



Freshmen Lilly Zarandazchi, Wanderley Hernandez Jimenez, Joshua Heller and sophomores Soliman Salem and Shreeyas Satish Kumar challenged their friends in a dance battle, showing off their moves and cheering each other on.

GWYNETH MURPHY/RANK&FILE

Spirit week drives Homecoming energy

by lauren elias

The Homecoming dance was on Saturday, Oct. 17 in the auxiliary gym. Starting on the streets of urban New York City, spirit week made pit stops in vibrant Miami, animated Hollywood and ended in Washington D.C.

The momentum from spirit week and the Homecoming varsity football game victory carried over to Saturday night's dance.

"Everyone really pumped up their spirit to a new level to make this time around just as hype as past years," sophomore and Student Government Association member Emma Choi said.

The hallways displayed a prominent Hollywood theme, complete with a red carpet and personalized stars from the Walk of Fame. Two large Oscar award figures stood on either side of the DJ booth and a red curtain backdrop gave the gym a theater-esqe feel.

"We hired a good DJ who is pretty hip and knows all the music that people would like to hear," junior Allison Park said.

Radio hits that were easy to sing and dance along to, such as "Downtown" by Macklemore and Ryan Lewis and "Can't Feel My Face" by The Weeknd, created a consistently crowded dance floor .

"My favorite part about homecoming was the way all of us in-etracted at the dance; there were no divides between classes or social groups, we all just laughed and danced in a huge circle. The freshmen dance off perfectly completed the night," junior Claire Heiden says,

Superintendent addresses controversial changes during student press conference

by paulina farley-kuzmina

On Sept. 23, Superintendent Karen Garza invited two journalism students from each school across the county to attend a press conference during the last block of the day.

Some of the schools attending included McLean, South Lakes, Annandale and Langley.

Garza was seated at the head of a round table, where there were place cards and microphones for each team of reporters to ask Garza any questions they had in relation to the county.

The main bulk of the questions were about the impending budget crisis.

Garza clarified where the funding for various parts of the school budgets come from: taxpayer money accounts for the operating budget, which goes toward things like transportation and teacher salaries, while the Capital Fund is a fixed bond allotted by the state.

"It's very much controlled because there is only so much debt the county can absorb. That's why we're fixed to \$155 million a year," Garza said.

Additionally, Garza mentioned that Virginia law mandates that the budget presented by Fairfax County must be balanced. She also debunked misconceptions about how the budget cuts worked.

"It's not cutting the money and then moving it to somewhere else ... We're cutting costs and

expenses to meet the revenue that we think we'll have. So the cuts aren't to shift the money. It's trying to get the budget in line to how much revenue is available in the system," Garza said.

The effect of the budget crisis was not lost on the students, however. There was half a billion dollars cut from the school budget since 2008, and Garza predicts 70 million dollars in future budget cuts.

"I hate it. It pains me to see us considering cutting so many programs. Many of them represent quality education that we benefit from and they're what makes our schools great," Garza said

Garza attributed this growing monetary need in part to the demographic changes that are becoming present in Fairfax County.

Since 2008, the student population has increased by over 22,000. Some students, Garza noted, have additional educational needs that must be accounted for in the budget.

"So when students enter our system, every student costs a certain amount. But in some cases, students may cost more due to their additional educational services that we need to provide them," Garza said.

For example, programs to address the educational needs of students with disabilities and non-native speakers add expense to the annual budget.

>> see expanded story online

newsflash Earthforce incorporates ColorCycle into agenda

Crayola is calling out to schools across North America to be a part of their newest green initiative, ColorCycle, and the Earthforce club has taken up that call.

The club's previous sponsor and former Honors Biology and IB Environmental Systems and Societies teacher Barbara Brown informed them of the program, and club members have incorporated collecting used up markers for Crayola into their list of duties.

Club member Hyeyeon Son described Earthforce's participation in the project as a way to branch out. "Last year we went around the building and collected recyclables," Son said. "But this year we started single stream recycling, and all recyclables go into one bin, which the custodians collect. We're trying to figure out new stuff [to do]."

Brown encouraged taking a look at Crayola's ColorCycle page online, which answers frequently asked questions and even provides lesson plans for teachers to utilize when speaking to students about the initiative.

"[It's] easy to do and makes a difference," said Brown. "It is good for raising awareness about recycling and alternative fuels."

—heather dunbar

Features: 4,5



PATRICK MCCABE/RANK&FILE

Students explore their interest in the world of automobiles in the Academy's unconventional Auto Tech classes.

Opinion: 8,9



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After the departures of late night hosts Stephen Colbert and Jon Stewart, what will become of late night satire?

Arts & Style: 10,11



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MTV's Artist to Watch of 2015 Fetty Wap remains at the top of the charts for his standard yet relatable lyrics.

Sports: 12



PAULINA FARLEY-KUZMINA/RANK&FILE

The varsity football team triumphed at the homecoming game against Robert E. Lee High School with a score of 49-6.

Guide

GSA plans to revive school activities and presence

by paulina farley-kuzmina

The Gay-Straight Alliance, or the GSA, held its first meeting in sponsor Martha Noone’s room on Sept. 17. Seniors and co-presidents Jasper Mancebo and Heather Dunbar started the meeting off with name and pronoun introductions among the tables as ice-breakers before delving into the goals for GSA.

“This year we’re trying to work on having more visibility for LGBT students within the school ... I think for the last Friday of every month [we want to] pretty much open up to the school to ask any thing about GSA or LGBT issues,” Mancebo said.

GSA meetings are to be held every Thursday during learn in Noone’s classroom, in D204. Another point of emphasis of these meetings to bring awareness to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) social events occurring in the area.

“I know when I was in GSA in either freshman or sophomore year a group of people got together to go to the pride parade; I think it would be really great if we could do that for youth pride,” Mancebo said. “Madison sometimes has a GSA

dance that they invite us to.”

This is a significant change to the structure of GSA from last year. According to Dunbar, the club was diminished at the end of the last school year with no real conclusion or election of new officers. Mancebo and Dunbar were contacted over the summer by former president and graduate Ellen Rank and were unofficially made leaders of the organization. They are now taking it upon themselves to revive the club.

“When I attempted to attend a [club] meeting a couple years ago I didn’t feel as comfortable as I would’ve liked, which is why I’m trying to join again this year,” senior Bailey Land said.

The focus on this year is to create a comfortable social space for LGBT youth to interact with each other. Additionally, members want to promote education school-wide about outside and marginalized gender identities and sexualities.

“The fact that I can be part of [the GSA] here means a lot. It shows a level of progression that is still missing from certain parts of the world and it’s great to be involved and to support everyone,” junior and first-time GSA member Quinton Koernig said.



STEPHAN ROUPE/RANK&FILE

The second GSA meeting, held on Sept. 24 in room D204, involved discussing the club’s future campaigns and goals. Seniors Bailey Land, Emily Sarich and junior Quinton Koernig socialize at the back table, while senior Macey Stearns and juniors Gabriella Marchetti and Valerie Villarreal socialize in the front.

The goal for the future is to start doing LGBT history days, where members would wear buttons that say, “Ask me about LGBT history,” as a more interactive way of education. Similarly, instead of making “Hate-Free Zone” posters, the GSA members plan on making informational

posters about the wide spectrum of gender identity, expression, and sexuality.

“I think here at Marshall we are much more accepting than a lot of places, so while the GSA is community-centered for LGBT people, it’s not the only safe place in the school,” Land said.



PAULINA FARLEY-KUZMINA/RANK&FILE

Senior Sammi Van Heest pledged to register to vote at the Inspire voting drive during D lunch. The drive had four people register to vote and 56 people pledge to vote at the end of the drive. Any student who turns 18 between Nov. 4 and Nov. 8 is eligible to vote.

