



Packed halls prompt concerns

Adin McGurk
News Editor

In a school with over 1,800 students moving throughout the building every day, the amount of space available is a consistent concern. Students, teachers, parents` and members of the Wilson community all experience the frequent imbalance between the number of students in the school and the amount of resources.

A key point necessary to understand overcrowding- what causes it, and what can fix it- is knowing how many students there are at the school at any given point. However, this is not a simple task, especially at the beginning of the year. “We can start on the first day with 1,690 and then have 1,810 and then go down again,” explained Principal Martin.

Multiple factors contribute to the lack of consistency in the population throughout the school year. Wilson is a school that accepts an abundance of transfers over the course of the entire year as a result of problems in other settings or personal reasons. One of the more common causes of

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POWER IN PROTEST- Students from across the city join forces to show support for DACA.

Photo by Jackson Fox-Bland

A dream deferred becomes a nightmare

Ava Ahmann
Features Editor

Approximately 200 DCPS students walked out of class to protest Trump’s decision to end Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) on September 12, as well as to stand united in support of undocumented students.

An executive order made by former President Barack Obama, DACA granted the right for young undocumented immigrants across the country to obtain an education as well as a driver’s license and a job. Privileges that many young people take for granted were revolutionary for undocumented youth. On September 5, President

Trump effectively ended the program, placing approximately 800,000 young people at risk of deportation.

DCPS students rallied in front of the Trump Hotel, filling the air with chants of “no hate, no fear, immigrants are welcome here,” and holding signs that read, “Dreamers not schemers,” and “Does my culture offend you?” Students then flooded Pennsylvania Avenue while making their way to the White House, stopping traffic and joining arms. Wilson Junior Campbell Brewer was among the students present and explained why she decided to walk out: “My friend is undocumented and I don’t understand why they want her out,” she said.

The statement came after Attorney Generals from several

states, spearheaded by the Attorney General of Texas Ken Paxton, threatened to sue

Donald Trump if he didn’t repeal the program. Despite Trump’s

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STORMING STUDENTS- Last week, students from Wilson and other DC schools took to the streets to protest the rescinding of DACA. They look the metro downtown and marched to the Trump hotel.

Photo by Jackson Fox-Bland

Student population shifts at aggressive rate

Ellida Parker
News Editor

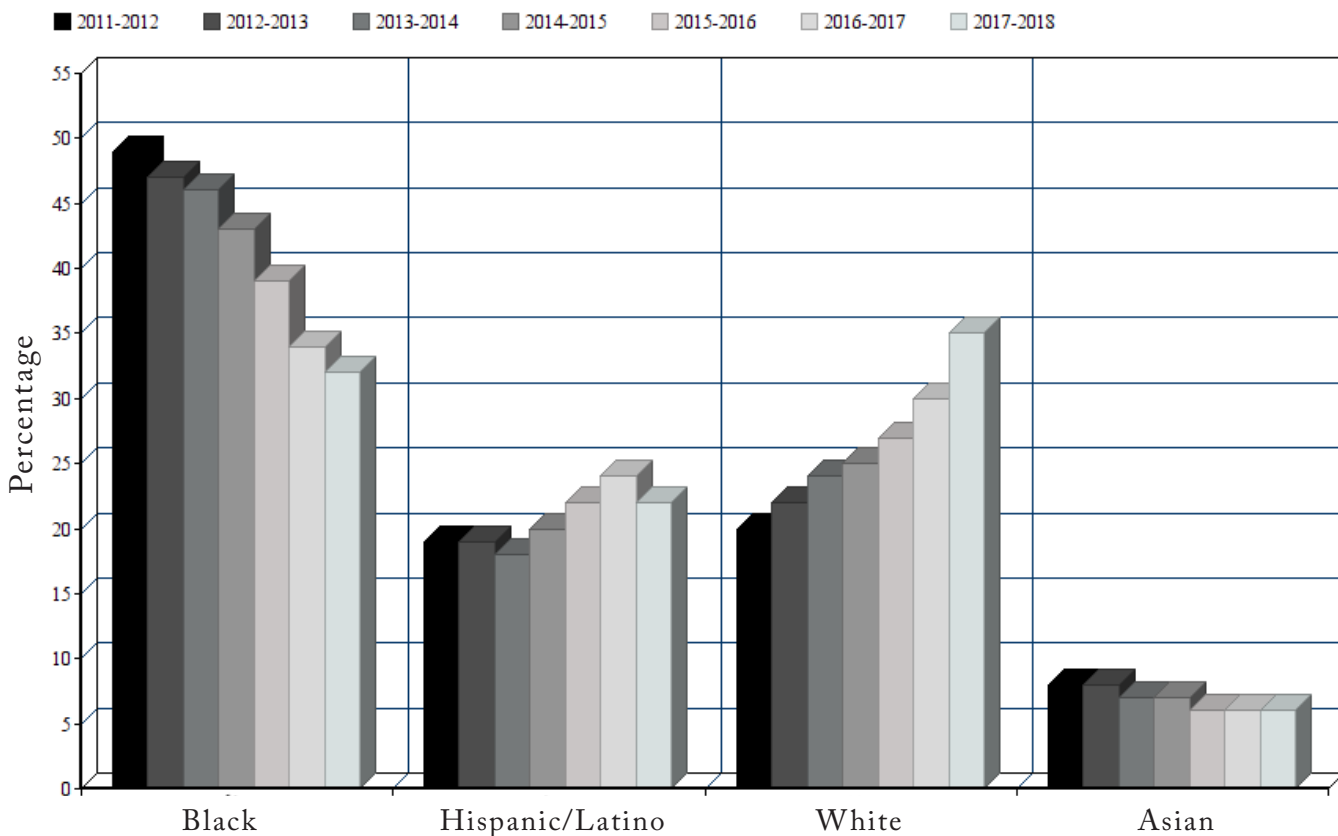
Like DC as a whole, Wilson’s demographic makeup is rapidly changing. In just seven years, the percent of Wilson’s population made up by Black students has shrunk by nearly 20 percent. During the 2009-10 school year, Black students made up 51 percent of Wilson’s student population, compared to just 32 percent by the start of the current school year.

Concurrently, the percent of white students in the school has increased from 24 percent to 34 percent over the course of seven years. The percent of Hispanic students at Wilson has remained relatively steady, along with the percent of Native American, Pacific Islander, and multi-racial students.

In the past decade, DCPS has renovated many of its schools, improved graduation

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Demographics of Wilson from 2011-2018



Infographic By Elena Remez

Wilson mourns loss of Reilly Webb

By Sophie Thurschwell

The awe-inspiring Reilly Webb, loved and cherished by more than he knew, passed away late Thursday night, September 14, 2017. His journey ended following a long and incredibly brave battle against leukemia. Reilly, having turned 17 in June, would have been a senior at Wilson this fall.

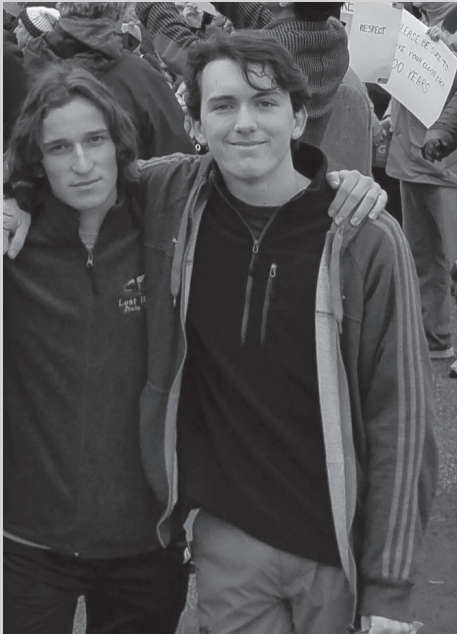


Photo Courtesy of Theo Shapinsky

Reilly was born on June 29, 2000 to his parents Cathy Conger and Greg Webb. His younger sister, Nora Webb, is currently a sophomore at Wilson. Reilly attended John Eaton Elementary school from preschool until 4th grade (2009), when his family ventured to Vienna, Austria, and then five years later to Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. Reilly and his family never lost touch with their Eaton friends and Cleveland Park neighbors, who were all thrilled when Reilly and his family moved back to Washington, DC in December of 2016. Reilly and Nora were both enrolled at Wilson for the start of the second semester. It’s not easy to start at a new school in the middle of your junior year, but Reilly jumped right in, acting in the annual “Play in a Day” in January and then joining the stage crew to help build sets for the Shakespeare show. He was planning a career in film.

Then on March 3, 2017, a mere two months after joining us at Wilson, Reilly was diagnosed with an incredibly aggressive form of leukemia. He underwent an amount of change that a weathered adult would have trouble coping with. Somehow Reilly handled it all without complaining, with a charming smile and an invincible sense of humor.

This sense of humor stuck with him all throughout his life; his calm, reassuring presence was always accompanied by his intelligent but humble wit. For those who didn’t know him, Reilly was a warm, welcoming face that anyone felt comfortable approaching.

Reilly touched an incredible number of people, all over the world. He had a strong network of support from Vienna and from Abu Dhabi, who talked and face-timed with him regularly, and then visited him here over the summer. Although Reilly only spent two months at Wilson, he touched so many here -- until his sudden and tragic diagnosis, when he disappeared from our daily lives and entered a battle for his life. He has been on our minds ever since, and will be in our hearts forever. •

Chancellor’s take on Wilson: “A premier comprehensive high school”

Ben Korn
Co-Editor-In-Chief

Not even a full two weeks into the school year, Wilson’s faculty was greeted with a visit from District of Columbia Public Schools’ Chancellor Antwan Wilson. The Chancellor discussed the state of DCPS and addressed the concerns of Wilson’s staff.

Chancellor Wilson began his presentation hoping to hear about recent successes at Wilson. Ninth grade Dean of Students Wallace Haith spoke on Wilson’s efforts, discussing bias and improving race relations. Dee Ward talked about how Wilson is one of the few schools with a comprehensive financial literacy program. Athletic Director Mitch Gore bragged about senior Isaac Frumkin and his participation in the Maccabiah Games in Israel, representing DC and Wilson. As Chancellor Wilson listened to the myriad of accomplishments his words of congratulations grew. He stressed that he wants to “celebrate success of all sizes.”

Chancellor Wilson is only in his ninth month as the head of a school system with almost 50,000 students. He has made it his goal to visit every school in the District to introduce himself and better understand the state of DCPS. The Chancellor told Wilson’s faculty about his values and what drives his decision making.

He said he was approaching his job with a “student centered focus,” that involves increasing “social and emotional learning,” and making sure that there are “equitable opportunities at all

high schools.”

He was proud of the strides DCPS has made on the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) test. While other states have only seen fractions of percentage increases on their scores in English and Math, DCPS has seen three to four percent increases. Despite a sizable drop in Wilson scores last year, Wilson High School has seen impressive increases over the past two years, a fact that Chancellor Wilson was proud of.

The Chancellor then opened up to questions from the staff. In response to a question about the success, or lack thereof, of ELL students, Chancellor Wilson acknowledged DCPS can and must do better in serving more students.

Making a soft allusion to President Donald Trump, he said that the best way to “combat immigration policies is by teaching kids while they are here.” Alex Wilson, Wilson’s Academic Development Director, asked Chancellor Wilson what he says about Wilson behind our backs.

The Chancellor cited honesty as one of his values and answered by saying he would say the same things to Wilson’s students and staffs faces, as behind their backs. “Wilson is a premier comprehensive high school, with a huge achievement gap,” Wilson said in his description. He elaborated that he didn’t doubt that the talent to close that gap was assembled in the staff in front of him and he challenged the Wilson faculty to redouble their efforts. •

Photo by Jackson Fox-Bland



100 MILLION DOLLAR MAKEOVER- Duke Ellington students move back to their newly renovated campus. The project went significantly over budget.

Duke Ellington renovation blows past budget

Maya Bradley
Contributor

Three years after the renovations for Duke Ellington School of the Arts began, the Georgetown campus reopened with budget overruns of 100 million dollars. Looking at the campus makes it entirely understandable that a \$71 million budget would not be enough: the new school building has an underground parking garage, an auditorium able to seat 850, six dance classrooms and studios, two music libraries, a 300-seat performance hall, and many other expensive updates. Why then, was the budget not made large enough to

accommodate these updates?

The Office of the District of Columbia Auditor (ODCA) issued a report wherein the overruns were largely blamed on DCPS, the Department of General Services (DGS), and DC Partners for the Revitalization of Education Projects (DC PEP). According to the audit from the ODCA, policy makers couldn’t make the best choices for the budget and location of Duke Ellington because they were not given the facts they needed to properly assess the situation.

This same report also claims that DGS does not provide a clear and consistent procedure and delivery manual, causing confusion for the Duke Ellington

project. The audit also states that another factor contributing to overruns was the lack of adherence to certain deadlines, which caused delays.

Duke Ellington is not the only school that has gone over budget. Roosevelt High School went over their budget by 36 million dollars when they did their renovation, and Lafayette Elementary School went over their 49 million dollar budget by 29 million dollars. •

All-female color guard makes Wilson history

Emma Jacobson
Junior Editor

The JROTC Leadership Academy instituted Wilson’s first all-female color guard for the 2017-18 school year, comprised of students Litzy Martel, Margaret Goletiani, Kelly Blanco and Kennedy Whitby.

Wilson’s elite color guard, which frequently goes to events and competitions to represent Wilson and the JROTC program, contains two boys and two girls. The two boys on the elite color guard are graduating this year and the current all-female color guard will have a chance to become the elite color guard that will represent Wilson next year. Sophomore Margaret Goletiani is currently being trained to take over the color guard when senior Kevin Argueta graduates.

“It’s the most decorated thing you can do, to honor the flag,” Goletiani said. She said

her participation in color guard allows her to give and receive respect.

Only 7.1 percent of the top ranks in the military are held by women. This minority status in the armed forces is reflected in the JROTC program at Wilson. The ratio of male to female students in Wilson’s JROTC is around 3 to 1. This makes the all-female color guard a promising sign of what is to come, as more girls become interested in JROTC and excited about being part of the four person group.

Wilson is the second DCPS school to have an all-female color guard, Coolidge being the first. Being on the color guard takes hard work, dedication, and time: practices run from 7:30 to 8:15. on Wednesday and Friday mornings. •



FEMALE FORMATION- JROTC hosts an all female color guard, making Wilson history. The group will be the elite color guard next year.

DC and Maryland take on Trump

Zara Hall
Junior Editor

Since his inauguration, President Trump has been sued more than 135 times, but up until two months ago, none of these lawsuits had ever been filed by a state. DC and Maryland became the first district and state to sue Trump on June 20, when their attorney generals, Karl Racine and Brian Frosh, placed a lawsuit claiming Trump has violated the Emoluments clause of the US Constitution.

The Emoluments clause states that government officials cannot accept gifts or payments

from foreign governments. By receiving payments for his hotel, DC and Maryland believe that Trump is violating the clause.

In a press release June 12, the DC Office of the Attorney General said that Trump “violates the Constitution when his businesses benefit from transactions with governments.” They also stated that, “As state attorney generals representing the people, we have a duty to serve as a check and balance against the president.”

For courts to consider lawsuits, the plaintiff must prove that they are being harmed. The attorney generals are doing this by arguing that

the DC and Maryland economies are being hurt by Trump’s hotel as it is drawing business away from their convention centers. Multiple businesses and organizations have previously sued Trump for his businesses, but were dismissed as they could not prove that they were harmed.

Trump’s defendants have argued that he has distanced himself as far as possible from his business by having his sons run the company.

But Susan Bloch, a law professor at Georgetown University, said in an interview with The Beacon that she doesn’t think there is enough distance

between Trump and his sons. “Trump saying he is giving back all the profits to the government should help him, though, as in that case he would not be benefitting from the business.”

Standing up to Trump puts a lot at stake for DC, a city whose laws and freedoms are largely dependent on the decisions of the federal government. Thirty-eight percent of workers in DC are employed by the federal government, more than any other state, which means DC would be majorly affected by federal budget cuts Trump could pass in opposition to the lawsuit. Many Wilson students

could be at risk as well, as DC TAG, which allows students in DC to receive up to 10,000 dollars per year of financial aid at state universities, is a federally funded program that could be reduced or eliminated with budget cuts.

