Stakes Raised for Skipping School

Public school students who have acquired 11 or more unexcused absences by mid-February of this year:

- 25% of students have acquired 11 or more unexcused absences.

Miss more than 10 days of school without an excuse and your parent or guardian will be contacted by the D.C. Office of the Attorney General. Miss more than 20 if you want to see them go to jail or be fined.

The Attendance Accountability Amendment Act of 2013 is a bill proposing increased government intervention on the issue of chronic truancy amongst D.C. students. Last year, more than 5,000 D.C. students missed more than a month of school. By mid-February this year, more than a quarter of public school students have acquired 11 unexcused absences, said D.C. Councilmember David Catania. Fox News reports that 45% of the Anacostia High School student body had at least 21 days of unexcused absences in a recent school year.

The proposed bill would change current policy that penalizes parents of children missing two or more days unexcused within one month, to ten or more unexcused absences in a school year. At that point parent/guardians may be sent to parenting classes or forced to perform community service, perhaps at the child’s school. Additionally, the bill would raise the age at which Child and Family Services Agency is required to investigate truancy cases from 13 years old or younger to cover truants through age 17. “We have a lot of children age 13 to 17 who have fallen through the cracks,” Catania told The Washington Post. Catania is a sponsor of the bill and the new chairman of the Education Committee.

Catania and co-sponsor Grosso have received push-back from Mayor Vincent Gray’s office in the form of the D.C. Attorney General who testified at a public hearing that the bill is “ill-considered and seriously flawed.” DC Attorney General Irvin B. Nathan also called it a “strait-jacket” that would remove his ability to exercise subjectivity in dealing with such delicate cases. Nathan went on to say, “Taking children away from their homes or putting parents of truant children in jail should be, as they are now, rare and extreme measures for keeping children in the classroom.”

Catania responded by saying he would be willing to compromise on the mandatory-prosecution provision. Brendan Williams-Kief, Catania’s Director of the Committee on Education, said that “only a handful” of these guilty parents are jailed each year. He also emphasized that the purpose of the bill is to keep children in school.

“Everyone’s Director of the Committee on Education, said that “only a handful” of these guilty parents are jailed each year. He also emphasized that the purpose of the bill is to keep children in school. “The intent of the legislation,” Williams-Kief wrote in an e-mail, “is to alert parents to the need to get their children back in school.”

Come support The Wilson Beacon at Pete’s Pizza on Tuesday, March 5!

Mention The Beacon when ordering so it receives 25% of all sales. Pete’s is located at 4940 Wisconsin Ave NW, Washington, D.C., right near Wilson. Bring your friends and family!

Girl’s Track Team Wins States

Lindsey Cunningham rounds the track during a relay. The Wilson Girls Indoor Track Team became the first D.C. Public School to win a DCSAA Championship in any sport. For the full story, see page 4.
Mr. Wilson Competition Unveiled

By Erin Doherty
Staff Writer

Well-rounded, with respectable grades and a role-model in the school and community, Mr. Wilson Wims describes the character of the ideal "Mr. Wilson." Wims would like the new contest, "The Mr. Wilson Competition," to recognize seniors male for their leadership and successes.

When asked about the ideal "Mr. Wilson," Wims describes the necessary characteristics as, "polite, great attributes to the school and community, good grades, model student leader, and role model to the underclassmen." The contest coordinators created high standards for the competition, but Wims and Hara are positive that they will be able to find "the perfect student."

Judges will take into consideration students' accomplishments for the entire senior year, but the competition is currently in the application process. An interested student should contact Wims or Hara to determine whether they have the proper credentials.

Assuming the student has a 2.0, he may then sign up for an interview. The interview stage consists of three parts: talent, question and answer, and bathing suit modeling. Wims said the competition is partially modeled after Miss Universe. Applicants should come to the interview ready to strut your stuff and amaze the judges.

When female students got wind of the competition, they raised the obvious question. Why isn’t there a "Ms. Wilson" competition? Wims and Hara apparently spent much time deliberating whether to restrict the competition to males, or to open it up to the entire senior class. After much thought, the coordinators decided that they wanted to give the boys a way to shine.

"Girls are already shining," Wims said, when asked why the competition does not include girls. He said that this is a common competition done in other schools in Maryland, and that Wilson’s Young Bosses club is also helping to sponsor it.

They are also planning a performance to occur on the night of May 2, which Men’s Warehouse is helping to fund. After spring break, the competition and judging stage will be underway. For now, make sure to keep your ears open for the candidates and support them on their way. Interested applicants are encouraged to see Wims and Hara in room 108B to find out how to get involved.

Prom Made Affordable

By Maggie Menditto and Julia Kott
News and Features Editors

"Going to the prom is that point in your life when you actu-
ally feel like you’re being treated like an adult. This is the time you get to show your parents that you are responsible," says Monisa Waters, Outreach Specialist for the Young Adult Division of the DC Public Library and founder of a prom-related program.

