be a sophomore, but you're still a freshman. --Zach Essig

Don't go to Walls, don't transfer from Wilson. --Charlie Caspari

Don't let grades make you who you are. --Ali Sefsaf

Don't procrastinate, don't have too much fun. --Yannick Roots

class of 2016 → class of 2017

class of 2017 → class of 2018

Don't, while carrying pottery, fall down in front of a bunch of juniors that you kind of know and run away. You'll regret it for the rest of your high school career. --Patrick Mulderig

Don't start skipping cause you won't stop. --Isabella Cruz

Keep up with your work, no matter how late it is. --Erik Latimer

If a senior asks you out, say no. --Rina Holzman

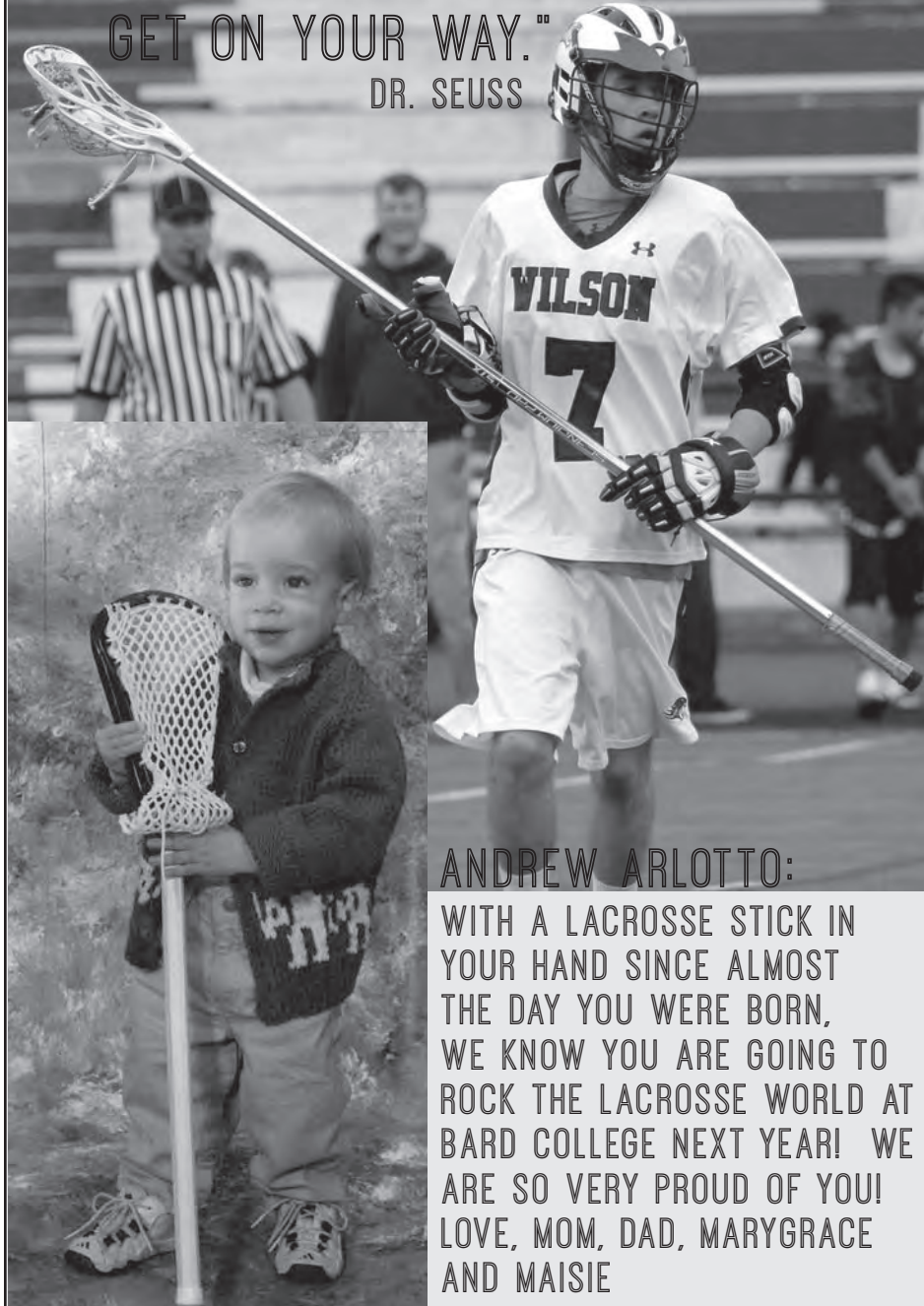
## To the Graduating Seniors of the Beacon Editorial Staff:

Maddy, Nathaniel, Nell,

Thank you so much for your incredible contributions to the Beacon during your time at Wilson! Maddy, in your own quiet way you brought to the Beacon table your fresh ideas, intelligence and enthusiasm for making the paper better. Nell, your artistic talent, eye for fashion and sports savvy have given the Beacon some of the best sports stories and playlists we've ever had. Nathaniel, you put in a lot of time behind the scenes to smoothly manage the Beacon's finances, allowing the writers and editors to focus on writing and editing. Best of luck next year! We will miss you guys so much and are so grateful for your hard work!

"TODAY IS YOUR DAY, YOUR MOUNTAIN IS WAITING. SO GET ON YOUR WAY."

DR. SEUSS



ANDREW ARLOTTO:

WITH A LACROSSE STICK IN YOUR HAND SINCE ALMOST THE DAY YOU WERE BORN, WE KNOW YOU ARE GOING TO ROCK THE LACROSSE WORLD AT BARD COLLEGE NEXT YEAR! WE ARE SO VERY PROUD OF YOU! LOVE, MOM, DAD, MARYGRACE AND MAISIE

Dear **Nathan Davis** Co-Editor-In-Chief and **Evan Hamlin** Co-Editor-In-Chief,

You are our **STYLE ICONS**, the ultimate **super role models** and your **GOING** away will leave us **indescribably** **Blue**. As we look toward the **DAZZLING** **FUTURE**, yours and ours, we will always remember our time **together** as a **golden haven**, the glory days of the Beacon. **Through creativity and ingenuity** you have made the Beacon, and its staff, seem **effortlessly put-together** and we have no doubt that in **College** or wherever you go, you will **leave a lasting impression**. While we accept that **the times are a-changing**, we hope that you will **re- JOIN US** from time to time to continue to **Be part of the growth** of our beloved Beacon. even as you are **WALKING YOUR ROAD TO Success!**

We'll miss you so so much and we hope you never forget that you will **ALWAYS** be members of the Beacon. love, The Beacon Editor



# Fear and Clothing



## Farewell Address

Jack Price  
Columnist

It seems my time with you has come to a close. Honestly, I'm surprised they didn't pull the hook on me after I called out my boy Woody Wilson, but The Beacon moves in mysterious ways. Before I go, I've decided to share with you a few final things you really ought to know about being afraid and wearing clothing when I'm not here to cook you in the halls.

### Thing 1: Nay to the weed socks

If this isn't one of the Five

Pillars of Fashion, it really should be because it's way more practical than the Pilgrimage to Milan. The main issue with weed socks isn't the fact that your mom cries every time you wear them, or that "Yonkers" is still in your Top 25 Most Played; it's that marijuana leaves are ugly. So ugly. Why else would people light them on fire? Also, gainful employment is a pretty good look.

### Thing 2: Word on the Street(wear)

We must guard against the acquisition of unwarranted influence, whether sought or unsought, by the streetwear-industrial complex. The potential for the disastrous rise of bad streetwear exists and will persist, particularly in eighth-graders who have just discovered Urban Outfitters.

### Thing 3: Be Careful with Camo

No matter how hard you try, you will never look as hype as Mr. Singer. Sorry.

### Thing 4: Be Basic

Sometimes, dressing simply is a good idea—it draws focus to you, rather than to your red corduroy sweatpants that you bought on sale from some unintelligible Japanese website, wore once and realized were a huge mistake. Basic stuff almost always looks more expensive than it is. Also, don't spend a lot

of bread on basics when the Gap has sales like every two weeks and in addition to getting a new designer who is somewhat wavy in moderation. If all else fails, hit up Uniqlo.

### Thing 5: Beat the Crap out of Your Shoes

This applies to other articles of clothing, too, but shoes are the most obvious example, and what kind of senior am I if I don't go for the low-hanging fruit? Sometimes you just have to put down the toothbrush and give up on keeping your shoes clean. Most shoes, especially ones with a white base, look a lot better with a little wear and tear, and this way you don't have to walk like Daffy Duck to keep your cypher complete and crease-free.

One last thing: spend time WITH (and steal ideas FROM) as many types of people as possible. If your friend group is homogeneity incarnate, your development as a fashion god and person will be severely limited. The more people you interact with, the more ideas you have access to. Also, the more people you know, the more daps you get in between classes, and every dap brings you one step closer to filling the void created by your pet hamster who "ran away" when you were eight. Shoutz 2 your dead hamster. Shoutz 2 da Beacon.