Shortly after this lawsuit, Trump was sued again by DC and 14 states, including Maryland, who filed the suit in hopes of protecting DACA. With this lawsuit, the DC Office of the Attorney General said that they hope to “prevent President Trump from continuing to violate the Constitution.” •

Schoolwide overcrowding draws concerns from Wilson community

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transfers to Wilson is that their safety at another school was put in question. Martin said, “We happen to be the site of a lot of safety transfers and once they get here, they stay.”

One important difference to note between the safety transfers and students who switch to Wilson for another reason is that once the safety transfers arrive, they stay. Many students arriving at Wilson after the initial start of the year do not stay for the full year. “We have probably 20 percent of our population that I would consider highly transient,” said Martin.

This lack of certainty surrounding the population of the school and therefore the amount of money per pupil has been raising concern among parents of Wilson students and in DCPS as a whole. In a meeting with the Ward 3 Overcrowding Committee, Wilson parent Brian Doyle said that, “Figuring out

where you are right now is half the battle.”

The fact that the school budget is not fluctuating in sync with the number of students leaves the fact that having more students in the school will mean that there will be less money spent per pupil. Doyle went on to say that, “We are probably north of 1,800 students which is a big jump from where we are supposed to be in terms of budget protections.”

While negative impacts on students may be the primary concern of parents in the Wilson community, teachers are also experiencing the consequences of a larger student to teacher ratio. Science teachers Daniel Barringer and Dani Moore each have 218 and 197 students respectively.

This vast number of students per teacher has become a crucial issue for a variety of reasons. The primary issue is overall staff reduction. In recent

years the number of teachers in the school has gone down considerably for a variety of reasons including personal preference, and termination by the administration. Martin estimates that, “We have had probably 30 reductions in staff since I started.” This loss of staff has also impacted movement in the school and students’ commute between classes.

“When there are fewer people to manage [students], the flow in hallways is slowed and it’s just harder to get things done,” explained Martin.

Another aspect contributing to the colossal number of students that certain teachers are responsible for, is a desire among students to take their class. This fluctuates year by year, and this year has most directly impacted Moore, who teaches both AP Biology and AP Environmental Science. Martin recalled that, “AP Bio is very full. AP Environmental Science

as well. A lot of kids want access to that class. Those weren’t necessarily full classes last year. It was a different conversation last year. It was physics that lots of kids couldn’t get.”

A third cause of strain on teachers with regard to number of students is the change from the seven-period schedule to the eight-period schedule. The transition from the 2015-16 school year to the 2016-17 school year brought with it an extra period on every student and teacher’s schedule, along with the teachers. Martin said, “When you take a seven-period day you might have a total of 150 students, but when you add that extra period that could be 30 more papers to grade, or 35 more papers to grade.”

The extra papers to grade for every teacher has not gone unnoticed by the concerned Wilson community. There have been multiple proposals of solutions to overcrowding from

a variety of groups worried about the lasting impact that overcrowding may have. One of the more contentious proposals has been to arrange an entirely separate building for Wilson’s ninth grade. A potential location for this would be the the previous location of Hardy Middle School on Foxhall Road, which is one of the only DCPS Buildings that is not currently in use.

This change would cause a multitude of complications for Wilson’s administration and would require a substantial increase in the budget for separate teachers, administrators, custodians, and other necessities of an effective education setting.

Although no changes have been finalized, action will ultimately need to be taken to stop the current trends toward less money spent per pupil, larger classes, and heavier workloads for teachers. •

Students pilot social and emotional lessons

Ethan Fingerhut
Opinions Editor

Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) is piloting as a class this year at Wilson. The course is entering the curriculum after Antwan Wilson decided that students’ social and emotional skills would be one of his focuses as Chancellor of District of Columbia Public Schools.

“[The Chancellor’s] mission for the school is around every child feeling challenged and loved,” Principal Kimberly Martin said. The main purpose of the class is to develop crucial

social and emotional skills that students will need to have in order to be successful post high school.

The class is being incorporated into Wilson’s Career Tech Education (CTE) department under the name Freshmen Seminar. After the curriculum was introduced to Wilson teachers at an Academic Leadership Team (ALT) meeting, CTE Department Chair Deirdia Ward believed the class would be a great fit for the department.

Ward and CTE teacher Anthony Evans will be the SEL course’s teachers. The

pair planned the Social and Emotional lessons that the entire school participated in during the first two days of the school year. Evans and Ward are each teaching one section of the course for a combined total of around 50 students. Counselors took recommendations from Wilson’s feeder schools for which ninth graders should pilot the course.

The curriculum focuses on helping students prepare for their future after high school. Developing students’ professionalism and empathy are fundamentals of the course.

Both of these contribute to improving students’ relationship skills.

Some of Evans’s favorite classes so far include the digital zombies, planner usage, and social contract lessons. “Those three [lessons] are all really helpful and I think they are needed,” said Evans. The rest of the curriculum includes several other lessons pertaining to improving basic life skills.

Feedback from students and staff shows that both the course and the lessons at the beginning of the year has been mostly positive. “The feedback I received

from teachers was like ‘wow there are some parts of it that are really good and then there are some that are not so great,’” Martin said.

Both Evans and Ward feel optimistic about the future of SEL at Wilson. After the pilot program this year, there are plans in place to fully incorporate SEL into the Wilson curriculum. “If I had the opportunity to teach more, I would,” said Evans. Freshmen Seminar will be a mandatory class for all incoming ninth graders from school year 2018-2019 onward. •

Chancellor Wilson develops new plan for DCPS

Maya Wilson
Features Editor

Only five years ago, DCPS was considered one of the worst public school systems in the country. In an effort to combat this, former Chancellor Kaya Henderson developed the Capital Commitment Strategic 5 Year Plan in 2012, a series of goals to ensure DCPS would see improvement by 2017. The 2012-2017 Capital Commitment has since run it’s course. Now, it’s been replaced by Chancellor Antwan Wilson’s 2017-2022 strategic plan.

In the next five years, DCPS hopes to have 100 percent of K - 2 students reading on or above grade level, 100 percent of schools highly rated or improving, and 100 percent of students feeling loved, challenged and prepared by the District. They are also looking to increase the four-year graduation rate to 85 percent. The entire plan is available on the DCPS website.

The success of the goals remains unclear. One of the original goals from 2012 was to increase lowest performing schools’ test scores by 40 percentage points. From 2015 to 2016, these scores went up by less than 3 percentage points.

The only one of Henderson’s goals that was met completely by the end of the 2015-2016 school year was their effort to increase enrollment to 50,000 students. While this is an encouraging figure, it does raise concern for currently overcrowded schools like Wilson.

Some Wilson teachers remain dubious towards the plan. There is a smattering of faculty who worked for Wilson in 2012 when the first Capital Commitment was put in place. At least in this school, DCPS was not able to keep all of their goals from the first strategic plan, one of which was to respect teachers and faculty, and provide them with all necessary tools and resources.

“The problem is they say ‘we promise to respect you as

professionals’ and they have not,” said health teacher and Teacher’s Union Representative Rebecca Bradshaw-Smith, citing the strenuous five-year negotiation process to replace the teachers’ contract.

Psychology teacher Michael Garbus, who has also been at Wilson since before 2012, agreed with Bradshaw-Smith regarding the contract. “If you don’t think people felt disrespected because of that, you’re crazy,” he said.

Increasing graduation rates has always been a primary goal for DCPS. While ensuring there are as few dropouts as possible is of utmost importance, there is concern that instead of providing students additional support, it is merely becoming easier to graduate.

“They made it easier to graduate students, because they’ve made it easier to pass classes,” said Garbus, noting specifically that credit recovery makes it exceedingly easy to obtain credits for necessary classes.

Some students are also skeptical, specifically towards the intention that 100 percent of students feel loved, prepared and challenged. While most feel prepared and challenged, working to have every student feel loved seems like a stretch.

“While DCPS tries to make us feel loved and challenged, if they want us to feel loved, they have to work on some things,” said senior Jessica Padilla. “Like making sure that teachers stay, so students can receive a good education.”

Bradshaw-Smith also cited teacher retention when asked if she had any thoughts on which issue the school district should be most attentive to.

“You can focus on all of that all the time, but if you don’t have anyone in the classroom, to teach them, to prepare them, to love them, to nurture them, to cherish them, then it doesn’t make a difference what your goals are. That should be number one: teacher retention.” •



Graphic by Elena Remez

New legislation promises a safer Metro

Noah Frank
Contributor

After a drawn-out negotiating process, President Donald Trump has signed legislation that will establish the Metro Safety Commission. The organization will be responsible for overseeing the wellbeing of Metro riders, a role which has been in demand for two years. The members of the DC Council, as well as Maryland and Virginia legislatures, all passed bills in early 2017 approving the commission. The president’s signature was the final step of the process to give the Metro safety oversight.

A 2015 incident in which a train car caught fire at the L’Enfant Plaza station prompted the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) to temporarily assume responsibility for the safety of the Metro. Prior to the incident, Metro was supervised by the Tri-State Oversight Committee (TOC), whose work was deemed ineffective by former Transportation Secretary

Anthony Foxx.

After taking authority, the FTA claimed that Metro was not complying with any safety program prior to the incident, and thus needed new regulation and oversight. In 2015, the FTA mentioned in a presentation that, “WMATA employees are not receiving adequate or timely safety training and certification.” Because the FTA’s supervision was only expected to be temporary, very few changes were made to the Metro’s safety protocol.

During the two years that the FTA was in charge, the federal government withheld several million dollars from the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, citing concerns with the safety of the Metro. The FTA’s oversight sparked a prolonged process to give Metro a permanent safety organization. For two years, very little progress was made in doing so, until August 22, when legislatures around the DMV, and eventually Trump, approved the bill to establish such a group.

Trump had initially

proposed a 13 percent budget cut to the Transportation Department, which would harm the Metro in particular because of its relatively high dependence on funds from the federal government. Despite these initial plans for DC infrastructure, the new plan will provide the Metro with the safety protocol it has needed for a long time.

The DC Council Chief Financial Officer said, “The MSC will be comprised of six board members with each signatory jurisdiction appointing two members and one alternate member for four-year terms.” However, it is still undecided who will fill these positions, which are supposed to have equal representation among DC, Maryland, and Virginia.

While it is still unclear what sort of visible effect this new law will have on the Metro, this legislation is a step forward in Metro’s quest to improve safety awareness and protocol. •

Shrinking boundaries lead to less diversity

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rates, and gained a reputation as one of the fastest-improving school districts in the nation. Students from affluent families who might otherwise have attended private schools are increasingly opting to attend their neighborhood public schools, such as Wilson. On average, Wilson’s student population is far more financially well-off than it was seven years ago; the percent of students eligible for Free and

Reduced Lunch dropped from 43 percent in 2010 to the 25 percent it is today. The increase in enrollment of in-boundary students has caused school populations in Ward 3 schools to skyrocket, meaning that Wilson can no longer afford to accept as many out-of-boundary students as it had in previous years. Prior to 2015, Wilson accepted out-of-boundary residents through a lottery system in which students on a waiting list were randomly selected and allowed to attend

Wilson. But in 2015, when enrollment projections hinted at a population size that grossly exceeded the school’s space or resources, Wilson stopped accepting students from the lottery. According to Principal Martin, 85 percent of students who live out of bounds are students of color. “Our efforts to decrease our overcrowding means, in many ways, we’re making our school more white,” said Martin. “Right now, we’re a minority-majority

school. If we became an only in-boundary school, that would not be the case.” Students who live out-of-bounds are still able to attend Wilson if they attend one of Wilson’s feeder middle schools. As of the current school year, roughly 50 percent of Wilson’s student population is made up of out-of-boundary students, but this number is likely to decline significantly in coming years. Two out of the three feeder middle schools for Wilson, Oyster-Adams Bilingual

School and Alice Deal Middle School, also stopped taking students from the lottery as overcrowding took its toll. Hardy Middle School is the last of Wilson’s three feeder middle schools to accept out-of-boundary students. “The only path now for a student who lives out of boundary to come to Wilson is to get into Hardy first,” said Martin. •



COFFEE CONVO- Principal Martin meeting with students over coffee, a new initiative she is starting to address student concerns. Photo by Margaret Heffernan

Principal Martin to begin student outreach program

Sydney Madera
Mathilda Nilsson
Contributors

As an expansion of her parent outreach program, Principal Kimberly Martin is planning on starting regular “Cocoa with the Principal,” meetings in which students are able to come in once a month and talk to her in a group setting. Martin already has a “Principal’s Coffee” meeting for parents where, once a month before school in the College and Career Center, parents join her for coffee, bagels, and a discussion about their questions and concerns. Now, she wants to expand this meeting to students, so that they can talk to her in an unintimidating setting. When discussing why she held this coffee for parents and why it might be helpful for students, Martin said she wanted to be able to tell parents directly about what was going on in the school. “Rumors spread really, really fast,” Martin said. She wants to be able to confirm or disprove anything parents might have heard and may be concerned about. The meetings are used as a time to discuss current and upcoming events at school and

address any questions. Martin believes this could benefit students. “I always want kids to feel comfortable talking to me,” she said, “and I intentionally keep my door open all the time.” For example, a student meeting with the principal in September could cover topics like adjusting to a new school year, homecoming, spirit week, and future testing. This would lower the pressure for students of having a one-on-one meeting with the person tasked with running their school. Martin said she always has students coming up to her in the hall or at STEP to ask questions, and the meeting could be a way for students to ask these questions, without having to wait for another student to finish talking to her. Some aspects of the meeting would have to change, though. “I feel bad about giving coffee to fourteen year olds,” Martin said. Alternatives she brought up were “Pop with the Principal” or “Cocoa with the Principal.” Martin said she would “manage it in a way so all students whose voices needed to be heard would be heard.” •

DC councilmember calls it “unfair” to claim Wilson is suffering from budget cuts

Samuel Marks
Contributor

A leading member of the DC City Council is challenging claims that Wilson High School is suffering from any budget cuts. In an exclusive interview with The Beacon, Council Member David Grosso claimed that “schools across the city

Antwan Wilson, in which she argued that “Wilson has been regularly subjected to drastic and arbitrary budgetary cuts.” She noted that about 30 Wilson staff have been cut over the last three years, and she supported the claims made by Wilson supporters that the school had lost somewhere between

to graduate and to do well on AP courses as well...we need to focus some more on those schools that have students that are traditionally underserved.” However, some argue Wilson also provides an education to underserved communities. In a recent Northwest Current article-

“ the school had lost somewhere between \$340,000 and \$1.3 million in funding ”

have seen major increases to their budgets...and Wilson is no exception to that.” Councilmember Grosso said that if people “really look closely at the research and really look closely at the data” they will see that Wilson is being “treated equally with every other school” in Washington DC. He called claims that Wilson is suffering from three years of budget cuts “an unfair assessment.” He said that he believes Wilson Principal Kimberly Martin is “very, very comfortable” with the school’s budget, and will be able to provide “an outstanding and excellent education at Wilson this year”. Grosso’s claims are in contrast to many supporters at Wilson and even his fellow Councilmember Mary Cheh who represents Ward 3 (where Wilson is located). In July she wrote a letter to the new Chancellor of DC Public Schools

\$340,000 and \$1.3 million in funding, depending on how the calculation is done. Recently the City Council voted for \$11.5 million in additional funding for DC Public Schools and Chancellor Wilson is deciding how to divide up the money between schools. Grosso told The Beacon that “Wilson will receive a significant amount of money...because [it is] a very big school with a lot of students.” He said teacher salary increases of 9 percent over the next three years are “also an investment” in Wilson. But Grosso also warned Wilson parents that the city is trying to get its priorities in order and is focusing on schools that haven’t had much funding. “Wilson does fairly well” he said, “and so there could be some money that is put into other schools like Ballou, Anacostia, Woodson, that are schools where students are struggling

“Public Deserves Explanation on Wilson Budget Cuts”- the newspaper said it is easy “to overlook Wilson’s high numbers of at-risk students who attend from around the District.” The article called Wilson’s enrollment level of around 1,900 students “staggering” and said “the total number of students who are struggling is comparable to enrollments of entire high schools.” The public is waiting to hear more detailed information about how the Chancellor plans to divide the \$11.5 million in additional funding, meaning that these are nervous times for students, parents and teachers alike. •

Confederate memorials are more hateful than historical

Danielle Breslow
Managing Editor

In a recent study, the Southern Poverty Law Center reported that more than 1,500 Confederate-related sites have been identified in 31 states across America. In fact, some of them are right under our noses. There are eight Confederate statues inside the U.S. Capitol building, and one in Judiciary Square. All of them were erected during the Jim Crow era and all of them need to be taken down.

