

“In my own neighborhood...I’m frustrated by the ways that some new homeowners ignore the cultures and traditions.”

-Ellice Ellis on gentrification P. 7

“I would sit at my window, look out, and think ‘Where is my Romeo?’”

-Bella Heffernan on romance P. 8

“You could herald that as a beautiful artistic choice. You would be wrong.”

-Jackson Ross on Wes Anderson P. 13



Please Recycle



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Photos by Nico Artiga-Oliver

EVACUATED! - School was evacuated early in the day, due to a chemical spill in the aquatic center. Students had an unexpected day off.

SAT Changes Will Impact Freshman Class

Annie Rosenthal
News and Style Editor

The SAT: A high school student’s worst enemy. Its mere mention prompts a shudder of stress in teenagers who have yet to take the test and a sigh of relief in those who have sent their scores to colleges and put it behind them. The test, an integral part of the admissions process for most colleges and universities nationwide, is currently undergoing an extensive redesign that will go into effect in spring of 2016.

Come junior year, the class of 2017 will probably not be required to know what “recondite” means, or how to use “licentiousness” in a sentence, because the new SAT will deemphasize obscure vocabulary. The new test will also include more questions and passages based on interpreting evidence and on science and history, and will remove the penalty for wrong answers. Multiple choice questions will offer four answer choices instead of the current five.

Math questions will focus mainly on problem solving, algebra, and advanced math, the three areas that College Board, the company that owns the test, has deemed most applicable to real life. The test will also revert from its current 2,400 point scale to its previous scale with

1,600 maximum points.

Additionally, the reading section of every test will include a passage from one of America’s “founding documents” or a passage about freedom, justice, or human dignity. College Board hopes that answering questions about this passage will “inspire deep engagement with texts that matter and reflect not only what is important for college and career, but what is important for citizenship here and around the world.”

The revision leading to the most conversation is the removal of the essay requirement. The new, optional essay will ask students to analyze how an author develops his/her argument in a provided passage, a dramatic shift from the current prompt, which requires all students to respond to a subjective thesis with historical evidence and personal anecdotes. Students will also have 50 minutes to complete the essay if they choose to do so, instead of the 25 currently allowed.

Some Wilson students, like junior Ethan Tanen, are frustrated by the removal of the essay requirement. “It sucks that they’re taking out the essay, because that’s the one thing they should keep in,” Tanen says.

Math teacher Elaine Smith

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Dust Endangers Teacher’s Health

Claire Parker and Emma Buzbee

Managing Editor and Junior Editor

When art teacher Mary Lambert began teaching at Wilson in 2011 she did not imagine that two years later the job would literally take her breath away. Exposure to large quantities of clay and dust in a classroom lacking adequate ventilation has left Lambert with asthma, thousands of dollars in medical bills, and a persistent problem that government agencies have yet to fix.

Lambert teaches Sculpture 1 and 2, Intro to Ceramics, Ceramics 2, and Intro to Art and Design, with about 20-30 students in each class. Her sculpture and ceramics students like Lambert as a teacher and enjoy working with clay, wood, and other materials to make pottery and sculptures. But there is a downside to these seemingly fun and carefree art classes.

Lambert was diagnosed with work-induced asthma on December 5. She began worrying about her health in the fall, when she started having trouble breathing in her classroom. Lambert took her complaint to Wilson business manager Ajibade DaSilva and Principal Pete Cahall, writing in an email on November 18 that “the room is covered in clay, I’m getting increasingly worried for my health because of dust. We clean

constantly and I’ve discussed with [Custodian Steve] James, but it’s more than we can stay on top of.”

While some action was taken, Lambert’s breathing problems did not go away. Her doctor also informed her that asthma will continue to plague her as long as she works at Wilson.

Dust in the Classroom

Clay used in Lambert’s ceramics class and the wood, foam, paper, and plaster used in her sculpture class produce large quantities of dust on surfaces and in the air. The dust diminishes air quality and makes breathing difficult. While proper ventilation and cleaning can prevent or help ameliorate these problems, “the room was not set up the way it should have been,” Lambert said.

“We have one small vent system in the corner and we need more,” she said. “What we need is a HEPA filter put into the exhaust system. It filters out smaller particles in the air. It is what is usually recommended for clay dust.”

For a while before Lambert was diagnosed, the existing exhaust system was not functioning properly due to an electrical problem which has since been fixed. But Lambert is still feeling the effects.

Health Effects

Clay dust is a well-known cause of work-induced asthma,

also called occupational asthma, according to Dr. Jalil Ahari, a pulmonary specialist at George Washington University Hospital.

“When you are exposed to these respirable pieces, and you breathe them, they go into your lungs, and then they cause...an allergic reaction, which shows itself as asthma,” Ahari said. He explained that once the body becomes sensitized to the offending particles, it will react every time it comes into contact with them.

Silica, a particular type of mineral in ceramics clay, can be especially harmful. Cumulative exposure heightens the risk of developing a condition called silicosis, according to the National Institutes of Health (NIH). An NIH study showed that the more students working in a classroom, the higher the concentration of silica in the air.

There are two types of silicosis: chronic and acute. Neither is curable. Chronic silicosis develops after 20-30 years of exposure and “entails symptoms such as shortness of breath, dry cough, emphysema, and high susceptibility to lung infections such as tuberculosis,” according to a University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (UW-M) art safety publication.

In her original email complaint to DaSilva and Cahall, Lambert expressed worry about

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SAT Changes Prompt Mixed Response

FROM P 1



Cartoon by Tristan Huber

disagrees. She has served on a six-person national committee that reviews changes to the SAT for the last five years, and says it's been "a wonderful experience." The committee, which consists of three high school teachers and three college professors, has been made privy to confidential details of the redesign that will not be made public until mid-April.

She says that the essay should have been eliminated completely, because giving students the option to write it leaves room for the privileged to get ahead.

English teacher Molly Hughes doesn't like the essay either, but because she thinks grading is too subjective.

Revisions to the SAT program extend beyond the test itself. College Board president David Coleman recently announced a partnership with the online education site Khan Academy to provide free online

practice SAT problems and instructional videos. College Board will also offer free college application fee-waivers. Both actions are part of an effort to make the college process easier for low-income students.

College Board's new redesign of the test was prompted by a number of factors. In recent years, the SAT has lost its status as the main test students take to get into college to the ACT, which is considered to be more knowledge-based. Last year 1.8 million students took the ACT, while 1.7 million took the SAT. This shift in dominance is due in part to the abundance of criticism from students, parents, teachers and admissions officers alike regarding the legitimacy of the SAT.

For years, critics have been lining up to protest that the SAT's content does not reflect what students learn in school. Data gathered by College Board also indicates a very strong posi-

tive correlation between family income and SAT scores, leading to concerns about the fairness of the test.

Furthermore, several colleges have stopped requiring either the SAT or the ACT because they doubt the effectiveness of these tests in predicting a student's success in college. College Board's projected changes are an effort to resolve issues with the SAT and thus reestablish the test as the leading admissions tool.

Although many students think the new test will be easier, Smith believes its correlation with national content standards will increase the SAT's difficulty. Despite her qualms with the essay, she says she's happy with most of the changes, in particular because she takes issue with the current test's cultural and socioeconomic biases.

"[The redesign] is about trying to restore integrity to the use of the SAT as a tool for admissions. But I appreciate the attention being paid to equity and access," she says. "That has always been the mission of College Board, I just think that they haven't always known how to go about it. They have become mindful of the fact that class plays a role in giving students an advantage in preparing for the SAT, and it's nice that they're trying to create a redesign that will change that."

However, some members of the Wilson community are not convinced that the redesign will rectify all problems with the SAT.

"I'm glad that they're trying to address the socioeconomic divide, but at the same time getting rid of the essay and making the vocab easier doesn't necessarily solve the problem. It seems like they're just trying to make it more like the ACT to keep up with competition," says senior Eva Monroe.

Hughes agrees. "The test measures your exposure to classical ideas. But I think ideas of what's important knowledge are changing," she says.

Whatever the extent of the changes to the test, Monroe says she thinks the SAT should be de-emphasized. "I think you need to take focus off the test. As long as the SAT is the be-all and end-all it's still going to be a business. It's still gonna cater to the rich people."

Smith agrees. "I want to just see a variety of factors taken into consideration by anybody who works in college admissions. Not just SAT or any other factor—it just doesn't tell enough about the person. Looking at grades throughout high school, the idea of seeing improvement—those things to me matter more. I don't think any one test score on one given day tells you much about how likely an individual is to succeed in a college institution."

Despite the buzz the SAT redesign has created of late, students will still be taking the un-revised test for the next two years. We'll have to wait until 2016 to see what changes, if any, the redesign brings.

History of the SAT

Originally called the Army Alpha, the SAT was developed during World War II to test the intelligence of army recruits. After the war, a Harvard professor adapted the test for college admissions. He hoped it would attract intelligent young men from public schools, and offered scholarships to students who did well on the test. Other Ivy League schools soon adopted it as well, and within a few years the SAT became the most commonly used admissions tool in the country.

Admissions officers initially liked the test because it was intended to evaluate natural intelligence, regardless of the quality of the student's education. It was widely believed that one could not study for the SAT. But in 1938, Stanley H. Kaplan started an SAT tutoring company out of his Brooklyn basement and proved that learning the tricks of the test could significantly boost a student's score. Since then, test prep for the SAT and its main rival, the ACT, have grown to become a industry grossing more than \$1 billion a year.

Diversity Exhibited at International Night



Top Row Photos by Devin Khan



Bottom Row Photos by Joey Keegan

THINK GLOBALLY - International Night was March 20th. Performances, food, and fun were all available.

Megan Bell
Staff Writer

On Thursday, March 20, Wilson celebrated International Night with sari dress-up, Chinese calligraphy, a photo booth, a fashion show, and Bollywood dance. The night honored a

variety of cultures including Asian, Caribbean, European, Latin American, North African, Middle Eastern, and Sub-Saharan African.

Event planning was led by seniors Janet Lam, Uyanga Mungunchimeg, Kamila Duvaeva, and Angelica Intal, with

teacher volunteers Mary Ball and Julie Caccamise.

At the center of the atrium, the Indonesian Embassy put on a program with a Gamelan musical performance, a Gamelan workshop, and a dance performance, the "Tari Merak," or Peacock Dance.

"There were lots of people, great activities, a full Gamelan orchestra and laughter," said Caccamise, head of the Wilson International Studies Program (WISP) academy. Additionally, there was a variety of food from Italy, Japan, China, the United States and elsewhere.

Student leaders represented their own cultures, which encouraged a diverse array of students becoming involved.

"It was cool to see the different foods and the event was more diverse than I thought it would be," said Nicole Amalamba, who participated in the fashion show and the Bollywood dance wearing a traditional Indian garment indicative of her half-Indian background. "The most unique food that I tried was probably the Arabic coffee. Also, it was really interesting to see people come to the event representing different cultures."

The event gave people the opportunity to experience a Japanese chopstick game, an Arabic speaking and writing booth, and a modern Korean hand game booth. The French booth included an opportunity to speak with the French exchange students. The book club and Micheline Tocco's Iron-Chef competition were also popular.

"I think because this year was such a success- so beautiful and well attended- we will have more people who want to share their culture in the future," said Caccamise, already looking forward to next year.

Tiny Pieces of Dust Lead to Serious Problems

FROM P 1

developing this condition. “Rather than wait for the condition to happen, I would like to be proactive, and make a difference without having to leave the job,” she wrote. After testing negative for silicosis since then, Lambert is less worried about it. However, she could still develop the condition in the future if she continues to teach at Wilson unless action is taken.

Apart from silicosis, the NIH wrote that there is also an “association between exposure to crystalline silica and the development of lung cancer.” The International Agency for Research on Cancer officially classified crystalline silica as a human carcinogen, a cancer-causing agent. And according to Lambert, “Most clays contain crystalline silica. I do not see it specifically listed on the clay we buy, but most do so I can only assume ours does.”

Ahari estimated that it takes years or even decades of exposure to develop cancer, but, “Nobody knows,” he said. “The more exposure you have, the more chances that you may develop some sort of cancer.”

Are students in danger? “It depends on what is the concentration of those materials in the air, and what exactly those materials are,” said Ahari. “It may actually cause [sickness] if there is a significant amount of exposure in that place. We just don’t know.”

The Ventilation Problem

The dust problem could be fixed with proper ventilation. While they do not legally need to adhere to any requirements, ceramics classrooms should be built with certain ventilation systems and filters. UW-Milwau-



Photos by Claire Parker

Dust coats the top of part of the ventilation system in the ceramics room (left). Cutting clay for Lambert’s ceramics classes produces dust and debris (right).

kee recommends installing “an effective local exhaust ventilation at the wedging table to reduce potential for exposure to silica, and use wet methods to clean the table or use a vacuum cleaner equipped with a HEPA filter.”

Efforts to fix the dust problem have fallen short so far. Occupational Safety and Health Administration employee Lyn Penniman said OSHA does not regulate indoor air quality overall.

In November Lambert contacted OSHA, which then redirected her to the DC Department of General Services (DGS), responsible for managing DC government facilities including Wilson. DGS sent environmental protection specialist Roe Milam to do a walk-through of Lambert’s classroom. Contacted by The Beacon, Milam said he was instructed by his supervisor not to speak to the media.

