

Features:
Senior Anna Carlson shares how she turned a passion into a business.



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Opinion:
The editorial board summarizes Trump's first year in office.



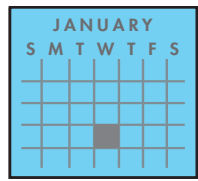
JULIA KUN/RANK&FILE

Arts&Style:
Kara-Dove reflects on what led her to pursue a modeling career.



BENJAMIN HARPER/RANK&FILE

Sports:
Gymnastics hires cheer head coach as their new assistant coach.



LAUREN ELIAS/RANK&FILE

Online:
Delays and closures from winter weather lead to scheduling issues for semester exams.

rank&file

Tuesday, January 30, 2018
Volume 55, Issue 4

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gcmnews.net

Skiers venture to the Canadian slopes

by ivan isnit
& christina trivisonno

The Canadian skiing program, "Snow Escape," was a student-organized trip for three days to Quebec, Canada during winter break.

Attendees bonded with each other while experiencing a new kind of freedom through an international adventure.

Senior and Snow Escape representative Helena Ristic led 15 other Marshall students to Mont-Tremblant, a city in Quebec, for a winter break filled with skiing, laser tag, ice skating, eating and overall bonding shared with a variety of other Fairfax County Public Schools.

Chaperones monitored the group thrice daily at check-in times when they congregated.

The participants had to say their names so the chaperones would know they were okay, but Ristic said they still had freedom that many other school trips lack.

"We weren't alone, but [the chaperones] didn't babysit us," Ristic said. "We got our food whenever we wanted to, and it was fun. It wasn't as though we felt we didn't have freedom. We could stay out as late as we wanted."

While in Mont-Tremblant, there were a variety of activities to enjoy.

But senior Damir Hrnjez said the trip was primarily about getting to ski and snowboard on some of the best mountains.

On the bus trip to Canada, students from different schools began as strangers for the most part, but soon the participants from other schools started to mingle.

"I definitely liked in the beginning [while] on the way to Canada, we didn't really know anyone on the bus except our friends, but in the end everyone was talking and switching seats to hang out," Ristic said.

Ristic said the trip brought peers closer, despite being from different schools.

"I met kids from Centerville, South Lakes and Madison," Ristic said.

Not only did the program bring new peers closer together, Ristic felt closer to her peers from Marshall.

"It was also fun because [my] room was with Marshall girls, and I got closer to some of the girls who go to Marshall which was nice."

Ristic recommended the experience and encourages even more students to attend next year.

"I highly recommend it," Ristic said.



COURTESY OF HELENA RISTIC

Demonstrators unite for women's rights

by dmitry butylev
& wade devinney

Amongst millions of other Americans, Marshall activists united in the Washington D.C. Sisters March on Jan. 20.

On the one year anniversary of the historic Women's March, nearly three million people came to protest the lack of gender equality in everyday practice and in the current political climate and the presidential administration.

Protesters marched from the Lincoln Memorial to LaFayette Park.

"It was a really good experience," senior Hiam Baidas said. "It felt really empowering and comforting to be marching with so many people who I know support the same values that I have."

Despite the fact that the March turnout being slightly smaller than last year, the March was still a success for the protesters.

"There was still a lot of people, but definitely less than last year," Baidas said. "The turnout this year was kind of better because it made [the march] more enjoyable."

The protesters also marched in favor of equality for immigrants and minorities.

Junior and founder of the GCM Girl Up club Izzie Moutinho went to both marches as well.

Moutinho said that herself, she along with many other feminists, do not need labels in order to fight for what they believe in.

While the march is considered a "feminist" march,



ISABELLA MOUTINHO

On the way to the White House, a woman marches with a hand-drawn sign reading "CARE FOR ALL & HER" as a demonstration of the importance of both equal rights and the environment.

Moutinho said she would caution against attaching such a label.

"I don't think that we need to adopt the term that describes someone that wants equal rights, but if you are labeling me as a feminist, I really don't care, but if you are using it as an insult, that is where I'm going to draw the line," Moutinho said.

Junior Sophie Sardari said the march was one of the few things that the youth

can be a part of in relation to politics.

"This [march is] different, but I like to be a part of these events," Sardari said "it is kind of community collaborating."

The march was also a call to remove Trump from office.

"I think [Trump] gives himself a little more credit than he deserves," junior and officer of the GCM Girl Up club Erin McDonald said.

newsbriefs

Weather incliments disrupt MUN conference

Weather circumstances forced Model United Nations to participate in only two conferences during the months of December and January.

In the past two months, MUN scheduled to participate in three conferences. But they were only able to compete in the first two.

During the first day, impending snow forced the conference staff to rearrange the schedule to fit it into one day. The time restraints of the conference prompted disappointment from even veteran MUN members, such as sophomore Shivane Anand.

"We're usually assigned two topics, and we were only able to debate one," Anand said. "[Shortenings] really kill the vibe of debating and working on topics."

Although the general consensus appeared to be a disappointment once more, senior and four-year MUN member Shreyas Kumar said he had no worries.

"I like to go with the flow [during conferences] because I take control and dominate when my mind is relaxed," Kumar said.