Inspire pushes for youth voter turnout

by chris arcangeli

On Sept. 25, a group called Inspire Virginia set up a drive to register seniors and older juniors to vote, along with encouraging younger students to pledge to vote. The drive was run by seniors Patrick McCabe, Anya Karaman, Ally Brown and Tom Freebairn, who had been trained in a one-day late August leadership and civic responsibility conference, with a focus on communication. Several sophomores also volunteered.

“[W]hat I most appreciated about the conference was the counselors’ treatment of us, the students, as adults,” said senior Anya Karaman.

Inspire focuses on educating students to run these registration drives, as well as effective leadership and organization skills with an eye to both spreading those skills to others and eventually running for public office. “It’s a really great organization that performs an important service,” said senior Ally Brown, a coordinator for the registration event.

Inspire Virginia is a nonpartisan organization aimed at increasing voter registration in senior classes across the state, with a final goal of 85 percent of each school’s graduating class. They span across five states other than Virginia and train students about

government and why their vote matters.

“You have to be really good at talking to people. Yes, all forms of communication are important... but successful vocalization is integral to success,” said Karaman.

One of the core pillars of the Inspire program is communication. Students are called upon to speak in front of the conference for their school’s group on how they plan to achieve their goals. Students and teachers alike praise this demonstrative learning style as being highly effective and empowering.

“Voter registration is critical because it allows you to make a difference in your community,” said J.D. Mitchell, Inspire’s National Curriculum and Training Specialist in a video on their website. “[If you understand] the power of your vote, you can make a difference and help other people make a difference.”

The Inspire table drew lines of students to the front of the cafeteria during every lunch, and each one recieved a sticker for their willingness to participate in the group’s initiative.

“I signed up because I find voting really important, since I want someone in my government who represents my ideals and at the same time is someone I can trust will do a good job,” said senior Sammi Van Heest.

New parking lot regulations create unrest

by spencer gilbert

As summer came to an end and school started in full swing, many upperclassmen began the annual ritual of purchasing themselves a pass to park in the parking lot.

However, many students were surprised to learn that after they purchased their passes, the administration had made the call that not everyone was given the ability to park in the back lot. This year, the back parking lot has been assigned to juniors and the lower parking lot, near the stadium, has been assigned to seniors.

“Last year was the first year with the new parking lot, and the problem that we ran into in the top lot was with the Kiss and Ride, the teachers, the staff, the juniors and the seniors parking up there. It was a bit of a nightmare with the flow of traffic,” principal Jeff Litz said. “We were getting some complaints

from parents and teachers, so this year we decided to try and put the seniors in the bottom lot, which had previously been mostly unused.”

However, students are generally more adversely affected by these changes as many teachers arrive early at school and stay late in the afternoon.

While some students like the idea of establishing junior and senior lots, other students are more enticed by the flexibility that comes with being able to choose which lot to park in.

“I think you should be able to choose which lot you park in,” junior Satori Greene said. “Depending on how quickly you leave after school, the traffic in the upper lot can be really bad.”

The traffic situation in the lower parking lot does not fare any better in the eyes of many seniors.

“The buses cause too much congestion which makes it take forever to leave the parking lot in the afternoon,”

senior Victoria Novak said.

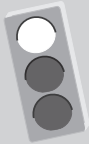
The school administration has said that while they will not be regularly checking the parking lots, the security staff will be going around every once in a while and looking to see if students are parking in the correct lot.

Security staff will be able to tell students apart from teachers because of their blue passes, as opposed to orange for teachers, as well as be able to correspond the number on the pass with a student.

From there, security will be able to tell their grade level. Students have also been instructed to leave the first three rows in the back parking lot as additional parking for teachers.

While there is hope that the traffic situations in both lots will be resolved, not everyone is optimistic. “It takes me 15 minutes to get out of the parking lot,” Novak said. “I don’t know how the situation can get better.”

do’s and don’ts of parking:

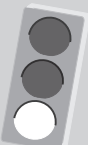


don’t park in the first three rows; those are reserved for teachers.

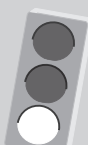


don’t park in any lot without a parking pass.

do park in the proper lot: juniors in the upper lot and seniors in the lower lot.



do take precautions when leaving the lot, as traffic gets congested after school ends




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Auto Tech provides skills and opportunities beyond the shop

by patrick mccabe

Cars are one of the great status symbols of high school life, as the freedom they provide marks a major transition from childhood and adulthood. Yet while most high schoolers are solely focused on getting their licenses and buying cars, you will meet a certain group of students in the Academy’s Auto Tech class with a much deeper interest in the automotive world.

What goes on in the shop

As a three-part course which increases in complexity with each higher level, Auto Tech allows students who enter the program knowing potentially nothing about cars, to leave with certifications and the knowledge necessary for a career in the automotive industry.

“Level 1’s kind of an entry-level lube tech,” Auto Tech teacher Erik Falk said. “Level 2, by the end of the year they’re someone who could be hired easily by the industry as an entry-level tech, and Level 3 is someone who almost has a little experience in the shop.”

For some students such as senior and Level 2 student Erik McIntosh, who plans on becoming an automotive engineer in the future, Auto Tech is a significant step towards helping them achieve their future plans.

“[The class] gives you experience, resources and tools that I wouldn’t be able to get access to otherwise,” McIntosh said. “In addition, universities come into our classes and give presentations, which helps a lot of kids get a degree and jobs. Mr. Falk also takes a few days in the year just to talk about related careers, so it’s

really valuable for someone like me who’s not sure just how much schooling I need and where from.”

While not everyone taking Auto Tech does so with the intention finding a career in the automotive industry, senior Jamie Handley still finds value in the class.

“Personally, I don’t envision Auto Tech as a career,” Handley said. “I feel like the class gives me experience in the field and the possibility for a summer job.”

Falk does not expect everyone in the class to see their future in the Automotive industry, as he admits that many of the students take the class as hobby enthusiasts who want to modify their cars, or those who want to learn the basics about cars so that repair shops do not rip them off in the future.

“The average person spends almost \$3,000 a year maintaining their car,” Falk said. “You know even if you can knock off half of that, you’re saving yourself a lot.”

Mock Shop, Real Work

While part of the class revolves around the theory of cars and how they function, both Falk and McIntosh point out the opportunity to do real work on cars as one of the strengths of the class.

“The cool thing about taking the class is that the students also get to work on their own cars,” Falk said. “We have a great student-auto sales program where people donate cars, we fix them up and then we sell them and the money comes back to the program.”

McIntosh recently took advantage of this program by fixing up and buying one of the cars which was donated to the school.



PATRICK MCCABE/RANK & FILE

Senior Erik McIntosh is assisted by teacher Erik Falk as he rebuilds the brake system of a 1998 Ford Mustang. McIntosh bought the Mustang from the school for a reduced price as part of the student-sales program. “In addition, I flushed three fluid systems, brake, power steering and coolant as well as cleaning and buffing all the parts before I put them back on to make sure the car runs smoothly,” McIntosh said.

“I would say the most rewarding aspect of Auto Tech is being able to buy a car from the program for a lot less than usual,” McIntosh said. “I’m buying the Mustang that I’ve been working on for the last few weeks, and I can’t wait to get it on the road.”

Whether the work the Auto Tech class does is for pay or not, McIntosh believes the experience is nonetheless very

similar.