Milam wrote to DaSilva on November 25, that “the room has been cleared, however an additional work-order has been placed for repair of the existing

exhaust fan, which is an electrical issue. Presently, from here on out, the room will need direct attention from the custodial staff -- wet-mopping daily.”

DaSilva designated Lambert’s classroom as a high priority for the custodial staff. Lambert says the custodial and administrative staff at Wilson have been very responsive.

The government agencies responsible for dealing with the situation are a different story.

Government Response

Ahari stressed that government agencies are responsible for responding to cases of occupational asthma, and they must “measure the concentration of the particular particles that you think are causing the problem.”

That is not as easy as it sounds. The level of attention to the situation “should be priority,” said DaSilva, “yet you have so much bureaucracy that doesn’t allow the wheels to turn as quickly as you would like. If I had the resources and authority [to fix the problem], it would

have been done by now.”

Identifying which agency does have that authority was a challenge, and once identified, communicating with them was just as difficult. DGS did not respond to The Beacon’s inquiries.

“[DGS] needs to figure out how to install additional exhaust or enhance existing exhaust to be able to alleviate the nuisance dust,” said DaSilva. “If you think about it, it’s still present. They’re just doing band-aid work.”

After the November 25 inspection, DGS said info on repair of the current exhaust system and the addition of another one would be forthcoming. As of March 21, DaSilva still had not heard anything from them on the subject.

DGS wrote in an email to Lambert that they would do a follow-up inspection in December. They are just now talking about setting a date for that follow-up. No action has been taken since the end of November. “DGS is slow in my opinion, very slow to respond to these things,” said DaSilva.

Consequences of Lambert’s Illness

In the meantime, Lambert has spent \$2,000 on doctors visits and treatment for her asthma that her DCPS health insurance plan does not cover. She said that she cannot visit the doctor about her condition anymore because she cannot afford it. Lambert carries an inhaler, but has had to miss at least one day of work because she felt unable to breathe in her classroom.

Lambert could file for workers’ compensation, a type of insurance that provides protection to employees if they get injured on the job by paying their medical bills and salary for days they miss due to illness or injury. She has the grounds to take legal action such as this, but thus far has opted not to.

“That’s her being a team player,” said DaSilva. “So now DCPS and DGS, are they following in suit? They need to step up to the plate and do right by their professionals and their students that they serve.”

D.C. Moves Towards Decriminalization

Helen Malholtra
Junior Editor

The D.C. council voted to decriminalize marijuana on March 4, and many students are confused about what exactly that means.

The law is not yet in place, but Mayor Vincent Gray says he plans to sign it and then Congress needs to okay it. This means that marijuana is not yet decriminalized, but it should be in the near future.

A common misconception is that decriminalization permits anyone to smoke marijuana on their own property and that if someone gets caught smoking in public, they only have to pay a fine. However, it’s not that simple.

Under the new law, anyone caught with less than one ounce of marijuana will be fined \$25, and the marijuana confiscated. If a minor--anyone under the age

of 18--is caught with marijuana, they will be fined the \$25, the marijuana will be confiscated, and a parent or guardian will be notified. Anyone smoking or selling the drug in public will be arrested. Vehicles are not considered personal property and smoking in cars is an offense that could warrant jail time.

Almost all city councilmembers agree that the new law will have positive effects on the city. Councilmember and mayoral candidate Tommy Wells says the law will have the largest impact on African Americans, who make up nine out of 10 of the arrests for selling and smoking marijuana.

The lone dissenter on the council, Yvette Alexander says it will have little effect in Ward 7. “People are going to smoke, regardless of the law. Guys smoking a joint are concerned they’re still going to jail with this legislation,” Alexander says, arguing that the law is unfair.

Wilson Community Forced to Make Do During Water Crisis

Henry Cohen and Jake Radack
Staff Writers

Just when you thought Wilson students couldn’t get any thirstier, on March 5 and 6 administrators were forced to travel around school distributing thousands of water bottles to classrooms. Our very own Fort Reno reservoir had experienced a switch-gear failure, resulting in contamination of the water.

DCPS and Wilson responded quickly, notifying homes of the advisory and informing families that school was to proceed. For three days, thousands of D.C. residents and businesses in the Northwest area were advised to boil their water before using it for washing, drinking, or cooking.

“I filled up my glass and it literally looked like a genie was flying around inside,” sopho-



Photo courtesy of Stephanie Beer

DRINK UP - Wilson’s water supply was contaminated after failure at Fort Reno. It was unusable for two days.

more Yannick Twymasi said.

The District provided schools in the affected area with bottled water for all classrooms and after-school activities. Schools also prevented scholars from drinking the water by covering all fountains and sinks with trash bags. The D.C. Water and Sewer Authority eventually disinfected the water with

chlorine, and water service was restored by late afternoon on Thursday.

Many Wilson students were frustrated by the lack of water fountain service. Freshman Paola Camba said, “Because of the water problem I had to bring a water bottle to school, which ended up spilling on all of my books. It was an A+ experience.”

Acid Spill in Aquatic Center Closes School for the Day

Evan Hamlin
Co-Editor-In-Chief

For the administration, Wilson's apparent lack of absurd evacuations this year seemed too good to be true. At least until two weeks ago, when students and teachers were ushered out of the building shortly after second period began.

An acid spill in the chemical room of the Wilson Aquatic Center caused an evacuation of the pool building and the adjoining school building. According to Kim Nimmo, a Risk Analyst and Assessment Manager at the D.C. Office of Risk Management, a third party contractor working in the chemical room caused the spill.

Dozens of D.C. Fire and EMS (Emergency Medical Services) vehicles arrived outside the pool to contain the incident to one service room. According to WNEW senior correspondent Mark Segraves, the contractor was sent to the hospital in critical condition due to an undisclosed injury. A city firefighter was also sent to the hospital with facial burn injuries. Hazmat workers were present to clean teams going in and out of the

building.

Although students were evacuated during second period, the spill actually took place earlier in the morning, right around the time first period ended. The situation became a serious concern for the school when vapors from the spill were noticed in the school building.

"We got notice from the Department of General Services, the police, and the media," said Nimmo. "The aquatic center is under our jurisdiction."

Could the spill have been prevented? Not by the ORM, at least. "It was [the contractor's] negligence that caused this," said Nimmo.

The chemical that spilled from the broken pipe and caused the evacuation was Hydrochloric acid, which is more formally referred to as Muriatic acid. It can be used in pool treatment as a way to regulate the acidity, or pH, of the water in the pool.

Hydrochloric acid is clear and colorless, but it emits an extremely pungent odor. It is highly corrosive, which means it can destroy certain substances if it comes into contact with them. It can cause severe burns when it comes into contact with hu-



Photo by Nico Artiga-Oliver

SQUAD - Wilson security is sent outside along with the whole school on March 12, their faces mirroring the confusion felt by teachers and students alike. Students at Fort Reno erupted with cheers when school was cancelled.

man skin. The health risk that an unsafe amount of hydrochloric acid exposure poses to humans was the primary reason for the evacuation of both buildings.

As a vapor, hydrochloric acid can cause serious respiratory problems when it comes into contact with humans in unsafe amounts. It can also cause chronic problems among people that are exposed to the vapor in smaller amounts consistently over time.

As for the next steps, the

ORM will conduct an inspection of the area where the spill took place. "Once fire department is gone, then we go in and inspect to see if there are any violations or anything that needs to be addressed in the future," said Nimmo. "We're still in the process of determining exactly what happened."

Students and teachers congregated across Chesapeake Street at Fort Reno after being evacuated from the building. After about a half an hour, the

decision was made to release students for the remainder of the day. Teachers were allowed back into the building to gather belongings until 1 p.m., but afterwards the school closed for the day.

Although speculation regarding a cancellation the next day circled among students, the Aquatic Center and the school were restored to their normal, safe states after multiple air and water quality tests were performed.

New Tuition Assistance Program Passes in D.C. Council

Nathan Davis
Co-Editor-In-Chief

The D.C. Council unanimously passed a new college tuition assistance program for D.C. students on its second reading on March 4. Contingent on a signature by the mayor and approval by Congress, the program will go into effect around February of next year.

The new D.C. Promise Establishment Act, a bill drafted and proposed by Councilmember David Catania, sets up a program to supplement the D.C. Tuition Assistance Grant (DC TAG) by assisting students with non-tuition expenses at public universities and regional colleges and both tuition and non-tuition expenses at private colleges and UDC. The maximum award would be \$7,500, the minimum \$2,500. Students would be able to submit applications by February of next year, and awards would be granted on a sliding scale based on the D.C. Area Median Income.

The bill has sparked controversy ever since Eleanor Holmes-Norton warned of its potential to overturn DC TAG funding, a program paid for by the federal

government. "D.C. TAG has been in jeopardy ever since appropriators learned of the D.C. Promise bill," warned Holmes-Norton in a memo to the city council. "The D.C. Promise will indicate that D.C. can fund its own program." Norton has not contacted Catania's office since the bill's passage, according to Catania's chief of staff, Brendan Williams-Kief.

"It would be very surprising if Congress overturned [D.C. TAG]," Williams-Kief said. He also cited the President's budget as a source of comfort. "The President's budget included \$40 million for TAG, which is a good indication that there is support for TAG."

Going forward, as Chairman of the Education Committee, Catania will continue to be involved in the development and implementation of the Promise bill. The program would be administered by the Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE).

"It's got an opportunity to be a really transformative piece of legislation for the city," said Williams-Kief. That is a fact that both backers and opponents of the program certainly seem to agree upon.

Recent Debate Became Mayoral Cage Match

Zoe Frumin
Staff Writer

The debate between candidates for the Democratic primary for mayor on Sunday, March 16 was rowdy to say the least. Its setting separated this debate, which occurs every election year, from most others. The majority of the debates are held in brightly-lit recreation centers or churches, while this one was packed into The Black Cat, a dark music venue on 14th Street, where this year attendees were reminded upwards of four times to "tip [their] bartenders."

The raucous crowds kept things interesting, but the real show came from the candidates, who quickly got contentious and pointed many a finger at one another. This was not surprising, since election day is nearing and Jeffrey E. Thompson recently came out with allegations about Mayor Vincent Gray. After four years of Gray claiming he did not know about the \$668,600 that prominent city contractor Thompson illegally donated to Gray's 2010 election for mayor, Thompson testified in federal court that Gray did in fact know about the deal.

The first curveball of the night was the announcement of Mayor Gray's absence.

The well-attended debate run by the local city papers is not an event a local candidate would want to miss, but the Black Cat debate is known for its unforgiving setting of loud people, short answers, and a free-for-all debate format.

When asked who they believe is telling the truth, Vincent Gray or Jeffrey Thompson, every candidate -- aside from Carlos Allen and Muriel Bowser, who said they would let the courts decide -- clearly sided with Thompson.

Because of the Jeffrey Thompson news this week, a major topic discussed at the Black Cat was corruption. Tommy Wells is the only candidate in the election who does not take corporate contributions: he advocates for fair elections and said that the elimination of corporate contributions to campaigns will take the power away from the wealthy who "currently run" our government.

Jack Evans countered this argument by reminding Wells that making corporate contributions illegal will not eliminate them, and that by keeping them legal they can at least be monitored. When each of the candidates was given 20 seconds to respond to the question: "What would you do to end corruption in Washington government?" Wells said, "Become your mayor." At one point Vincent Orange joked with Wells, calling him "Mr. Clean." Andy Shallal called himself the "outsider" who will take the city in a new direction, away from corruption.

Because of the recent moves toward decriminalization of marijuana in the District, each of the candidates was given 30 seconds to give their stand on the issue of legalization. Wells, Orange, Shallal, Evans, Allen, and Bowser all support legalization, because of the social

injustice that stems from mass incarceration due to possession.

Reta Jo Lewis said that she supports decriminalization but not necessarily legalization. She went further to say when push came to shove she would support the interests of the people of the District.

Allen spoke about the importance of age restrictions on marijuana, and the idea of treating it like alcohol as a way to protect D.C. youth.

At the end of the debate, the candidates were allowed to ask one question to another candidate. This was telling, because the candidates were allowed time to either point their fingers at each other and get contentious, or throw each other soft balls that made them look diplomatic and illustrate with whom they were siding.

One question that stood out was Evan's for Shallal. Evans asked what he could do to get Shallal to build one of his restaurants in Ward 7 or 8 to build up the city east of the river and bring food industry into a ward that has little more than a Denny's. In his response, Shallal noted two restaurants he is working to build in Wards 7 and 8, but said he was having trouble because his model won't work in those areas. Shallal's restaurant, Busboys and Poets, is a place where people can come with a book or computer, get a glass of water and sit for hours, for free. Shallal explained that this model won't work in Ward 7 or 8 because of the high poverty levels in those wards.

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Faulty Bureaucracy Not Just Ineffective, But Dangerous

Note: This editorial is a response to the article "Dust Endangers Teacher's Health" on P. 1.

By The Beacon Editorial Staff

Let's take a look at art teacher Mary Lambert's choices. She could leave Wilson, she could take legal action, or she could stay and continue struggling to breathe. Her options are grim. She has chosen the third option, demonstrating her tolerance and commitment to the school and tolerance. It is an outrage that she has acquired occupational asthma in the first place, and the government's response is even more outrageous and unacceptable.

Lambert is exactly the kind of teacher we want at Wilson. She is dedicated to her students and inspires them to be creative, and the sculptures you see hanging up in the hallway of the C-wing are evidence of her skill as a teacher. Students, including many of our own editors and

staff, speak passionately about her and their experiences in her class. It would be an incredible loss to the school if she had to leave.