Prom costs $70. And that’s just the beginning. You will need to buy a dress or a rent a tux ($300) get your hair and nails done ($100), buy a corsage ($50) and shoes ($100), and share a limousine rental ($100). That’s $650. Prom is shockingly expensive. How can one night possibly be worth that much money, even if it is the "night of your life?" Waters has these concerns. She didn’t attend her high school prom in part because she didn’t want to wear a dress she had worn to a previous dance and couldn’t afford a new one. "I always wished I did go to [the prom]." She says. "I found out later that it didn’t even matter if I wore the dress a second time."

Waters started a program called "Your Prom, Your Way" with the DC Public Library. "Knowing we have a lot of disadvantaged teens, I thought about what teens wouldn’t go to prom," she says. She wants to make sure that everyone is given the option, regardless of their financial situation.

Every day during the month of March there will be a workshop in a different library around the city relating to prom. The workshops will include activities such as jewelry-making classes, photo editing classes, and classes on making paper corsages. These are all leading up to the Prom Expo on April 6.

Waters anticipates 200 teens to show up for the Prom Expo at MLK Library, which will be able to find "the perfect student."

Wilson Takes Science Bowl

Saturday February 9, Wilson won the regional Science Bowl competition after seven rounds of Jeopardy style questions and answers. This was one of 70 regional competitions of the National Science Bowl and Wilson is one of 9,500 teams competing nationwide. The competition took place at Cesar Chavez Public Charter School (Parkside Campus), and Wilson defeated six other schools from the area including Columbia Heights Educational Campus (3rd place) and National Cathedral School (2nd place). This was the Science Bowl Team’s seventh consecutive win and will go on to represent the District of Columbia at the National Science Bowl at the 41st Hi in Chevy Chase, Maryland on April 25-29 of this year.

-Truancy Bill Continued

Continued from P. 1

their truancy, make sure that government agencies are coordinating to get the student the services and resources they need, and ensure that we do not allow cases of chronic truancy to go unaddressed until they ultimately result in the student dropping out or worse."

If the bill passes into law, parents of truants 15 or older will only be released from prosecution if it is found that they "are unable to cause the child to attend school." Essentially, under the proposal, parents are given an option to plead loss of control over their teenager, sending the truant to court authorities for supervision.

There is also concern over the cost of the bill. According to the bill, predicted to be at least $4.4 million by Child and Family Services Agency director Brenda Dorsey, is an "incredible wind of the committee.

The videos for entry must be put to a vote later in the year.

I can’t do the work, I’m 17 and in the ninth grade," Henderson said in to explanation of the low rates. This proposal seems likely to raise controversy within a city where child guardianship is not always simple, pointed out Emma Brown for the Washington Post. In addition to parents working multiple jobs and having responsibilities that complicate their ability to monitor their children’s attendance, DCPS students may also be residing with another family member while remaining under the legal custody of their parents.

Co-sponsored by council member for Ward 4 (large), Yvette Alexander (D-
ward 7), Marion Barry (D-Ward 8), and Jack Evans (D-Ward 2), the bill will usher in a new "attention" of truants’ guardians within DCPS, according to Cata-
it. The proposal was scheduled for debate yesterday at a joint hearing of the Committee of the Whole and the Committee on Education and could potentially be put to a vote later in the year.
The name is racist, vulgar, crude, and extremely offensive. In this day and age, if a team changed its name to something as outrageous as “The Redskins”, there would be protests, disputes, and I would even go as far as saying there might be riots. The team has always been affiliated with racist names. Before coming to DC, the team played in Boston and was named “The Boston Braves”. Some people who want to keep the current name make the case that the team “redskin” only refers to positive character-istics or stereotypes of Native Americans. Even if this is true, should professional sports really be promoting stereotypes of any kind? In 1992, Clarence Page, who wrote for the Orlando Sentinel, commented on the team name in one of his articles. “The Washington Redskins are the only big time professional sports team whose name is an unequivocal racial slur. After all, how would we react if the team was named the Washington Ne-gresses? Or the Washington Jewels? It is more than just a racial reference, it is a racial epithet.” I agree completely with the mes-sage Page was trying to communicate. Team names shouldn’t have direct connotations, whether they are positive or negative, with any group of people or race. “If it went through a vote [of Native Americans], I think it would be overwhelming to drop it. I’ve always thought the word [Redskins] was very offensive,” said George Tiger, chief of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, which is based in Oklahoma and has 75,000 members.

The new “Mr. Wilson” competition is supposed to acknowledge the senior boys who are role models, great contributors to the school and community, good grades, model student leaders, and whose story matches the underclassmen’s” administrator Brandon Wims told reporter Erin Doherty. That be-ing the case, I was shocked to find out that such a competition has swimsuit modeling as one of the qualifying factors. Leadership and intelligence have nothing to do with how toned a student’s abs are or how well they strut across a room in a swimsuit. “Model student lead-ers” are not the same as fashion models, and requiring students to walk down an imaginary runway in front of staff judges in only swim trunks is incredibly ironic in a school that is constantly urging students to “dress for success” and avoid skimpy clothing. These sorts of mixed messages sent by the Wilson staff create confusion among students, reduce the authority of staff members, and ultimately lower the school’s standards. What girl would feel twice about wearing a crop top to school when staff members are actively promot-ing male students walking around half-naked?