WILL SHIN/RANK&FILE

Shivane Anand, the delegate for Uruguay, raises his placard in order to speak to the committee.

by olive hsu & will shin

Classroom modular takes over upper parking lot

During the county's winter break, construction on a new semi-permanent 12 classroom modular began in the upper parking lot behind the building. This modular takes up a large portion of the back parking lot, leaving people frustrated with the loss of their parking.

"It makes it a lot harder to park," senior Leah Jeffery said. "It's annoying because you paid 200 dollars for a parking pass and now there's no parking."

While the administration acknowledged the upset, its purpose is for the future of the school due to the rising number of kids coming in each year.

"Our renovation built out our building for 2030 kids and right now we're at 2236," principal Jeff Litz said. "We anticipate that growth to continue over the next several years, if not the next decade."

The construction of the modular will also result in the removal of the trailers.

by johann young

STEM club grows girls' interest in science and tech fields

by olive hsu & owen maguire

Marshall Women in STEM is a club that juniors Emaan Khan and Maheen Saeed recently created. The club aims to encourage female participation in the science field, along with the technology, engineering and math fields. The club, in its first year, plans to help integrate girls into STEM studies. STEM is a central aspect of many rising industries, but lacks women.

Khan and Saeed said they were fed up with the overabundance of boys in the field and wanted to show their peers that girls should pursue careers in STEM as well.

"I started it because we need more women in the STEM field," Khan said. "We are the future; technology is never going to stop growing."

Saeed said she felt similarly when starting the club.

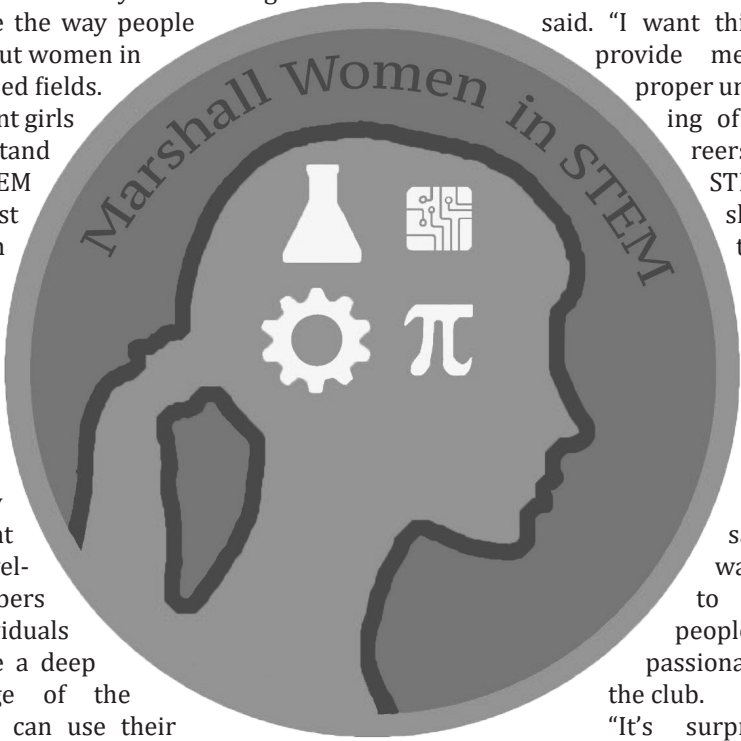
"I feel like many girls aren't encouraged to go into STEM directed fields or don't know about opportunities that are

offered," Saeed said.

Khan said they are looking to change the way people think about women in STEM based fields.

"I want girls to understand that STEM is not just sitting in front of a computer or just coding," Khan said.

They also want to develop members into individuals who have a deep knowledge of the field and can use their knowledge in real life situations.



"We need a new demographic of workers in the workforce," Khan said. "I want this club to provide members a proper understanding of what careers involve STEM and show them that it's not just sitting in front of a computer or just coding."

Saeed said she was shocked to find that people seemed passionate about the club.

"It's surprising to know that a lot of girls have found out about the club from word of mouth

and personally ask questions regarding the club," Saeed said.

Although they have only been a part of the school for a month, Saeed and Khan said they feel hopeful about the possible turnout for the club in the near future.

"Right now we have all the materials and the presentations necessary to have our first meeting and we are preparing for our next," Khan said.

English teacher Brenna Killeen has overseen the process of the club's initiation.

Saeed and Khan said they are grateful for her commitment to the club, and the assistance they've recieved from her.

"Our sponsor is really supportive of our recruitment of girls into the club," Saeed said. "She understands the struggle of girls trying to achieve and advance in STEM fields."

The club's first meeting will be in the first week of February. They will meet once or more every month to allow members to learn more about the fields of science and technology through discussions, projects and guest speakers.

IN ONE WEEK

No phone? No problem

by johann young

In One Week is a feature where one or more staff members take on a new habit for a week. In this IOW, a staffer avoids using their cell phone at school for a week

Monday

As an avid phone user, it felt weird not being able to use my phone in school. Normally when I'm bored I just go through Twitter or even watch a video on Youtube to pass the time, but without an escape from the school environment, I felt a little lost. Walking through the halls between classes without my headphones in just didn't feel right. However, I did notice that I was paying more attention in class. A few things did bother me though, especially since I would constantly take my phone out of my pocket to then remember I couldn't use it. But with my phone out of the way, the constant notifications from my phone no longer burdened me. I could finally actually learn and not goof off in class.