Four months have elapsed since the D.C. Department of General Services was supposed to add additional exhaust mechanisms and do a follow-up inspection -- four months in which Lambert has been racking up medical bills not covered by her government-provided insurance, and potentially dangerous particles are floating around her classroom and students.

Lambert has struggled to get government officials to even reply to her emails. Former ceramics teacher Janathel Shaw spent five years trying to contact the D.C. Occupational Safety and Health Administration about the dust problem with no response,

according to Art Department Chair Mary Barnes.

We encountered the same problems trying to do our research for the story on page one -- we were redirected from agency to agency at both the federal and district levels so many times we lost count. One of our editors spent an hour and a half being redirected to different people at various OSHA departments, most of whom were unsure about what agency was responsible for problems in D.C. The same thing happened when we tried to contact various D.C. government offices, leaving us exasperated and about ready to consider becoming Libertarians.

We have a hunch that the government would be more responsive, both to Lambert and us, if Lambert were suing or taking other legal action. The DGS

is exploiting her understanding and goodwill.

The failure of government agencies to communicate and act in a timely manner is not just inconvenient and annoying in this situation -- it is potentially hazardous. No one's health should suffer as a result of muddled bureaucracy. The government's job is to protect the welfare of the people, but its inefficiencies and inability to act quickly are doing the opposite.

It is in the best interest of the D.C. government to make D.C. a place that attracts, retains, and takes care of good teachers like Lambert. To fail to do so is to fail D.C. schools, students, and teachers.

We hope to see DGS at Wilson on Monday, working to do the right thing and fix the problem.

SAT: Too Much Testing, Too Little Change

Erin Sternlieb
Opinions Editor

Forty-two hours and fifty minutes -- more than five entire school days -- that is how long I will be spending this school year alone, sitting in a silent room, filling in bubbles and blanks to take standardized tests. This includes two SATs, three SAT subject tests, formal practice tests, DCPS-specific tests and four APs.

Although this quantity of time may seem shocking, among many of my peers it isn't even close to the high end of the spectrum, and doesn't account for the hours spent studying, or the number of class periods devoted to teaching to the tests. So while College Board's new changes to the SAT are important, they are far from addressing the real problem; the extreme load of standardized tests.

If you haven't heard about the changes to the SAT, they are simple: the scale will shift back to 1600 points, the essay will be optional, tricky math and vocab questions will be removed, the penalty for incorrect answers will end, and the test will be generally more "real world" oriented. These changes, along with a partnership with the online tutoring website Khan Academy to offer free comprehensive SAT

prep, aim at making the test more fair and will go into effect in the spring of 2016.

Over the last few weeks I have heard many of my classmates complaining about the changes in the test, mostly out of anger that they have to put up with an extremely frustrating exam while their classmates two years younger will get an "easier" test without many of the most frustrating components. While I understand the annoyance of essentially being forced to take a test you believe is unfair, students who are experiencing jealousy over the changes in the test should look at the big picture. This isn't to say there aren't reasons to be upset about the test.

Although I do think making free test prep widely available to people who are often already put at a disadvantage by the expensive college system is extremely important, I don't think the other changes even touch the surface of problems with standardized testing.

What makes the SAT unfair is not just its seemingly meant-to-trick questions, or odd essay prompts, or even necessarily the expensive prep, it's that such test is not enough to judge a person's intelligence. The SAT doesn't measure knowledge about history, or science, or current events, or the arts. Not

everyone is good at the same things, and the SAT's demand that students all be good at two subjects is unreasonable. What's more, the SAT doesn't look at a person's ability to carry on intelligent conversation, or ask good questions, or speak passionately about an issue-- all things arguably much more important to a person's success in higher education or in a career.

Bates College in Maine has been a test-optional school for numerous years and has discovered in studies that there is really no difference in grades or graduation rate among students who decided to submit test scores and those who didn't. The study which looked at students from six public test-optional schools found that there was only 0.05 percent of a GPA point difference between the students who submitted their scores and those who did not.

Not only is standardized testing not indicative of individual knowledge, it actually takes time away from the acquisition of it. Studying for the SAT, which many students prioritize over their classes, is much more about memorizing tricks and strategies of the test than learning any material.

The problems with standardized testing are evident not just in College Board tests like the SAT and SAT subject tests,

but also in DCPS tests like the DC CAS and the paced-interim exams. These tests have the same problem: by making them crucial to the success of schools and teachers, just like the College Board tests are essential to the success of students, they cause teachers to devote class time to test prep -- often irrelevant to the material being taught in class -- and take away class time to administer. Every year, the school also wastes money and resources trying to force students to take the test seriously.

Standardized tests came into the mainstream with George W. Bush's No Child Left Behind policy, aimed at mending the disparities in education by holding teachers and schools accountable for each and every student. The problem is the system swung from the extreme of zero accountability to an unmanageable plethora of testing. Accountability, while important, is defeating its own purpose if it comes at the cost of learning.

So while the changes to the SAT hopefully signify an admission that this system is both unfair and not working, they barely touch deeper problems caused by standardized testing in education, which nothing short of complete elimination of these tests can truly solve.

TOP 10 Things That Make Us MAD In March

- 1) Snow again...and again
- 2) End of advisory (you've been loafing)
- 3) Dayton and Mercer
- 4) The rest of my bracket
- 5) Getting bagged for watching March Madness under your desk
- 6) The end of your favorite show (Ezra dies)
- 7) Vladdy P and his Russian goons
- 8) DCPS stealing our half-days
- 9) Living in constant fear of flying lacrosse balls and sticks
- 10) The struggle to get those sculpted abs



Eboni
Ellis

ASK EB

Ask your questions at
ask.fm/TheWilsonBeacon

Q Since you are a senior, do you think the senior class deserves a way to celebrate the end of high school other than Six Flags? Like, could we propose any other options, or is it too late?

A I definitely think we deserve a trip other than Six Flags in PG County, Maryland. That's like right down the street for most people! I honestly think the Wilson administration sold us short for our end of the year activities. We shouldn't have to live up to mistakes that were made by previous senior classes. Maybe a trip out of the country would have been a stretch due to the reputation a "senior trip" has at Wilson now, but at least a nice senior cruise on the Spirit of Washington or maybe even a luncheon or picnic would be appreciated. I know our class is one of the best Wilson has had in a long time and we deserve something a lot more classy than a trip to Six Flags with every other D.C. school. Many members of the senior class will be going to "beach week" in Ocean City to end the senior year, I think it's going to be fun and a way to end high school with a bang, but it is not a school sanctioned event that everyone can participate in.

Q So my friend's girlfriend is cheating on him with my brother, do I tell or nah? Either way someone's getting hurt.

A In situations like these it's always really hard to pick a side. Since she's so-called cheating with your brother, I think you should stay on his side and keep their interactions on the down low because family always comes first, in my opinion. In the future try not to even get caught up in situations like this. It's really not your place to even be involved in the situation. When someone who isn't in the immediate relationship or interaction gets involved it adds a lot more drama.

Q My parents have been divorced for a while. I had no problems at first, but now I am kinda being forced to take sides on something. How should I go about this?

A I totally understand where you are coming from. I have been in a similar situation; my parents are divorced too. When things come up and I am forced to choose a side I usually stay out of it but always still give my input on how I feel about the situation. It is important to always voice your opinion about what is going on between your parents because nine times out of 10 it is going to affect you too. Also, every family is different, but children of the divorce sometimes tend to cling to one parent more than the other and end up taking their side. But remember taking sides always exacerbates the situation. It adds fuel to the fire. If you want to keep the peace, that's not always the best thing to do. Whatever you end up doing I am sure your parents will still continue to love you. Good luck, this situation is not easy at all to deal with but I am sure you will be fine.

Don't "Ban Bossy," Do Empower Girls

Annie Rosenthal
News and Style Editor

In early March, Sheryl Sandberg, author of the 2012 feminist manifesto "Lean In," teamed up with the CEO of the Girl Scouts to undertake a new mission: banning the word "bossy." Bossy, Sandberg argues, is "the other B-word," aimed more often at girls than boys and used to undermine female ambition and confidence. Her campaign has earned the support of power women Condoleezza Rice, Jennifer Garner, Jane Lynch, and Queen Beyoncé herself.

I fervently support these women's goal of empowering girls to be leaders. As Sandberg points out in a Wall Street Journal interview about the campaign, women earn the majority of college degrees in America but are sorely underrepresented in leadership positions: they make up just 19% of Congress, 5% of Fortune 500 CEOs and 10% of international heads of state. Despite the fact that as Americans we like to pat ourselves on the back for being a wealthy, technologically advanced nation and a model of democracy, women in this country still earn 77 cents to every dollar a man earns for the same job. And that's not okay.

But banning the word "bossy" is not the way to solve the problem.

By definition, "bossy" is not a synonym for confident, or ambitious, or having good leadership skills. Bossy refers to someone ordering other people around. The fact that the word is often used as such to degrade women doesn't mean that the term itself needs to be erased from our vocabularies. It just means that we need to be more careful about how we use it. And maybe that's what Sandberg and her team meant to say; "Use Bossy For Both Genders and Only When It's Accurate" doesn't have "Ban Bossy's" alliterative pizzazz. However, that's not how their message comes across.

There are very good reasons for banning some words. "Retard" is a prime example. The term serves no purpose outside of making someone feel bad about him- or herself. But that's not true for "bossy." And frankly, as Alexandra Petri pointed out in her March 10 Washington Post article on the subject, anyone who signs Sandberg's "Pledge to Ban Bossy" probably isn't the kind of person who regularly uses the word to degrade women, anyway.

The biggest problem with this well-intentioned new movement is that it doesn't get at the root of the issue. It's a band-aid solution, and not a great one at that. To earn support, we should be actively expanding rights

instead of limiting the words people can use. To create more female leaders, we need to raise girls with the knowledge that they can be leaders.

Teach kids from a young age that little Joe and little Jane are equals. Teach them that leadership isn't just for boys, and that being thoughtful and in touch with your emotions isn't just for girls. Teach both genders to cook and to advocate for themselves. Regulate advertisements to ensure that both genders know that their bodies don't define them as people. Teach your daughter and your son how to cooperate with others. Encourage them both to be assertive, and to speak their minds.

And instead of banning bossy, girls and women, use the word as ammunition to succeed. Both Sandberg and Girl Scouts CEO Anna Maria Chavez, the Founding Mothers of the new movement, were labeled "bossy" as children. Both women are now incredibly successful. They succeeded despite being criticized for their ambition.

As girls, we cannot allow stereotypes to hold us back from success. If being called bossy keeps you from pursuing your dreams, then people who want to see you fail will continue to call you bossy. I'm not saying that it's up to girls alone to fight sexism in leadership positions; it's an issue that both men and

women must actively combat. But if we allow a sassy remark from that annoying guy in English class to make us doubt our potential, we won't get anywhere.

Reclaim "bossy" as Tina Fey did in her autobiography, "Bossypants", as Kelis did in her 2006 song "Bossy," as the words "slut" and "queer" have been reclaimed. Be respectful to others but be proud of your strengths. Use your assertiveness to lead and to accomplish.

And despite my qualms about the Ban Bossy movement, I think it's ridiculously important that we don't let our particular criticisms keep us from paying attention to its larger goal. Within a day of Sandberg's public unveiling of her new project, the Internet was ablaze with sassy response articles whose headlines criticized the campaign for its strategy. Although it's important to get a message across in the most productive way possible, we shouldn't be shooting down people who share our goals. We should be acknowledging their efforts to bring issues we care about to a larger audience, and offering up alternative strategies if we disagree with the one they chose. I believe in the same values that Sheryl Sandberg and Beyoncé do, and the very last thing I want to do is alienate other people who are fighting

for gender equality. If feminists knock each other's efforts, no one else will take sexism seriously.

Girls in our country and around the world really do receive subtle and not-so-subtle messages that we shouldn't be assertive and shouldn't articulate our goals, starting when we're very young. I consider myself a confident and outspoken person, but just this year I found I had trouble articulating both my desires and my concerns, in personal relationships and in a professional setting. I had to actively push myself to put myself out there for competitive opportunities. I caught myself thinking, "If somebody else wants it, they should get it," or "If it's meant to be, it'll just come to me." Those things aren't true. To succeed, you have to assert yourself.

However you feel about the way she went about it, Sheryl Sandberg and her team of powerful boss ladies have gotten America talking about how and why girls aren't encouraged to be leaders. And that's a conversation America really needs to have, particularly as we head towards an election that could bring us our first female president. Banning the word "bossy" is not the way to solve the problem, but the Ban Bossy movement forces us to think about what is.

OPINIONS

Gentrification Negatively Impacts D.C.

Ellice Ellis
Junior Editor

Last month, film director Spike Lee spoke at the Pratt Institute in honor of Black History month. When asked about “the other side” of the gentrification debate, Lee responded with a passionate denunciation of the idea that gentrification can bring about positive changes to a community. He explained his frustration with how New York neighborhoods such as Bedford Stuyvesant (Bed Stuy) and Harlem now have better facilities and public services due to the influx of white people into those previously all black and Latino neighborhoods.

The improvement of previously low-performing public schools, police protection and provision of municipal services are among the examples Lee cited as products of gentrification, because these improvements occurred only after the new residents moved in.