“My friends laugh when I offer to do stuff on their cars,” McIntosh said. “But the reality of it is that in under a year and a half, I’ve become certified and capable enough to do almost any smaller job there is to to to a car, and because I’m not turning a profit, I can do it better than a lot of shops. You learn something every day here if you want to.”

by paulina farley-kuzmina

the objective

I love coffee. The fact that I work at a coffee shop, generally have trouble sleeping and drink three cups every day on average are a perfect combination to foster an addiction. I decided to challenge myself to not drink coffee for a week mostly to see if I could actually do it. I also wanted to see if I somehow felt better not drinking it; perhaps this could be the start of my newfound healthy lifestyle.

the health benefits

Before you tell me that amount of coffee is unhealthy for me—I know. I am well aware that the National Health Institute noted that coffee consumed in excess is linked to higher blood pressure, higher levels of anxiety, stomach lining damage, dehydration and worsened insomnia. In addition, caffeine is considered a drug and is mildly addictive. Caffeine dependence was even named a new mental disorder in 2013 by the American Psychiatric Association’s Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders. But did any of that stop me from drinking my liquid courage? Absolutely not.

the process

Instead of coming into school with a piping hot cup o’ joe in my hand, I drank fruit smoothies in the morning for the first few days of the week, and then copious amounts of water during my classes to stay awake. When that wasn’t sufficient in tricking my body into thinking that it was consuming caffeine, I switched to hot chocolate. It looked and felt like coffee, which was the closest I could get without cheating.

the side effects

I would love to report that I felt wonderful and wholeheartedly better when I completely cut myself off from coffee, but it was awful. I repeat: disaster on the horizon. Firstly, I felt intense withdrawal symptoms, some of which included pounding headaches, overwhelming fatigue and a general mental fog. And anyone who has a first block class with me can attest to the fact that I was unusually irritable all week. I had to come to the disheartening realization that I had a coffee dependency.

the lapse

Although I’m disappointed that I didn’t make it through the whole week coffee-free, I’m proud to say I only had two lapses, despite the fact I shuddered with desire every time I smelt or saw someone drinking coffee. The first one was on a Wednesday night at 8:30 p.m. right after a three hour long SAT prep course that literally put me to sleep. I dropped by Pete’s Coffee on my way home and had some espresso shots as a pick-me-up before I started to do all the homework I hadn’t had a chance to start yet. The second one was on a Saturday morning at 9:00 a.m. when I came into school for an extra math test review session with a large coffee with extra shots in it because I needed to be alert to learn all the math I neglected to do in the first place.

the verdict

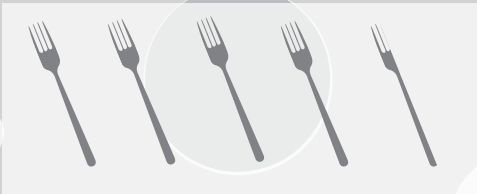
For anyone who doesn’t have a coffee dependency: good! Keep it that way. You don’t want to end up like me, scrambling and almost being late for school in the morning because I was transferring money from my savings onto my empty debit card just so I could get a cup of coffee that day. For anyone who does have a coffee dependency and wants to get rid of it: do it gradually, not all at once. Slowly start drinking coffee less often and in smaller amounts to minimize withdrawal effects, and find a better alternative, like protein shakes, smoothies, or tea. And lastly, for anyone (like me) who has a coffee dependency and plans on doing nothing about it, keep doing what you’re doing.



IN ONE WEEK

astrodoughnuts
and fried chicken
review

rating: 4.5/5



If you're looking for a doughnut that's out of this world, look no further than Astro-doughnuts and Fried Chicken. It made its big move from the Washington D.C. to Falls Church, right down the street from our very own school, earlier this year.

It's as trendy as you can get with exposed rafters and original sodas (none of that mainstream name brand stuff). They've made it their mission to think out of the box in food and environment. It's a quick in-and-out with only a couple of bar stools by the door for you to quickly engulf a doughnut before going about your daily business.

Now, while the decor is nice, it's the flavors that are truly stellar. They have four everyday doughnuts: vanilla glazed, maple bacon, pb&j, and cr me br l e. Vanilla glazed is the closest you're going to get to a plain doughnut in this shop, but it's good all the same.

Astro's real trademark is their more exotic flavor range. Maple bacon has the sweet and salty balance to steal any breakfast lovers heart, and PB&J is every child's dream, a sweeter, sugar infused twist on the classic elementary lunch. Cr me br l e is a to-go version of its dessert counterpart, managing to capture that nice glazed sugar topping in a doughnut ring.

Astro's also offers daily and monthly specials, ranging from nutella turtle to passion fruit doughnuts. This is one of the best aspects of this bakery. It allows for variety and you don't have to have the same-old, same-old doughnut flavors day in and day out.

The weirdest aspect of this eatery has to be its doughnut and fried chicken menu combination. There are buckets of chicken for sale, but there is also a doughnut fried chicken sandwich option. It's definitely not a flavor for everyone, as is true of most of Astro's flavor choices, and you'll definitely feel guilty after eating it (I speak from experience). But if you're a sweet and salty fanatic, Astro's is undeniably the place to visit for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

However, that's only if you have the pocket change for it. Astro's undoubtedly is a winning contestant in the new wave food industry, but your wallet might tear up at the sight of the prices. Ranging around \$2.80 for a doughnut and \$2.75 for a piece of fried chicken, the bang may not be worth the buck.

Astro's is the dessert shop you should visit maybe once a month if you're looking for something outside the norm, but I wouldn't recommend putting it as your number one pit stop whenever you get a sugar craving.

-by caylin elkins



Youtuber and sophomore Shreya Jane greeted her 1,041 subscribers as she filmed a video for her growing channel.

Young YouTubers pursue a wider audience to share their talents with

by kate carniol

When YouTube first began in 2005, the site mostly consisted of homemade videos meant to be shared only with friends and family. Fast forward to 2015 and suddenly it's still filled with homemade videos, but now they're posted with the intent of becoming internet famous. People all over the world make videos and post them on the internet in hopes of being noticed. Sophomores Shreya Jane, Sonali Doshi and Adi Wineland have all taken a stab at becoming the next YouTube star.

"I've always loved making people smile and spreading positivity. I've always enjoyed entertaining people," sophomore Sherya Jane said when asked about why she makes videos.

The videos on Jane's channel consist of everything from hair and fashion to vlogging (a term often used to refer to "video blogging").

Although she has loys of variety on her channel, her favorite videos to make are her advice videos.

"They end up helping other people," Jane said. Jane is close to one thousand subscribers, something she never imagined to be possible when she began her channel. "I never thought I would have almost a thousand people watching my videos," Jane said. "I can only hope for the best for my channel."

While Jane's YouTube channel is a mix of themes, sophomore Sonali Doshi focuses primarily on singing on her channel. Her first video consisted of her playing guitar while singing "Radioactive" by Imagine Dragons. The video garnered a hundred and three views in its first month. "I was not expecting that at all," Doshi said. "I woke up and it had a ton of views and

comments. I was really surprised."

When asked about what she hopes to achieve with her channel, Doshi said she simply wants to document her achievements and music, though she's not sure she wants to become the next big YouTube star.

"That would be cool, but I'm not striving for that. I just love spreading my music," Doshi said.

Doshi has collaborated with fellow classmate sophomore Adi Wineland on a duet of "For Good" from the Broadway musical, *Wicked*. The two often collaborate on Wineland's channel, also focused on singing.

Wineland has been posting on his channel for 3 years. In one of his most popular videos, appropriately titled "Boy performs 10 Taylor Swift songs in under 5 minutes," Wineland shows off his musical talents. Not only did he produce all the music in the video, he also wrote the medley himself.

The dream to become a star has been on Wineland's mind since the first day he began uploading.

"I've always dreamed that maybe someone important from a record label might stumble on one of my videos," Wineland said. "So I try to post as much as possible because you never know when someone important is surfing the web."

Although he gathers hundreds of views on all of his videos, Wineland is slightly disappointed in the lack of reaction his videos produce.

"I actually feel like my channel hasn't progressed the way I hoped," Wineland said. "But at the end of the day I'm happy that I was genuine and honest in my videos, because that's all that really matters."

"I've always loved making people smile and spreading positivity."

Shreya Jane
sophomore

GCM Listens:

This year, the *Rank & File's* most significant goal is to improve upon our role as a public forum. As a part of that, our school's chapter of the Quill and Scroll Honor Society is aiming to partner with the school community through the StoryCorps app. StoryCorps is an organization dedicated to archiving human experience through recorded one-on-one interviews, and we want your help to bring our community's perspective into this worldwide collection of stories.

how to get involved:

- 1 download storycorps
- 2 come up with a list of questions to ask a peer or teacher
- 3 create a new interview on storycorps
- 4 edit the keywords in your interview and tag the organization as "GCM Listens"
- 5 upload!