The current statues stand as a result of a law Congress passed in 1864, creating the National Statuary Hall in the Capitol, as a place for states to honor two citizens of their choosing.

While Northern states like Massachusetts chose to honor Samuel Adams, a founding father and revolutionary leader, Southern states such as South Carolina, Alabama, and Georgia honored Confederates serving only to advocate white supremacy. Their hateful agendas aimed to force African-Americans into submission. States that sent in Confederate statues were not only publicizing their resistance to Black equality, they were setting it in stone.

These memorials tell a misleading representation of our country: they celebrate segregation and inequality. And with big names like

President Trump backing the preservation of an account of Confederate history that solely honors Confederates instead of condemning them, the attitude that inequality and segregation is acceptable in our society is instilled in the American people.

Still, some institutions are moving in the right direction. In 2016, the National Cathedral decided to remove stain glass windows that honored the Confederate generals Robert E. Lee and Stonewall Jackson, a positive change to a place where inclusion in a community should be valued above all else.

Others have argued against the removal of Confederate memorials, saying that by taking them down, history is being ‘washed away’. Donald Trump has been among them, tweeting that he was “sad to see the history and culture of our great country being ripped apart with the removal of our beautiful statues and monuments.” The non-profit Confederate Memorial Association, organized in DC, also aims to defend these monuments. Their mission is, according to their website, to “protect the dignity of the South.”

But to find someone who wants to take down a Confederate statue who also doesn’t want an increase in education about the Civil War, would be a surprise. Why?

Because the full history of the Confederate army is disturbing and un-American.

These Confederate memorials don’t reflect American values. Those who want to take down these statues aren’t tearing down history. They are removing hateful icons that honor leaders whose ideas oppose fundamental principles of democracy, who don’t support equal rights for all, and who fought for slavery and tore apart the country because of it. •



SHAMEFUL STATUES- Confederate General Albert Pike statue stands tall in DC. This and many other Confederate statues should be taken down.

Makeup brands don’t cater to people of color

Shirah Lister
Contributor

You walk into a Sephora, looking at the rows of foundation. There are about 13 shades of ‘Bisque’, while there are only two shades of ‘Cocoa’. You look at the lipsticks, but cannot tell how they would look on your skin tone because all of the models just happen to be ‘Beige Light’. Looking deeper into the foundation section, you find solace in companies like Iman and Black Opal. But the fact that there are makeup lines made specifically for darker people says everything that needs to be said about the makeup industry.

People of color still need to resort to special and usually more expensive makeup brands just to get a shade that would be cheaper and easier to find if they were a lighter skin tone. BB cream? Nude lipstick? Forget about it. Not to mention the fact that many makeup companies seem to have confused

nude with light peach, even though when some girls look in the mirror, that nude color is more like ‘raw flesh’. From “porcelain” to “ivory,” they’ve got it covered, but when it comes to foundations that cover women of color, they are lacking.

Oh, wait! I didn’t see the tan, dark tan, and medium tan. Suprise! Women of color come in all different shades of brown. If you can make multiple shades for a white person, you can make multiple shades for Brown people.

It’s insulting and demeaning when makeup companies fail to capture the richness of people

of color’s skin tones. Makeup companies are saying that Black people are not worth the amount of time it takes to create a foundation that can match their complexions. It says that if you’re too dark, sorry, but there is no makeup for your color. It says that darker people are less desirable because they have to go out of their way to find makeup that is always available for women of lighter shades.

It has become clear that the “marketable” image of beauty is white people, which translates to: beauty is unattainable to women of color. And people wonder

why only 4 percent of people around the world (Dove Real Truth About Beauty Campaign) consider themselves beautiful.

We all should be able to feel that ‘wow I look fabulous’ moment after applying makeup. It shouldn’t just be limited to those with a certain complexion. It is not up to companies like Urban Decay and Mac to dictate the range of complexions that

can be considered “beautiful.”

And if these companies widen their offerings to appeal to all people, they might find that the moral thing to do is the same as the most economical. Fenty Beauty by Rihanna is a prime example. Rihanna launched her Fenty Beauty company recently and all dark shades have been sold out, a sign that there is profit to inclusivity.

What makes her line so attractive? The fact that it is aimed at people of all colors. •



MAKEUP FOR ALL- People of color often struggle to find makeup that matches or complements their skin tone. Brands catering to lighter complexions reinforce racially charged beauty standards.

Photos By Zoe McCullough

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The Beacon is published monthly by students of Woodrow Wilson High School, 3950 Chesapeake St. NW, Washington DC, 20016. Unsigned editorials and cartoons are the views of the staff; personal commentaries reflect the opinions of the writers.

Our mission is to provide an accurate representation of the diverse views, opinions, and concerns of the students of Wilson High School. Advertising and subscription rates are available by emailing beaconchiefeditor@gmail.com.

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

Music requires active listening

By The Beacon Staff

As our favorite songs and albums become the soundtrack to our everyday routines, we commonly turn to musicians for inspiration. We end up treating them, along with other celebrities, as other-worldly, hoisting them high up on a pedestal. And in embellishing the lives of these people, we often end up turning a blind eye to aspects of their character that are dangerous to romanticize. If an artist lives a life that harms society, their art will project messages that are equally harmful. The most glaring and public instance now is the abuse charges surrounding XXXtentacion.

The rapper, known as “X” to his adoring fanbase, shot to stardom while in prison for armed robbery charges, and charges of abuse have followed him throughout his career. These charges were substantiated with photographs and a detailed report. Yet, his fans continued to support and defend him through the controversy. Throughout his legal confrontations, X has maintained his musical style, which often includes misogynistic and derogatory language towards women.

It is sometimes said that art is a reflection of life. As such, it is important not to censor any creative product which is honest in both subject matter and intent. However, music like X’s encourages and validates behavior that we see in the Wilson community.

Overtly violent and derogatory language across all genres normalizes rape culture and stereotypes about women. If we thoughtlessly consume music that repeatedly belittles and objectifies the young girls that we sit next to in class, we are contributing to their oppression.

We, as a staff, want to encourage conscious listening, and recognition of the clear line between entertainment and reality. •



Graphic by Jackson Fox-Bland

TOP 10 EXCUSES FOR BEING LATE TO SCHOOL

- 1. I fell asleep in the atrium last night and just woke up**

2. The Truancy Police took me for a joyride

3. I left a lighter in my pocket going through security

4. First period is sweet

5. My Aspen help desk appointment ran long

6. I had a screaming match with the crossing guards
- 7. I’m mourning the loss of the atrium tree**

8. I had an existential crisis in the college and career center

**9. *You walk in 40 minutes late with Starbucks in hand*
you look at teacher
teacher looks back
“The security line was really long”**

10. I was trying to figure out where Coach Mark’s forehead stops and his scalp begins

Microaggressions and misconceptions: being half Indian

Mabel Malhotra
Junior Editor

When I was three years old, my biological white mother was walking with me and my siblings by the World Bank. A woman stopped and said to my mother, ‘Oh, wow! You adopted all four of them!’

Nine years later, at the age of 12, a friend asked me, ‘How are you so tan all year round?’

But the worst, and the most common one is, ‘Where are you from? No, like, where are you really from?’

I am half Indian and half white. My mom is American and my dad is Punjabi. I have been called both ‘Princess Jasmine’ and ‘white girl.’ I have grown up eating Chana Masala one night, and hamburgers the next. I have grandparents in Maryland and across the globe in Dubai. My family celebrates Diwali, and also Halloween. My life is colorful.

I wouldn’t say that I experience straight-up racism very often. Maybe that is because my skin isn’t as dark as my father’s, or maybe it’s because my accent is American. However, I do experience many micro-aggressions and weirdly-worded backhanded compliments. People have referred to my appearance using the word ‘exotic’, which I don’t understand because I was born and raised American, so generally I am just as exotic as the average Wilson student.

Let me go back to the ‘where are you from?’ question. A stranger sees me, and they see dark features that register with them as foreign. So when they ask me where I’m from, and my response is ‘DC,’ they are unsatisfied. They keep searching, and ask me ‘where are you really from?’ with a look in their eyes suggesting that I should understand. I know that I am from DC, but I spare us both the time and say, ‘My dad is Indian.’ From the beginning all they wanted to know was my ethnicity.

It seems like an innocent

question, right? But they were digging at my identity. America has always prided itself in being the country of many ethnicities, cultures, and beliefs. Immigrants come to America from all over the world and raise families who don’t necessarily look white, and that’s what America is. It’s a melting pot of millions of different people. This is 2017. You should believe me when I say I’m from DC and move on with your day. Because if you’re asking me where I’m

with us.

People tend to assume that Alaia Lee, a sophomore at Wilson, is Ethiopian. Evidently, they are surprised when she informs them that she is half Indian and half African American. When speaking of her home life, Lee says “everything [in her house] is just Indian-ified. It’s everywhere.”

In addition to her race, Lee receives assumptions regarding her religion. Lee herself does not identify with any religion, but,

even when she tells people that “[her] mom is Muslim,” people generally figure that she is Hindu. This confusion has led to one of her past teachers asking her what tier of the Caste System her mother is on and peers bringing up atrocious Muslim stereotypes such as ‘since you’re half Indian, does that mean you’ll just blow up half the school?’

“Think about your own race,” Lee says. “If anyone just came up to you and asked you a bunch of

questions, like asked you what’s your social status or what does your family do for a living, like a bunch of weird stuff based on who you are...you don’t ask someone that.”

I was not born in India, nor have I lived there. However, my dad brought many of the traditions of his culture with him to the U.S. when he moved here for college, and he continues to keep them alive in my family today.

I am extremely grateful that I get to experience a fusion of two very different cultures and that I come from mixed blood. I love that I am biracial, and I’m not uncomfortable or insecure about it. I don’t need anyone’s validation or observations, and I certainly don’t wish to be guessed at. This is 21st century America. Multiracialism should not be a puzzling concept. •

from, I hope you’re not asking just because my hair is dark and my skin is tan.

This past summer my older sister, Helen, and I were at the front of the Zara line. As the cashier rang us up, he curiously asked where we were from, and when ‘DC’ wasn’t enough, we went through the motions. When we eventually revealed that our father was Indian, he lit up. He turned and called to a coworker, ‘Oh my god, Sarah! Come over here!’ I realized what this was. He was trying to relate to us, make a connection, maybe try to make us feel comfortable. ‘They’re half Indian, just like you!’

Here’s the issue: the only thing that Sarah has in common with my sister and I is that we’re all half Indian. So it felt weird that the cashier was trying to push us together, as if we would suddenly be best friends. If we were white, he wouldn’t have cared to ask about our background, or call over a white cashier in attempt to connect



Graphic by Elena Remez

Inflated patriotism breeds contempt

Jamie Stewart-Aday
Contributor

Donald Trump’s inaugural speech was met with mixed reviews. His critics called it nationalism, while his supporters called it patriotism. This is an obvious example of the blurred line between nationalism and patriotism in this country.

Extreme patriotism has helped America swiftly move past the lowest points in our nation’s history, such as the immediate aftermath of 9/11. Americans came together in support of one another, and in many ways, it was this support that got us through this challenging time.

But that same wave of patriotism also got us into a war that has taken over half a million lives in 16 years and shows no signs of slowing down. What we fail to see is that while patriotism is important, the consequences of being overly patriotic often outweigh any benefits.

Patriotism is all too often used as a tool for hate and paranoia. A simple look at American history makes this clear.

The American government has often been guilty of using patriotism as a guise for hate. The best example of this is the Red Scare of the early 20th century, followed by the second Red Scare in the middle of the 20th century.

Fueled by a World War I wave of nationalism, the U.S. government and its officials became extremely paranoid about the spread of communism, to the point where they harassed innocent Americans. This was named the first Red Scare, due to the color red commonly being associated with communism.

This same paranoia returned in the mid 20th century, and was coined the second Red Scare. Coming at the beginning of the cold war, the second wave of anti-communist hysteria was

even stronger than the first.

This was accompanied by the political strategy known as “McCarthyism,” named after senator Joseph McCarthy, who claimed without evidence that the State Department was filled with communists.

Under the guise of patriotism, people like McCarthy struck unnecessary fear into the hearts of millions of Americans and subjected innocent Americans to extreme harassment

While moderate amounts of patriotism are natural and helpful, we must be careful not to let our patriotism get out of hand.

Another consequence of extreme patriotism is an increased likelihood of war. In the book “War, its Causes and its Correlates,” authors Martin A. Nettlehip, Dale Givens, and Walter de Gruyter found that historically, populations with stronger feelings of patriotism tended to go to war far more often.

This comes from the “us-against-them” mentality that patriotism encourages. If you put one’s own country over all others, it’s natural for you to make more enemies. We can see this with the Trump administration’s “America First” policy, which has alienated important american allies such as Mexico, Australia, France, and Germany.

When patriotism goes unchecked, it becomes the type of patriotism practiced by people like Joseph McCarthy and Donald Trump. This is not a love of one’s country, it is a hate of one’s fellow countrymen. •

Internet activism falls short

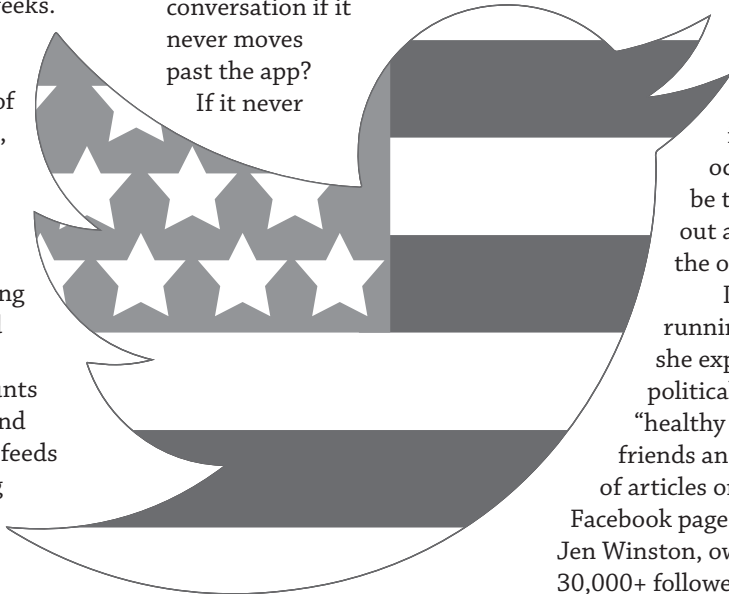
Hannah Masling
Junior Editor

We’ve entered a digital age of politics, a time where our president drops military bans on Twitter and a celebrity’s Instagram post with #BlackLivesMatter makes TMZ headlines for weeks. Liberal activism on social media, while important in terms of spreading awareness, only exists on the non-physical plane that is the internet, and doesn’t have the impact that something in the tangible world does.

Instagram accounts like @feministastic and @localdemocrazy fill feeds with posts preaching intersectionality, shaming Donald Trump, and commenting on current

events relating to marginalized groups such as the LGBTQ+ community. These topics are not only in need of attention, but imperative to sparking much-needed conversations surrounding justice in a scary Trump-ridden time. But is it really a productive conversation if it never moves past the app?