Lee also voiced frustration with what he described as the

“Christopher Columbus Syndrome,” city newcomers move into a certain neighborhood and act like they have discovered a new land. “So, why did it take this great influx of white people to get the schools better? Why’s there more police protection in Bed-Stuy and Harlem now? Why is garbage getting picked up more regularly? We been here!” Lee said.

Lee’s statement “We been here!” stayed with me, and I reflected on the D.C. communities affected by gentrification, which were ignored and “slept on” for years.

Living in a neighborhood on the other side of the Red Line in respect to Tenleytown, I am seeing gentrification everywhere. In my own neighborhood, Michigan Park, I’m frustrated by the ways that some new homeowners ignore the culture and traditions, such as a long-standing Neighborhood Wives Club, which provide order and a greater sense of community in the neighborhood. And the new housing and commercial

developments at Fort Totten, Brookland and on Rhode Island Avenue are springing up with rents and sale prices that low-to-moderate-income residents cannot afford.

It is maddening to see neighborhoods—some even referred to as “ghettos”—where African-Americans and Hispanics have lived for generations, transformed by gentrification, and longtime residents driven out by the high real estate prices.

Hot spots such as Union Market have replaced a whole-sale market where small vendors sold fresh produce and meats to locals in the New York Avenue-Gallaudet area. The market was devastated by a fire and, unlike Eastern Market, the city turned its back on rebuilding and instead supported the development of a more swanky Union Market, which caters to a younger, upscale crowd.

The new Union Market supplies no basic food staples for those who can’t afford organic and pricey food. And what happened to the displaced small

business owners?

Also, similarly to New York City’s, the public education system in D.C. is slowly gentrifying. More families who previously sent their kids to private schools are coming into DCPS every year. Now new schools are being built in neighborhoods to provide better facilities for the expected influx of young families with children.

A prime example is the construction of a new Brookland Middle School, previously a defunct open-space elementary school. The school looked awful and had been low-performing since I started school, so my parents refused to let me or my siblings go there. Seeing this, I think to myself, what was the catalyst for this change? Why is it that middle-class families living in DC neighborhoods have had to send their kid across town for years to receive a quality education, and now the change that they wanted to see is happening after their children have almost completed their primary or secondary education?

Why have they been ignored for so long?

I completely understand that there are upsides to gentrification that Lee ignores, such as a rise in median income of an area, crime reduction and new businesses that boost the area’s economy, but often these benefits came at the expense of residents in lower socioeconomic groups and of the neighborhood’s culture. In Georgetown, many forget or are ignorant of its history as the home of an emerging black working class in the 1800s. In the Chinatown/Gallery Place area, there is an ever decreasing number of authentic Asian businesses.

Gentrification is really changing D.C. It seems as if, after D.C. has ignored the needs of its longtime residents in middle-class and poor neighborhoods for so long, it will do anything to accommodate the influx of people between the ages 25 and 30 at the expense of minorities and the rich culture they have brought to many D.C. neighborhoods.

Jail Program Gives Voice to Imprisoned Youth

Rachel Page
Junior Editor

D.C. prisoners were recently given a voice: the ability to vote in this mayoral election. But incarcerated youth lack an arguably more important voice— that of literature.

For just the second time in D.C. mayoral history, hundreds of ballots were delivered this week to the D.C. jail so prisoners can vote. In a city like D.C., this is a big deal: according to the Washington Post, at least one in ten residents is an ex-offender.

But the current focus on voting rights excludes those who have never been old enough to have them— incarcerated D.C. youth, including those who have been charged and those who have been convicted of adult crimes. Delving further into their stories, it’s clear that they have been denied much more than writing on ballots; the type of writing that they need is much more personal.

Title 16 of the D.C. Official Code allows juveniles to be tried as adults for offenses such as armed robbery. Over 60 D.C. youth aged 17 and under are incarcerated every year. While Wilson students hang out outside of CVS or stress about AP tests, kids the same age sit behind bars, some in solitary confinement. Although widespread media response to these issues remains surprisingly absent, programs around the country have been founded in

order to help incarcerated youth and raise awareness about the issue.

I have had the opportunity to work with one such organization: Free Minds Book Club and Writing Workshop, which facilitates poetry and creative writing workshops with incarcerated 16- and 17-year-old boys in the D.C. jail. Many of the members of Free Minds have never read a book before; others have always liked writing but never had the chance to express themselves or share their work. In the workshop, young men discuss the books they have read with a Free Minds facilitator and then write poems, which they have the opportunity to send back to the community for commentary in monthly meetings called “Write Nights.”

The fact that so many of the members of Free Minds had never read a book before is telling of a greater institutional problem— these young men have been left behind in the D.C. system of education. Writing workshops like Free Minds are great, but why can’t they start outside of the jail cell?

After spending just two years in Wilson English classes, I can see why such a great number of incarcerated youth are unwilling to read. Books like “The Grapes of Wrath” and “The Odyssey” are definitely classics, but they’re also not very accessible for most D.C. teens, especially when coupled with superficial multiple-choice questions and



Graphic by Ellice Ellis

basic worksheets instead of connections to a student’s everyday life. Members of Free Minds were inspired to read and even write when they read books that they could actually connect to, like the novel “Dark” by Washington native Kenji Jasper.

Changing high school English class curricula doesn’t seem like a very big deal, but keeping students engaged in their education is. By the time they were arrested, most current Free Minds members had stopped attending school altogether. Especially at schools like Wilson that boast a diverse student body from all around the city, it doesn’t make sense to learn about reading in

a way that never intersects with students’ lives.

That doesn’t mean we should stop reading “The Grapes of Wrath”: it means that reading “The Grapes of Wrath” should include discussions about the poverty experienced by hundreds of D.C. residents or the ways that big businesses affect the day-to-day lives of students. It means reading “To Kill a Mockingbird” and talking about how the problems Atticus and Tom Robinson face in many ways haven’t changed at all, in a country where African-American preschoolers are more than twice as likely to be suspended from school as their white coun-

terparts. English class can be more than filling in bubbles on a test sheet, and reflecting that in the curriculum is essential to showing students that they are not alone.

Thanks, Vincent Gray, for giving D.C. prisoners the opportunity to vote in the mayoral election. But the change can’t stop there: it’s in places like the Free Minds program and our own public schools where we most need to make an effort to show students who feel as if there’s no hope for them, as if they don’t have a voice, that they really do— and they have all along.



Editor's Note: The Beacon set up four students on blind dates, each hoping to find the Kim to their Kanye. The dates were so intimate that they were held in The Beacon office (a.k.a. The Love Café). A romantic ambiance was provided by The Beacon. If you are interested in having a blind date for next month's Date Lab, sign up in The Beacon office on Tuesdays at lunch, 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



Photo by Ellie Melick

LOVE IN THIS CLUB - Max Aviles (11) and Bella Heffernan (10) in the "Love Café." The Beacon is looking for more Wilson students seeking love to participate in Date Lab.

Sophomore Bella Heffernan, like many students at Wilson, is a teenager seeking love. "I would sit at my window and look out and think 'Where is my Romeo?'" she says. Fortunately, The Beacon came to the rescue.

On the day of the date, Bella eagerly plopped down in her chair, ready for her long and lonely days to be over. Junior Max Aviles was already sitting, his legs shaking with nerves as he wondered who his date would be. He looked up, and the two locked eyes. You could feel chemistry pumping through the room, filling The Beacon office/Love Café with romance unlike The Beacon office/Love Café had ever been filled before. The date was on.

Bella and Max hit it off almost immediately. They soon found topics to bond over, like their mutual hatred of fizzy water. They discussed current events for about three seconds and impressed everyone in the room with their knowledgeability. Although Bella talked a lot about chinchillas and probed into Max's dating history (a big first date no-no), he put up with her and the conversation never missed a beat. It was clear that these two had quite a spark between them.

Unfortunately, like all good things, the romantic date had to come to an end. But before these two lovebirds walked away, we questioned them separately on how they thought everything went. As we suspected, both Bella and Max felt it had gone great.

"I had a pretty good time and I'm glad I did this," Max said.

At the beginning of the interview with Bella, it was hard for her to focus and give a straight answer without bursting into Taylor Swift songs, but that's what love does to some people. But why bring up Max's previous relationships? "Well I think before you get into any serious relationship you should just, ya know, lay it all out on the table," she said. "I just thought, why not? You gotta risk it for the biscuit!"



Photo by Helen Malhotra



The next day, junior Mariah Fraker arrived at the Beacon office, also trying to get a piece of the love. She bounded into her seat at the couple's table and adjusted her butt-length ponytail with a wide grin.

"Let's do this thing!" she said. In walked her date, sophomore Eric Viera. He sat down across from her, and almost immediately after exchanging names, a bag of potato chips was opened and Mariah went off talking about the wonders of potatoes for a solid five minutes.

Some men may be deterred by such a conversation, but Eric was noticeably interested in the topic and even added a few thoughts on the starch himself. They discussed the glorious Beacon decorations and he asked her about her plans for after graduation, to which she disclosed that she is set on walking across America with some friends from circus camp.

"Well if anyone is actually going to commit to that, it would be you," Eric commented, in what was clearly an attempt to amp up the flirtatiousness of the conversation. Mariah acted out what it was like to ride the metro during rush hour with a two-foot high faux-hawk, the style she sported last year for crazy hair day, and Eric talked briefly about what it's like to be Hispanic.

But alas, the date had to end. And alas, Eric and Mariah were forced to part, him near tears and she still eating potato chips. Eventually, we managed to separate the two, and in the same fashion as with Bella and Max, we interviewed them about how they felt.

Eric immediately began gushing about the date, and planning when they would meet again. Mariah was enthusiastic as well, but she was focused on building a different kind of relationship with Eric—a strictly friendly one.

"I'm actually asexual, or at least I think I am, so I'm just looking for friendship," she said. Although Eric was disappointed to hear such news, it was clear from the date that a friendly bond could grow strong between the two.

By the time The Love Café/Beacon office closed up shop, four lucky students had wandered through, encountering a mate they strongly desired. Whether they were looking for friendship, as the case was with Mariah, or a passionate romance with a lifelong soul mate, each of these students found what it was they were looking for. Once the lovers had parted for the time being, they each walked away with the wise words of Taylor Swift echoing in their heads: "Everything has changed."

by Ellie Melick and Helen Malhotra

UNICEF Turns To Technology to Promote Activism

Helen Malhotra and Sophie ReVeal
Junior Editors

The United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund launched the UNICEF Tap Project to get people off their phones and to help raise clean water for children around the world. UNICEF provides assistance to children and mothers in developing countries around the world. The organization mainly focuses on rights for children through education, protection, and health care, and works to offer services to the greatest number of people possible.

Spending just 10 minutes without touching your phone can raise enough for one child to have clean water for a day. The longer you go, the more water is

donated. UNICEF stops donating once you use your phone, but if you still want to help, you can give money directly to the organization.

Students and adults around the world have been participating in this fundraiser. The record time for all participants being off their phone collectively is 17,000 minutes in one week. On March 23, participants were off their phone for 13,000 minutes, giving 3.6 years of water to people in need. This is record breaking for the most minutes in one day. According to UNICEF, the top state for donations is California and the top city is Seoul, the capital of South Korea. Donating just five dollars to UNICEF can give a child clean water for 200 days.

Although there are many positive aspects to this project, there are downsides as well.

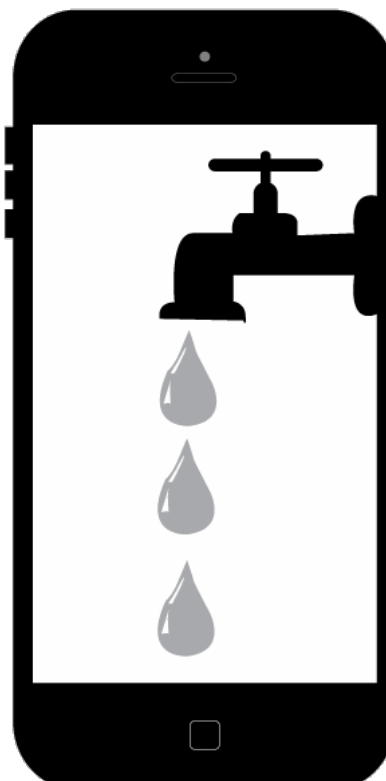
The UNICEF app detects if you are using your phone by whether or not it moves. Additionally, the phone must be on and running, which means the phone can't be turned off or the donations will stop.

Freshman Nicole Distinto was one of the first to use the app and has encouraged many others to participate as well. "It's obviously an amazing way to easily help

out those in need, but it has its downsides," she said. "One time I had [my battery] at 100% and left the app running. After leaving it for only an hour it went down to 10%." The app doesn't allow the participant to shut off their phone, and this unnecessarily wastes electricity. "A lot of people use the app for the wrong reasons," Distinto added. She

explained that there is a daily high record and some students only care about beating that record. This results in using the app on a device they don't normally use so that they don't have to actually put their phone down for a long period of time. Many students are therefore not serving the whole purpose of the project.

UNICEF is trying to encourage everyone, especially young people, to take a break from being constantly on their phones while helping others. Instead of finding loopholes to the system, people are supposed to understand that participating in the intended way is beneficial to not only those in need, but to themselves as well.



Graphic by Ellice Ellis

MLSF: Elana Steinlauf

Maria Brescia-Weiler
Features Editor

It is no surprise, that with hundreds of cultural opportunities in this city, few people are aware that D.C. boasts the third best Shakespeare Theatre Company in the world, according to The Economist. Or that said theater company boasts the the most intensive Young Company of the top three. This according to Wilson's own proud participant in Young Company.