Tuesday

My second day away from my phone turned out to be a little more mind numbing, but at the same time, helpful. Even though I wouldn't be using my phone at all, I still decided to bring it. I don't know my exact reason for bringing it, but each time I took my phone out, I realized how much I rely on it to pass the time. This helped me to see how much of a parasite it had become in my life and so I decided to throw it into my bag and not touch it. This helped me be able to focus my attention on my class work better. At one point, I was tempted to turn my phone on to show someone a picture but I decided not to for the sake of my experiment.

Wednesday

Halfway through the week, I finally got used to not having my phone on me at all. The presence of my phone just became something I didn't really care about. The constant nagging of notifications just seemed to disappear and I was more free from social media, which had previously kept me distracted from the work I needed to be doing. The absence of music while walking through the halls was still a bit of a pain, since I would usually always have my

Thursday

What I originally saw as a burden in my routine had now became something I was okay with doing. Previously, I would leave my phone on and just leave it in my pocket but now I decided to turn it off and forget about it. I even began to follow through with this habit after school, where I'm normally absorbed into my phone for

Friday

While I was excited for the final day of this experience, I also felt like it didn't have to end here, and that I could continue not to use my phone. I've managed to avoid my phone as a necessity and I want keep it that way. The connection was draining, not only academically but also mentally. The freedom from that chain has allowed me to become more focused on my tasks and to avoid any possible distractions from what is truly important

50%

of teens feel they are addicted to their phones

SOURCE: COMMON SENSE MEDIA

Carlson pursues passion for photography

by aparna mathew & milad salangi

Senior Anna Carlson uses photography as a means to portray her artistic vision.

Carlson initially began pursuing a passion for photography at her previous school, Grace International School in Thailand, because she said everyone was art-oriented and she felt the need to jump on the bandwagon.

However, over her past three years as a photographer, she said she has come to love it, which is why she now specializes specifically in portrait photography.

In order to initiate her business, she had to get a lot of practice with the camera while making a name for herself.

"[Prior to beginning my business] I tried to get a lot

of practice and free sessions under my belt," Carlson said. "I then created an Instagram account and website, posting ads and photos anywhere I could. Clients usually DM me on Instagram."

Carlson said she focuses on portrait photography because she enjoys the experience of holding power to portray other people.

"I think that working with different people gives me the opportunity to capture them the way they want to be portrayed," Carlson said. "Even though they are vulnerable, they are trusting me with that power."

Over the years, Carlson has done photoshoots with a number of people, but one of the first people she worked with was senior Marin Uher.

"I thought I would feel kind of awkward when she

was taking the pictures, but it is actually very laid back and we always have a lot of fun," Uher said.

Uher has even played a role in helping Carlson run her business.

"We normally brainstorm some theme ideas for each photoshoot and then we each come up with some suggestions of places that might be a cool setting to fit the theme," Uher said.

Carlson said when taking photos, it is important to create a comforting environment for the subject.

"When you're taking photos of a person, you have to make them feel comfortable," Carlson said. "Being a girl, knowing when they feel vulnerable in front of a camera, they give me the privilege to capture them in the way they want to be seen.

Carlson said, in addition to some more serious photoshoots, she has a lot of fun photographing the people for her photoshoots.

She said the most exciting moment of her phtooography was when she and a client almost burned themselves once during a Fourth of July photoshoot.

"So one time, I wanted to do this Fourth of July shoot so we got sparklers," Carlson said. "Then we almost burned ourselves trying to take a picture with them, It was so funny."

While Carlson does not plan on studying photography in college, she said she hopes to possibly take some college classes on it, or to do side jobs in it.

Interested people can contact Carlson through her social media.



Uher poses for a photo that Anna Carlson took. One of the first clients of her business, Uher has helped Carlson in the process of her business by modeling for multiple photoshoots.

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staff editorials

Trump's first year leaves much to be desired

The movement of the New Journalist was perhaps the defining socio-political movement of the cultural reformation that swept the United States through the 1960's and beyond. Hunter S. Thompson, the godfather of Gonzo-ism, described the death of Objective Journalism and its relation to President Nixon as the need to "get Subjective to see Nixon clearly, [...] and the shock of recognition was often painful."

It is only fitting then that now, half a century of political strife later, we arrive at another crossroads, questioning of the purpose of the journalist once again. The Capital J Journalists — Thompson, Mailer, Wolfe — made the story as much about the process as the outcome. President Trump, in his persistent railing against the media conglomerates that allegedly perpetuate "Fake News," is himself the story; this time, however, it arises as a result of the man himself, and requires no artificiality on the part of the press.

It is the uncomfortable truth that our current Presidency is totally unlike any in our history. Other Presidents existed as separate entities from the actions and policies of their administrations; now, to refer to Trump is to refer to the administration as a whole.



For those that find the President morally reprehensible, the Oval Office is tarnished simply by his occupying it; for others, the integrity of the most powerful seat in the world remains unimpeachable even through the myriad of chaotic reports emanating from 1600 Pennsylvania.