If it never



Graphic by Mike Dorros

reaches more than a hashtag? Through direct message, I talked to the owner of the Instagram page @feministscript, who has over 30,000 followers, to understand the logistics of these types of accounts. “[Activism on social media] is important because it’s the fastest way to consume news nowadays. Therefore, if injustice is occurring, we can be there to call it out and repost it,” the owner said. In addition to running the account, she expresses her political views through “healthy discussions with friends and [sharing] a lot of articles on [her] personal Facebook page.” Similarly, Jen Winston, owner of the 30,000+ followed account @girlpowersupply, says she has

“conversations with [her] family and friends about race and politics as often as possible.” Though I fully appreciate the development of internet conversation being brought into the real world, if someone has an audience of thousands of people, that power must be utilized. Organizing protests, posting phone numbers of Congress members, creating petitions, and planning productive gatherings; the owners of these accounts have a responsibility to make a difference. Another important responsibility of these accounts is to post accurate information. A common theme on the web is ridicule for “fake news.” Unfortunately, the internet is a great place for things to get lost in translation. Winston acknowledges that “running a popular Instagram is a serious responsibility—you are accountable for spreading true information,” and “running

@girlpowersupply requires me to use everything I learned about fact-checking.” Inaccurate posts create not only confusion within the Instagram community, but controversy as well. Preventable arguments between both opposing and common political sides break out in the comments, and in many cases escalate to profane language. Everyone seems to have an opinion regarding this time of digitally obsessed teenagers and the constantly expanding online world, but the reality is, the digital world will continue to be a prevalent part of our lives whether we like it or not. We should focus on using the internet to our benefit, not to point fingers at each other. It is an integral part of our communication, education, and expression, and should be used for all its ability to make a change. •



Graphic by Elena Remez

Free ranges, not cages

Sophie Strazzella
Junior Editor

Zoos have been around since 1847. Whether for educational purposes or fun, almost everybody has been to a zoo before. Originally, zoos were established to educate the public on particular species and how they interact with one another in their habitats. However, studies show that zoos are not as harmless as they may seem and animals often suffer severe abuse in captivity. Zoos’ treatment of animals is clearly inhumane and they should not exist any longer. Last fall, I decided to stop going to zoos. Zoos exist primarily for profit, attracting tourists from all over the world. In recent years, multiple cases of animal abuse and mistreatment in zoos have been exposed. A zoo in Copenhagen, Denmark had a “surplus” of animals, and as a result, the zoo publically fed a baby giraffe’s cut up body parts to the lions. The zoo killed a baby giraffe solely to

make room for another animal that was being located there. This shocking event led many people to question what goes on in zoos behind closed doors. In addition to animal mistreatment, many of the animals held in the zoo are too intelligent to be locked up in cages or behind glass walls as entertainment for intimidating humans. Trading and relocating animals is a huge part of the zoo industry. This can be extremely stressful for animals, as they are forced to abandon their relationships and an environment they have grown accustomed to. Elephants are more similar to humans than you think. They experience a range of emotions including joy and grief. They are even able to learn new facts, mimic sounds, use tools, and display compassion as well as self awareness. Like humans, elephants share a highly convoluted neocortex (the center of higher mental functions), allowing them to have similar intelligence

capabilities. Elephants are one of few creatures that are born without survival instincts and learn these skills during infancy and adolescence. They can live for over 70 years, but in captivity, many die before age 20. It is unjust to take years away from their life and strip these animals of their freedom by placing in confining cages. With online access to TV programs like “Animal Planet,” and magazines like “National Geographic,” zoos are no longer needed to serve the purpose of educating people on the animals that we coexist with. No animal species should be kept in captivity, and studies on animal intelligence back this up. Animals should be able to roam freely and thrive in their natural habitats. Don’t contribute to animal cruelty—boycott zoos and be part of the motion to end them once and for all. •

SGA fails to represent students

Chloe Turner
Contributor

During my three years at Wilson, I have had the same three questions about the Student Government Association (SGA): Who are these people? How are they selected? And why does no one know how it is run? When I ask how to go about making changes in the school, I always receive a vague answer: ‘talk to the SGA.’ But where should I go to do this? Who are my representatives? When is the next SGA meeting? These questions only exist because of the extreme lack of communication between SGA and the rest of the school. It seems as if SGA is run by one friend group. This year, for instance, there was a last minute opening for the position of junior class secretary. However, I have no idea how the four candidates on the ballot were selected. Nobody I talked to knows. What were the qualifications of the four people on the ballot, besides being friends with the other SGA officers? If communication about elections improved, maybe I and many others would actually have confidence in our student government. The other obvious problem with SGA is that it is majority white. Wilson is a very diverse student community, yet SGA does not represent that diversity. It is extremely difficult for white people to truly understand the issues impacting

students of color at Wilson. For instance, I doubt that many of the SGA offices have ever been pushed into an on-level class and deterred from taking an AP course. Most of them probably do not have a teachers who judges their work ethic off of their race, and I bet most of them can walk through the halls without a pass. However, all of these are regular occurrences for students of color, and we’re tired from dealing with these problems. Too tired to navigate the spider-web that is SGA. How can we fix these issues if our representatives are all white? How can students communicate these issues to people who cannot truly understand them? Sometimes students literally cannot communicate because they are foreign language speakers. Are there any Spanish speakers in SGA? Obviously, I have a lot of questions about SGA and how it is run, and that is exactly the problem. As a student of Wilson, I should be informed about the issues and decisions of the SGA. I should know who my representatives are, and how they make decisions. I, like many students of color want to know these things. We would love to be more involved in our school, but whether it’s intentional or not, SGA’s lack of communication and lack of diversity tells us we are not wanted. •

Gun violence hits close to home

Meredith Ellison
Tristan Cooper-Berthe
Written Content Editor
Contributor

In August, Wilson graduate Jamahri Sydnor was shot while driving less than a mile from her house. Just last week, Zaire Kelly, a Thurgood Marshall senior and friend of many Wilson students was shot 300 feet from his front door.

These deaths were terrible tragedies; however, they are far from unprecedented in DC. Unfortunately, these are just two cases which are part of an issue that has plagued the District for decades: gun violence.

Like many aspects of DC, gun violence reflects a tale of two cities. There have been 80 homicides in DC this year, according to The Washington Post as of September 26, 59 of which are the result of a shooting. Even more startling, is the stark disparity in homicides between quadrants. Northeast and Southeast DC have had 31 and 36 homicides this year respectively, compared to nine in Northwest and four in Southwest.

Ward 3 Councilmember Mary Cheh acknowledges the divide between quadrants in DC, but believes that the morality of the issue makes gun violence a

citywide concern. “I think of the District as a whole ecosystem,” Cheh said. “It’s not like a political boundary like Ward 3 isolates people from violence.”

The 2008 Supreme Court case *District of Columbia v. Heller* struck down the decades-old handgun ban in the city, ruling that it violated the Second Amendment. Cheh, who is also a constitutional law professor at George Washington University, disagrees with the *Heller* decision. She cited DC’s abundance of government buildings and population density as justification for strict gun laws. “Even in the [*Heller*] opinion it says there might be a reason for regulations,” Cheh said.

A DC-specific concern that Cheh shared was the presence of firearms in protests. “In the city, we frequently have protests with people who are politically divided in very close proximity to each other,” Cheh said.

The City Council is the body responsible for gun legislation

in DC. After the *Heller* decision, the Council went back to the



drawing board to pass new legislation. Cheh said the Council is currently awaiting the response from the courts in their most recent attempt to maintain stricter gun laws in the city.

“Generally speaking, the DC Council is very progressive and reformative,” Cheh said. “The fight is between us and

the courts.” The most recent fight: The U.S. Appeals Court ruled that DC’s gun permit laws violated the Second Amendment.

“Some people think looser gun laws will decrease gun violence because then people don’t know who has a gun,” Cheh said. “I don’t buy it.”

Gun homicides in DC decreased overall from 262 in 2002 to 55 in 2012.

The *Heller* case, decided right in the middle of that timeframe, had no visible effect on the number of gun homicides. The downwards trend started years before the decision and continued after. Why didn’t *Heller* affect the trend?

The answer lies in where the guns are coming from. People who obtain guns illegally, will continue to do so regardless of legal changes to gun restrictions, since many guns used in homicides are obtained illegally.

An illegal gun in DC was not necessarily originally obtained illegally. Cheh provided the example of someone legally obtaining a gun at a gun show somewhere along the east coast and then bringing it into the

city- making it illegal. The flow of illegal weapons from the Florida to the Mid-Atlantic is well-known enough to warrant a nickname: the Iron Pipeline. The Metropolitan Police Department’s Gun Recovery Unit (GRU) is tasked with seizing illegal guns from around the city. Created in 2007, GRU has recovered more than 3,600 guns, many from the Iron Pipeline.

GRU has been criticized for confiscating the weapons without identifying the traffickers and how the guns entered the city in the first place.

The City Council passes the laws, the police see their enforcement. So where can high school students fit in?

At a Gun Violence Prevention workshop held at the Henry C. Gregory Life Center on September 23, an instructor said teenagers in DC can reduce gun violence by learning basic gun safety, attempting to change gun culture through peer pressure, and creating safe communities. Instructors at the workshop also encouraged students to badger Congress to make gun violence prevention resources more accessible. •

Graphic by Elena Remez

THE SCIENCE BEHIND: CLIMATE CHANGE AND NATURAL DISASTERS

Talia Zitner
Science Editor

In the past two months, four Category 4 hurricanes have hit the United States and its surrounding areas. This is the first time a phenomenon of this severity has ever occurred within one hurricane season.

Scientists began tracking hurricanes as early as 1851, and are now predicting that this could be the new normal. Meteorologists have gathered evidence that these devastating storms (causing at least 60 deaths and billions of dollars in damages) are being influenced, or even caused, by climate change.

Sometimes, the results of climate change are easy to see. For example, we’ve all seen those saddening photos of polar bears on melting ice caps or

graphs from record heat waves. Some effects of climate change, however, are not as obvious.

Hurricanes form when an initial atmospheric disturbance develops around very warm sea water. The lack of vertical winds in these areas prevent the storm from being torn apart while the hurricane is developing. In the Atlantic, these hurricanes often form off the coast of West Africa, and then move westward toward the U.S. and the Caribbean.

While many factors influence how strong a hurricane is, the most important is the initial sea temperature. Due to global warming, the water in the area where these hurricanes form is generally around one to two degrees higher than normal. Warmer water temperatures decreases the hurricane’s

probability of being broken up or weakened. It is becoming clear that while human beings aren’t directly causing these natural disasters, their impact on climate change is certainly a contributing factor.

While all of this seems incredibly ominous, some benefits may come from these disasters. One of the most important weapons we have against climate change is education, and the devastation in Texas, Florida, Cuba, Puerto Rico, and other islands has begun to raise awareness.

Brushing away climate change as an abstract concept becomes difficult when it’s broadcasted into your own home. As Senator Brian Schatz from Hawaii stated in a New York Times article, “even if you don’t believe liberals, even if you

don’t believe scientists, you can believe your own eyes.”

Some religious figures, including Pope Francis, have taken to discussing the issue. Francis told reporters before leaving Colombia earlier in the month that, “you can see the effects of climate change and scientists have clearly said what path we have to follow.”

Hurricanes Harvey and Irma are clear examples of the kind of weather we can come to expect. If we don’t continue our attempts to slow climate change, the cost of cleaning up after these strengthened storms will amount to much more than what it would take to prevent them. Each hurricane will have a clean up bill estimated to be around \$100 billion.

Whether you’re motivated by money, empathy, or a general

desire to save the planet, we need to start doing something about climate change. •



Graphic by Elena Remez



Meet the math department: Emily Erkin

Years at Wilson: 6

Classes: Probability and Statistics

Looking Forward to: “Making sure that my seniors are able to grasp all this information, understand it, digest it, and be able to actually graduate and have some wonderful options when they leave here.”

Fun Fact: Loves to travel, shop, and horseback ride.

Photo by Elena Remez

Free the shoulders: When does dress code impede on the law?

Chloe Leo
Co-Editor-in-Chief

Less than two weeks into school, junior Caralinda Muniz was sent home for wearing an off-the-shoulder shirt. Muniz is not the only student who has been reprimanded for violating Wilson’s dress code policy, laid out in the student agenda and on Wilson’s website. According to a survey by The Beacon, 25 percent of students report they have been ‘dress coded’ during their time at Wilson. Six of the 329 students surveyed said they were sent home to change as of September 18, all of whom were females.

The appropriateness of exposed shoulders within a school setting is not the only question to arise from the increased dresscode enforcement. Possible underlying sexism within school dress policy has brought critics’ attention to Title IX, a federal law that prohibits sex-based discrimination in any federally funded program.

In 2014, the United States Court of Appeals said that gender-based dress codes and grooming policies can qualify as gender discrimination under Title IX, and violate the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment. While public schools reserve the right to enforce dress codes, according to the American Civil Liberties Union, federal law states that dress codes can’t treat students differently based on sex, or force students to dress according to sex-based stereotypes.

In 1969, the United States Supreme Court upheld the right of students to wear black armbands to school in protest of the Vietnam war in the Tinker v. Des Moines case, ruling that “Students don’t shed their constitutional rights at the schoolhouse gates.”

A few years later, the 1972 Gardner v. Cumberland School

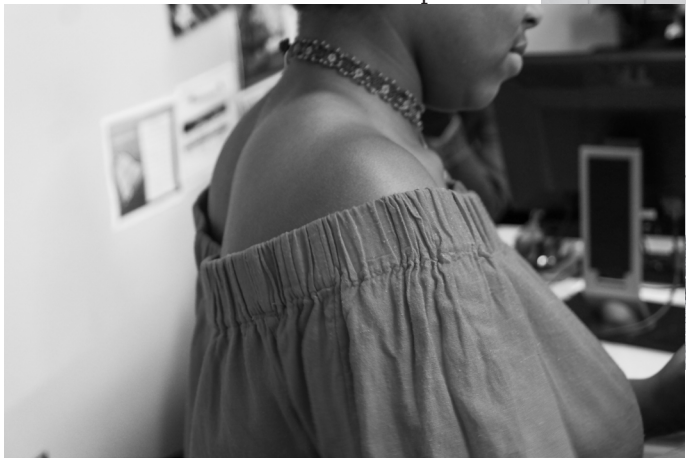
Committee ruled that schools may only regulate student dress when “It presents a clear and present danger to the student’s health and safety, causes an interference with school work, or creates a classroom or school disorder.” Since then, other court cases have debated students’ rights to wear shirts sporting vulgar expressions, wear their hair at whatever length they choose, and attend prom dressed in attire typical of the opposite sex.

Legally, Title IX requires that while dress codes can specify what is seen as appropriate attire, these requirements cannot differ on the basis of sex. For example, schools cannot require only

there to protect the ladies. Not to discriminate them or to get them to be upset with us,” she said. “Look at the bigger picture. When you go to college, when you become a working adult, undergarments are necessary.”

The goal of the dress code, as seen by Haith, is to promote professionalism. “I think that asking young people to come to school and prepare for their professional careers and wear appropriate attire for a business-like setting, is just asking them to be part of

OUTFIT ARGUMENT-
The Wilson dress code has been controversial. Its enforcement has raised questions regarding Title IX.



female students to wear bras, or prevent male students from wearing earrings.

Concerns for the legality of Wilson’s dress code were first raised this year after the 12th grade back-to-school assembly, where female students were advised to wear undergarments. Wallace Haith, Wilson’s ninth grade dean, did not see cause for concern. He believes that under the policy, female students are not unfairly targeted or limited regarding what they can and cannot wear.

Tiffany Mercer, Wilson’s 12th grade assistant principal, also saw no potential for legal conflict. “We put that piece in

society, and being productive members of society,” said Haith.

Mercer explained that by, “dressing for success” students are respecting themselves and their peers. “Academic wise, it might not be a distraction to you, but if your attire is inappropriate, you’re actually a distraction to someone else.”

Complaints about the dress code go beyond unequal guidelines for male and female students. The enforcement of Wilson’s dress code has been criticized for its inconsistency.

“I think they’re too biased with the dress code. They kind of target girls with certain body types, and I think it’s unfair that

you personally feel attacked because you get dresscoded, but the girl walking down the hallway beside you doesn’t get dresscoded,” junior Sequoia Smallwood said.

Junior Chloe Turner expressed similar feelings, “They like to pick on certain people.



Like if it looks good on you and it makes your body look better, than they’ll try and get you to change your outfit. But if you wear it and it doesn’t make your body look good, then they won’t really care.” Turner was recently told to put on a sweater while wearing a strapless sundress. “It wasn’t like I was showing any skin besides my shoulders, so it didn’t really make any sense.”

Targeting or unevenly enforcing dress policies against a particular group of students can violate laws regarding race and sex discrimination. For example, Title 42, Chapter 21 of the U.S Code of Laws, prohibits discrimination on the basis of age, disability, gender, race, national origin, and religion in a number of settings,

including educational ones. Of the students who reported having been ‘dresscoded’ in The Beacon’s survey, 93 percent were female.