# Summer Movies

Conall Rubin-Thomas  
Junior Editor

When it's summer, you want to go outside. You want to go to the beach, hang with your friends, or go hiking. But there is one good reason to stay indoors during summer-- other than the air conditioning-- the Summer Movie Season.

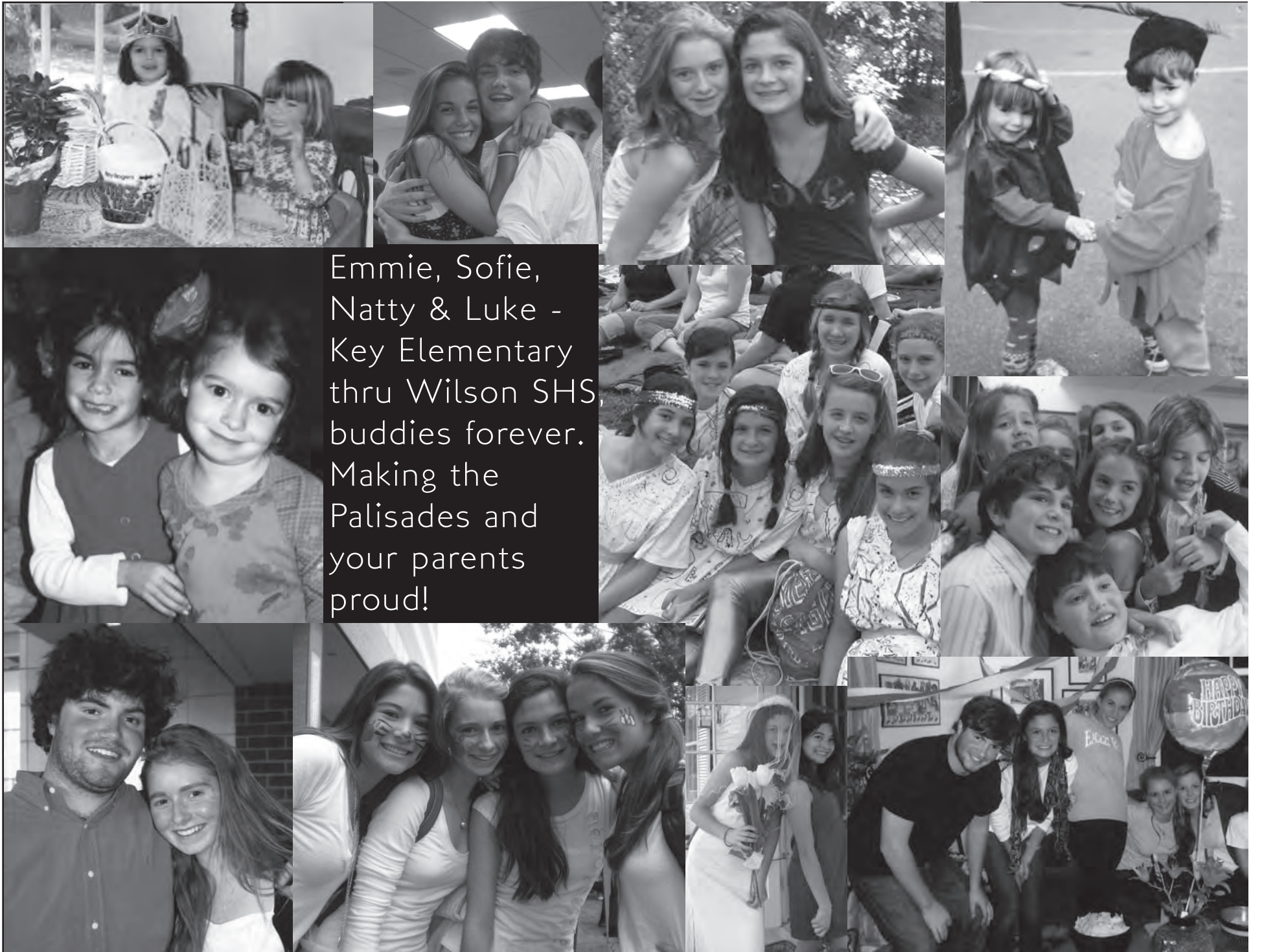
"Summer Movie Season" refers to the time between the first Friday of May and the middle of August, when Hollywood releases its blockbuster movies. Most popular during the Summer Movie Season are the action movies; films that feature heroes facing difficult odds and dangerous challenges, often involving fights, shootouts, and chases. Below is a listing, complete with descriptions, of some of this summer's most anticipated action movies.