Statesmen beyond borders

Rank & File sat down with two ESOL graduates to discuss their experiences coming to the United States

One of the great aspects of Marshall, which the school often flaunts, is its diversity. With a student body representing 84 countries and speaking 62 different languages, it would be wrong to assume that the *Rank & File* reaches the entire student body when we publish stories in English.

This month, we are kicking off our year-long partnership with the English as a Second Language program by profiling graduates of the ESOL program and publishing their interviews in both English and their native languages.

Seniors Tsuruko Terakawa and Seyed Kamyar Zojaji sat down to discuss their moves to the United States, the experiences they had while adjusting, and the benefits and challenges of the ESOL program. We conducted these interviews in English, and Terakawa and Zojaji translated them into their respective native languages.

We also took a look at diversity and ESOL by the num-

bers as the program continues to grow across Fairfax County Public Schools, bringing along both fiscal and logistical challenges.

There is no one set standard to establish who a Marshall student is or where they're from, but ultimately it is the variety of diverse perspectives which each student contributes that combine to form the school's complex learning environment. Our goal is to fully represent that environment.

This is just a first step in our partnership with ESOL as we hope to incorporate more stories and languages in order to reach a large portion of our community. Feel free to let us know your opinion of this expansion.



Tsuruko Terakawa, senior
Been in the U.S. for: 2 years
Previously lived in: Tokyo, Japan
First language: Japanese

学年： 12
アメリカに来て : 2年
昔住んでいた場所： 日本、東京
母語：日本語
どうやって英語を習い始めたのか？
日本の学校の英語の授業で習いました
アメリカと日本の間で一番の違いは何ですか？
アメリカ人は日本人よりおしゃべりで、知らない人にも気軽に声をかけます。日本人は比べて、丁寧でかしこまっていて、知らない人とはあまり話しません。
アメリカに来てから、一番大変だったことは何ですか？
言葉です
英語がどれくらい難しいと思っていましたか？
アメリカに来て最初のテストで、一問も解く事ができませんでした。
あなたの意見で、ESOLが一番役に立ったと思った所は？
新しい言葉を習い、新しい友達と会えたことです。
アメリカの大学に行くつもりですか？
はい、これから申し込むつもりです。
ESOLをこれから始める人たちに、何か意見はありますか？
英語を早く上達させるには、アメリカ人といっぱい話したほうがいいと思います。

Last year, for example, we had a 23 percent increase in the number of level one ESOL students that we (FCPS) are serving. Level one students ... come into our system not speaking any English.

- Superintendent Karen Garza

How did you start learning English?
I had English class in Japan at my Japanese school.

What has been the biggest difference between the U.S. and Japan?
Americans are more talkative, chatty. Even if they don't know the person they talk freely. In Japan we are more, like, polite. We don't really talk to an unknown person.

What was the biggest challenge of moving to the United States?
Language.

How hard of a language is English?
I couldn't understand any questions on my first test.

What was the biggest benefit of ESOL in your opinion?
I get to know a new language and meet new friends.

Are you going to college in the United States?
Yes, I am going to apply.

What advice would you give to someone starting the ESOL program right now?
If you want to learn language quicker, you have to talk with Americans so that you can learn quicker.



Kaymar Zojaji, senior
in the U.S. for: 2 years
he lived in: Mashhad, Iran
his language: Farsi

کلاس: ۱۲
مدت اقامت در آمریکا: ۲ سال
زبان اول: فارسی
آیا در ایران انگلیسی یاد گرفته بودی قبل از این که آمدی اینجا؟
بله، در مدرسه انگلیسی آموخته بودم، و کلاس های خارج از مدرسه هم برداشته بودم.
تفاوت اصلی ایران و آمریکا چیست؟
آزادی بیشتری اینجا هست.
وقتی میگی آزادی بیشتری اینجا هست، از چه نظر؟
هیچکسی اهمیت نمیده چی می پوشی، و میتونی هرچی می خوای بپوشی. منظورم اینه که هیچکس نیست که بپرسه چرا اینکارو کردی
آسون بود به اینجا عادت کردن؟
نمیتونم بگم همین الان عادت کردم ولی بهش عادت میکنی.
می خوای به روزی به ایران برگردی؟
نه، فقط برای مسافرت.
هنوز اونجا خانواده ای داری؟
آره، خیلی زیاد.
تا به حال برگشتی به ایران؟
تابستان ۲۰۱۴ ایران رفتم.
چه بود؟ (ESOL) بهترین قسمت برنامه ایسال
یه کلاس انگلیسی بود فقط آسون تر بود، در نتیجه مهم بود که اول تو اون کلاس باشی و بعد بری تو کلاسی که همه انگلیسی یاد میگیرن حتی خود
مریکایی ها. من تو کلاس ۱۲/۱۱ انگلیسی هستم.

Had you been learning English in Iran before you moved here?

Yes, I had been learning English at my school, and then I took extra classes outside of school.

What is the biggest difference between Iran and the United States?

More freedom here.

When you say there's more freedom here, in what way?

No one cares what you wear, and pretty much you can do whatever you want. I mean there is no one to ask you like why you did that.

Was it easy to adjust?

I can't say I'm adjusted right now, but you get used to it.

Do you want to return for Iran some day?

No, just for visiting.

Do you still have family there?

Yeah, I have a lot.

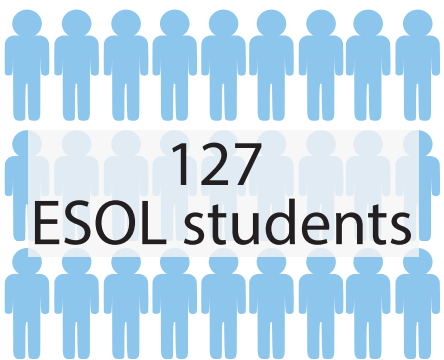
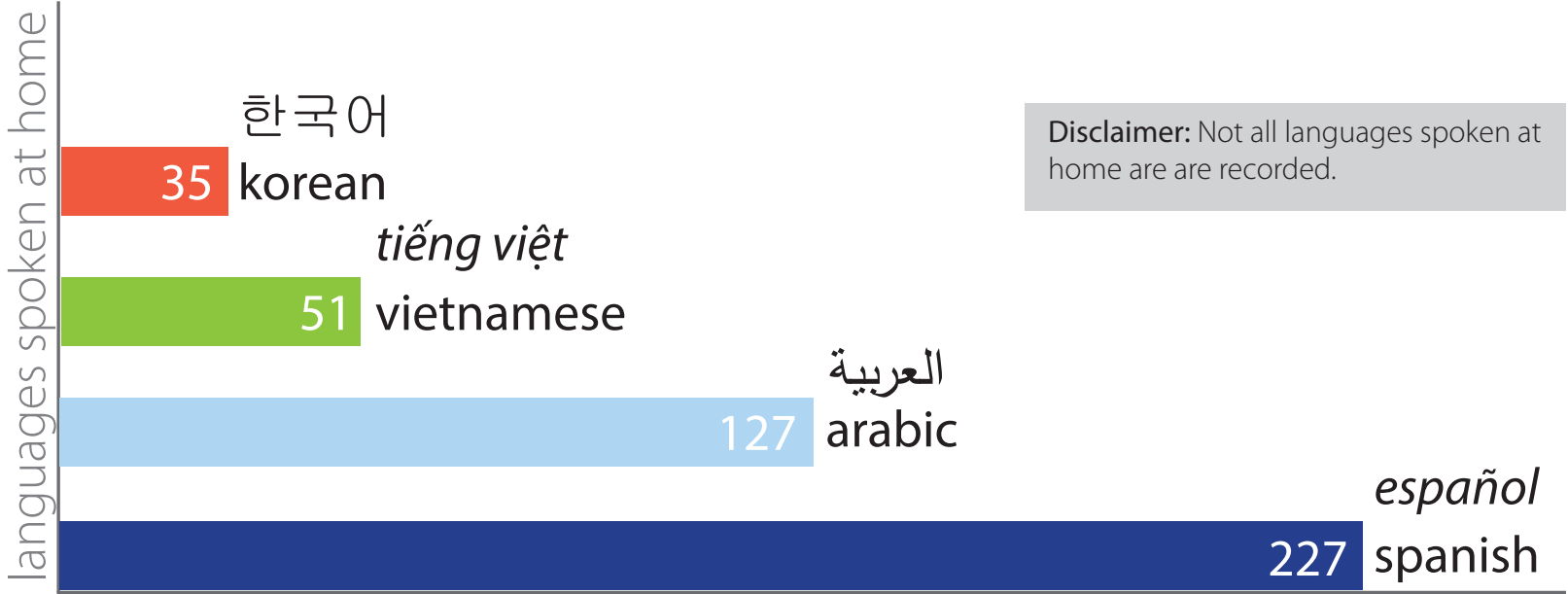
And have you been back since?