Perhaps the largest concern for students is the punishment for violating dress code. While some students have been handed a shirt upon entering the building, others, like Muniz, have been sent home for the day.

Page 37 of the student planner cites that dressing in a way that is “deemed by staff to be inappropriate” may result in being stopped at the door and given the option to change, a call to a parent to bring a change of clothes, or being given appropriate clothing to wear for the day. Further refusal to adhere to the policies may result in other sanctions, including but not limited to detention. The violation policy does not list sending students home for the day as a punishment.

“I would think that it would be our goal not to send anyone home for a dress code violation, because ultimately we want the students to come in and learn,” said Haith. “I’ve been working with the disciplinary team for some years now and I haven’t noticed that or seen that.”

Wilson keeps data on how many students have been sent home for dress code violations, according to Mercer, but administration declined to share it with The Beacon. The punishment of sending students home, in most cases female students as The Beacon’s survey observed, once again raises the question of whether Title IX violations are at hand.

Senior Diarra Wilson seems to think so, “Sending you home is just so extreme, because at that point then you’re taking away from my education.” •

Find the full article on thewilsonbeacon.com

Photos by Anaya Smith and Rebecca Smith

THE STOIC FEED

By Ziaire Beckham

“The will to win, the desire to succeed, the urge to reach your full potential... these are the keys that will unlock the door to personal excellence.”- Confucius

In order to even come close to reaching your dream, your devotion to your goal must be clear and in for the long haul. Though the trials seem futile, and success almost improbable, keeping your head straight and pulling through, in failure and success, will work in the long run.

“Divide each difficulty into as many parts as is feasible and necessary to resolve it”- Rene Descartes

For each and every one of us, life has its full package of problems and challenges we come up against. But, there is no saying we can’t control the problem at hand and solve it little by little. The problems and burdens of the world around us is like a huge bucket of water, you can carry the huge load on your back all at once, or you can transport in easy portions, little by little.

Facts about Philosophy:

The Philo in philosophy is the Greek root for “love” while the sophy is relating to the Greek root “sophos” which is for “wisdom” or “knowledge”.

There are initially 5 branches to philosophy: Metaphysics, Epistemology, Ethics, Politics, and Aesthetics. •



Graphic by Elena Remez

CONT. FROM PG1

promises throughout his time on the campaign trail to end the program, he was slow to act waiting until the last minute to respond to the DACA with an executive order made by President Obama that granted privileges to undocumented immigrants, often called “Dreamers,” who came to the United States as children. DACA is only open to those who came to the U.S. prior to 2007 and were younger than 16 at the time of their arrival.

In order to receive DACA, applicants needed to be either enrolled in school or have earned their General Education Diploma, or have been honorably discharged from the Coast Guard or Armed Forces. Additionally, recipients must have no history of committing a felony, three or more misdemeanors, or pose any threat to national security in any way.

The application process is time consuming, and there is no exact confirmation of how long it will take to receive DACA status once you have applied. The process begins with applications being sent to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services along with a 495 dollar fee. Applicants also participate in a biometric screening. Dreamers have to reapply every two years, paying the same fee each time.

Some perceive DACA as a handout, yet Dreamers cannot receive federal aid when applying for colleges, and many schools in fact bar Dreamers completely. Additionally, undocumented immigrants do not have access to health insurance despite paying an estimated 2 billion in taxes according to the the Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy.

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) will process all renewals and applications that were sent in before Trump’s announcement. However, approximately 154,000 Dreamers will lose their status when it expires on March 5.

Dreamers exist in every state, and as of March there were 12,134 DACA recipients in Virginia and 9,785 in Maryland. Sanctuary cities such as DC and New York, which work to limit the extent to which local law enforcement work with immigration authorities, say they will continue to protect Dreamers.

15 Democratic states and DC are suing Trump over his move to rescind DACA, saying it is unconstitutional and violates federal statute. Trump himself is conflicted over the decision to end the program, and met with Democratic leaders Senator Chuck Schumer and Representative Nancy Pelosi on September 13 to discuss DACA. Schumer and Pelosi described the meeting as “very productive.” However, Trump

later denied that a deal had been struck. Trump has moved the DACA debate to Congress for six months, and there is possibility of passing legislation that will protect Dreamers.

On Monday, September 25 republican Senators Thom Tillis of North Carolina, James Lankford of Oklahoma, and Orrin Hatch of Utah revealed the “Succeed Act.” The Succeed Act is similar to DACA yet the requirements for citizenship are stricter. Under this bill recipients will have to wait 15 years before applying for citizenship and participate in a detailed a process of biometric tests and background checks described as “extreme vetting,” a term used often by President Trump. The White House has been reportedly supportive of the bill despite backlash from Trump’s far-right supporters.

Programs have been established around the country to aid students when reapplying for DACA. Mission Asset Fund, based in San Francisco, is offering scholarships worth 495 dollars to students who have submitted their renewals before the October 5 deadline.

Wilson is stepping up as well. Fliers have appeared in the stairwells educating students on their options. DCPS Chancellor Antwan Wilson told Beacon reporters that undocumented students have nothing to worry about, and that DCPS will respect their privacy regardless of whether or not they choose to share their status. “As the chancellor of the school district, our goal is to make sure all of our students know they are welcome. We are proud of that and we will continue to behave accordingly.” •



THE DREAMERS:

THESE ARE THE STORIES OF FOUR DACA RECIPIENTS. THEY ARE STUDENTS, COACHES, ARTISTS, FUTURE ENGINEERS, AND ACTIVISTS. ALL OF THEIR DREAMS ARE THREATENED BY THE REPEAL OF DACA. NAMES HAVE BEEN OMITTED FOR THEIR SAFETY.

By Ava Ahmann

Dreamer A is a soccer and swimming coach for his alma mater Capital City Public Charter School and attends the University of the District of Columbia. He works for United We Dream, a youth led activist organization. Losing DACA would mean increased risk of deportation to his birthplace of El Salvador. Without DACA he feels his life will be a “mystery,” never knowing what would happen after college. He remembers vividly the hope of kids unable to apply this is the will continue to fight for all 11 million undocumented youth in the US.

Dreamer B is a Wilson alum who has had DACA status for four years and is currently majoring in mechanical engineering at Montgomery College. The college process is difficult even with DACA status, as you cannot take out loans or apply for federal aid programs like DCTAG. Nonetheless, he believes Dreamers are capable of working twice as hard, which allows them to succeed even if the odds are stacked against them. Looking to the United States as a refuge from poverty and violence, and unable to afford visas his family entered the country illegally, when he was six.

Dreamer C is currently a senior at Wilson and hopes to major in mechanical engineering with a minor in computer programming. A member of the robotics team, he describes DACA as the key to his safety. Without it he could be sent back to his home country, a place he is unfamiliar with and has no connections to. Staying in the United States is his pathway to success. He believes being a Dreamer strengthens his motivation to keep going in the face of hardships. His dreams of receiving a college education are grounded in his ability to study in the US, which would be impossible without DACA.

Dreamer D is a Senior at Roosevelt High School whose family is from Ethiopia. She describes losing DACA as scary, yet she also feels “numb.” Her brother has already been deported, and her mother is feeling the mental weight of taking care of her kids while undocumented. Her work permit expires a month before she graduates, which jeopardizes her future. She is organizing an art show, The Alien Project, for first generation Americans and immigrant youth. Her instagram is @Fathersokka where she will share information for the show. Funds raised by the event will go to the LAYC and help pay the renewal fees for DACA recipients.

PROTESTAS SURGEN DESPUÉS DE LA CANCELACIÓN DE DACA



Photos by Jackson Fox-Bland

Los Soñadores

ESTAS SON LAS HISTORIAS DE CUATRO RECIPIENTES DE DACA. ESTOS INDIVIDUOS SON ESTUDIANTES, ARTISTAS, FUTURO INGENIEROS, Y ACTIVISTAS. CADA UNO DE SUS SUEÑOS ESTÁN A RIESGO POR LA CANCELACIÓN DEL PROGRAMA DACA. LOS NOMBRES DE LOS INDIVIDUOS NO ESTÁN MENCIONADOS POR LA SEGURIDAD DE ELLOS.

El Soñador A es un entrenador de fútbol y natación para la escuela Autonoma de Capital City y atiende la Universidad del Distrito de Columbia. Trabaja para United We Dream, una organización activista dirigida por jóvenes basada en DC. Perder DACA significa mayores riesgos de deportación y temor a ser devuelto a su país de nacimiento, El Salvador. Sin DACA siente que su vida será un “misterio.” Él describe la esperanza como la razón por la que seguirá luchando por los 11 millones de jóvenes indocumentados en los Estados Unidos.

El Soñador C es actualmente un estudiante en el grado 12 en Wilson y espera ser especialista en ingeniería mecánica con un menor en programación de computadoras. Un miembro del equipo de robótica, describe a DACA como la clave de su seguridad. Sin él, podría ser enviado de vuelta a su país de origen, un lugar no familiar para él. Permanecer en los Estados Unidos es su camino hacia el éxito. Él cree que ser un soñador fortalece su motivación para seguir adelante frente a las dificultades. Sus sueños de recibir una educación sería imposible sin DACA.

El Soñador B fue un estudiante de Wilson con DACA por los últimos cuatro años y ahora va a la Universidad de Montgomery. El proceso de la universidad es difícil incluso con el estatus de DACA, ya que no puedes sacar préstamos o solicitar programas de ayuda federal como DCTAG. El soñador B piensa que los soñadores son capaces de trabajar el doble de duro que otros a pesar de tener más obstáculos. Mirando a los Estados Unidos como un refugio de la pobreza y la violencia, su familia entró ilegalmente al país, ya que no tenían el dinero necesario para obtener visas.

La Soñadora D es una estudiante de 12 en Roosevelt High School. Su familia es de Etiopía, y describe la pérdida de DACA como miedoso y “entumeciendo.” El hermano de Soñadora D ya ha sido deportado, y su madre siente el peso mental de vivir como inmigrante indocumentado mientras cuida a sus hijos. Su permiso de trabajo expira un mes antes de graduarse, poniendo su futuro en peligro. Ella está organizando una exposición de arte, llamado “El proyecto extraterrestre,” para primera generaciones de inmigrantes, los fondos serán donados a LAYC y la renovación para recipientes de DACA. Busca información en @Fathersokka.

Alexander Diaz-Lopez
Editor de español

El programa Acción Diferida para los Llegados en la Infancia (DACA) ha ayudado muchos a jóvenes indocumentados a seguir sus sueños. Los jóvenes protegidos bajo el programa fueron garantizados el derecho de trabajar y estudiar. El 15 de junio del 2012, el Presidente Barack Obama y su administración anunciaron este gran mandato, la cual ayudaría alrededor de 800,000 jóvenes indocumentados lograr su gran deseado sueño Americano. Por cinco años este programa ha beneficiado estos jóvenes, y les ha aclarado su futuro aquí en los Estados Unidos, pero en una reciente decisión hecho por el nuevo mandatario, Donald Trump, el futuro que imaginaban, ya no es el mismo.

El 5 de septiembre, el abogado general de los Estados Unidos, Jeff Sessions anunció que el programa DACA vendrá a su fin. Indignación, miedo, y enojo fueron las emociones que sintieron millones de jóvenes indocumentados al escuchar la decisión de Trump, ya que muchos jóvenes se encuentran en riesgo de ser deportados.

A partir de marzo, estuvieron 12,134 recipientes de DACA en Virginia y 9,785 en Maryland. La decisión de Trump ha causado tanta controversia, ya que su promesa era solo enfocarse en deportar a los inmigrantes criminales, pero esta nueva determinación del presidente muestra lo contrario.

Varias demostraciones, y protestas se han llevado a cabo por la decisión del nuevo mandatario en lugares como Denver, Los Ángeles, Phoenix, Miami, y aquí en Washington, DC,

Esta noticia hizo gran impacto también en las escuelas públicas de Washington DC, donde 200 estudiantes salieron en horas de clases el 12 de septiembre para protestar contra esta decisión. “Mi amiga es indocumentada y no entiendo porque la quieren sacar,” estudiante de once, Campbell Brewer dijo. Ella atendió la protesta.

Wilson está tomando medida también. Afiches aparecieron en las escaleras educando los estudiantes de

sus opciones. El canciller de DCPS, Antwan Wilson, dijo a reporteros del Beacon que los estudiantes indocumentados no deben preocuparse, y que DCPS va a respetar su privacidad a pesar de si quieren compartir sus estatus. “Como el canciller del distrito, nuestra meta es asegurarse que los estudiantes sepan que son bienvenidos. Estamos orgullosos de eso y vamos a continuar comportandonos así.”

Para recibir DACA, aplicantes deben ser enrollados en la escuela ó deben de haber ganado su Diploma de Educación General, ó han sido descargado honorablemente del Guardacostas ó las Fuerzas Armadas. También, no pueden tener antecedentes penales, ni ser una amenaza a la seguridad nacional.

Para muchos de estos adolescentes la idea de ser deportados y vivir en otro país es una idea ajena, como varios de estos “soñadores” han vivido la mayoría de sus vidas en este país. Al terminar DACA, los jóvenes no solo se enfrentan con el riesgo de la deportación, pero también se enfrentan con el obstáculo de vivir en un país desconocido, donde todo es nuevo.

Sin DACA, muchos temen el efecto de las separaciones de las familias, lo cual tendrá efecto en estos jóvenes, pero también tendrá un efecto en los hijos, padres, otros familiares, y amigos de ellos. A través de los Estados Unidos, las personas fuera y dentro de la comunidad latina se han hecho claros que los soñadores están aquí para quedarse.

El plan de Trump ha causado varias emociones, ya que este sueño Americano buscados por todos está viniendo a su fin. La controversia viene ya que en esta tierra prometida se sigue la idea de que cada uno, no importa de donde viene, su religión, su estatus social, o raza, cada uno puede perseguir un sueño importante para las generaciones futuras, el sueño Americano.

Muchos inmigrantes como estos “soñadores” crecen buscando el sueño americano, lo que hoy parece ser un sueño imposible a punto de terminar. Un sueño que es promovido para “todos,” no tiene la misma importancia al prevenir estos “soñadores” de quedarse aquí en los Estados Unidos, lo cual refiere de ellos cumplir este gran deseo. •



BEHIND THE SCENES- *Madelyn Shapiro gets a taste of life as a principal. Shapiro and Martin spent the day checking off Martin’s to do list.*

A day in the life of Principal Martin

Madelyn Shapiro
Junior Editor

Touring the school, observing classrooms, going up on the roof, and attending meeting after meeting was not how I anticipated my Wednesday going. When I first contacted Principal Martin about shadowing her for a day, I anticipated spending lots of time in the office and possibly attending a couple meetings.

However, after spending an action packed day together, I was in awe of her work ethic, and I gained a newfound respect both for her and for principals everywhere.

8:00 a.m.: The day started with the English and math department Learning Together to Advance our Practice (LEAP) meetings. This is a time for teachers to exchange and receive feedback on their lesson plans. At the meetings, Martin roamed from table to table, talking with the teachers and giving advice. The teachers spoke with and listened to her respectfully, but also exchanged laughs and high fives.

9:00 a.m.: Next up was a meeting with Rachel Laser, the leader of the diversity task force.

The two women discussed the task force’s most recent project of implementing Honors for All, as well as plans for increasing the diversity of parent organizations. Martin’s vision for a diverse future at Wilson impressed me the most. She is very passionate about finding ways to get students and parents of all races equally involved.

10:15 a.m.: After the diversity task force meeting, Martin had a spare hour to do classroom observations. We left the office right as the bell rang, so we saw many students along the way to our first class. Martin greeted several of them by name, or with a cheery, “good morning!”

11:30 a.m.: The final meeting of the morning was with a representative of the Selective Service System, an independent government agency that makes sure eligible men are registered to get drafted into the military during times of crisis.

12:30 p.m.: After lunch, we attended a meeting on the construction of 450 new solar panels above the auditorium. Martin set a date for the construction team to come in, and led a tour around the campus and up onto the roof to

plan out where the cranes and panels will be situated.

2:00 p.m.: We attended the last meeting of the school day. Martin spoke with the Student Government Association about the plan for Homecoming. Once the meeting ended, she responded to some of the 200 plus emails she had gotten so far that day.

Although Martin has a busy schedule, she always takes the time to talk to students. “[Students] can come to my office to help them solve problems. My door is almost always open...if they’re having difficulties with a particular class, or with managing any of the things that go on in a high school, I can help them do that,” said Martin.