Senior Elana Steinlauf has been acting since she was 12, when her middle school did "Pirates of Penzance." "Until five minutes before, I wasn't going to audition because I was cripplingly shy at the time," Steinlauf says. "But I found myself on stage and I auditioned and got the lead."

While she admitted that her first play was "a terrible production," she had a lot of fun participating in it and has since been hooked on theater. She used to participate in Wilson theater and the summer after 10th grade she signed up for a

Shakespeare camp. The Director of Education and Resident Teaching Artist of Shakespeare Theatre saw her perform in "Richard III" and asked her to audition for Young Company, where she was accepted.

Participation in Young Company forbids her from being involved in Wilson plays, but even if it didn't, she wouldn't have the time. Every day after school, excluding Fridays, she goes to Young Company from 4:30-6:30. In the fall, this means intense technical training. By spring, her hard work and that of her peers yields a production.

Elana told The Beacon this is her second year in the program. And that last year she starred as Juliet in Young Company's production of "Romeo and Juliet." This year she will play Caius Lucius in "Cymbeline." Last summer Young Company took "Romeo and Juliet" to a small town in Spain where participants did workshops with a Portuguese theater company.

"We do a lot of combat training, using rapiers and stuff,

which is really cool," Steinlauf said. "In Spain, we trained with the guy who did sword choreography for 'Star Wars' and 'Princess Bride.'"

The cripplingly shy 12-year-old has come a long way, and she's not done yet.

"Next year, I'm about 99 percent sure I'll be going to New School for Drama in New York and getting my BFA in acting," Steinlauf says. She plans to use that education to become a professional actress and eventually go into directing.

Steinlauf speaks very fondly of her experiences with Young Company and, while it is a big commitment, she urges anyone who is interested to talk to her because they're always recruiting people.

Steinlauf is also the Co-Managing Editor for LAVA (Wilson's Literary And Visual Arts Magazine), which means doing a lot of outreach like organizing bake sales as well as helping pick pieces and do layout. LAVA is set to be published around the end of May.



Photo Courtesy of Elana Steinlauf, Photo Taken by Cameron Whitman
ACTING UP - Senior Elana Steinlauf is in her second year at Young Company. D.C. has the third best Shakespeare company in the world.

Maggie Bass Cleans Her Community



Photo courtesy of Maggie Bass

SEA BASS - Junior Maggie Bass spent her summer in the program Ocean for Life. Now she is invested in cleaning up Rock Creek Park.

Mariah Fraker
Contributor

Nature is cheap, and nature is sloppy. Well, let's face it, it's not just sloppy, it's flat out dirty. And, quite frankly, it needs to be cleaned.

Junior Maggie Bass (one of those blue-eyed triplets) has known of this dirty nature problem for some time now, but she wasn't fully aware of the crisis until she did a program called Ocean for Life this past summer. It was a competitive program in which 12 students from all over the U.S. and 18 students from different countries in the Middle East all met together in Santa

Barbara. They stayed in dorms at the University of California, Santa Barbara, which Bass said were nice.

The participants spent their days learning about ocean acidification and debris, as well as doing beach cleanups. They also did more adventurous things like kayaking, snorkeling, and camping on the Channel Islands.

When the program finished, all the participants were required to create an "action plan" for how they would continue their work when they got home. Bass's plan is to do river cleanups with the Rock Creek Park Conservancy and to stay in touch with all the friends she made at the program, possibly

by setting up a group Skype call between the American and Middle Eastern students.

As for the first part of her action plan, she is planning on doing wetland restoration, and river cleanups. Bass encourages all Wilson students to sign up and help out. And you get community service hours!

"I will never forget my experience and the people I met in the program," said Bass.

So the moral of the story is that nature is dirty, and it must be cleaned. So help clean it with her, and maybe even apply to the Ocean for Life program yourself.

AAA Says "Arrivederci"



Zach Essig
Contributor

On April 9, a group of roughly 25 Wilson students will be saying "goodbye" to Washington and "ciao" to Italy. In Italy, these scholars, along with four chaperones, will spend their first nine days in the coastal town of Falconara. The trip will cost around \$1,700 per student.

Falconara, on the Adriatic Sea, is a small town of only about 30,000 people. The Wilson scholars will spend a few days at Liceo Cambi High School, attending programs and getting a sense of what education is like for others around the world.

Early in their stay, the scholars will have lunch with the mayor of Falconara and go on a bike tour of the village and local beach. Additionally, the scholars will explore the nearby Frasassi Caves, visit the Duke's Palace in San Leo, and enjoy coffee in Portonovo. Other notable highlights of the trip include a go-kart excursion, a swim in a thermal spa, and a stone balancing session by the beach.

After a goodbye dinner with their new Italian friends, the

Wilson clan will head to Rome for the remainder of the trip. In Rome, they will visit numerous sights and attend a professional soccer game (or 'calcio,' as the Italians say).

After the Wilson students return to D.C. on April 21, the Italians will make the grueling ten hour plane trip to visit Wilson and the surrounding areas. On their trip, they will attend programs here at Wilson and visit New York City for a few days.

"I'm really excited about the trip because this is a once in a lifetime opportunity. I never know if I will have another chance to go to Italy," said Brenton Petty, a senior going on the trip. Sophomore Stephen Coates also shares in the excitement regarding the trip. "It is going to be a very fun and exciting experience for us because we are going to one of the most beautiful places in the world and get to experience their everyday life. But truthfully I am mainly looking forward to having a nice spring break out of this country with my host family," he said. For now, let's wish our peers "buon viaggio" (have a good trip) and send them off with joy!

FEATURES

Senioritis Strikes Wilson, But Not Without Cost

Greg Kopetsky and Matthew Smee
Junior Editors

As graduation looms just months ahead, senioritis is spreading through the class of 2014 like the plague. One of its most common symptoms, class-skipping, is causing concern among teachers and parents.

"School seems so pointless once you make it into college," said a Wilson senior who wishes to remain anonymous. "Why would I care about health class? I have my whole life ahead of me."

According to administrators, many students try to use

the fact that they are seniors as an excuse. "I'll ask students why they are in the halls and a common answer is, 'I'm a senior,'" said Academic Development Director Alex Wilson. Administrators and Principal Pete Cahall, however, assert that seniors do not receive any type of "special treatment."

"Some feel entitled to senioritis," said Assistant Principal Mary-Beth Waits, "but we punish seniors the same way we punish the rest of the school." Punishments include detention and suspension.

Several seniors claim that the reason for their chronic truancy is because they know

how to get away with it. "I never get caught," another senior said. "I just know exactly where and when to be."

This skipping epidemic is not unique to this year's seniors. Many class of '13 alumni admit to skipping class as their high school experience drew to a close, and sometimes even earlier. Ruthie Lewis, class of '13, claimed that "every time I skipped school at Wilson I had a more fruitful experience outside of the building than I would've inside." She said she preferred to spend her skipped time going to Georgetown and lying by the water.

"All I really did was take

naps in my car," wrote Maggie Menditto, '13. "Once I went to the zoo. I would go buy coffee in far away neighborhoods for no reason, make fried eggs with my friends. One time I skipped and went to a psychic."

Skipping classes can come with consequences, though. Alumni Shane Achenbach ('13) said, "I was skipping school and I went to Starbucks, and then my mom walked [in] and I got grounded."

Similarly, senior D'Mani Harrison Porter was skipping class in the choir room when one of his teachers walked in looking for him. "I pretty much hid and it became hide-and-seek with

the teacher," he said. "It was kind of fun."

Noah Lipshie, '13, ran into more unconventional problems. "I used to just walk out the door and no one would care," he said. "[But] one time I had to sneak into the building because I got there and I was late for class, but I had to turn in a project and the security guards wouldn't let me in so I jumped over the fence to the football field."

"I have some advice for seniors," Waits said. "Don't give up. When you start something, you have to see it all the way through."



BEACON PET PHOTO CONTEST

- 1 Mary Grace Arlotto
- 2 Jeremy Singer
- 3 Bella Heffernan
- 4 Eric Viera



Beacon TBT

The Beacon searched through over a decade of old issues, finally blowing the dust off of one from 1991. Check it out.

FEATURE

THE LOOK FOR FALL

By TéNisha Gaiter

The Fall season has arrived and now is the perfect time for you to find out what's new this season. This season fashion designers are concentrating on two main themes: "large over small" and "the returning past." These themes are highlighted by natural tone colors such as rich browns, creamy creamies, milky whites, and bold blacks. Clothing this season comes in soft looks making bold statements. Fabrics and patterns are definitely making an impact in a range of looks this year. Designers have opted for a look to satisfy everyone. Including you!

"Large over small" is just one of the themes for 1991-1992. An example

of this are those ever popular leggings. Leggings come in a variety of patterns, styles, colors, and materials. Materials range from cotton to velvet and the look is just as diverse. Making a re-entry this year is the sweater. Sweaters this year, come in a variety of styles such as cropped, long, form-fitting, off-the-shoulder, v-necked, and ribbed. These sweaters can be paired with the leggings for the "large over small" effect.

The remaining theme for this year is "the returning past." This look is all about re-entering fashions and fads from the past into the present. This year concentrates on fads from the sixties. Trapeze dresses in soft col-

ors like cream, yellow and orange hues and blacks are making an impact on the dresses of this year. Also from the past are one piece body suits entitled "catsuits." These suits also come in a variety of styles and are best paired with longer length jackets or oversized crochet or knit sweaters. Blouses are patterned with practically everything imaginable with an emphasis on the "funkadelic" styles of the past.

Accessories are a must for every year and this year is no different. "Duster" or "dangling" earrings are back this year more popular than ever! Ties are now worn and paired with button-up shirts and oversized

jeans, and now are available in more than just solid colors. Also back are necklace medallions and hairstyles from the sixties. Hairstyles such as french rolls, flipped up curls, and tendrils are being worn by students all over!

Designers this year, have made a point of emphasizing that wearing the look that is in the store is not what is "in", but instead the person in the look who feels comfortable in what they are wearing is what makes the difference.

SPORTS

ATHLETE OF THE MONTH

by Patrick Mulderig
Contributor



Photo by Will Hamlin

TYTILAYO GREEN

Sophomore Tytilayo Green led Wilson girls varsity basketball during a phenomenal season. After transferring from H.D. Woodson this year, Green came to Wilson and scored a whopping 446 points this season for the Tigers, who ended the season 21-8. Green led the team in field goals and overall points per game, averaging just under 16. She also led the metropolitan area in three-point field goals, making an impressive 71 baskets during the regular season. Green plans to study business in college someday, after a successful year at Wilson both on and off the court.

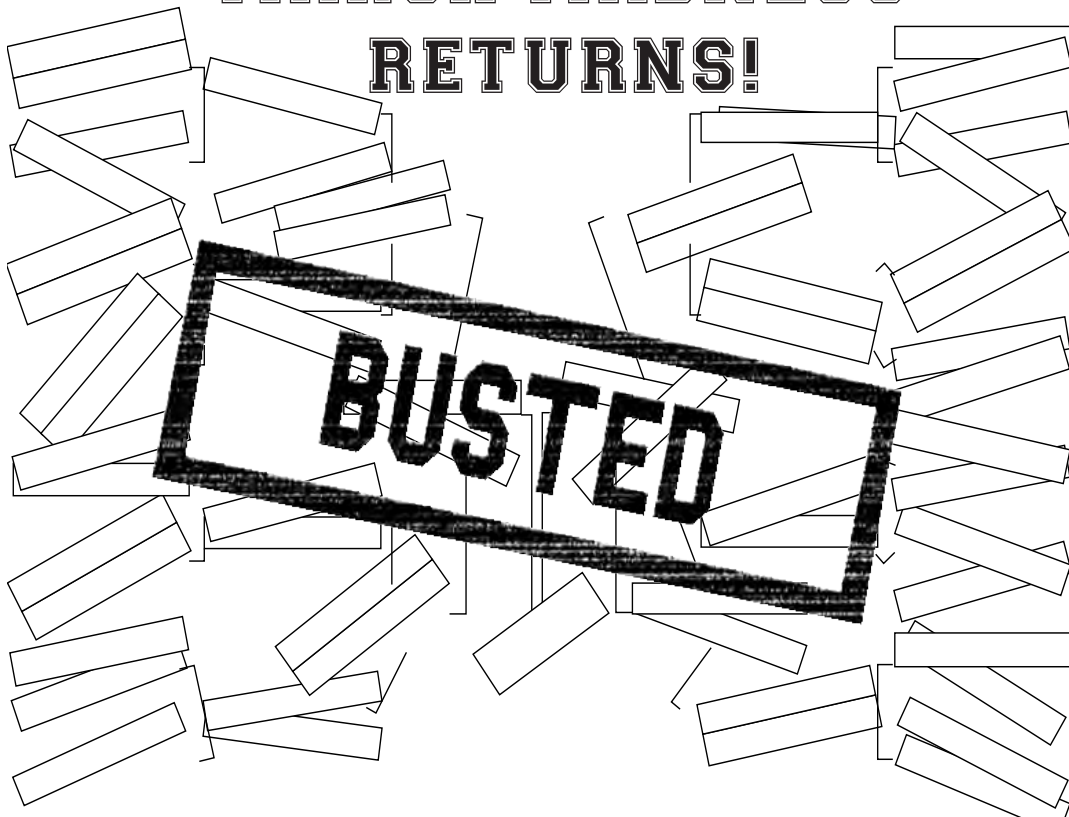


Photo by Joey Keegan

DIMONE LONG II

Senior Dimone Long II captained the Wilson boys varsity basketball team to a stellar 20-9 season, scoring an average of about 16 points per game. Long provided great support for the Tigers early on in the season, averaging 20 points per game and making some clutch game-deciding plays. Long accredits his success to the Wilson coaching staff as a whole, but especially to coach Angelo Hernandez. Long said that Hernandez has always pushed him to be the best he can be and helped Long discover ways to improve on his game. Long, an honor-roll student, will attend Morehouse College next year to study psychology.