I went back to Iran last summer, the summer of 2014.

What was the best part of the ESOL program?

It was an English class, just easier, so it was important to be in that class first and then move to an English class that everybody learns, like even English people like American people. I'm in English 11/12 now.

Just how diverse is Marshall?



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rank&file

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Rank & File is a public forum for students of George C. Marshall High School. The unsigned staff editorials reflect the opinions of the Editorial Board, which consists of the managing editor, editors-in-chief and director of operations. Columns are the opinions of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the whole newspaper.

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effects of early start times on adolescents

A Stanford University study conducted in 2010 to over 3,000 Rhode Island high schoolers examined the impact of early school start times.

90%
bothered by feeling too tired to do homework

85.1%
struggled to stay awake during class

52.4%
took naps during the day

49.1%
experience daytime sleepiness

36.7%
arrived late to school

New start times less than satisfactory

by lauren elias

The school day now begins at 8:10 a.m., a whole 50 minutes later than previous years. Yes, this new start time helps, but it could be a lot better.

It has been obvious for years that school bells ringing at 7:20 a.m. were a problem. Students could barely keep their eyes open in the morning. Last year, some students would leave to drive to school as early as 6:00 a.m. It was not healthy both mentally and physically.

For example, a 2010 study at Stanford University by Judith A. Owens, Katherine Belon, and Patricia Moss reports that “the average adolescent has difficulty falling asleep before 11 p.m., and the ideal wake time is around 8 a.m.”

Ever since the school board proposed changing the start time of Fairfax County, I was an avid supporter of switching to a 9:15 a.m. start time. However, one conflict of moving school later was also moving after school activities like sports, as teams had to adjust practice times due to every school in the county starting later. Since the school board was going to decide on a later time that would already interfere with extracurriculars regardless, they might as well have given students more sleep time they so desperately need.

While 8:10 a.m. seems like a change for the better, it hasn’t dramatically contributed to the health of students. Even now, schools are not meeting the American Academy of Pediatrics guideline to not

start school before 8:30 a.m.

Student commute time is now during the center of rush hour. This means that students like myself, who live far away from Marshall, must plan for at least an hour of traffic on the way there. Even students who live much closer to school still get caught up in the frustrating traffic of 495 and Route 7.

As a freshman who recently transitioned from middle school, I am leaving my house at the same time I left last year, 7:00 a.m., meaning traffic takes up the hour or more of sleep I was promised by this new start time. Having an older brother has shown me that while he has gone from leaving at 6:15 a.m to 7:00 a.m., getting to sleep for 45 more minutes still isn’t enough to pass as healthy. Mornings are still a struggle to get out of bed and breakfast is out of the question with such little time to spare. He comes home on Friday afternoons and falls asleep at 6 p.m., sleeping through to Saturday.

A 2014 study led by Kyla L. Wahlstrom at the University of Minnesota found that “the recommended amount of sleep for teens ranges from 9 to 9.5 hours of sleep at night... on average, the teens who had high school start times of 8:35 a.m. or earlier averaged about 7.8 hours of sleep.”

For such a successful school district, I would think the school board would prioritize the health of their students. Sadly, they compromised, falling short of the optimal amount of sleep and making it equally inconvenient for everyone.

Collegiate application process remains unclear for seniors

by paulina farley-kuzmina

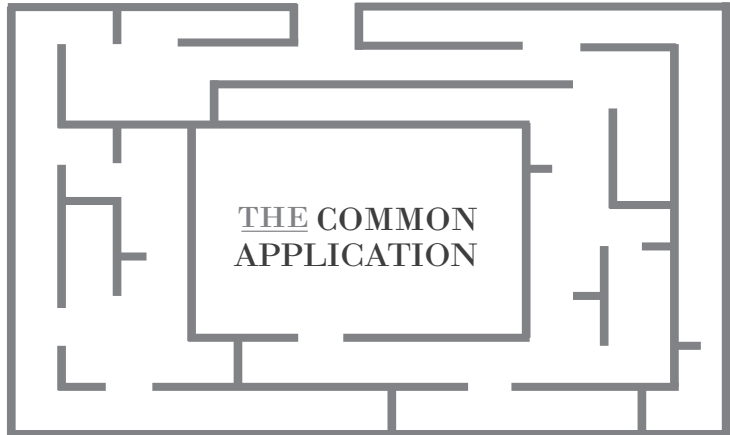
Senior year is stressful. Your entire high school career accumulates into one application that decides your immediate future. Although most kids are pretty knowledgeable about college and the whole process, since this is Northern Virginia, some aspects are just left up to kids to figure out.

College applications, although somewhat simplified through CommonApp, are still somewhat a mystery for seniors. Questions like, “What are the differences between teacher recommendations and teacher input forms?” “Do counselor or teacher recommendations have to change with each college application?” and “What are the benefits and drawbacks for Early Action versus Regular Decision?” aren’t explicitly addressed to seniors anywhere. Similarly, there are aspects of the CommonApp that don’t apply to Fairfax County at all, such as sections like class rankings, leaving some students (especially me) confused as to what to enter there.

When the Sept. 18 deadline for parent, peer and teacher input forms were due, most of the senior class freaked out. A big red glowing deadline is nothing new, but when it has something to do with your long term future, it grabs and holds attention. Every

counselor had a different way of approaching it. Some sent out informational emails throughout the summer that were helpful guidelines, while others didn’t mention it until days before the due date.

This is a huge problem. I understand that as almost adults, seniors should search for answers and information on their own and take control of their own futures, but when it isn’t clear where this information can be accessed, it creates problems.



Young voters should take local elections more seriously

by spencer gilbert

While it is early in the 2016 Presidential race, conversations regarding it already dominate both the media and our community. Not a day goes by where there isn’t discussion about the latest in Trumpmania or whether your fellow classmates are “feeling the Bern”. However, ask any student what their opinion is on the upcoming election for Virginia’s State General Assembly, and you will mostly be met with blank stares.

Fortunately for those students, it is not entirely their fault. In Government class, the state and local government unit is mostly brushed aside in the curriculum as state politics just doesn’t have the same sexy characteristics of national campaigns. That is probably one of the contributing factors to the dismal youth turnout rate in the 2013 Virginia Gubernatorial race of only 26 percent of eligible voters age 18-29, according to a study done by

Tufts University.

Why should young people care about state and local elections? Compared to Presidential and even congressional races, state and local elected officials can have a much greater impact on our lives. Mem-

“[Young people] should care about the representation they have on the state level. They really need to understand the impact the state government has on their lives.”

Del. Kathleen Murphy

bers of the General Assembly decide issues such as what is taught in Virginia public schools, how much funding goes towards education and whether funding is provided for new road restoration projects.