By the end of the day, I was exhausted. Many people do not realize the amount and range of work that a principal must do every day. As Martin said, “It’s unpredictable...that’s what makes the job interesting and exciting, because no two days are the same.” •

Photo by Margaret Heffernan

COMMUNITY CORNER: THRIVE DC

Madelyn Shapiro
Junior Editor

DC has a large and thriving network of community organizations. This column will spotlight different organizations around DC that students may be interested in getting involved in.

Located in Northwest Washington, Thrive DC is an organization that provides 140,000 meals each year for those in need. Their mission is to end and prevent homelessness in DC, which they work towards through serving meals, helping people apply for jobs, substance abuse counseling, and providing showers and laundry.

Many volunteers at Thrive love their work because of the atmosphere. “When people say family friendly, this really is more like family,” said Pam Pyles-Walker, a manager who works with people re-entering the workforce after

incarceration. “We get to know each other, we get to know each other’s lives, and it’s a very supportive environment so I think it gives you an opportunity to learn a lot.”

Working at Thrive DC allows volunteers to form connections with new and unique people. There are many different job opportunities, such as serving meals, running activities like art or zumba, creating grocery bags, working at the farmer’s market, or helping out at the front desk. All of these roles help provide vital help to those in need.

“It’s one thing to talk about the 8,000 homeless individuals in Washington DC. It’s another to put a face and a name and a story and a life onto those numbers,” said Community Relations Manager Greg Rockwell. Visit Thrive’s website at thrivedc.org if you would like to get involved. •



Graphic by Jackson Fox-Bland

A few words from our leafy friend

Interpreted by Eden Breslow

Dear Wilson,

Most trees get to grow outside, their limbs sunkissed, and their leaves changing with the seasons. But that wasn’t the case for me, the solemn atrium sapling in the corner by the cafeteria.

Over the course of my life I have seen many things; from first kisses, to sophomores being pummeled with mashed potatoes during the spirit week food fights. That all changed on September 19, 2017.

They say as you’re dying, your family and loved ones are the only things you are thinking of. That wasn’t the case for me. Because, as I was ripped from my dirt-filled enclosure, one root at a time—and as I fell to my impending doom on the sticky linoleum floor—my brief and unrewarding life flashed before my non-existent eyes. All I saw was you: SLOPPY SWEATY WILSON STUDENTS.

My roots have soaked up your vomit during homecoming. My foliage has heard your snake whispers and listened to your shi**y Soundcloud rappers. My bark has been the background of many freshmen’s Instagram photo shoots. Through it all I have remained strong and steady. And then one tall, lanky, blonde topped senior who shall go unnamed (I know who you are and I’m coming to haunt you), came and ended it all.

Now that my time has come, I’ll ‘leaf’ you with a few words of shade. Wilson is a special place, and over my time I’ve seen too many teachers leave, and too many friendships ruined. Protect this space, and for the love of God, stop using speakers to play your music.

Best regards,
The Atrium Tree

Photo by Jackson Fox-Bland



NO MORE SHADE- *Atrium tree removed after falling. No students or staff were injured.*

Autoras desempeñan un papel importante en la literatura

Kelly Hernandez
Contribuidora

En el mundo de la literatura, es difícil recibir reconocimiento al ser una mujer hispana. Autoras como Isabel Allende y Sandra Cisneros entre otras contribuyen a la literatura en una forma única con los temas que razonan con los lectores, controversiales para los lectores de una forma o otra. Isabel Allende, una periodista chilena nacida en Perú, ha escrito por lo menos 18 libros en su carrera como escritora. Su libro más exitoso fue “La Casa de los Espíritus,” escrito en 1982 por la cual ha sido traducido a más de 37 idiomas. Esta mujer ha creado una gran influencia en el mundo de literatura al ser tan exitosa

con sus palabras, sugiriendo que muchas personas en todas partes del mundo han leído su trabajo. Su escritura gira en torno a sus convicciones feministas, justicia social, y situaciones políticas que han afectado su vida. Sandra Cisneros, una mujer México-Americana nacida de padre mexicano y madre chicana, logró ganar el “Genius Award” en 1995. Uno de sus trabajos más vendidos es “La casa en Mango Street,” que ha sido traducido a muchos idiomas y se han vendido más de 2,000 copias. Ella se enfoca más en temas que coinciden con su infancia, la pobreza, diferencias culturales y la dominancia masculina sobre la femenina entre otros.

Muchas de las escritoras hispanas escriben sobre los temas que son relevantes e importantes en las vidas de muchos hispanos. La contribución de las escritoras femeninas a la literatura es grandiosa en forma de que añaden su propia perspectiva o su propio toque a temas importantes que deberían requerir una perspectiva de una mujer. Pero ser mujer y a la vez hispana requiere más obstáculos que sobrepasar para llegar al punto del éxito. •



Desastres naturales causan devastaciones

Alejandro Díaz-López
Editor de español

Durante este mes, han habido muchos desastres naturales que han afectado a millones. Estos desastres han dejado a millones sin hogar, sin familias, y sin recursos para sobrevivir. Con vientos llegando a 155 millas por hora, categoría cuatro, casi llegando a categoría cinco, el huracán María destruyó la bella isla de Puerto Rico. Los vientos fuertes rompieron palmeras, derrumbó los techos de las casas, y los postes eléctricos se cayeron, que causó un 100 por ciento de Puerto Rico estar sin energía eléctrica. En muy poco tiempo el huracán

estuvo tan fuerte, causando severas inundaciones. Un estudiante de once, Diego Ortiz, tiene familia en Puerto Rico. El 25 de septiembre, el todavía no sabía si todos estaban seguros. “Estoy más que seguro que casi todos tienen daño critical a sus hogares,” Ortiz dijo. “Es completamente miedoso cuando tienes gente que has amado y conocido para toda tu vida. Me retrasa tanto que no lo puedo describir.” En un reportaje con el Washington Post, Macarena Gil Gandía, una residente de Puerto Rico ayudó a su madre a limpiar el agua que había comenzado a inundar la cocina

de su apartamento del segundo piso. En el reportaje, Gil Gandía dijo “Hay sonidos provenientes de todos lados. ¡El edificio se está moviendo! Y sólo estamos en el segundo piso, imagínate el resto!” Con mucho que reconstruir, las personas de Puerto Rico se han ayudado el uno al otro. Muchas personas también han decidido donar, y ayudar a las víctimas de este destrozante huracán. 4,000 miembros de la Reserva del Ejército de los EEUU se han desplegado a la isla para ayudar con la recuperación del huracán María. El huracán María mato por lo menos alrededor de diez personas. Este huracán fue uno muy desastroso como el

caso del temblor en México. Eran las 2:14 p.m., hora del este, cuando la ciudad de México comenzó a temblar el 19 de septiembre del 2017. La magnitud del temblor llegó a 7.1, que destruyó mucho de la Ciudad de México. Casas y edificios se colapsaron, que resultó en muertes alrededor de 225 personas. En un caso, una escuela primaria se colapsó y algunos niños y adultos no pudieron salir a tiempo. El equipo de rescate pudo salvar a 21 niños y cuatro adultos que estaban atrapados dentro de la escuela. El equipo de rescate no se están dando por vencidos y están determinados a encontrar más personas que están

atrapadas bajo los escombros. En la ciudad de México la gente/ el equipo de rescate tenían los puños en alto señalando silencio para escuchar los sonidos de los sobrevivientes enterrados en los escombros. Este terremoto ocurrió el mismo día del terremoto del 1985 en México. Fue magnitud de 8, mató a 10,000, 30,000 fueron golpeados, y dejó a miles de personas sin hogar. Este terremoto destruyó mucho, todavía no han encontrado a todos, pero progreso está ocurriendo. Durante el mes pasado los desastres naturales han causado mucho destrozo que no deberían ser ignorado. •

Diversidad entre los maestros de español

Michaela Bauman
Ava Nicely
Contribuidora
Editora menor

Los maestros de español vienen de todo el mundo para enseñar en Wilson. El programa de idiomas de Wilson es exitoso a causa de los profesores que son hablantes nativos o tienen mucha experiencia estudiando el español. Víctor Vela, un maestro de Espanol I y III, dijo, “Hice los estudios en España porque soy de España y después vine con una beca a [los] Estados Unidos.” Amy Wopat, la directora del programa de idiomas, tiene experiencia en muchos lugares. Antes de venir a Wilson, Wopat enseñó en California. Ella participó en un viaje de EF Tours a España con sus estudiantes, y un grupo de Wilson estaba en el mismo viaje. Ella conoció al director de la academia WISP en este viaje y Wopat explicó que “cuatro años después, decidí cambiar de mi ciudad y empecé con Wilson en DC.”

La profesora nueva de Espanol, Isabel Vázquez,

también viajó mucho. “Enseñé en muchas escuelas secundarias diferentes,” Vázquez dijo. Ella enseñó en lugares como Canadá en un programa de bachillerato internacional, en el condado Montgomery, en California, y en Europa. La mayoría de los maestros les gusta Wilson a causa de su diversidad. Los estudiantes vienen de muchos fondos diferentes, y los profesores también. “Me parece una escuela super grande, super diversa, y con muchas oportunidades, muchos clubs, muchos deportes,” Vela dijo. El programa de español en Wilson tiene maestros dedicados que entienden la importancia de aprender un idioma. “Creo que es un programa que debe tener prioridad para los estudiantes, para los administradores, y también para la comunidad en general...”

Necesitamos más experiencias con el mundo fuera de los Estados Unidos,” dijo Emily Walter, profesora de español II y IV . Poder comunicar en otros idiomas ayuda a unir las culturas del mundo y hacer relaciones internacionales respetuosas. Además, en Wilson, los maestros de español hacen sentir a los estudiantes que únicamente hablan el español sentirse bienvenidos. Para los estudiantes es algo bueno tener a una persona que habla el mismo idioma, y que tengan entendimiento sobre la clase. Wilson también es una escuela muy diversa. Vela, Walter, Wopat, y Vázquez son ejemplos de la diversidad entre

los maestros en Wilson. Ellos vienen de orígenes diferentes que los hace únicos dentro la escuela. A pesar que el programa de español tiene muchos puntos fuertes, hay un desafío que el departamento tiene. “La única cosa que tenemos que mejorar es el sistema de ubicar los estudiantes en las clases apropiadas porque hay dos problemas, uno es que chicos tienen talento, pero también tienen créditos, y los créditos no necesariamente representa su talento, su habilidad,” Wopat dijo. Sin embargo, el programa de español en Wilson es muy especial a causa de la mezcla de culturas diferentes. Tenemos la

suerte de tener profesores tan dedicados. •



Maestros de español de Wilson (izquierda a derecha)- Sra. Wopat, Srta. Walter, Sra. Vazquez, y Sr. Vela, son los maestros de español aquí en Wilson.

Fotos por Anaya Smith y Rebecca Smith



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SPORTS CALENDAR

OCTOBER						
1	2	3 @ CARDOZO AT 4PM @ EASTERN AT 4PM LAFAYETTE INVITATIONAL	4	5 VS. COOLIDGE AT 6PM @ MCKINLEY AT 3PM	6 VS. H.D. WOODSON AT 6PM @ SIDWELL AT 4PM	7 @ ROOSEVELT AT 12PM DISNEY XC CLASSIC
8	9	10 VS. PHELPS AT 6PM VS. DUNBAR AT 4PM VS. BANNEKER AT 5:30PM RON JENKINS INVITATIONAL	11	12 @ EASTERN AT 6PM @ EASTERN AT 3PM @ SWW AT 4:30PM	13 @ BALLOU AT 6PM @ STONE RIDGE AT 4:30PM @ ROOSEVELT AT 3PM	14 @ FLINT HILL AT 1PM FRANK KEYSER INVITATIONAL
15	16 VS. WIS AT 4PM @ GDS AT 5PM @ MADEIRA AT 4:30PM	17 @ SWW AT 5PM @ BELL AT 3PM @ CARDOZO AT 4PM DCIAA DEVELOPMENTAL MEET 1	18	19 VS. BANNEKER AT 6PM @ BANNEKER AT 3PM @ BALLOU AT 4:30PM VS. BROKEWOOD AT 4PM	20 VS. WIS AT 4PM VS. WIS AT 6PM	21 VS. ANACOSTIA AT 2PM DCIAA DEVELOPMENTAL MEET 2
22	23	24 VS. DUNBAR AT 6PM @ WALLS AT 4:30PM @ COOLIDGE AT 3PM	25	26 @ BELL AT 6PM DCIAA CHAMPIONSHIP VS. WALLS AT 4PM	27	28 @ EASTERN AT 2PM
29	30 @ HOLY CHILD AT 4:15PM	31	1	2	3	4 Calendar by Michele Heilman

FOOTBALL

VOLLEYBALL

GIRLS SOCCER

BOYS SOCCER

CROSS COUNTRY

FIELD HOCKEY

Wilson football recovering after shaky start

Noam Jacobovitz
Junior Editor

Friendship Collegiate dominated the Wilson field just one month ago with a 45-0 victory. Now, the Tigers are trying to prove that their start to the season was just a fluke.

After losing one of the most talented football classes in recent history, the Tigers faced uncertainty throughout the offseason. In their first game they played against an experienced Friendship Collegiate team that had just come off a DC State Championship the year before, and it showed. Maryland commit Dontay Demus Jr. led Friendship, looking like a man amongst boys, and finished with five catches for 152 yards and three touchdowns in the first half alone.

Wilson finished with only 61 total yards, as their offense was stifled by a top Friendship defense. Quarterback play was problematic. Junior Quincy Barber played the last three quarters as quarterback, after junior Zayaan Cobb threw an interception in the first. The offensive line struggled against Friendship’s pass rush because they were missing a key member due to injury: junior Eddie Sincyr. Sincyr said that the game woke the team up and humbled them, reminding them not to,

“blame each other for all of [their] mistakes.”

The only highlight of the game for Wilson was a jaw-dropping hit by senior Anton Reed that revived the disheartened crowd during a punt return by Friendship. Senior wide receiver Emon Flemming said, “The mood of the team changed after we lost the game against Friendship. We knew we had to come out and ball and we will not lose anymore.”

Flemming’s teammates shared this sentiment after their loss to Friendship as Wilson looked to bounce back against Yorktown. The Tigers crushed Yorktown 41-0 last season, but the Tigers struggled yet again, losing 20-14. Senior Anton Reed and junior Amir Gerald each had rushing touchdowns, including a Marshawn-Lynchesque 30-yard touchdown run by Reed. However, struggling quarterback play led to a lack of a passing game. “[The first two games taught us] that it isn’t all about ourselves, it’s more about teamwork. So we’ve really just been working on trusting one another,” Gerald said. Wilson was not able to muster up enough offense to win the game.

The Tigers, looking for answers with a lackluster 0-2 record, hoped to find a win against DCPS opponent McKinley Tech. They bounced

back with a dominant 45-0 win on the road. Led by a ferocious run game, Wilson annihilated McKinley Tech. Junior halfback Amir Gerald led the way with three touchdowns, two rushing, and one receiving. Anton Reed also had two touchdowns. Amir Gerald said “the combo of me and Anton is unstoppable. I repeat, unstoppable!” Good play by the offensive line allowed Wilson to run the ball efficiently and effectively.

Eddie Sincyr said the win, “really helped our confidence and showed us how to win again.” Sincyr thought that the win truly changed the Tiger’s mindset, “we are taking each

game as one, we need to go 1-0 each week.” Zayaan Cobb was the primary quarterback, but only three passing plays were completed, including two touchdowns. One was a 62-yard touchdown to senior Jalon Rowe.

The senior linebacker duo of Anton Reed and Derek “Man Man” Stephens led the defense to a stellar performance, not allowing any point production for the McKinley Tech Trainers.

Wilson continued their winning ways against Bell with a 55-32 win. The running game paved the way for the Tigers once again; Anton Reed finished with three touchdowns and Amir Gerald

poured in 147 rushing yards and one touchdown. The defense was stellar throughout most of the game, including highlight plays: a fumble recovery by Junior middle linebacker Amontae Silver, who also had a touchdown reception at full back, and an interception returned for a touchdown by Sophomore defensive tackle Jeffrey Rice.