They were a group of disillusioned New Age journalists, recognizing that the federal government routinely misled its constituents about everything from taxes to Vietnam. The gaggle in the early sixties may as well have been reporting from the Kennedy estate in Massachusetts, so complicit they were in protecting the administration of young Jack.

Now, the press faces the opposite issue: they are lambasted from every side,

enemies of all and friends of none. The President routinely attacks individual journalists and organizations on a regular and personal basis; the press responds in kind, and much of the American people as a general group have totally lost faith in the necessity, integrity and legitimacy of the press corps.

This disillusionment with regards to the press has resulted in a disconnect between the people and their government. Obfuscated by the bluster and vitriol permeating the Inner Beltway is an administration that is running a fairly neutral course. Remove Twitter from this Presidency, remove the unthinking statements, and the 45th President and his administration have done an adequate job of actually running the country. They passed major legislation in the tax reform bill, albeit a year into their tenure. They appointed a Supreme Court Justice. They removed America from a deeply flawed Trans-Pacific Partnership. They have cut through the regulatory maelstrom of the past progressive administration.

This is not to suggest that the current administration has been a success. Trump — as ostensibly Republican as he may be — has set the aims of the GOP back decades.

While being under federal investigation may be as American as apple pie, it is certainly not indicative of spectacular quality on the part of the White House in any stretch of the foreseeable future.

One of the great tragedies of our new millennium is that Hunter himself was not around to see the advent of the Trump era. His diatribes against Nixon, Agnew, and their ilk are the stuff of legend, and the Gonzo guru inspired a generation of irreverent journalists looking to be the new critics of the vaunted American Dream. One can only imagine what he would have had to say about Donald.

However, we are not the contemporaries of Hunter and his peers. The reach of a high school monthly does not extend quite as far as that of Wenner's *Rolling Stone*, which for a time was the be-all, end-all of political commentary. As the journalism world shifts towards online content, the periodicals of presidencies past have been severely diminished in terms of cultural impact. Astute, eviscerating criticisms of President Trump are published every day online, and are accessible within seconds; the previous analytical realm of the intellectual elite has become the media of the masses. This also means that "Fake News," as maligned as the phrase may be, is a real concern, and indicative of the extreme polarization that has characterized the past year and change.

The argument about the proper recourse for the current presidency has been hotly debated. Republicans in a stagnated Congress have spoken with much ardor but minimal action, and holy-rolling Democrats have grandstanded and campaigned far more than they have introduced and pursued avenues of redemption for their base. Disingenuity in Washington persists, and the people's disgust with that fact seems to have little effect on the status quo.

Ultimately, it is difficult to separate Trump the President from Trump the punchline, and harder still to distinguish between both of these and the government as a complete entity. Governance is derived from the people, who have made their voices heard. If nothing else, this can be President Trump's legacy. Hunter would be proud.

Substitutes' inexperience diminishes curriculum

Often, a substitute teacher appearing in place of a normal teacher is a relief for students, but it is not always in their best interest.

The major flaw in the substitute teacher system is the lack of organization based on subject. Oftentimes, a substitute teacher will have to lead a class with curriculum in an entirely different subject from what they are personally proficient in. When substitutes replace a teacher for only a day, the loss of a single class may not affect a student too much, but there are other

instances where a teacher may be gone for an extended period of time. In such instances, students' future performance may suffer as a result of not getting the basic knowledge mastery.

When learning from a substitute, students often take advantage of the adult in the room. It is very easy for students to be unproductive during class when a different teacher is present.

When teachers leave for long periods of time, substitute teachers receive a lesson plan that usually contains the shallow, bare bones

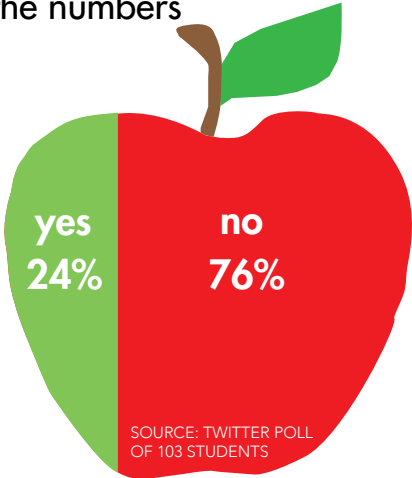
curriculum. This system is inefficient since the students then need to go further in depth into the curriculum independently. This form of teaching may be ineffective to students who have a hard time learning without a teacher giving the information in a variety of diverse methods, and those students may receive lower grades overall. Essentially, some students need teachers to break down the curriculum further than substitutes are capable of.

It would be advantageous for the

administration to either prioritize skilled substitutes with considerable prior experience or revamp the substitute

assignment system. Until then, classes with a substitute teacher for the day are a wasted hour-and-a-half.