Locally elected county officials also decide things like the amount to be paid in property taxes, what times the schools start and what land can be developed. Young people, especially high schoolers, may not care as much about state or local elections.

However, there is one constituency that does, the elderly, and they vote in droves. By not voting in these elections or at least paying attention so they are informed when they can vote, young people are allowing other constituencies such as the elderly to make decisions for them. In elections like Virginia’s 34th House district, which covers parts of Fairfax and Loudoun, the most recent race was decided by only 324 votes according to the Virginia Department of Elections. With many close races, especially in the Northern Virginia area, young people have an opportunity to make a difference and have their voice heard, either by voting when they are eligible, or by simply paying attention and advocating on issues important to them.

The Daily Show
and The Late Show
of Late Night

The Next Generation

reviewby spencer gilbert
and patrick mccabe

Trevor Noah brings a fresh perspective to revamped *Daily Show*

Jon Stewart shocked us all last February when he announced that he would be leaving the *Daily Show* after 17 years as the show’s host. Speculation about the show’s new host ranged from long-time *Daily Show* correspondent Jason Jones to comedian Tina Fey. However, to our surprise and the surprise of many others, Comedy Central announced that South African comedian Trevor Noah would take Stewart’s coveted position.

While the appearance of the set was similar to that of the previous *Daily Show* host, the style and demeanor of Noah was much different. Noah’s style took a very different path than Stewart’s. While Stewart was known for his fiery rhetoric and frequent use of over the top shouting, Noah has a much more soft spoken tone, which seems to work better for him in the way he executes his jokes much more than when he tries to emulate his predecessor with voracious shouting.

Despite this, and much to our surprise, we found that we had trouble containing our laughter during the first episode as Noah poked fun at his African heritage, humorously informing viewers of emojis made just for the pope’s visit, and making fun of conservative’s exuberant reactions to the resignation of House Speaker John Boehner.

However, Noah’s best performance of the week by far came during his Thursday show where he integrated his internationalism into comedy by comparing statements made by Donald Trump to that of African Presidents. The calm and cool charm that Noah brings to the show allows him to better execute cunning references such as Trump’s tendency to use the escalator in Trump Tower, or to pull off lines such as, “Donald Trump is Presidential, he just happens to be running on the wrong continent.” This was a piece that was unique to Noah that we don’t think Jon Stewart would have been able to pull off as successfully.

Noah’s interviews, the traditional concluding piece of every *Daily Show* episode, were a mixed bag. Some were stronger, such as Tuesday’s with Whitney Wolfe, the CEO of dating app “Bumble”, in which Noah was able to explore an exploding industry with one of its leaders. However, Noah was unable to handle himself quite as well during his interview with New Jersey governor and presidential candidate Chris Christie, where we found him struggling to keep control of the direction of the interview or probe deeper into Christie’s answers.

While we think it is too early to tell how successful Noah will be on the new *Daily Show*, we think he has sent a message after the first week of his show. He is definitely not Jon Stewart, but that isn’t necessarily a bad thing.

With a new persona, Stephen Colbert reenergizes the *Late Show*

For nine years, Stephen Colbert built up his Colbert Report to become one of the dynasties of late night comedy, winning both Emmy Awards and fame. However, Colbert never kept it a secret that his dream was to someday host the *Late Show*, where he got his start as an intern.

When we first heard that Stephen Colbert would be leaving the Colbert Report and dropping his famous parody conservative character, we were crushed. Colbert had a way of conveying the absurdity of the United States’ politics and culture in a way no other host could. Admittedly, we were among the doubters who were uncertain if Colbert’s success would carry over with him after he dropped his parody character.

Fortunately, Colbert’s strong first month proved our concerns invalid, as he has managed to strike the perfect balance between entertaining audiences with his parody, comedy and acting as a skillful interviewer.

Colbert’s greatest strength thus far has arguably been his ability to pull in some of the biggest names in politics and pop culture night after night. Not only has he hosted famous actors, dominant CEOs and important world leaders, but he has also managed to interview

every major candidate in the 2016 presidential race.

The benefits of having such high profile guests have been two-fold, as Colbert not only captivates all audiences who want to hear how important leaders will answer his pointed yet humorous questions, but it also quells the fears that Colbert would not be able to remain as political on the *Late Show* as he had been on the Colbert Report.

While Colbert is willing to ask tough, relevant questions to his political guests about policy and international relations, he is also never afraid to add some liveliness to the show, going as far as to offer United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon a martini in exchange for embarrassing stories about world leaders.

Of course there are the critics who argue that Colbert has not done enough to make the show his own, and admittedly we feel like his decision to keep an opening monologue was not a great decision as they are not as strong as Letterman’s once were, but we also feel this is to be expected. It takes time for a new host to personalize their show, and we believe that with time Colbert’s *Late Show* will emerge with its differences from Letterman’s.

Finally, if there is one word to define the new *Late Show* it is fun. The music from Jon Batiste and Stay Human is always lively, the show’s content is consistently funny and political, and the talented Stephen Colbert has certainly not lost his funny edge even if his character did not accompany him in his transition.

Our take on what’s new in late night

Late night television has seen a big shakeup this season as two giants, Jon Stewart and David Letterman, vacate their desks after a combined 39 years on the air. Their replacements have both been viewed with skepticism about their performance abilities; however, both hosts have debuted with strong performances with their own style.

We expect both Colbert and Noah to further develop their personal styles in the coming months.



The Daily Show

COMEDY CENTRAL REPRODUCED UNDER FAIR USE

3.5 million viewers for premier episode
16 years under previous host



Late Night
by the
numbers

Have won
32 Emmys
combined



The Late Show

CBS REPRODUCED UNDER FAIR USE

6.6 million viewers for premier episode
22 years under previous host



letter
to the
editor

Spirit week lacks creativity

The purpose of Spirit Week is to excite students and garner school spirit. It works to get students involved, but it seems that our school’s spirit week appears counter-productive.

First, I want to say that I respect what the SGA does for us, and I know they’re under a lot of pressure, especially during Homecoming week, but there is an obvious issue with our spirit weeks: they’re boring.

With only three actual spirit days this year,

how can the student body be excited if there is nothing to get excited about? Not only that, but there are some spirit days that don’t seem to just go away. Repetitive spirit days take away the creativity on the student’s part. In all my four years of Marshall, there has been a “Toga Day” every spirit week, and there’s not a whole lot of creativity in wrapping a sheet around your body. Also, not a whole lot of people want to go outside in 30-degree weather with only a toga on.

Yet the spirit days don’t always appear in the same way. Every year there has been some

sort of “neon” color days disguised as “Rave Day” or “Miami” or the “80’s”.

The SGA should generate a poll. Have people input their ideas for spirit days, in which we could actually get excited about. Plus, there are dozens of ideas for a spirit day with a quick Google search.

It’s time for Marshall to move out of the boring spirit weeks and think of something new, in which we can be actually interested in thinking up ideas for.

- Norah Al-Otabi, senior

Spectres of the silver screen

Rank & File recommends five frightening cult classics to watch this Halloween

To modern mortals, the Halloween season has become a season known for poor quality, multi-million dollar budgeted, jump-scare-fest horror movies that don't deserve the title 'horror' unless you are more concerned with the price of the ticket you bought. Nowadays, the only way you can discover the true meaning of Halloween is if you do a little bit of digging away from popular movies like the *Paranormal Activity* franchise, the *Final Destination* series, and all of the *Scream* movies.

art and story by emma patterson



THE BABADOOK NOV 28, 2014

It's probably the best movie I have seen all year, and that compares even to the likes of *Interstellar*. *The Babadook* took a different spin on your classic horror film, using unique film techniques to map the perfect descent of a mother and son into the absolute chaos that is themselves. *The Babadook* was expertly crafted as a horror movie and as a general symbol for the horrifying destructive power of grief.