Wilson hopes to use the these wins to jump start their season and use the confidence to try and compete for the ever-elusive Turkey Bowl, which Wilson has not won since 1991.

The Tigers will play at Dunbar today at 6pm. •



Photo by Kaye De La Cruz

A TEAM WITH A GOAL- Wilson football players practice stronger and harder than ever, determined to continue their comeback.

Athlete of the month: Eric Gwadz

Aaron Rosenthal
Sports Editor

With the entire varsity boys soccer team playing at their best, the Tigers have enjoyed an undefeated season so far. However, one player particularly stands out. Senior midfielder Eric Gwadz has netted four goals and assisted on three more in the team’s first seven games.

As the center midfielder, Gwadz’s job is to orchestrate the team’s ball movement. He has excelled in this role so far this fall. His teammate, junior John Keating said, “he’s been a great creator and passer.”

Although Gwadz is not a captain, he still sets a good example for his teammates, as he embraces the importance of

a good work ethic. “Practicing at six almost every morning definitely helps us get better,” said Gwadz.

The hard work of Gwadz and the rest of the team has clearly paid off, as they currently boast a record of 6-0-1 and have defeated the likes of Gonzaga, St. John’s, and WIS. If you want to see the Tigers in action, they look to maintain their perfect record October 3 at 4 p.m. against Eastern at Spingarn field. •



Photos courtesy of Eric Gwadz

SOCCKER STAR- Senior midfielder Eric Gwadz’s fantastic performance has helped Wilson varsity boys soccer remain undefeated.



A NEW DIRECTION- Coach Chris Rickards hopes to oversee a successful season for Wilson crew. *Photo by Jackson Fox-Bland*

Meet Wilson’s new head crew coach

Ethan Leifman
Contributor

Clerk by day and coach by 5:30 a.m., Chris Rickard is now heading one of Wilson’s most demanding extracurricular activities: crew. Having done Wilson crew all four years of high school, Rickard “fell in love with the sport,” which eventually led to him working at Wilson after college and taking up coaching varsity girls crew as a way to stay involved and make some money while working an unpaid internship. But, Rickard said, “it quickly evolved into its own passion.”

Although Rickard is a relatively new coach, but he hopes to have a big win this spring at the Washington

Metropolitan Interscholastic Rowing Association (WMIRA) races in Anacostia, which he thinks Wilson has a “real chance” for. When asked about the Stotesbury Regatta, the world’s largest high school regatta, which takes place in Philadelphia, PA, he said that it’s a much harder regatta to win, but even making it to the Grand Final (top six teams) would be a huge achievement for the team. Another aspiration Rickard has is sending a Wilson rower to the Olympics, which he thinks is a real possibility because of the immense talent at the school.

Rickard’s enthusiasm seems to be popular with the team. “I like Chris as a coach because

he is really committed to our team and always structures practice with a purpose,” Cedar Cox-McAllister, a sophomore on the varsity team, said.

You can watch Wilson varsity crew compete next at the Occoquan Chase Regatta at Sandy Run Park in Virginia, on October 15. •

Soccer team remains undefeated with win over WIS

Alex Martin
Sports Editor

The Washington International school soccer team hadn’t lost a game since the DCSAA championship game two years ago, The Tigers were looking to end the winning streak. However, star defender for WIS Theo Biddle wasn’t playing due to a concussion.

Simon Birnstad, the Tigers goalkeeper, has been carrying the team as of late. He’s given up just three goals in the team’s first seven games. However, even Birnstad’s best efforts couldn’t stop forward Jasper Pearson’s strike midway through the first half, energizing the 150 or so WIS fans in attendance for their homecoming game. The Tigers took this adversity in stride with some high quality scoring chances to end the half.

As the second half started it was obvious the momentum had changed. The Wilson forwards were shooting at will. Senior Oscar Linnaeus scored at the beginning of the second half to even up the scoreboard. As the momentum turned

the Wilson student section grew louder and louder. When junior John Keating scored the go ahead goal, the student section erupted. As time winded down, WIS was playing with desperation. When the clock finally hit zero the 50 or so Wilson students rushed the field and celebrated with the players.

Goalie and star player Simon Birnstad said, “It was a great feeling getting the win. We haven’t beaten them since my freshmen season and given that they were state champs last year that made the victory even more important to us.” The Tigers will play WIS one more time during the regular season, this time at Wilson’s homecoming game, hopefully they can continue their success and sweep WIS in their regular season series. •

Photo courtesy of Marco Carrero and Eli Moraru



UNDEFEATED- Wilson boys soccer players smile after another stellar win. The team is off to a hot start and shows no signs of slowing down.

Volleyball looks to continue reign

Oliver Walke
Contributor

Wilson’s varsity volleyball team has been at the top of the DCIAA standings practically every year in recent history. With this repeated success comes high expectations that team members feel responsible to meet.

With a current record of 13-0, the team has jumped out to a hot start this season. Juniors Scout Bowman and captain Jalen Ciagne are confident that the team will win the DCIAA Championship.

Some of this confidence is due to a new addition to the team, Anna Bertolome. “[Bertolome’s] strong skillset is making the team better,” Ciagne said.

Astonishingly, Bowman and Ciagne both think the team has improved from last year’s

championship team, despite losing four starters. Both agree that they have successfully filled the leadership roles on the

team. However, the team is not satisfied just yet. “The private schools in the

DCSAA are the quality of team that Wilson strives to reach,” says Ciagne. While Wilson plans

on remaining competitive in the DCIAA, private schools in the DCSAA have proven to be a challenge.

Even though the team has won all of their scrimmages and official games so far, Ciagne still thinks there is room for improvement. “We need to work on bouncing back from bad points quicker, so [opposing] teams can’t score a lot of points in a row.”

The combination of an improved team from last year’s championship squad, strong leadership, and a passion to improve gives the Tigers a very good shot at another DCIAA title. •



Photo by Kaye De La Cruz

GREAT EXPECTATIONS- The volleyball team is one of the best in the District, winning a DCIAA championship last year. However, the team agrees they still have room for improvement.

Just for kicks: soccer player ditches ball for a day

Meghan Dayton
Style Editor

Although I’ve played on the varsity soccer team for three years, I’ve never been much of a runner. However, on the third Thursday of school I woke up and got ready for cross country practice.

I was allowed to join any sport for a day, and after much hand-wringing, I pinpointed cross country. I have heard rumors that they are one of the hardest working sports teams at Wilson, and I was up for the challenge.

As my nerves were running high, I met some of my “teammates” in the locker room. I slipped on my running shoes that have been used less than a dozen times. We walked over to Fort Reno and began our one mile warm up and drills. So far, so good.

After warm up, varsity and junior varsity split up, both completing similar workouts with tweaks in intensity levels. The task was to sprint one minute, and then jog two minutes, and then sprint two minutes, and so on all the way up to four minutes and finally back down to one minute. I joined three freshmen

on JV and began the sprinting and jogging intervals. I thought I handled it pretty well, except halfway through the four minute sprinting spell, when I questioned why I was there in the first place.

We completed the work out, ran two cool down laps, stretched, and did abs. The rumors are true: cross country runners are extremely hard workers.

Cross country is awesome. The community feel is unreal. Everyone goes at their own pace, and as long as you push yourself you’ll be supported by both the coaches and the team. Everyone welcomed me and I felt very comfortable trying my best. As a soccer player, I highly



GOING THE DISTANCE- Varsity soccer player Meghan Dayton tries out cross country for a day. Dayton was impressed by the team’s work ethic and sense of community.

recommend cross country. •

Photo courtesy of Meghan Dayton



Players take a knee, Trump wants them out of the league

Aaron Rosenthal
Alex Martin
Sports Editors

Colin Kaepernick decided to sit on the bench for the National Anthem during a preseason game on August 28, 2016. The goal of this action was to protest the racial injustice that still exists in our country. Kaepernick was simply exercising his First Amendment rights, as he felt that he should not have to stand up for a country where the rights of his people are not protected. However, he was immediately met with immense backlash.

Despite the controversy he caused, Kaepernick continued his protests by kneeling for the Anthem before all of the games that he played last season. After this, the San Francisco 49ers decided against giving Kaepernick a new contract for this season, and he was left as a free agent. He is still yet to be signed. Undoubtedly this controversy has made some teams scared to sign him.

Even though Kaepernick can no longer carry out his protests on the NFL fields,

many other players have followed in his footsteps. Kneeling and locking arms during the Anthem has become common among players, as their massive audience gives them the opportunity to make a real difference. However, some feel that declining to stand during the National Anthem is a disrespectful way to go about doing this.

President Donald Trump recently tweeted, “If a player wants the privilege of making millions of dollars in the NFL, or other leagues, he or she should not be allowed to disrespect our Great American Flag (or Country) and should stand for the National Anthem. If not, YOU’RE FIRED. Find something else to do!”

In response to Trump’s remarks, the majority of NFL players either sat, kneeled, or locked arms during the Anthem this past Sunday. Some teams, such as the Pittsburgh Steelers, had their entire team stay in the locker room as the song was performed.

Racism is still very much alive in our country, which is the point Colin Kaepernick tried to

make with his protest just over a year ago. Unfortunately, our President and many others have failed to recognize this. Trump continued his twitter barrage, expressing that, “The issue of kneeling has nothing to do with race.”

Trump is desperately trying to divert attention from the racial injustice in the United States, as he would much rather have the nation’s attention on how the protests against this issue are disrespectful. Regardless of what Trump thinks, racism in the US is an issue that must be addressed. Professional sports garner a ton of attention in our country, so if players continue to speak up, people will eventually be forced to listen. Players should continue exercising their First Amendment rights and demonstrating their beliefs. If they feel that kneeling for the National Anthem is the best way to shed light on this monumental social issue, so be it. •

Graphic by Jackson Fox-Bland

Wilson puts on annual production of Play in a Day

Lauren Brown
Junior Editor

With the guidance of playwrights and highly qualified volunteers, Wilson students became actors, writers and directors in a mere 24 hours. On September 15 at 4 p.m., after an introduction to the Play in a Day workshop and a review of the weekend’s agenda, students got to work.

Prospective actors made their way to the auditorium stage for an icebreaker. They tossed a ball from person to person, reciting the name of whoever threw the ball to them. Everyone was focused on creating synergy, and over the course of the weekend a tight-knit, family feel was definitely apparent.

At the same time, the writers were divided into five separate groups, collaborating and creating the first drafts of their plays. Ideas varied from Mary Poppins getting robbed to romance at the Aspen help desk.

Visiting the directors was a totally different experience. Ms. Bronstein had everyone

sit in a circle to go over the logistics, such as visualizing the relationships between characters and settings, while

Directors were the bridge connecting the pieces the writers wrote to the characters the actors portrayed.

Around 5 p.m., everyone gathered in the Black Box for a quick

At 6 p.m., everyone went home, with the exception of the writers who worked well into Friday night to write their plays.

The next day, the directors came in before the actors, and picked what plays they wanted to direct. The rest of the day was devoted to making the

packed that many had to sit on the floor. The plays were full of cowboys, love-crazed students, founding fathers, and even a milkman! 24 hours to write, direct, and perform 13 plays may seem impossible, but on September 15, Wilson kids not only completed the task, but made it look easy. •



24 HOURS TILL SHOWTIME- *Wilson students take the stage for the annual Play in A Day. Writers, directors and actors had 24 hours to produce original performances.*

showing of the writer’s sample plays. There were judges who gave

compliments and constructive criticisms.

plays come to life; working out important elements like lighting, costumes, and props.

A little after 7 p.m., the doors of the Black Box opened, and the Wilson community poured in. The audience was so

Photos by Langley Custer

EMMA J AND AVA A GO TO A SHOW: BADBADNOTGOOD

Emma Jacobson
Ava Ahmann
Junior Finance Editor
Features Editor

Emma: BadBadNotGood? More like goodgoodnotbad! I was pleasantly surprised by the techno-jazz group from Canada. However, our night started out rocky with a pretty awful DJ who wore sunglasses in an already dark room. DJ fratboy was rocking a Hawaiian shirt, acting as though we were at an EDM show. After a few awkward songs, the opening act Ace Cosgrove finally took to the stage. I’m not sure how prepared a crowd waiting for a jazz band would react to to a rap artist. Cosgrove, however, continued to do his thing and eventually the crowd got into it - or at least we did. Of course when we saw the circle pit forming around Cosgrove who had just jumped into the crowd, for the second time, we had to go. If you didn’t mosh at a concert did you really go? However, I’m not sure how I felt about the Maryland born rapper.

Ava: Cosgrove was pretty talented with a strong stage presence, nonetheless the stoic vibe of the crowd made it difficult to get into the music. You could tell that only a

handful of people in the 9:30 club felt comfortable with him telling them to “stick your middle fingers into the air.” Everyone was holding their breath for BadBadNotGood, a jazz ensemble from Toronto, four guys who have been friends and band mates since meeting at a prestigious performing arts college. Their songs are futuristic and groovy, enveloping you in a silky sheet of melody.

Emma: I was honestly not expecting to like BadBadNotGood, but boy did I. The sax player, Leland Whitty, kicked off the show on the balcony above the stage playing a song by The Champs, a classic 60’s jazz group, called “Tequila.” When the band went quiet, it seemed as though the whole audience yelled “tequila!” As the show continued with “Speaking Gently,” I found myself wondering, how does one dance to jazz in a packed room? Well, according to this show, you jump up and down! Yes, you read that right. When the band picked up the pace, the audience began humming along to the melody and jumping up and down.

Ava: BadBadNotGood played with the power and speed of a punk band, stage presence

of an arena act, and musical ability of virtuosos. It was sort of like listening to spoken word poetry, the audience interaction with the band was unique. If you heard something you liked you were allowed to yell, just like appreciative snaps filling the room at Busboys and Poets. Drummer Alexander Sowinski encouraged the crowd to close their eyes as they played songs off their latest album, “IV”, as well as a few throwbacks, such as “Confessions”, off of their sophomore album, “III.” When our eyes weren’t closed, we were tossed around and as the center of the club opened up into a moshpit of sorts, which was just as surreal as it sounds. This is jazz for the generation raised on rap, and BadBadNotGood knows their rap. In fact, they started their career by releasing jazz renditions of popular rap songs and they have done projects with Ghostface Killah, Tyler the Creator, and Wu-Tang Clan. Toward the end of the show, BadBadNotGood had everyone sit down and jump up at the same time when the song hit it’s sweet spot (interestingly enough we had done this before at a FIDLAR show.) Then we heard those dreaded words, “last song” as they closed the show with “Chompy’s Paradise.” Since the

show I have been listening to BadBadNotGood on repeat, a sign of a great act. I guess things really are better in Canada. •



JAMMIN’ JAZZ- *Canadian group BadBadNotGood entranced DC audiences with cool jazz. Opening act Ace Cosgrove made the 9:30 club his home.*

Photo by Ava Ahmann

DC comedy grows in culture and laughs

Claire Schmitt
Contributor

For most of its existence, New York and Chicago have been the centers of growth and change for American comedy. Los Angeles came next, when Johnny Carson moved The Tonight Show west in 1972. Now, as the internet is making comedy more popular and accessible, cities like New Orleans, Denver, San Francisco, and Philadelphia have developed their own communities of comedians and local venues. For the last few years, Washington, DC has been one of these places. The comedy scene in DC is steadily emerging, to the point where our city is now home to a small festival, multiple stand-up venues, and at least three

improv theaters.

For three days this past July, The Kennedy Center hosted the District of Comedy Festival, the second annual showcase of stand-up and sketch comedy, with podcast recordings and a live show by “Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt’s” Titus Burgess and Jane Krakowski. Many of the performers, like Aparna Nancherla, Judah Friedlander, and Brandon Wardell, were DC area natives.

The Bentzen Ball Comedy Festival, curated by comedian Tig Notaro, happened first in 2009, and then every year since 2013. This year, between October 26 and 29, Bentzen Ball will be in DC, with performances from Notaro

herself, Jenny Slate, Colin Quinn, and Jason Mantzoukas.

Even when there is not a big event, comedy in DC is easy to find. The Washington Improv Theater (WIT) has two free shows every Tuesday night, called Harold Night. At each show teams perform “The Harold,” a complicated form of improv where performers have to seamlessly connect several separate scenes to form one comedical performance. Apart from those, the WIT has several shows throughout the year, including the annual “Improvapalooza,” a two weekend event of experimental improv which draw teams from across the country.