On June 27, "Transformers: Age of Extinction" smashes into theaters with new characters and a new storyline, beginning a new Transformers trilogy. New to the franchise is are Dinobots, a never-before-seen species of Transformers, as well as actor Mark Wahlberg, who has replaced Shia LaBeouf. "Transformers: Age of Extinction" is predicted to be a massive box office success, no doubt due to its new cast, new robots, and its inevitable product tie-ins.

"Guardians of the Galaxy" opens on August 1. Guardians is about an unlikely gang of intergalactic heroes who defend the galaxy from any threat. The movie features a green-skinned female assassin, a larcenous raccoon and a hulking, talking tree. This film will likely be an enormous box office draw, with a sequel already scheduled.

"Into the Storm", which opens August 8, has one of the most original plots of the summer. A group of high school students film the effects and aftermath of a tornado with handheld cameras. Basically a found-footage disaster movie, the trailer showcases some pretty incredible scenes, with fiery tornadoes and other images of destruction.

Finally, on August 15 "The Expendables 3" promises to end the season with a BANG! The third movie in the blockbuster series about a team of mercenaries is sure to please action fans with its over-the-top violence and explosions. Former action stars Harrison Ford, Antonio Banderas, and Wesley Snipes join the cast in this installment. The Expendables series is already getting a fourth movie, and shows no plans of stopping unless Hollywood runs out of grizzled, former action heroes to work with.



Emmie, Sofie, Natty & Luke - Key Elementary thru Wilson SHS buddies forever. Making the Palisades and your parents proud!



# Rated R

by Jackson Ross

## Top 5 Favorite Films

(Jackson's 6th - 10th favorite movies can be found on [thewilsonbeacon.com](http://thewilsonbeacon.com))

### 5 CRIMES AND MISDEMEANORS (1989)

Woody Allen is my FAVORITE filmmaker, despite his family drama. I chose my favorite out of his enormous collection. Allen tells two stories, one an existential drama concerning a man (Martin Landau) who experiences a crisis of faith while trying to deal with an unstable mistress. The other, a comedy about a documentary filmmaker (Allen) who's forced to make a puff piece about a man he absolutely hates (Alan Alda). It covers everything good about Woody, from a brilliant deconstruction of religious obligations to my favorite Woody-ism ever ("It'll be a year [since we last slept together] come April 20th. I remember the date exactly, because it was Hitler's birthday.").

### 4 THE WOLF OF WALL STREET (2013)

I've already said a lot about the Wolf of Wall Street, so I'll keep it brief. Imagine Oliver Stone having a mental breakdown while filming Wall Street (1987) and convincing Charlie Sheen to do the rest of the movie under the influence of Quaaludes, plus directing the remainder of the movie completely naked. What you're picturing right there is pretty much the Wolf of Wall Street.

### 3 DAZED AND CONFUSED (1993)

I'm a sucker for romanticization of teenage life, as long as it's done well. Dazed and Confused, a twenty-four hour slice of life of the last day of high school in 1976, is done damn well. It presents the last day of school almost as an unstructured teenage commune, with all the strolling around and peeking heads in classrooms, and the nights spent driving around a one-horse town looking for any parties happening with a mustachioed Matthew McConaughey. As the big party ends, you're going to wish you were right there with that mustache.

### 2 THE DARK KNIGHT (2008)

There was a long period of time where The Dark Knight was my number one favorite film, and it was hard for me to finally accept that something had taken its place. My first viewing of The Dark Knight marked the point where I became a movie nerd. It was the first movie where I could clearly identify what its merits were, and how they formed a fantastic film. When I got it on DVD, I watched it every single day of winter break that year. I've watched it so many times, I'm amazed the disc stills works, but I never get tired of it no matter what.

### 1 KISS KISS BANG BANG (2005)

Like The Wolf of Wall Street, I've already talked about Kiss Kiss Bang Bang before. I've talked about its hilarity, I've talked about Robert Downey Jr.'s freewheeling performance, I've said what needs to be said. Please, for the love of God, watch Kiss Kiss Bang Bang.



CONGRATULATIONS  
CAITLIN! WE ARE SO  
PROUD OF YOU!  
LOVE ALWAYS, DAD, MOM AND CADEN

Go Awa Sargent!