MARCH MADNESS RETURNS!



Ben Kostyack
Staff Writer

It's that time of the year again. Time for stunning upsets, Cinderella stories, and the rise of new heroes created by the madness. It's March, which means it is time for the annual NCAA tournament. 64 teams that include both top teams and complete unknowns are squaring off to compete to be named national champion of college basketball.

Everyone from diehard fans to people who have not watched a game all season will be filling out brackets either for fun or in hope of winning some sort of prize. Warren Buffett has offered \$1 billion to anyone who picks the winner of all 64 games, but there are no perfect brackets remaining.

For me, it is a yearly tradition to fill out a bracket, throw

in some money, and see who has the most picks bracket among my friends. So here is what I am thinking about while I am filling out my bracket this year:

First of all, if you follow college basketball, you know that rankings don't mean everything. Some teams deserve a higher ranking than they've been given, simply based on the difficulty of their conference.

Another yearly trend is the tendency of high-ranked Midwestern and Western schools to go down early in the tournament. Schools like Arizona and Wichita State are good, but they lack a lot of competition within their conferences. At the end of the year their records look outstanding because they have been beating up on teams like Evansville and Southern Illinois University. Although Wichita State's 34-0 record was impressive, few were surprised when

they fell short to Kentucky in round 32.

If you look at a team like Pittsburgh, you will find they played extremely well this year. They went 25-9 overall and 11-7 within the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC). After making it to the semifinals of the ACC tournament and losing to Virginia, Pittsburgh was awarded a 9 seed, which might have been lower than they deserved.

The team that I am looking at to go far in this year's tourney is the Florida Gators. With four starting seniors who have seen tons of tournament action in the past couple years, this team is hungry for a championship.

As always, this year's NCAA tournament will bring out the best in every team and showcase the most talented players in college basketball.

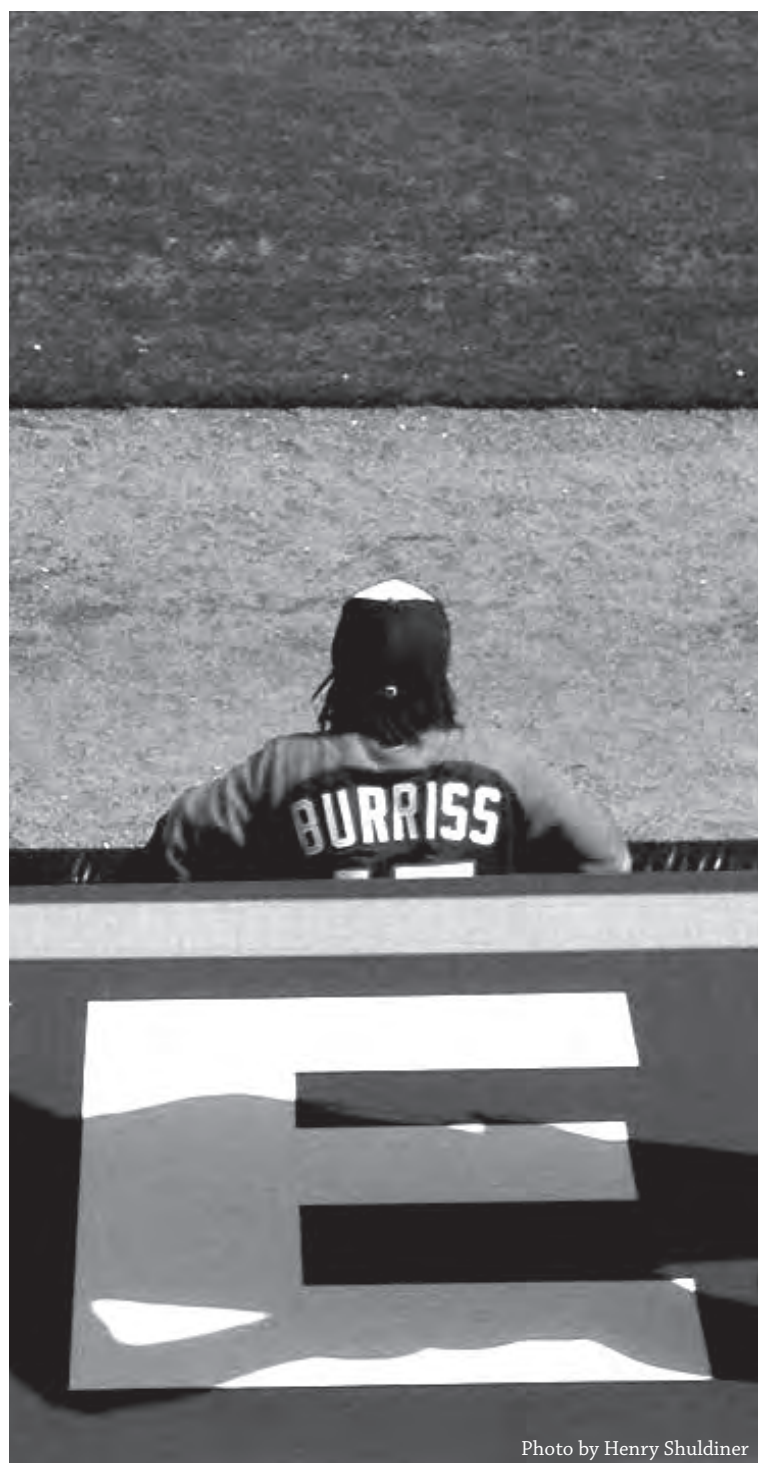


Photo by Henry Shuldiner

REPRESENT - Wilson alumnus Emmanuel Burris shines at the Nationals spring training. His MLB debut was in 2008.

Divine Motivation Leads Wilson Athletes to Success

Erin Doherty
Junior Editor

It's game day. You and your teammates are in the locker room making your final preparations for a game in the sport that you all love. Before the game is when all athletes are individuals, regardless of whether they are on a team or not. They do anything to get into the zone, search for anything that will motivate them. You look around to observe what your teammates are doing to get ready. Some are listening to music, others completing their pre-game rituals to get rid of any superstitions or nerves they may have. And sometimes, you find some of your teammates praying.

Religion is a big part of the lives of many world-class athletes. Tim Tebow, former quarterback for the Denver Broncos, made his religion known when he made "the Tebow" famous; it was a pose in which a player got on one knee to pray anytime he scored a touchdown. This touchdown celebration quickly turned into a worldwide phenomenon, to the extent that people would randomly Tebow in their everyday lives. Aside from his well-known football celebration,

in any interview, it is almost guaranteed that Tebow will make reference to his religion.

Kareem Abdul Jabbar, the NBA's all-time leading scorer and a Muslim, is now an advocate for eliminating the prejudices that many Muslims face.

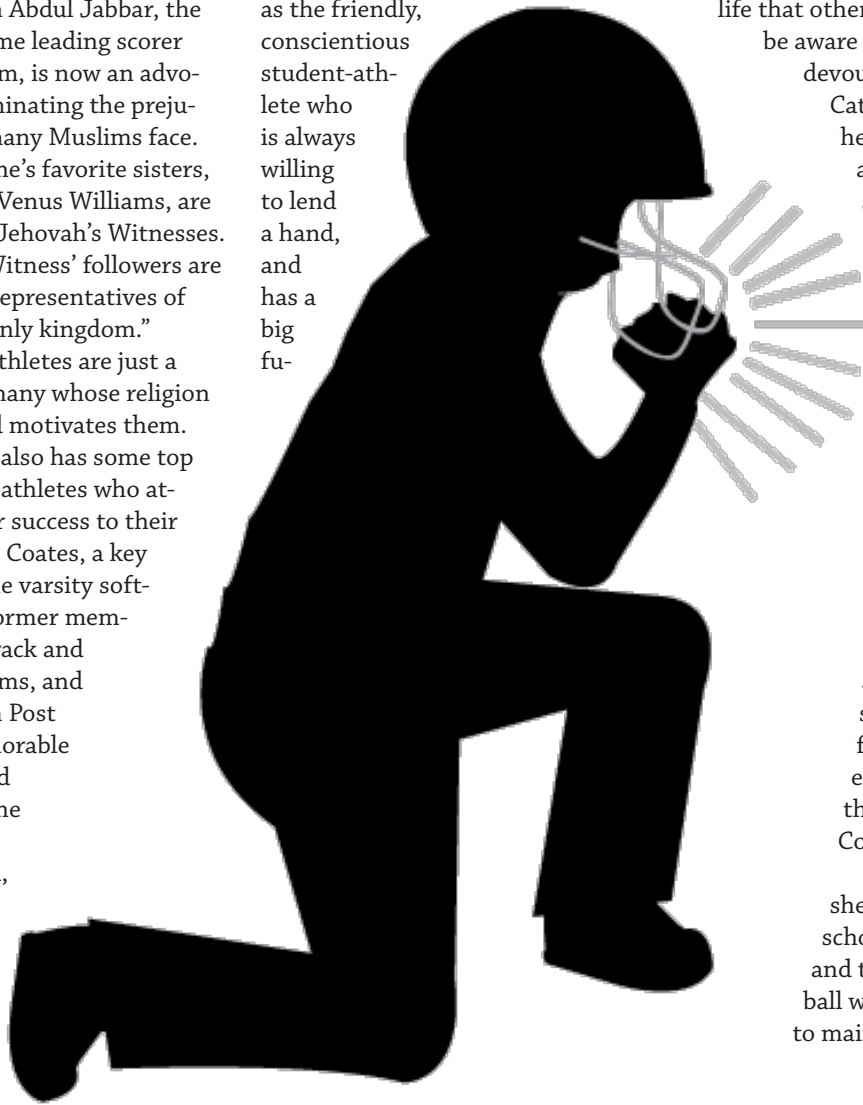
Everyone's favorite sisters, Serena and Venus Williams, are committed Jehovah's Witnesses. Jehovah's Witness' followers are said to be "representatives of God's heavenly kingdom."

These athletes are just a few of the many whose religion inspires and motivates them.

Wilson also has some top performing athletes who attribute their success to their faith. Alexis Coates, a key player on the varsity softball team, former member of the track and baseball teams, and Washington Post All-Met honorable mention and captain of the varsity volleyball team, says she has relied on her religion in every situation

throughout her life.

Friends and classmates of Coates may know her as the friendly, conscientious student-athlete who is always willing to lend a hand, and has a big fu-



Graphic by Ellice Ellis

ture ahead -- both in athletics and academics. Yet Coates has another important aspect of her

life that others may not be aware of: she is a devout Roman Catholic. And her religion is a source of stability and strength when things get tough.

"I go through a lot but people are never able to tell when I'm defeated or struggling because I always keep a smile on my face and treat everybody the right way," Coates said.

Right now, she is playing school softball and travel volleyball while working to maintain a 4.0

GPA. "Now is when I need God the most," she said.

Coates prays each time before she steps onto the volleyball court or the softball diamond. Whether it is practice or a game, she uses Scripture for motivation. Her favorite is Philippians 4:13 -- "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

When things don't seem to be going her way, she said she remembers that God gave her opportunities, and "I don't believe He brought me this far just to leave me here."

For some, religion means going to services on major holidays. For others, religion is going to your house of worship to pray. But for people like Coates, religion is part of her identity. She attributes her current situation and prosperity to God. "I would be lying if I told you I could do that all on my own," Coates said.

Everybody has their own motivation. In Coates's case, she says God drives her success.

Intramural Basketball: A Game For All



Photo by Will Hamlin

SWISH - Wilson intramural basketball started this month. Pictured above are Matthew and Ben Di Rosa, who are participants in the games.

Val Pehrson
Staff Writer

For sports fans, the month of March is one of the most exciting times of the year. During March Madness, college teams compete to determine who will be crowned the national champions. Here at Wilson, we have our own March Madness: the annual intramural basketball tournament.

There are 12 teams in the Wilson tournament this year, any given eight of which have been facing off every Tuesday and Thursday during STEP. Beginning with a round-robin, the tournament continues to single game elimination, with the champions earning Wilson athletic passes and t-shirts. Heading into the single elimination games (the playoffs), the top two ranked teams were Vanilla Thunder and the Crime

Stoppers.

The teams consist of students from all four grade levels and are informally organized. Anyone is eligible to play intramural basketball provided that they are not on the boys' or girls' varsity basketball teams. Most teams generally play without a coach. The one exception to this rule is Vanilla Thunder, which is coached by junior Alex Rochon. Games take place in the main gym and last for fifteen minutes each. The admission price to spectators is one dollar, which gives them the chance to see four games in just one period of STEP. Attendance fluctuates without rhyme or reason, but there is always enthusiasm both on the court and in the stands. Intramural games are a great way for students to let off steam in between classes and bring together all demographics and grade levels.