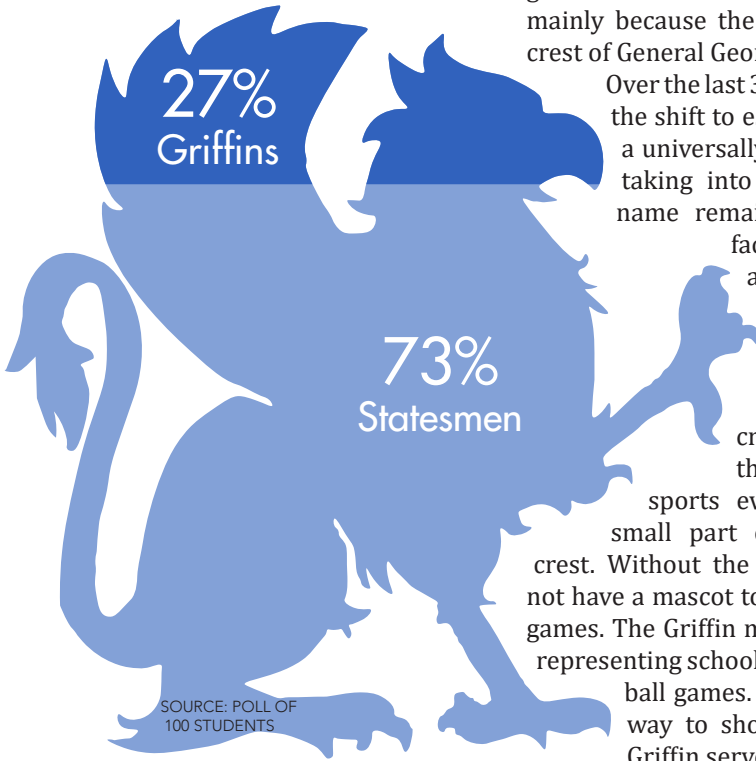
Are substitutes efficient? by the numbers



Debate continues over virtue of dual mascots

by rose taury & hannah levitan

Debate over which Marshall symbol better serves as the school spirit representative, the Statesman or the Griffin, has surged in advance of the upcoming graduation of the class of 2018.



Before the 1980's, Marshall did not have a mascot, but the school employed the Statesman nickname at musical and sporting events in order to represent the school's teams. In the mid 80's, Marshall administration began to incorporate the lion as a mascot at football games and other events. This change was mainly because the lion was on the family crest of General George C. Marshall.

Over the last 30 years, the school made the shift to establishing the Griffin as a universally accepted mascot while taking into account that the nickname remained the Statesman. In fact, it makes sense to have a mascot that is identifiable and a nickname that honors the school name.

The Griffin mascot increases spirit, boosts enthusiasm at all Marshall sports events, and serves as a small part of the Marshall family crest. Without the Griffin, Marshall would not have a mascot to represent the school at games. The Griffin mascot is the best way of representing school spirit, especially at football games. Marshall needs a strong way to show team spirit, and the Griffin serves this exact purpose.

At the same time, the Statesman represents patriotism and respect for those that

fought for our freedom and right to exercise these values. Especially given the namesake of the school, it would be difficult to rationalize eliminating the Statesman as the school nickname.

The Statesman better illustrates the Marshall spirit and reflects the values that George C. Marshall represented as Secretary of State. Since Marshall associates with the Griffin mascot, changing it officially would rebrand the school after years of association with the Marshall-esque values and name.

Taking into account that Marshall associates with the Statesman moniker, the Griffin mascot sometimes causes unnecessary confusion. However, it is still a near-necessity to have some sort of spirit representative at events like games and pep rallies.

Given that General George C. Marshall is the face of patriotism as former Secretary of State, this school strives to embody the principles of Marshall's work as a representative of the United States. It serves as a symbol of American values, but also embodies the same ideologies as high schools around the country. Although this representation of Marshall is confusing, these two symbols strengthen our sense of school spirit. The dual mascot-nickname system is too ubiquitous to Marshall's identity to abandon at this point. We should remain with our current system, and take pride in our school's traditional and earnest values.

letters

Photography allows for different form of expression

I really like photography because I like art, but I am a horrible artist. But in all honesty, I think photography allows people to express themselves in a unique way.

Many people think it is just clicking a button and it is easy, but what makes a good photo is the thought process behind it. The angles, the color, and facial expressions are all important things for a photograph.

What differentiates a good photo is the emotion it conveys. Photographs are supposed to evoke feelings inside you; a good photo makes you question previous beliefs, view something in a new way or show you a story. It takes a lot of skill for a photographer or any artist to accomplish that, but when they do you can tell and the effect is marvelous.

Thomas Rothman
Junior

Send signed letters to room D211. Letters can also be submitted to letters@gcmnews.net. Letters will be published at the editors' discretion. Letters do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the paper.

tweets

from the community

So glad @MarshallMob was in the house tonight at Edison! Great cheering, great enthusiasm and a great half court shot at halftime!!! Well done! #marshallpride

@EHS_hypesquad
Hold that L

Congratulations to boys varsity basketball for a hard fought win over Edison. Well done! #marshallpride