CONGRATULATIONS  
TO THE  
CLASS OF 2014

FROM THE WILSON PARENT-  
TEACHER-STUDENT ORGANIZATION

## COP OR NAH? WITH KOPETSKY AND SMEE Z-SANDWICH

We thought we would never see the day: after what felt like an eternity of waiting, Z-Sandwich is finally open! Centuries ago, Z-Burger announced the upcoming opening of its second branch, a sandwich store, but the store never opened. The bright green, yellow, and red sign, which read "Z-Sandwich," provided false hope for a number of years. It's very possible that the owners of Z-Sandwich forgot about their plans, since it seems unlikely that it would take five years to buy enough bread and sandwich meat to start a business. But they finally did it, so we gave it a visit and a taste.

Upon entering, we realized that this was no normal eatery. The music selection was like no other-- we were entertained by the smooth stylings of the Royal Concept and various other FIFA soundtrack artists, as well as old school Britney Spears and the Backstreet Boys, while waiting for our order. Another thing that stood out to us was the beverage selection. As opposed to mainstream Coca Cola/Pepsi products, we had the privilege of choosing foreign delicacies such as Inca Cola. For those of you that don't know, Inca Cola is a soda native to Peru that tastes like a mix between Mountain Dew, cream soda, and ancient bloodletting rituals.

As we took our first bite into the three sandwiches we ordered, we immediately realized one thing: the unique sandwich shop we had believed to be in was actually just a Potbelly in disguise. With identical prices, sizes, and tastes, this place might as well have been a Potbelly. The meatball sub was properly toasted and well sauced, but was nothing we hadn't seen before. Their trademark sandwich The Masterpiece was pretty much a copy of Potbelly's signature sandwich The Wreck, both meaty and boily. Don't get us wrong, these sandwiches tasted good, but we feel that with five-plus years of preparation, they should have come up with more original and groundbreaking sam-mies.

Final Verdict: Cop, at least until Jimmy John's runs it out of business (if it ever opens, because as we have learned it takes on average five-10 years to open a sandwich shop).

\*Quick side-joans: this establishment had literally, YEARS to perfect their interior design, yet they forgot to proofread their overhead menu, which had the "Meatball sandwich" listed twice.

\*\*Also they have close to no web presence (try googling "Z-sandwich").

**FINAL VERDICT: COP**

# Wilson Students' Creativity Displayed at the First Annual Arts Fest

**Zoe Mills**  
Contributor

During the week of May 19-23, the first Arts Fest in Wilson's history took the school by storm. "This one is kind of an experiment to see what happens," said art teacher Mary Lambert, one of the heads of Arts Fest and the initial organizer.

The festival was a great opportunity for students to sell their work as well as gain feedback from others, whether from participating in performances or having their original art hung in the school. Students were also able to participate by helping out behind the scenes, from designing publicity materials to helping set up and earn some community service hours.

Some Arts Fest events took place during the week, such as the creation of the tall painting on Monday and a flashmob put on by the theater department at STEP on Tuesday. The anticipation was mainly focused around Thursday, where food, art, music, and live performances took place from 4-8 p.m.

Serena Wiltshire, a Wilson parent and the head of Arts Fest for the PTSO, worked all year

with Lambert, Alex Wilson, and other PTSO members to get the show up and running. Wiltshire plans to stay on as the head of next year's Arts Fest, so that the extravaganza becomes an annual event. The end goal is for it to become a community event to show student talents and the types of art programs at Wilson.

The festival gave students an opportunity to showcase their different types of art. Numerous students set up tables to sell work, including drawings, paintings, sculptures, t-shirts, jewelry, photographs and plants. A concert featuring Wilson band members took place, as well as a fashion show showcasing handmade clothing worn and made by students. Three West Side Story songs were performed by the fall musical's original cast, as well as a few scenes from this year's Shakespeare play, Two Gentlemen of Verona. There were also opportunities for kids of all ages, whether a Wilson student or younger sibling, to get their faces painted and their arms, hands, or legs decorated with henna. Wilson's 2014 Art Fest was an experiment well done!