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Rated **R**

by Jackson Ross

“Grand Budapest” Fails to Impress

Never have I been more bitter towards my fellow cinephile community than when I finished “Moonrise Kingdom”, the 2012 film by Wes Anderson. How a man could make two prepubescent kids get into their underwear and mess around on camera is baffling itself. How the majority of film fans praised it as “endearing” or “artful” upset me even more. No borderline child pornography is on hand in “The Grand Budapest Hotel”, Anderson’s newest film, yet I left with a bitter taste once again.

Maybe this is because I’ve never understood the supposed genius of Wes Anderson. To me, the idea of trying to film something to intentionally look amateurish, eschewing over-the-shoulder shots for jarring symmetrical camera placements and deliberately using bad comic timing to an even more jarring effect isn’t the work of a radical visionary trying to revolutionize the filmmaking system; it’s the work of a man too pleased with himself and his eccentricities to realize what methods make a movie look at all competent.

Among those eccentricities used this time is a variety of unorthodox aspect ratios long considered dated and irrelevant. Don’t know what aspect ratios are? Ever notice how if you watch an old movie or TV show you’ll see black bars on the left and right side of the screen? Or how widescreen movies have those bars on the top and bottom? Those are aspect ratios.

The film is divided into three sections. One takes place in 1985 and is the shortest. The other two take place in 1968 and 1932, the latter taking up the most time. Anderson decided to film these two in aspect ratios befitting the films of that era. In other words, about 80 percent of the movie (the 1932 section) only takes up the middle third of the screen. You could herald that as a beautiful artistic choice. You’d be wrong.

Anderson is going out of the way to use inferior technology and methods to entertain us when someone as successful as himself could easily film with more modern means. It’s a selfish act, completely ignoring the fact that one of the main purposes of film is to entertain an audience. Would you be entertained if you wanted to take a selfie, but were forced to use a 19th century camera and stand still for 10 minutes while it processed the image?

The hotel of the title suffers from a similar affliction. Located on a mountaintop in the fictional nation of Zubrowka

(Quirky!), all exterior shots are clearly faked in a cheap fashion, using what resembles a pink gingerbread house. The most important gingerbread men inside are Monsieur Gustave H. (Ralph Fiennes), the eccentric and gentlemanly hotel concierge, and a lobby boy named Zero (newcomer Tony Revolori), whom he takes under his wing, as they go through a series of cutesy, whimsical adventures involving a priceless painting.

I will concede that Fiennes tries his best to give a bravura performance, delighting in Gustave’s habits of promiscuity and class. However, any comedic opportunities had by his character, and Fiennes’ great relishing of the role, are squandered by the aforementioned comic timing issues and general over-stylization Anderson employs as a director.

The problem with Anderson’s characters, something even Gustave is included in, is that they’re not real people. They’re stock surrogates for certain quirks and eccentricities that Anderson just loves to show people he can come up with. Oh look, he likes to sleep with old women, ha! The only sort of characterization Gustave receives is when asked about his past, he simply states he was once a lobby boy, just like Zero. That’s it. That’s the only trace of a fully written human being found anywhere in the movie.

Anderson has assembled a giant lineup of actors, all playing idiosyncrasies with names, played by people such as Bill Murray, Tilda Swinton, Jude Law, Adrien Brody, Owen Wilson, Edward Norton, Harvey Keitel, Willem Dafoe and Jason Schwartzman, all following the Andersonian method of either blatantly overacting or performing in a deliberately wooden fashion.

The film ends with an introduction to the credits saying “Inspired by the writings of Stefan Zweig.” Zweig was a European writer and intellectual from the early 1900s who Anderson has also discussed in promotional interviews as a major influence. The whole thing felt like an exercise in egotism. It’s blatantly saying “Hey, look at this really well respected and smart intellectual guy whose work I read and understand! I’m smart and creative just like him! My work is so much like his, he directly inspired me! See! See!”

I was hoping this movie would change my already unpopular criticism of Wes Anderson. Instead, it’s made it even stronger.

Students Put Modern Spin on Shakespearian Play

Brian Keyes
Staff Writer

Hopefully you all went out and saw Wilson’s production of “Two Gentlemen of Verona,” this year’s Shakespeare play. If you didn’t, the play is about two friends who go off to Verona, and then have some rather typical Shakespeare experiences, such as girls dressing up as boys, love triangles, and of course, a marriage. The production also starred a real dog named Crabbe.

Freshman Ellie Melick had one of the leading roles in what was her first Wilson Shakespeare production.

“I may be a freshman on paper, but I’m an 85 year-old man at heart,” Melick has said about

her underclassman status.

One of her co-stars, Ben Topa, is a veteran to the play process, despite only being a sophomore. He discussed working with the two directors, Jill Roos and drama teacher Harriet Bronstein: “Well I’ve come to know them over the years so it was pretty standard, you know, no nonsense, but there’s always room for fun.”

Bronstein directs both the annual musical and the Shakespeare play, and has been hired by the Wilson Players to direct the spring play. When asked how directing Shakespeare differs from directing a musical, Bronstein said, “You know, Shakespeare’s plays are probably more similar to musicals than other,

non-Shakespeare plays because it has a lot of layers, just like a musical. But obviously, if we hadn’t added it there wouldn’t have been any music in this play, except this play does call for one song.”

The original song she refers to was written by junior Carlos Hood, who accompanied actors Jonah Gigli and Zac Nachbar-Seckel as they performed it on stage. The scene was a crowd favorite for its goofy and comedic singing and dancing.

Ensemble member Sarah Robinson said that her favorite part of the play was “definitely when Brian and Teo dance to ‘Get Lucky.’”

Personally, that was my favorite moment as well.



Photo courtesy of Nathaniel Remez

BALLERINO - Nathaniel Remez dances at the Maryland Youth Ballet. Next year he will be attending the San Francisco Ballet school.

Nathaniel’s Talent Pointes Him West

Lauren ReVeal
Features Editor

While many graduating seniors were facing the task of choosing which college they will attend for the next four years, senior Nathaniel Remez had a different task at hand. After 11 years of dancing at the Maryland Youth Ballet, Nathaniel had to decide what he was going to do next.

After getting offers from the Boston Ballet school, Arizona Ballet, Texas Ballet Theatre, and others, he made his decision.

“I’m going to train at the San Francisco Ballet school,” he said smiling. Even though he was pretty sure he was going to be dancing next year, he still applied to a few colleges.

By the time he was six years old, Nathaniel had been around the dance studio for a while. With his older sister dancing, his parents decided to sign him up as well. From then on, much of his time has been spent in the studio. Now, his older sister is in college, but he and his younger sister are still dancing at MYB.

“I’m in pre-professional program, so I leave school every

day to go to the studio,” he said. He’s there for at least four hours every day, and up to ten hours total on weekends. He may seem lucky to have been able to leave school early every day to dance, but sometimes it is difficult for him to balance his school work and dance.

This is just during the school year. Over the summer he participates in different programs, in such cities as Pittsburgh, Houston, and San Francisco, all on full scholarship.

Dancing has also given him other opportunities, including dancing on the Kennedy Center Stage.

Some of those who aren’t familiar with the style of dance may think that it is not nearly as physical as it is. It involves a lot of strength, especially for the boys who have to lift their female partners into the air.

However for Nathaniel, ballet brings more to the table than just physicality. “It can teach you a range of things,” he said. “There’s the physical aspect of it... and there’s also the mental aspect of discipline and focus.”

As a straight male dancer of 17, Remez has had to deal

with the stigma that is commonly attached to male dancers. “I know that a lot of people... see ballet as a feminine thing but that’s because they don’t really understand it,” he said. At first this was a challenge for him. He has had to deal with people expecting him to be effeminate or homosexual. As a younger boy this could be hard to understand. “I can just brush it off now because... not only am I comfortable with my sexuality, I know that they don’t actually know what they’re talking about.”

Out of all of the ballets he has been in, the Nutcracker is one of his favorites, although maybe just because he has been in it for nine years. The past two years he actually was the Nutcracker.

The future after ballet school is unclear to Nathaniel, but he is interested in attending college and studying business. Some companies are also matched up with local colleges where dancers can take classes. But even though his whole life isn’t set up for him, he has a pretty good idea as to what he will be doing.

Fear and Clothing



Clothes Encounter

Jack Price
Columnist

"Today's the day I get my license back!" the man declared, his tongue straining against missing teeth. "I lost it today, in 2002, for drag racing!"

He was pleasant enough, cloaked in cigarette smoke and a fluorescent yellow hoodie that would be selling for \$300 if Supreme sold it. He had shuffled over to me as I waited for a bus in Farragut North and asked me what I was reading. He smoked the entire time we talked, a Newport teetering in the gap once occupied by his bottom teeth, a light dusting of ash sprinkled over a pair of prehistoric jeans. As a teenager, he said, he had delivered cigarette cartons to all the nearby bars, but these days, they wouldn't let him in.

"A young guy like you, now you'd get in easy," he sputtered. "You ever been to Fast Eddie's?" I hadn't. I asked him where it was.

"I could show you, show you right now!" he exclaimed, stamping out his butt with the heel of a formless Nike with enough creasing to put a sneakerhead in the ICU. "Now there's a place to meet a girl, Fast Eddie's. Bring a hundred dollars, have a couple of drinks, blow it on the girls. When you're alone, you shouldn't drink a lot, but when you go out, y'know, you gotta make a show."

And so it went. He'd had a lotta jobs, more than any police had, even though they had degrees. He had a degree too, a GED, and I told him I was impressed. We talked about the jobs he's held since moving here from Baltimore—five in total, he ran a liquor store but they closed it—and where he'd lived. He'd been in two group homes. He left the one in Baltimore; the city was too cheap for him. He had once driven a rig and loved it. He was careful, he said. He kept a full 40 feet—a whole bus length—between him and the car in front of him whenever he drove.

When I stepped off the bus, I said I was sure we'd meet again. "At Fast Eddie's," he said, "but they won't let me in there." At some point he gave me his name, it was Rod, and we shook hands. My hand stunk the whole walk home. I washed it first thing, and felt despicable for it.

Wilson's First

ARTFEST

**MAY 19
THROUGH
MAY 23**

By Lauren ReVeal

Wilson has always boasted a talented crop of athletes, scholars, and artists. This year, as a way to both bring in new families and to celebrate the arts, the PTSO and the Wilson administration created Arts Fest.

Wilson parent Serena Wiltshire is spearheading the event along with other parent volunteers. Since the beginning of March, they have been organizing with the Art Department but also want student help. The Fest will be

a week-long festival of the arts from May 19 through May 23. So after our APs are finished, students can enjoy this celebration. Every day at lunch that week, events will include face painting, a scavenger hunt, competitions, and other interactive activities.

The biggest project will take place Thursday, May 22, when both Wilson alumni and prospective students are invited to come enjoy the wide range of activities and perfor-

mances.

Hosted in the Black Box theatre, performances will include songs from the most recent Wilson musical, "West Side Story", as well as a Poetry Slam by the poetry team, and student artwork showcased throughout the week. There may even be a fashion show featuring clothes created by Wilson designers and performances from the LAYC dancers.

The parent volunteers hope that this will become an annual event, and Wiltshire believes it

could be Wilson's new contribution to the community. "[It will be] a festival to showcase the arts programming at Wilson High School, and [will] celebrate the talents of individual and groups of students," she said.

Art Fest will be a way to bring new people into the Wilson community while demonstrating the talent that continues to thrive within its walls.

Fashion In The Halls

SHOES

Compiled by Joey Keegan



Micky Ruksarash



Melvin Roberson



Leander Trotter



Daniel Larios

COP OR NAH? WITH KOPETSKY AND SMEE

THE QUESARITO



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TASTE BUDS
TINGLE."**

"But wait guys, I don't see it on the menu!" We know. It's a secret item that is only made upon special request.

It's unclear when this brilliant creation was first conceived, but the Quesarito has yet to make it big, as our chipotle server had to run back to check with her manager before making our meal.

At twelve dollars, the Quesarito is basically a normal burrito wrapped in a large open-face quesadilla. This creates an outer layer of cheesy goodness.

So what do we think? It's delicious. How could something with a name so awesome be bad? Simply put, it's an upgrade to the already yummy burrito.

Most agree. "It makes my taste buds tingle," said sophomore Charles Navarre. "I love it!" added Mati Cano, a freshman.

However, some people think otherwise. Sophomore Asa Canty claims that "the cheese is overwhelming."

The burrito does have one problem though: the price. It's twelve dollars: enough money to buy six orders of fries from Mayflower.

FINAL VERDICT: COP

It's definitely worth trying, but not something you should get every day after school, unless you want to be a broke boy by the end of the week.

**"THE CHEESE IS
OVERWHELMING."**

ARTISTS' CORNER

COMPILED BY ANNIE ROSENTHAL



Josh Kennedy Noce, 12



Zoe Mills, 10



Sarah Bass, 11



Thao Nguyen, 11



Oriana Carletto, 11

Ten Reasons To Join the Wilson Marching Band

1. NO PRIOR EXPERIENCE/EQUIPMENT IS REQUIRED - WE WILL TEACH YOU!
2. We play the music that gets people hype -- Crankage --- Turn Up!
3. Boosts your GPA and you get Community Service Hours
4. Develops great leadership experience
5. You have an excuse to do the nae-nae dance in public, or whatever other dance craze comes out
6. Exposes you to college scholarship opportunities
7. Helps you get in good physical shape so you can get that body right for the spring time
8. It's hella fun!!!
9. Introduces you to diverse cultures of Wilson students, (But we want more white, latino, and asian people)
10. Forges great bonds and life long friendships + you get to socialize with the nicer side of the Kelly Kittens



Photo by Joey Keegan

GOING GREEN - Wilson's marching band The Green Machine has suffered a decrease in membership and is seeking new musicians.