Jeffrey Litz
@GCMprincipal
Principal

Brendan Dudding
@brendand464
Senior

Jeffrey Litz
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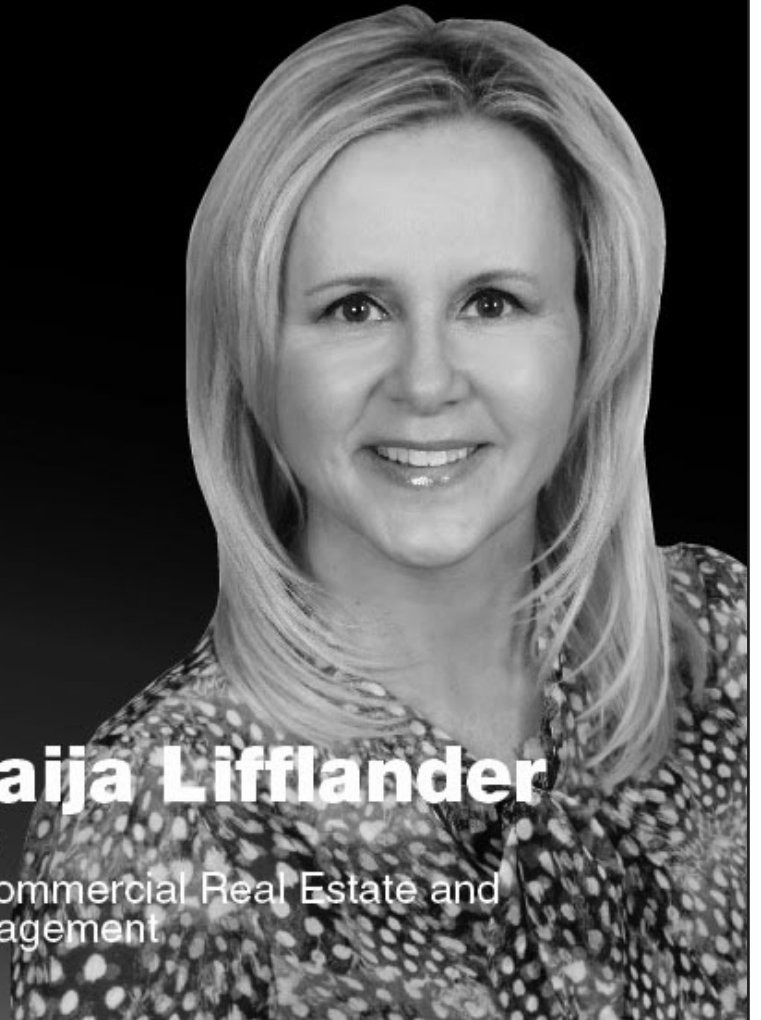
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Mutombo redefines modeling stereotypes

by kate carniol
& rohan jain

Sophomore Kara-Dove Mutombo experiences the world of fashion by modeling and doing photoshoots in New York.

"I was 14 and an agent contacted my mom and invited me to come in and do a photoshoot," Mutombo said. "I liked it and [I] haven't stopped since."

Mutombo said she started modeling because it offered a different experience.

"Modeling was something new to do," Mutombo said. "I was interested and it was mostly out of curiosity that I stuck with it. I liked that I could get pictures, go to places and meet people."

Mutombo said she enjoys modeling for boutiques because the clothing is high fashion, and she wants to help support the designers.

"I personally like high fashion more," Mutombo said. "These boutiques feature designers who are in the high fashion world and are trying to get known. They are real designers who put a lot of effort into their designs. I want to be able to help them get their things known."

Mutombo said that modeling has taught her to be more self-assured.

"Because of modeling I've been more confident," Mutombo said. "I feel like I've become a different person because of modeling. I don't know who I would be without it. It helped me expand myself."

For Mutombo, mainstream media and social platforms overshadow the work put into modeling with negative suggestions about the industry.

"There's so many negative views of modeling, but there's also positive," Mutombo said. "People don't know there's a whole world to modeling. They think women are beautiful, but starving and insecure. But there's so much work. You don't just show up. You have to go to castings, fittings and meet so many people."

According to Mutombo, modeling is more than the luxurious lifestyle people often associate it with.

"[People] think of the photos, and they think it's so glamorous, but there's so much time that has to be put into each individual thing," Mutombo said. "It's stressful because their entire career is based on how they look."

Mutombo said she focuses on runway modeling because it mixes her interest of high fashion with her tall physique.

"I prefer runway modeling the most," Mutombo said. "I'm not closed off to others, but with runway modeling

it's more of a high fashion thing. I think it's more serious. It's not really for money. I'm a tall person and not many people can do runway modeling, so in a way I'm special and I like that."

Although pressures come with modeling, Mutombo said she chooses to work on her skills and mental strength.

"[After a bad photoshoot] I would go to my mirror and practice poses, but I made sure to never do anything dangerous," Mutombo said. "I learned to be confident in who I am. It's easy to get soaked up in it. Of course, there are girls who are better, prettier and taller but you just can't let that get to you."

Mutombo said she is aware of the criticism that comes her way because of modeling, but she opts to ignore the negativity.

"Modeling isn't a big deal, and that's okay because I'm always going to do what I want to do," Mutombo said.



Mutombo models clothing from the BATAX collections.

Brog hand-draws animated short story

by julia kun
& sara alassaf

Junior Danielle Brog is currently creating a hand-drawn animated short story in her IB Visual Arts class. This story is her second hand-drawn project, and although she has been working on it at school and at home since the beginning of the school year, Brog said this particular type of animation is labor-intensive work.