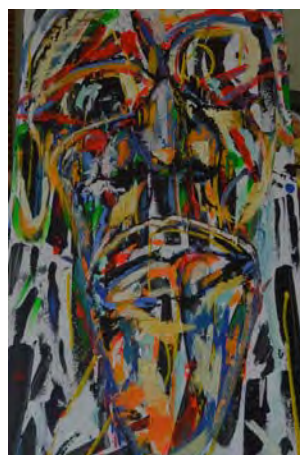
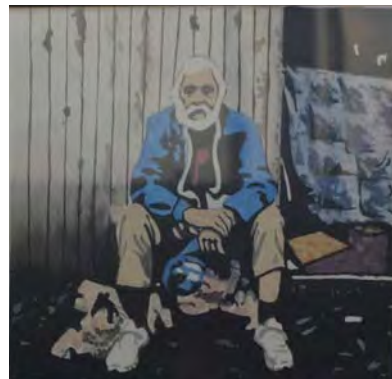
Photos by Devin Khan  
**GETTING CREATIVE**  
- On May 22, students' artwork went on display at Wilson's first ever Arts Fest. Parents who were in charge of the event hope to make it annual. Apart from students' work, Arts Fest also featured art from local artists, performances, plants from Wilson's greenhouse, as well as a fashion show. For a few hours, students and members of the community gathered to show off what they could do.

## ARTISTS CORNER

Compiled by Ellie Melick



# CONGRATULATIONS NELL BAYLISS AND THE 2013-14 WILSON TIGERS



# SENIORS IN THE HALL

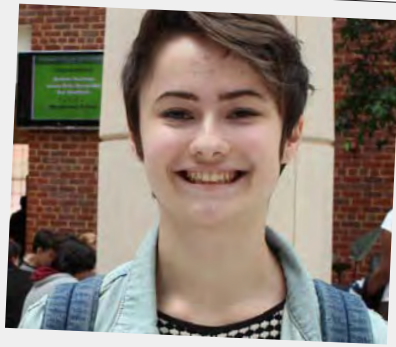
June 6, 2014

Compiled by Will Hamlin and Hannah Wyatt

## What will you miss the most about Wilson?



*"The squad. Shoutout to Chris, Steve, Will, Matt, and Sophie"*  
**Richard Sheler**



*"Mr. Cahall's goofy outfits"*  
**Gena Basha**



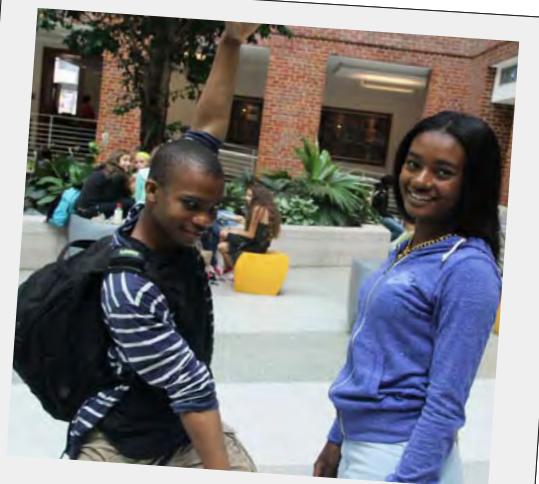
*"Teachers letting us turn in work [at] the end of the advisory"*  
**Marques Ross**



*"The trusty 'ole Beacon"*  
**Nathan Davis**



*"Dress code tyranny"*  
**Eileen Connor, Natasha Timmons, Emma Whitehead, Rosie Cohen, Maddy Taub**



*"Each other and the experiences"*  
**D'Mani Harrison Porter, Harper Randolph**



*"Ms. Guo's cherubic smile"*  
**Kenny Hahn, Amara Kutos**



*"Baby J-Rad"*  
**Ulysses Campbell**



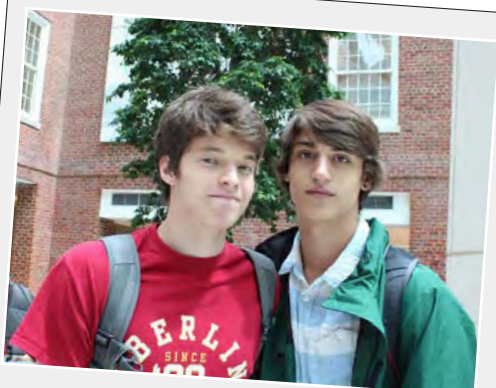
*"Ms. McGlennon"*  
**Drew Cave, Brian Angel**



*"Everything"*  
**Alicia Oluhara, Farah El Sobki**



*"Jack Price"*  
**Emmie Woscoboinik, Misora Enslein, Sofie Heffernan**



*"The ratchetness I guess"*  
**Henry Hoffman (left)**