MARCHING BAND SEEKS NEW MEMBERS

Annie Rosenthal
News and Style Editor

Two years ago, the Wilson Green Machine Marching Band's drumline won the Mid-Atlantic Drum, Flag and Dance Competition. This year, the marching band is having trouble recruiting enough members to be competitive.

Walter Riley, Green Machine's Assistant Band Director, says the drop in marching band membership is not unique to Wilson; schools around the country are facing the same problem.

"Probably the reason that I'm in this job right now is that growing up I saw marching bands and thought, 'I wanna do that.' And we don't see bands a lot in this city," says Riley. "We don't see marching band instruments a lot in pop culture. It's a thing people are starting to view as old-school."

At our school, the deficit is particularly evident: "Most marching bands are about 5-10% of the school's population. By

those numbers, we should have about 75-150 people. We only have about 15 who consistently attend rehearsals and performances," says the band's chief director, Paul Phifer.

According to Riley, a major problem is that interested students don't commit to becoming band members because they worry about balancing band rehearsals with schoolwork and other obligations. The band practices twice a week for 90 minutes after school, which is less than Riley would like, but he says, "We try to strike a balance between practicing as much as we can and keeping people committed."

Part of the issue is that middle school band experiences warp incoming freshmen's perceptions of what high school band will be like. Riley says: "Hardy [Middle School] has one of the strongest middle school band programs in the city, and [being in their band] is a pretty big-time commitment." In contrast, Alice Deal Middle School's program is less intense, practicing

only once a week. When students from both schools get to Wilson, they often expect Green Machine to require the same amount of commitment as their middle school band, when in reality it's somewhere in between the two schools.

In addition to Marching Band, Wilson offers classes in Beginner Band, Concert Band, and Jazz Band. However, most of the students in those classes have opted not to join the marching band, which adds to Green Machine's frustration. "There are about 40 kids in Concert Band who play the instruments that we need," says Riley.

The low membership is especially frustrating for the small group of students who make up the band. In particular, they're unhappy with the fact that many student-athletes who play wind and percussion instruments are reluctant to contribute to the band because they think it'll interfere with their practice schedule or their status on the team.

"It would be great if musicians who play basketball could join the band during football season and vice versa," says

Riley. "The players, coaches, and fans always want us to play at games and if we aren't there, they complain. But they never really consider the fact that if they used to play an instrument and they quit, they're part of the reason that we can't be there. That's our primary focus: supporting the school's events. It makes us question, does this school really want to have a marching band?"

Student-athletes who have joined the band say that doing both activities is a helpful exercise in balance. "It's a good way to learn about myself, my limits, and still grow," says freshman Joe'le Fret, who plays soccer as well as cymbals in Green Machine.

Freshman football player and saxophonist JaVaughn Hannah agrees: "It's not hard to do both because I'm not a quitter."

The band has tried several strategies to boost membership: they've performed in the atrium at STEP, made announcements, and put up sign-up sheets. They play popular music like go-go. Nothing's worked, and morale is low among band members, for whom the band

has provided an outlet for their passion.

"I joined the band because trombone is amazing," says sophomore and trombone section leader Samuel Printess. "Many people see me as a failure who won't really amount to anything. This band means a lot to me because I can actually be good for it."

Members say being in the band is a very rewarding experience. Among its highlights, they cite scholarship opportunities, new friends, exercise, community service hours, and above all, a chance to play music that gets the people going. They've performed at American and Howard Universities as well as UDC, and traveled to New York to compete. As an added bonus, Marching Band also counts as a music credit, so coming to practice helps boost members' GPAs.

The students strongly encourage anyone who's interested to join the band. Membership doesn't require prior knowledge of an instrument, and the band is welcoming new members for this season through April.

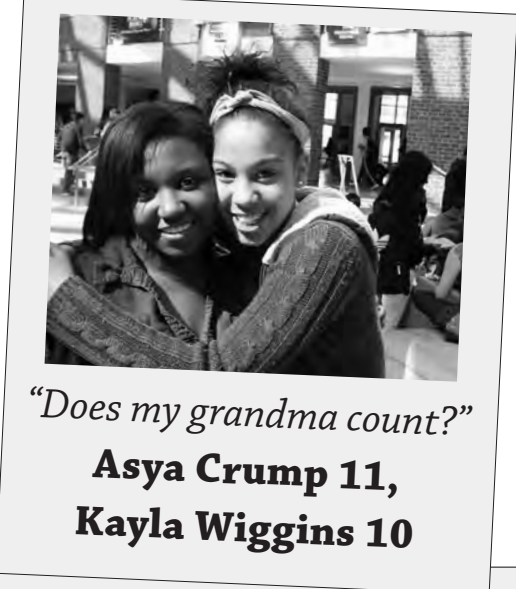
"This is a year of renewed optimism," Riley says.

Compiled by Ellice Ellis, Will Hamlin and Hannah Wyatt

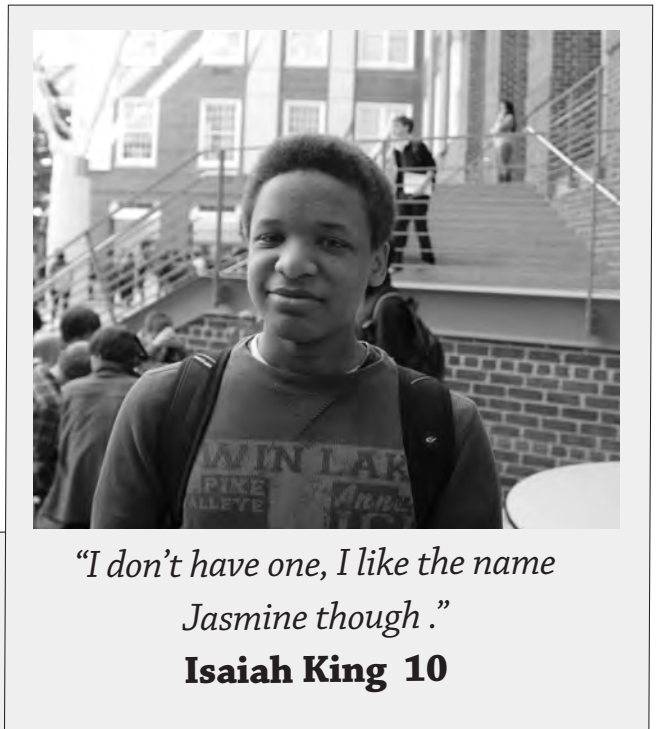
Who is your Senior crush?



"Brandon Webster."
**Hal Jackson 9,
Garima Tandon 9**



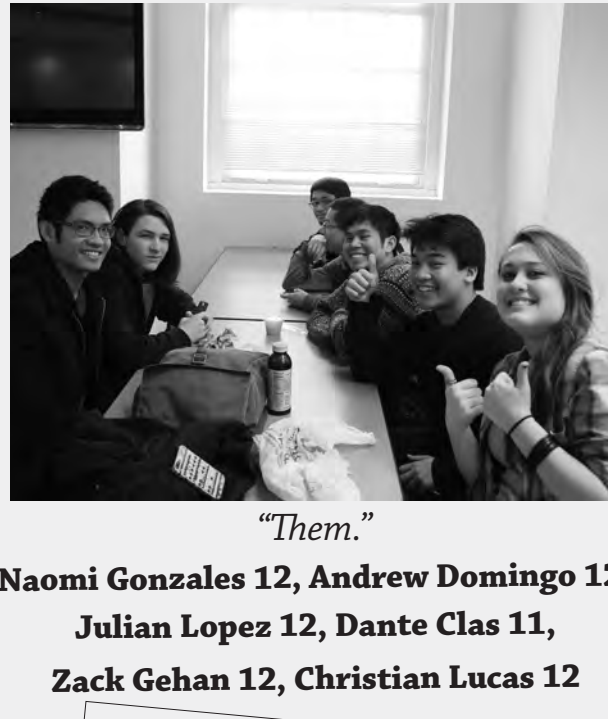
"Does my grandma count?"
**Asya Crump 11,
Kayla Wiggins 10**



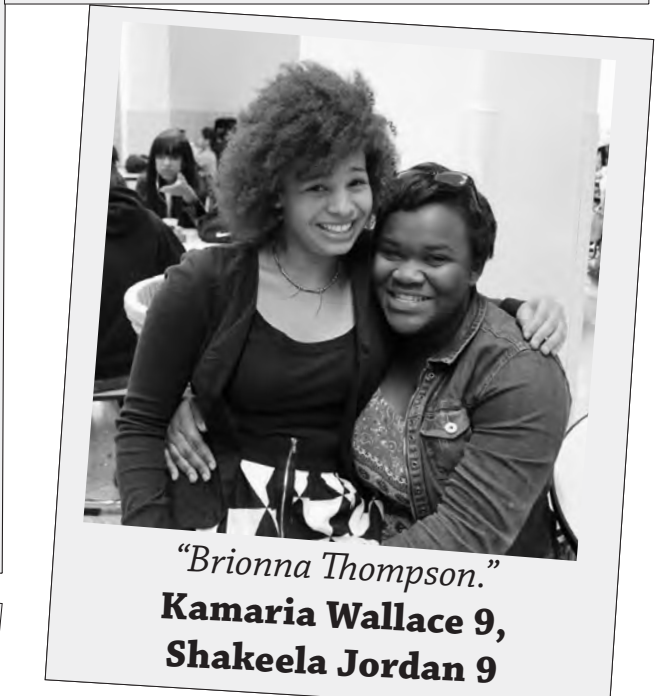
"I don't have one, I like the name Jasmine though."
Isaiah King 10



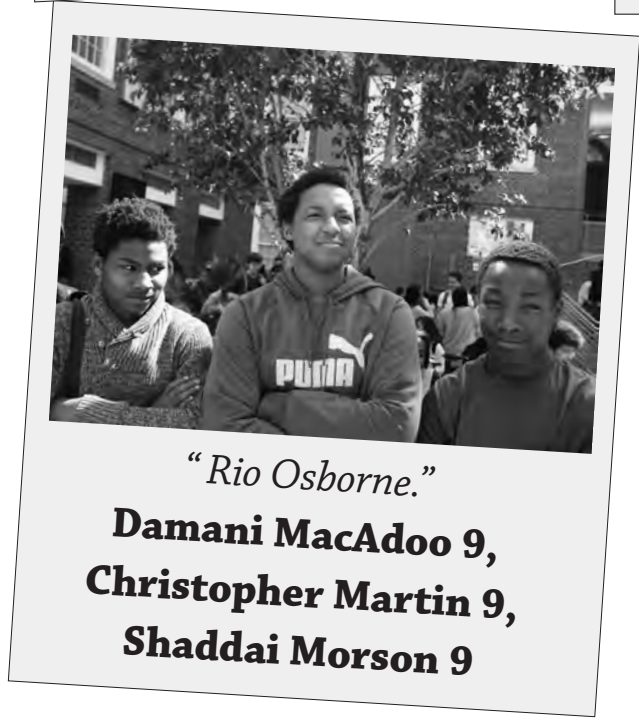
"Jonah Gigli."
Max Aviles 11



"Them."
**Naomi Gonzales 12, Andrew Domingo 12,
Julian Lopez 12, Dante Clas 11,
Zack Gehan 12, Christian Lucas 12**



"Brionna Thompson."
**Kamaria Wallace 9,
Shakeela Jordan 9**



"Rio Osborne."
**Damani MacAdoo 9,
Christopher Martin 9,
Shaddai Morson 9**



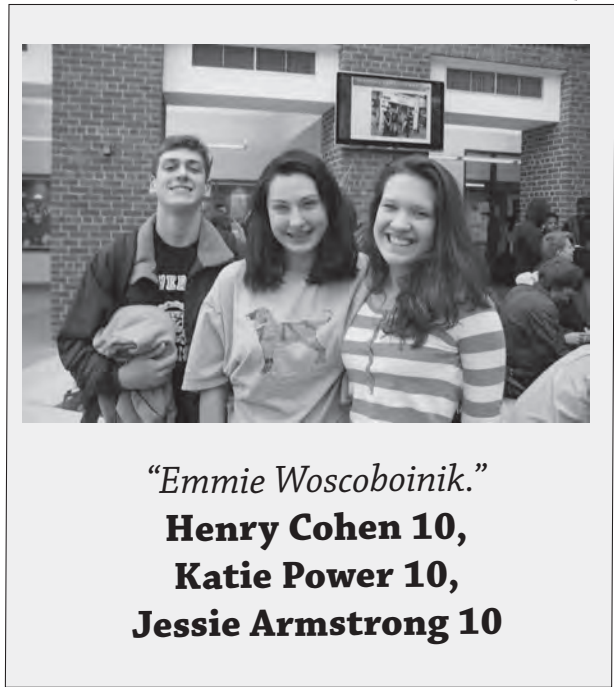
"Ermias."
**Ana Decosta 11,
Gianluca Guglielmo 11**



"I don't know anyone."
Michael Jones 10



"Sofie Heffernan."
**Ella Feldman 9,
Sue Phua 9**



"Emmie Woscoboinik."
**Henry Cohen 10,
Katie Power 10,
Jessie Armstrong 10**



"Me in 3 years."
Maia Grieve 9