"Last year I made a little two minute movie because it takes forever to animate," Brog said. "It takes 40 frames of animation for each second."

Brog said hand-drawn animation, as opposed to digital animation, equates to drawing each second of animation on a piece of paper.

"Each second is broken up into 25 to 40 different frames, and hand-drawn onto a piece of translucent paper," Brog said. "Then I lay it all over a background, and I take a picture of each frame. After that, I just put it all together on a program as opposed to digital art, which would be

made using a digital program."

Although Brog is currently working on original content, she derives inspiration from other existing animators and animated series.

"I really like animation that you can hold and see, like puppets and claymation such as *The Dark Crystal* or *he Labyrinth*," Brog said. "There's a guy named James Jean who's a really huge inspiration for me, and his sketchwork is absolutely amazing," Brog said.

While traditional artists inspire Brog's work, she said that social media impacts her ideas as well.

"Soeymilk is another Instagram artist that I draw inspiration from who isn't as hugely popular as more classical artists," Brog said. "I like them a lot because they create a really cozy scene in their work."

Most of Brog's projects so far have been about childhood and nostalgia, and these concepts have flowed into her current story as well.

"The one I'm currently working on is about a brother and a sister going into the

forest and having a life-altering experience," Brog said. "It's supposed to be very fantastical."

Brog gains the knowledge and skill needed for animating by observing other animation artists at work. She also incorporates techniques that she learns from her art classes into her personal animation projects.

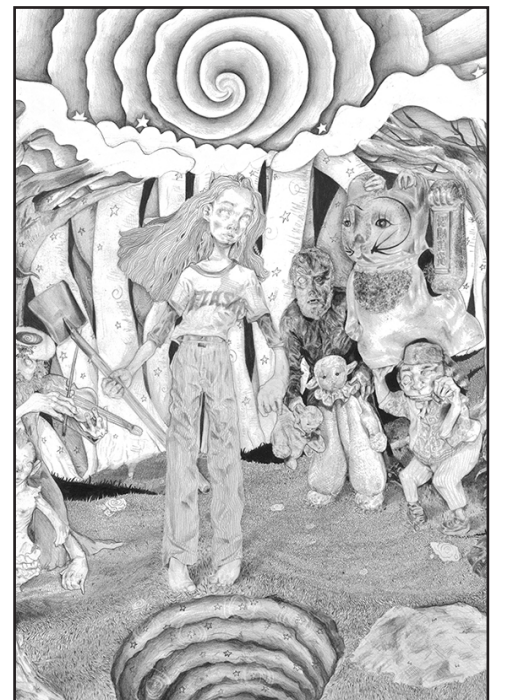
"I get my ideas by seeing the animation first and then applying a story to it," Brog said. "I always see the visuals first because that's just how my brain works."

Brog said that she is only focusing on her current project for now, but that she hopes to pursue a career in animation beyond high school.

"Each animation I work on needs my complete devoted attention," Brog said. "However, I will definitely have a new idea after this project, because I want to pursue this."

Brog said creating animation appealed to her specific art style.

"You're creating moving people from scratch," Brog said. "I think that's cool."



COURTESY OF DANIELLE BROG.

Brog designed a cover poster for her latest visual art project, an animated short story.

"If you ever want to grow artistically, then you'll have to be in a constant state of dissatisfaction with your work," Brog said.



CHRISTIE SMUDDE/ RANK & FILE

Senior Sarah Rayburn and Book Club sponsor and English teacher James Macindoe meet with the Book Club to discuss their first read, *Notes of a Native Son* by James Baldwin.

"Being a member of the Book Club is pretty simple: it means that you are willing to read something on your own and then come and discuss it in a collegiate atmosphere [...] We just sit in a circle and talk about whatever text is on tap," Macindoe said.

Book Club revamp spurs popularity

by mary trivisonno
& nikita athawale

Senior and Book Club president Emma Choi made efforts to shift people's idea of what Book Club can be, which spurred an increase in both popularity and membership of the club.

Choi accredited the club's increase in popularity to her efforts to erase the common stereotype from the club's surface.

"I think people had this perception that [Book Club] is 'nerdy,' or, 'not cool,'" Choi said. "So this year, I marketed us as the most punk rock club at school."

Choi said the Book Club was able to complete its change in profile because of her attempts

to promote the club with a more confident attitude.

"We just adopted a general attitude of irrational confidence," Choi said. "Also, chocolate cookies."

Senior Noah Daniel said the unconventional attitude has had an impact on the attendance of the club.

"The punk rock attitude has definitely made a difference," Daniel said. "Emma has implemented a strict alternative dress code for some of the meetings[...] and Emma's aggressive marketing has an emphasis on less reading and more eating, and that has really increased attendance."

According to Choi, the uncommon perspective of this club comes from their reading

choices, specifically their initial selection.

"Our first book is James Baldwin's *Notes of Native Son* which is hallmarked as one of the key pieces of modern black literature," Choi said. "We all have this attitude, especially since we're reading James Baldwin, who's like, the most punk rock person ever."

English teacher and Book Club sponsor James Macindoe said the most important thing is support between members.