Other theaters in DC, like Sixth & I, the 9:30 Club, and

the Lincoln Theater, often have comedy, but it is the rising venues, like WIT, Dojo Comedy, and Capital Laughs that have helped DC’s comedy scene gain traction. The DC Improv and Underground Comedy also have great shows, but both are 21 and older. The DC Comedy Festival, Free Comedy Festival, and other small festivals have also played a part in the growth of comedy in DC.

For me, the changes in DC’s comedy have been exciting to watch. At the first District of Comedy Festival, two summers ago, I was able to get tickets to the free 6:00 shows right before they started, and still get a seat. This year, I arrived for two of these shows at 5:00,

when they start handing out tickets, to find lines of at least two hundred people.

I’ve had many more opportunities to see comedy in DC, but even with festivals and touring acts, my favorite shows have been the WIT Harold Nights. The Washington Improv Theater has created a center for improvisation in DC, where I now have favorite improv teams, know some of the performers, and go whenever I have a free Tuesday night. •



Taking political action through projections

Truett Canty
Contributor

In a time where many people feel the president lacks the ability to speak for anyone but himself, it seems that people of every culture share the need to express their feelings through protest.

One person who has made headlines for his unique brand of protesting is DC native Robin Bell. He is a video journalist, editor, and master of protest through projections. He uses a projector to display messages onto buildings.

Most recently, Bell displayed his project, “Emoluments Welcome,” onto the Trump International Hotel in DC. In this particular protest, he displayed messages such as “pay Trump bribes here,” and “emoluments welcome, open 24 hours,” onto the side of the hotel.

Bell has done other similar projects. His “EPA Projections,” “Tillerson projections,” and “Trump is a pig,” (as he titles them on his website) were also projections directed at Trump’s administration.

As the name suggests, the “Tillerson projections,” are aimed at the current secretary of state, Rex Tillerson. This protest, created in partner with with Greenpeace, details the problems with Rex Tillerson as secretary of state. In only a matter of minutes, the span of one of his projections, Bell lists a variety of complaints towards Tillerson, including how he uses his power to earn much more money for his company, Exxon. The entire protest against Tillerson is tied together by the tagline “Reject Rex,” which he

projected on the Department of State building.

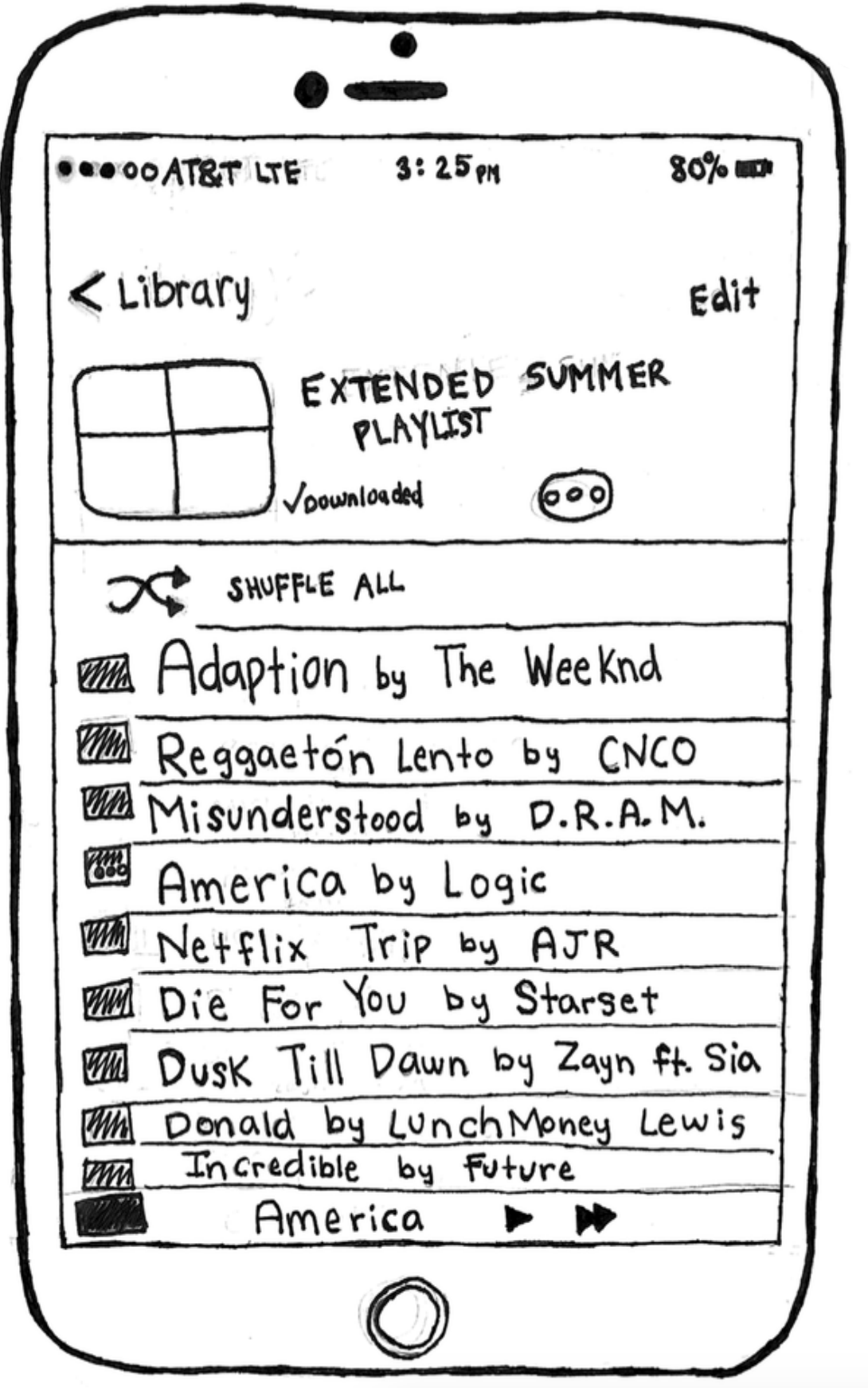
His earlier projection against Donald Trump’s administration, “Trump is a pig,” came a few months before his Tillerson protest. In the first projection onto the Trump hotel, he protests Trump for giving power to alt-right racists. In regard to these protests, Bell said “these fringe alt-right groups have gone from being a minority of hateful a**holes to having the ear of the president.”

This project was completed in November, while the country was still in a haze of confusion as to how Donald Trump was elected. The tagline of this protest was “experts agree: Trump is a pig,” which is a play on the “meese is a pig” slogan of the 1980s protest against the attorney general under Ronald Reagan.

In that time there was a similar enemy to that of the 1980s, a madman who had access to the strongest military in the world. By referencing this specific protest from the past, Robin is demonstrating the mindset of the punk scene in DC in that time, where no one was afraid to speak their mind.

The work of Robin Bell is an interesting way of protesting. By advancing the world of protest while still keeping the mindset of the protestors from DC’s large punk scene, Bell is able to make headlines and spread the important information that he displays through a screen onto the canvas of government owned buildings. •

SUMMER REWIND



Playlist compiled by Marc Brown
Illustration by Sophie Strazzella

Scares, laughs, and some heart in latest “It” movie

Alex Holmes
Elie Salem
Contributors

“Take it,” beckons Pennywise the Clown in the first scene of “It.”

Georgie, fearfully squinting into the dark sewer opening, reaches his small six-year old hand out to grab his prized toy boat. Watching the fresh meat pass, Pennywise’s jaws rip open to reveal dozens of overlapping, shark-like teeth, which quickly rip the outstretched arm off of Georgie’s body.

Then appears a powdered-white hand with menacing claws at the end, which elongates slowly to grip the screaming bloody boy and pull him into the sewer.

This classic tale from the legendary Stephen King is something you’ve probably seen before in titles like “E.T.” or “The Goonies” -- a motley assortment of outcast kids banded together to play detectives. This time, it comes with a gruesome twist: the town they inhabit, is haunted by an age-old interdimensional shapeshifter that most often takes the form of Pennywise the Dancing Clown, who comes out of the sewers every 27 years to eat children.



However, “It” isn’t all about the scares. The film’s protagonists, who are a part of the so-called “Loser’s Club,” are played by mostly unheard of actors (aside from Stranger Things’ Finn Wolfhard), and are effectively

funny and sympathetic, yet on edge. The group’s banter feels authentic and all the actors have amazing comedic timing. Their oft-profane mouths are used to good purpose here, and the love

triangle between Bev (Sophia Lillis), the only girl, Ben (Jeremy Ray Taylor), the new kid, and Bill (Jaeden Lieberher), the group’s leader, is real and touching. The scenes where all seven of the “Loser’s Club’s” members are

present are possibly the best of the movie, even occasionally making you forget about the ever-present evil clown.

Sadly, “It” relies on one too many horror movie tropes, such as lots of jump scares, stupid decisions (we found ourselves shouting at the characters to not go into that room every few minutes), and rows and rows of sharp, monster-movie teeth. Hardly a creak in the floorboard is allowed to pass without Pennywise appearing, which robs the movie of the atmospheric quality that you’ll find in classic horror movies like “The Shining” or “The Ring.”

Despite its flaws, “It” is the monster-horror movie of the year, delivering a good balance of scares, laughs, and heart. At its core, “It” works as a coming-of-age story, and sometimes as a machine to generate heart-pounding scares. In the end, you may be scared, you’re sure to have some good laughs, and, just maybe, you’ll shed a tear or two. •

Graphic by Elena Remez

Short films draw big audiences

Mia Chinni
Contributor

The DC Shorts Film Festival & Screenplay Competition, held at different theaters around Washington from September 7 to 17, is one of the largest showcases of short films in the United States. It’s also one of the most unique, screening 170 films from 30 different countries and lasting 11 days with films from every genre imaginable.

Visionaries have to cram all their ideas into anywhere between two and 30 minutes. The products tend to stray from the typical indie movie types, and are rather more a combination of abstract and clever.

“We were blown away by



BIG SHORT- The DC Shorts Film Festival holds one of the largest short film showcases in the country every year.

this year’s submissions, both in number (reaching our maximum number of submissions at 1500) and in quality,” said the Director of Programming, Joe Bilancio, in an email.

Two particularly unique films at the festival were “All Skate, Everybody Skate,” and “I Love New York,” both different from typical hipster films. “All Skate, Everybody Skate” is hard to sum up. It’s a 20 minute documentary, though it has no real narrative. Instead it’s goal is to transport you to Topsail Beach, North Carolina, where an incredible woman in her late 70s runs a post office by day and a roller rink by night.

“I Love New York” is a hilarious ten minute clip about a man in an “I heart NY” shirt and a woman who helps him around the city by showing how New Yorkers exploit tourists, before stealing his wallet. The twist is while she’s been scamming him, he’s been scamming her--and stole her wallet first.

The great thing about short

films is that while there’s less time to develop a story, there’s more things someone can do with a film, and filmmakers can have different directions than the typical “Hero’s Journey” narrative.

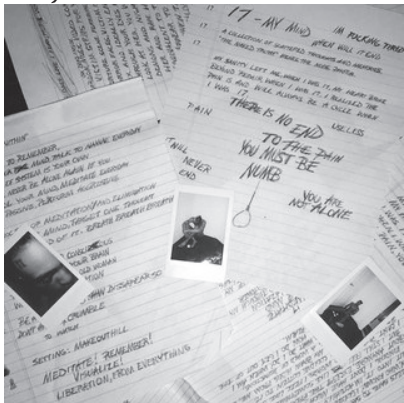
Overall, it’s a lot to take in. One moment you’re at a roller rink straight out of the seventies, and the next moment you’re watching a father’s lecture on swearing. That’s what makes the festival unique, you never know what you’re going to get. •

Photos by Aidan Fogarty



Best new albums of the month

By Sydney Colella



1. “17” by XXXtentacion

You may know XXXtentacion, known as X, from his hardcore rap and hip hop songs. His new album is quite different from what his fans are used to hearing—it examines mental health issues such as depression and suicide, and the effect that it has had on X’s life. In the opening track to the album titled “The Explanation,” X talks about what the album explores and how he hopes to help listeners with some of this problems that he brings up in his music. From the most popular hip hop tracks, such as “F***k Love” to the slower R&B tracks, the album is truly revolutionary. •

(There have been allegations made against the rapper for domestic abuse, which is a very serious issue. In writing this review I separate the art from the artist, and still believe his music is worth recognition.)



2. “Everything Now” by Arcade Fire

The album “Everything Now” by Arcade Fire explores both the electro pop sound of today’s hits, and the disco beats of the 70’s and 80’s. Arcade Fire has managed to mix these two sounds perfectly. Not only is the band’s unique sound shining through on this album, every track seems to tell a different story. The song “Signs of Life,” with its catchy funk backbeat, talks about our generation’s connection to social media and popularity, two subjects that many teens can relate to. The song “Creature Content” examines our society’s faulty images of adolescents and how teens deal with this unrealistic image. This album is a highlight for the alternative genre this month. •



3. “Rainbow” by Kesha

In Kesha’s new album, “Rainbow”, she takes on a new sound, leaving her wild club anthems like “Timber” and “Tik Tok” behind. The mixture of acoustic pop ballads, like “Praying” and “Rainbow,” with the funk feel of “Woman” and “Let ‘Em Talk,” combine to make the new record a hit with Kesha’s old fans as well as new listeners. In particular, the song “Praying” embodies Kesha’s deepest struggles, and her emotions in the song truly shine through. •



Tenleytown mural paints picture of community history

Adelaide Kaiser
Style Editor

Tenleytown is essentially Wilson’s backyard, and the Wilson community loves to stay in the loop about happenings around the neighborhood. Now, we will all be able to explore new aspects of Tenleytown’s past and present thanks to a new mural going up with the help of a grant from the DC Commission for the Arts and Humanities.

Painted by artist Jarrett Ferrier, the new mural will focus on Tenleytown’s rich community history. Plans for the mural include shoutouts to local schools Murch, Janney, Hearst, Wilson, and Deal, as well as images of the Fort Reno tower

and the Reno School. The Reno School is now part of Deal, but once served a majority Black student population between 1903 and 1950.

The mural will overlook Grant Road, which is one of the oldest roads in DC, dating

back to the Civil War. The road is now broken up in several places, but still exists in parts of Tenleytown and Rock Creek Park. It is fitting that a mural that celebrates this community’s history is on such a historic road.

Ferrier says that he was approached by a local couple, Stephen Voss and Charlene Kannankeril, who had seen his work before. They felt that the neighborhood deserved a mural, and Ferrier thought the project was a great idea. “Public art is

very fulfilling because so many people approach me to discuss the work. Creating work, and in this instance, conveying history, to and for everyone who walks by is just satisfying,” Ferrier said.

The ribbon cutting for the mural will be on October 14. For those interested in learning more, Voss and Kannankeril are working on a website so community members can see more information. •



MURAL MAKES MOVES- Artist Jarrett Ferrier displays Tenleytown history in a new mural. It includes many aspects of the community, both new and old.



Photos by Jackson Fox-Bland

KIDS IN THE HALL

September 29th, 2017

Compiled by Kaye De La Cruz and Jackson Fox-Bland

IF YOU COULD BE IN ANY MOVIE WHAT WOULD IT BE / AND WHY ?



"Smokey and the Bandit because that's a big 10-4 good buddy"

Paul Branon, 12

Jake Rubin, 12



"Now You See Me because I like magicians"

Nikki Keating, 9



"Pulp Fiction because it's a GOOD movie"

Lucas O'Connor, 11



"Finding Nemo so I can hang out with the turtle"

Sebastien Saliba, 11



"The Last Night of Humanity because when this world ends, SURVIVAL IS KEY"

Antonio Taborga, 11

Ryan Raphael, 11



"Harry Potter because people have magic"

Zoe Zitner, 10

Woodfen McLean, 10



"IT because I'm creepy"

Maximo Bruno Lanza Raguso, 10



"Spiderman because it has lots of cool people"

Lethu Mlipha, 11



"The Emoji Movie because we love emojis"

Pia Doran, 10

Lucy Strand, 10



"Hunger Games so I can take out my anger"

Mecca Camile, 11



"Divergent so we can be friends with the actors"

Giselle Tavarez, 11

Lesly Sandoval, 11

Ananda Nuñez, 11