THE SILENCE OF THE LAMBS FEB 13, 1991

A horror movie classic, this movie was, and continues to be, an inspiration for other films and shows such as with the famous character Dana Scully from *The X Files*. Inspired by the cases of historic serial killers, Anthony Hopkins plays the perfectly terrifying psychopath Hannibal Lecter whose trust and confidence F.B.I agent Clarice Starling must gain in order to understand the mind of the serial killer she is tracking down. Overall, *The Silence of the Lambs* is one of my favorite movies, and something I would definitely recommend to those seeking a psychological scare.



THE AWAKENING AUG 17, 2012

A rather boorishly named film, *The Awakening* completely changed my opinion on ghost stories in general due to its Shyamalan-esque twists and superb acting. Fair warning: don't watch it expecting a late eighteenth century version of *Paranormal Activity* because it revolves around the characters' personalities and how they interact and clash.



AMERICAN PSYCHO APR 14, 2000

Christian Bale plays a severely narcissistic serial killer trying (or rather not trying that hard near the end) to cover up his affinity for gruesome murders. What I loved about this movie more than the charming 1980's skyscraper aesthetic and the office rivalry between who had the best business card was Christian Bale's downright convincing role as Patrick Bateman.



TUCKER AND DALE VS. EVIL SEP 30, 2011

With purposeful bad acting and effects, *Tucker and Dale vs Evil* was probably one of the most childish entertaining horror movies I've seen in a long time. The story line revolves around two redneck best friends who get caught up in a horrifying turn of events brought on by overly superstitious college-aged kids who believe the two buds are psychotic hillbilly murderers. Tucker and Dale's goofy and ironic nature brought it a somewhat substantial cult following on the internet, and as a lighthearted film provides as a decent conclusion to the list.

Fetty Wap releases strong debut album but sorely lacks any new innovation

by paulina farley-kuzmina

Fetty Wap is interesting. For one thing, he only has one working eye. Due to a childhood case of congenital glaucoma, he lost the vision in his left eye, despite all of the rumors that he was shot in his New Jersey hometown. His disability, however, has in no way affected his rapping career. On Sept. 25, Fetty Wap released his self-titled debut album, consisting of 20 songs with only one reoccurring featured artist—Monty, a rapper from Miami.

Fetty Wap was also named MTV's Artist to Watch of 2015 with his single "Trap Queen," gaining him much deserved attention from millions of national and international fans. Fetty Wap sold 75,000 pure album copies and still remains in the top five on *Billboards* 200 most popular albums, weeks after the initial release.

All this buzz is perfectly understandable. His top hits, "Trap Queen," "Again" and "My Way," although containing stereotypical rap characteristics like explicit lyrics, drug references, and sex references, all have the same basic themes of love. In the chorus of "Trap Queen," Fetty Wap is clearly proud of his girlfriend, bragging he's "[G]etting fly with [his] baby, yeah/And [he] can ride with [his] baby." In "Again," Fetty Wap laments over a broken relationship, bluntly stating in the closing lyrics of the song, "I go out of the way to see you/I ain't playing no games, I need you." Finally, Fetty

Wap in "My Way" proves himself better than another rapper that is chasing after his lover by throwing insults like, "He ain't ever take you out/barely even left your house/How dare [he] run his mouth/when his pockets in a drought/the last single he put out didn't even make it out."

The most interesting parts, and what frankly made Fetty Wap great, are the easter-egg phrases that are extremely prevalent throughout his album. Particularly are his shoutouts in the beginning or end of his songs to RGF Productions, the company that directed the "Trap Queen" music video. Another common lyric is the seemingly nonsensical "1738" or "17" or any other variation, which appear in 18 of his 20 songs. This, along with any mention of "Remy Boyz" is a reference to his group of friends from his hometown, which he mentions in an interview for MTV. "1738" in particular, is a reference to a very expensive Rémy Martin cognac that was popular among his group. Lastly, "Zoo," which again, comes in many variations like "Zoovie" or "Zoowap" is a nickname Fetty Wap gave himself, as well as a reference to his most recent mixtape, entitled "Zoo Style."

Although the tunes for all of his songs were very similar and his voice was somewhat repetitive, except in a few stand outs like "679" and "I Wonder," the album was overall impressive. His lyrics, although not as complex as some artists', such as Kendrick Lamar or Logic, are simple yet relatable.



FETTYWAP.COM REPRODUCED UNDER FAIR USE

Fetty Wap's album cover contains no text at all, bar the explicit content warning. It instead centers on the striking image of his face with his own hand covering his one good eye and his mouth, a visual that illustrates the adversity Fetty Wap has faced throughout his life. This adversity is central to the inspiration behind his music.



Pointless software updates

by ethan zack

Before downloading iOS9 to my iPhone, I was rather excited by the prospect of this new software. What new features would I be able to use? How would this update improve my phone and by extension, my life? The first thing that greeted me upon updating was not a life-changing, experience-enhancing update, but a simple font change. I couldn't help but feel a little cheated. This "big update" was nothing more than a handful of new tools and a completely unnecessary change in the font. In the current age, developers are becoming too focused on pointless aesthetic changes and less on actual content upgrades.

The concept of updates to pre-existing software has been around for as long as software itself. The idea is utilized in the majority of software nowadays, building on the base product until a final, finished product eventually emerges long after the initial release or introduction. In some cases, a further charge is required in order to upgrade the software, such as downloadable content for video games.

The issue with these updates is that the concept of an update has become more idealized than the actual update itself. A change in the

icon design of a smartphone app or yet another font change to the "Google" logo can make the software feel refreshed without really doing anything of actual substance. It's gotten to the point where some of the changes made don't even qualify as actual updates, as is the case with many social media websites like Twitter and Tumblr, who are more concerned with color schemes and the way the comments section looks than making actual improvements. Changes are solely made for the sake of making changes, with no actual goal in mind but to stir up controversy and draw attention.

While it's important for brands to remain modern and relevant through making their software look newer and more intuitive, too much focus on tiny, unnecessary aesthetic changes can bring the central focus away from the actual purpose of updates: to build upon and improve the original content. Software has become more of an investment than ever and consumers expect the product to entertain them and last them a long time beyond the initial release. Developers need to dial back on the pointless aesthetic changes and go back to putting content first.

opinion

Update Now

Remind Me Later

New expansion displays Destiny's potential

by johann young

Destiny: The Taken King expansion dropped on Sept. 15 and it looks like a promising addition to the team at Bungie's ten year development plan.

Story

After you and your fellow Guardians defeat Crota, Son of Oryx in *The Dark Below*, *Destiny's* first expansion, word of your accomplishment spreads throughout the galaxy. Oryx, The Taken King, ruler of the hive, having heard of his son's death, is out for vengeance and is willing to destroy anything in his path to kill those responsible.

Unaware of Oryx's plan, you are sent to Phobos, Saturn's moon, to answer a distress call from a Cabal base. This first thing players see upon arrival is one of the galaxy's most powerful armies running in fear. Upon entering the base, players encounter the Taken, Oryx's evil army of corrupt and tortured versions of the enemies you've previously fought. With this new story-driven narrative that was missing in the original release, the future of the series now looks more promising.

Additions

The list of complaints from players about the original release focused mainly on its poor story, and Bungie has clearly heeded those cries. The main and most well received change to the game is an introduction to plot. Actors like Nathan Fillion and Gina Torres are finally able to use their talents and help develop characters that originally had only one or two lines of dialog. This was a smart move by Bungie, as it allows you to form a more personal connection with each of the characters, making the conversations you have seem

more meaningful.

Quests were another highly requested addition from players. With the new quest page players are able to continue their experience after beating the story and complete quests assigned by characters in social areas. Opening up the lore of the games expansive universe was an amazing addition that allows players to feel like a part of the story.

However, one change that many are still unsure about is the replacement of Peter Dinklage as Ghost. This change was mostly made because of availability issues with Dinklage. Now, the robotic companion's voice is that of Nolan North, known for his role as Nathan Drake in the *Uncharted* franchise. North's ghost adds a more comedic tone compared to Dinklage's monotonous voice, giving Ghost a more companion-like feel.