"We need to make sure we're supporting one another as we read and then showing up. That's true for a lot of things, but especially this: in order to be a part of it, you have to show up," Macindoe said.

Gymnastics hires Borello as new assistant

by ben harper
& aamir qureshi

Varsity cheer head coach Dom Borello is now joining the gymnastics team as assistant coach to varsity team head coach Christie McCormick.

Borello has been coaching cheer and gymnastics since 1999 and was able to lead the cheer team to their first conference championship.

Director of student activities Joe Swarm said Borello's past experience will help both programs.

"I think it's amazing on several parts," Swarm said. "I think his knowledge of technique and his ability to work with the students is great."

Borello said his experience in both sports helped his coaching skills.

"I actually started with gymnastics," Borello said. "I had a boys program and I think that helped me out with cheer because it helped me learn how to deal with kids of all levels. It's a good crossover."

Borello said he decided to coach gymnastics because he wanted to continue to be a part of sports department.

"It's fun to be a part of high school sports and cheer was over," Borello said. "I wanted to be a part of something else."

Swarm said the hiring of Borello



BEN HARPER/RANK&FILE

Gymnastics assistant coach Dom Borello gives tips to senior and gymnast Brenda Henriquez for the vault at practice on Jan. 22.

will further accelerate both programs.

"I hope [Borello] further builds the cheerleading program and I hope that [he] continues to further grow the gymnastics program because of the student athletes being comfortable with being in both programs," Swarm said.

Swarm said Borello has advanced the cheerleading program.

"[We have] been very fortunate to have him as our coach and he's done a

tremendous job," Swarm said. "He has turned our cheerleading program completely around."

Junior and gymnast Saba Ahmed said Borello's advice is beneficial for the athletes.

"He is really helpful with vault and his tips help you improve a lot," Ahmed said. "He's supportive and gives good tips to help you improve or get new skills."

Swim & dive: together but unequal

by christi smudde
& mia toser

Despite their inherent differences, swim & dive compete and practice together. The combined practices strengthen the bond between the teams.

"I really love the communal environment and how the whole team is like one big family," junior and swimmer Gabriela Stapleton said.

On Thursday nights, both teams have a pasta party before competing in meets the following day.

At meets, swim

competes in 11 events for boys and an equal amount for girls, while dive competes in only one event per gender. Because of this disparity, sophomore and diver Matthew Warren said the two teams should split.

"I think swim & dive should be separated because there are 24 events that go toward the final score, but dive counts for only two of those events which doesn't impact the outcome," Warren said.

But not everyone in the program wants the teams to be separate. Stapleton said the dive team earns

valuable points to help the team.

"Our dive team is really good so they always get us extra points to help us win," Stapleton said.

Freshman and diver Teresa Capuano-Rizzo said the dive team does not contribute much to the final score.

"The whole dive team counts as two swim events so [dive] doesn't give much to the total score of the meet," Capuano-Rizzo said.

Despite the differences between the teams, swim & dive continue to compete together.



KILEY MORIARTY/RANK&FILE

Sophomore and diver Matthew Warren prepares his dive at the meet against Hayfield Secondary School on Jan. 19.

sportsbriefs

Dance team struggles to raise funds for season

Since the dance team does not fit the specific description for a sport or a club, members expressed the struggles they face with assimilating into the school.

Freshman and dancer Sophia Song said the lack of recognition has made it harder to gain funds for activities.

"We don't get as many money funds for dance team because we aren't considered a sport, and we don't compete against other schools," Song said.

As of now, the members must pay for everything out of pocket, which coach Maggie Foarde said is the reason they do not have uniforms.

"[Fundraising] can get complicated sometimes," Foarde said. "We have to make sure anything we want to do doesn't conflict with something the boosters already do, or with something another team or club already does."

Despite their lack of a set niche, the team has made it to the Nationals level, and will be traveling to Orlando in February.

"This is very exciting and demonstrates that we are serious as a team and want to participate on a larger level at Marshall," senior and dance team captain Alex Schmid said.

by sahar jiwani
& aqsa rashid



SAHAR JIWANI/RANK&FILE

The dance team showcases their halftime routine on Dec. 15 at the boys varsity basketball game against Falls Church High School. The dance team performs at most of the home varsity basketball games.

Eagles and Patriots face off in Super Bowl LII

The Philadelphia Eagles and New England Patriots will face off at Super Bowl LII on Feb. 4. The two teams played each other in the championship in 2004, which resulted in a 24-21 Patriots victory.

"The Patriots are the best dynasty in the league," freshman Shaurya Bedi said. "They're the best in any sport."

Senior Roshana G-mariam said the game can be dull because the Patriots are in their eighth Super Bowl in the past 16 years.

"The Patriots have had their time in the limelight," G-mariam said. "I'm ready for someone to dethrone them. It's boring when the same team is playing in the Super Bowl every year."

For sophomore Britnee Venard, the Super Bowl will be a chance for the Eagles to showcase their improvement from the beginning of the season.

"I've been watching them all season, every game they play," Venard said. "To see them grow as a team and develop skills they were not good at and now are good at is fun to watch."

by kate carniol,
ben harper
& aamir qureshi

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