Along with the new story and quests comes three new strikes to the game. Strikes are longer campaign missions that end in boss fights. However, the new improvements to these strikes is the introduction of strike specific loot. These items only drop after players defeat the boss at the end of the strike, giving more value to the player's equipment arsenal.

Verdict

Destiny: The Taken King is Bungie's saving grace. Without the expansion, *Destiny* would have been forever known for being a game with no story and repetitive gameplay, but with it the game has been revitalized. With the introduction of a full fledged story and character development, *Destiny's* future is looking brighter than ever.

>> see expanded story online at [byte-sized news](#)



BUNGIE. REPRODUCED UNDER FAIR USE.

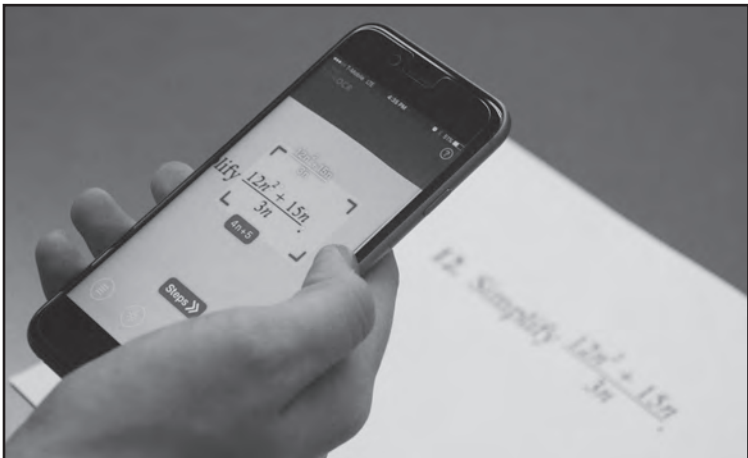
The main antagonist, Oryx, looms in the background, while on the left, the Hunter is using the new Shadowstrike move. In the middle, a Titan uses its Sunbreaker move and on the right is a Warlock using the Storm Caller move.

4.5/5



Announcing Byte-Sized News

Rank & File's new blog centered around video game reviews, opinions on the gaming industry and general updates on all things pixelated. Byte-Sized News, run by staff writer Johann Young, is the go-to place for keeping up with this ever-evolving medium.



Photomath implements software similar to QR scanning apps that allows it to calculate printed math problems on sight.

Review: Photomath takes advantage of simple design

by johann young

Photomath by Microblink is an educational app that allows the user to take a photo of a math problem and not only find the answer, but also show the step by step process for solving it. The app's streamlined interface and sleek design are things even the most picky person will enjoy.

MicroBlink did an amazing job with the app's solving abilities, allowing it to answer questions from various algebra classes. Even though they left out the more difficult math courses, Microblink has stated that they are constantly updating the app, so those who take higher level courses aaren't left behind.

The app's thorough step-by-step solution guide will help anyone who is stuck on that one problem in their homework by allowing them to see where they might have gone wrong. This feature is what makes the app as useful as it is, as it provides the user with their very own pocket tutor.

However, even though the app works well, there are still some flaws. The biggest flaw is that some of the more complicated problems don't have listed steps for their solution. This can leave the user unsure of what to do, and provides a much lesser learning experience.

Overall, Photomath is an amazing app for those who need help doing their math homework or just can't find the solution to a tough problem.



Varsity football off to best season in years

Building off a strong return to form last year, the varsity football team has continued to improve dramatically. With four wins and only three losses, this season is shaping up to be the varsity football team’s strongest in recent memory. For the Homecoming game, the team took a win against Robert E. Lee High School with a final score of 49-6, a far cry from the previous year’s Homecoming victory against J.E.B. Stuart with a final score of 34-32.



Top: Junior Paul Plawin and sophomore Brendan Dudding chase down an opponent during the Homecoming game. The Marshall defense held Lee completely scoreless until the fourth quarter of the game.
Bottom Left: Senior Jelani Murray looks on as junior Casey Lauer blocks an opponent during a touchdown run in the second quarter.
Bottom Right: Seniors Ellio Malave, Rocco Munna and Nathaniel Green tower over an opposing player after tackling him, preventing a touchdown.

PAULINA FARLEY-KUZMINA/RANK&FILE

Brito-Garcia learns valuable lessons as instructor

by ethan zack

Throughout everyone’s academic career, there has always been pressure to do more. Whether it’s joining a club, being part of a sports team or getting involved in student government, there’s an expectation that students will apply themselves further than the bare minimum. Senior Eduardo Brito-Garcia has taken this one step further, becoming not just a student, but an instructor as well.

Brito-Garcia works after school most days at Enshin Karate in Falls Church where he teaches martial arts to other children. He likens his job to more of a mentor role than that of a simple coach, functioning as a role model they can look up to. Filling the role of an instructor presents a unique challenge to him that not many high school students face at his age.

“The hardest thing is knowing that there’s so many students and parents that see you and count on you to

teach their kids something not just about fighting, but respect and discipline,” Brito-Garcia said.

In the process of teaching children important life skills, Brito-Garcia has learned more about himself and interacting with the world around him and has become a more mature person as a result.

“It’s taught me how to connect more with other people, especially kids,” Brito-Garcia said. “Not everyone’s the same, everyone likes certain things and you’ve just got to work with them.”

Despite the challenges that come with balancing an academic career and working a job as an instructor at the same time, Brito-Garcia believes that the experience is incredibly worthwhile both for him and for those he teaches.

“When I go in there, it doesn’t even feel like a job,” Brito-Garcia said. “I see the kids and they all look at me, smiling, and it makes me feel better, like I’m doing something for them.”



ETHAN ZACK/RANK&FILE



GWYNETH MURPHY/RANK&FILE

From left to right: sophomores Taylor Booth, Madison Wolfe, and Erin Williams cheer at the game against Potomac Falls.

Limiting factors prevent cheer from supporting other sports

by gwyneth murphy

The Varsity Cheer Team is the epitome of spirit, but why just for football? Out of the school’s 43 sports teams, why is it that the cheerleaders only cheer for that one sport? According to head coach of Varsity cheer Taylor Ohrwashel, tradition plays a major role in this decision.

“Football has always been associated with cheerleading. I am from Pennsylvania and in that state as well, the cheerleaders only cheer for football during the fall,” Ohrwashel said.

Brianna Schatz and Annie Cowman, however, both seniors and the captains of the team, showed interest in cheering for other sports.

“I think basketball would be a lot of fun, because it would be so exciting, and I feel like that’s the other big sport that

people at our school enjoy,” Cowman said. However, there are some safety hazards. Due to minimal space, the team would have to stand behind the basket to cheer, and if a player missed a shot or a pass, the cheerleaders would have to jump out of the way to avoid impact.

Before the team can even consider safety, there has to be enough students on the winter team, as many cheerleaders participate as a player or a manager in other sports during the winter and spring seasons. With an already packed schedule, prospective cheerleaders might not want to commit to cheer over basketball if it meant another season and giving up an activity they were already committed to.

“I play lacrosse and I’m planning on playing it later in the spring, so if cheer were to expand, I wouldn’t be able to do it,” freshman and varsity cheerleader

Emma Sahlgren said.

Fairfax County Public Schools used to have winter cheer for basketball, until it was cut from the budget a few years back.

“We had winter cheer up to a few years ago and the team cheered at home girls and boys basketball and wrestling,” director of student activities Joseph Swarm said. “It was strictly sideline cheer and as the budget got tight, it was removed as an offered sport in Fairfax County.”

Despite some students’ intrigue towards extending the seasons and cheering for other teams, there are many budget and time conflicts. But the cheerleaders remain enthusiastic for the team they cheer on at every Friday football game.

“Football and cheerleading just mesh well together,” Schatz concluded.

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