There is definitely a need in our soci-ety and our school for good male role mod-els, so if “Mr. Wilson” competition is truly about recognizing seniors as role models and emerging leaders and their contribu-tions to the Wilson community, then how well they wear a Speedo should not matter. Barack Obama is not a role model because of how he looks shirtless, but because of the achievements he has spent his life working towards.

Moreover, if the competition is really focused on praising high achieving role models in the Wilson community, why isn’t there a “Ms. Wilson” competition as well? According to Doherty, Wims said he and Shella Harr, another organizer of the competition, want “to give the boys a way to shine.”

Why shouldn’t girls be allowed this same opportunity? Wims justified only having a boys competition by saying that "girls are already shiners.” He has a point in that girls are higher achievers than boys already at Wilson. 40.26% of Wilson girls made honor roll in the second advisory, compared to 32.16% of boys. But just because girls are already achieving doesn’t mean they should be recognized any less. Girls can be just as impressive lead-ers, role models, and students as boys, and deserve to be recognized as such. Having a competition to commend outstanding boys at Wilson but ignore equally outstand-ing girls is frankly sexist, despite Wims’ reasoning, and it is disappointing that Wilson, an urban school in a progressive city, has stooped to this level.

We live in the 21st century, and it is about time that leadership and intelligence are valued for what they are: unrelated to beauty. Wilson needs to recognize actual role models if the school wants to encour-age student achievement. In addition, we live in a time when women are commonly breadwinners, leaders, and incredible role models. Wilson girls who possess these qualities deserve to be celebrated just as much as the boys do.
More Than a Label

By Christina Harn
Opinions Editor

We hear a lot about stereotype typing in high school, but it’s not here that it starts. The role-casting starts much earlier in life: childhood.

I first noticed this when I started working at a toy store. Someone would walk in looking for a birthday present for a child and say, “They like ninjas.”

So we’d walk around and look at every single thing that resembles a ninja, or Eastern culture, or spies, and they’d leave with a keychain-flashlight-ninja. Which is rad, and I’m sure the kid would like it, but they probably would have liked a stomp rocket even better. So the ninja tunnel vision is really only for the benefit of either the gift giver or the parents, to show how very thoughtful it was that they remembered the kid mentioned ninjas that one time.

Which is the thing about labels: They’re imposed on us by other people trying to make their lives easier. It’s hard, if not impossible, to break down an entire person’s quirks, values, and beliefs into an easily digestible three word description. So little Tommy who is scared of bikes, likes ninjas, eats his vegetables, lies about taking vitamins, plays soccer, reads chapter books, and does hundreds of other little things and thinks thousands of big thoughts — becomes “Tommy who likes ninjas.”

Over time, little Tommy grows up and develops different passions, and more complex beliefs, but the label describing him easily expands to fit the difference. Now maybe, Tommy is “a jock,” or “a pothead” or “a dropout” or “a dork.” And after you hear that, his million actual qualities fall away and are replaced with ghost characteristics that flush him out; qualities maybe never actually witnessed in association with the person, but connected by a general consensus that “if... then.”

So where does that leave us? We can’t extract the assumptions and stereotypes that have been ingrained in us from pop culture, nor shrug off the labels imposed on us like sweaters in an overheated room, much as we may want to. But what we can do is control how much power we give these caricatures.

Just because someone defines you as a “bad kid” doesn’t mean that you can’t contribute in class, anymore than someone deciding you’re a “good kid” doesn’t mean that you always have to.

The good thing about high school (and there ain’t too many so listen close) is the inherently temporary nature of it. We’ve all mixed up in the middle — neither child nor adult, annoyed with oversight, but still needing help. If we feel that this transitional time can’t possibly last forever, then we give up a certain level of freedom. This is the last step in our government-planned lives, and after graduation we can more or less go our own ways, never looking back if we so choose. So that gives us a chance to erase on several identities with a nice safety net that, if it doesn’t work out, we burn the bad pictures, delete our facebook and start fresh with a group of people who have never met us.

So keep your mind open and give everyone a break. The girl who pucked in biology is not “the girl who pucked in biology”, she’s a girl, who pucked in biology. Let the little things go and take the time we’ve got left here to look for the interesting underbelly of people, past the towering over-exposed gossip and extra-curricular list that can too often take the place of quality conversation. Once you can do it for other people, it’s more likely that you’ll be able to see the importance of it inside yourself, and get the most out of the mixed up time that is high-school.

Girls Take State Indoor Track Title

By Evan Hamlin
Sports Editor

On February 12, the girls track team headed to the PG Sports complex for the first annual DCSSA indoor track championships with the odds against them. After a hard-fought battle against fierce competitors like Georgetown Visitation and Dunbar, the girls came out on top to capture the first state championships title.

The win was a team effort. All the girls who competed earned points in their events which went towards the team’s total of 117 points. Visitation came in at a close second, with 113 points.

Outstanding performances by Rachel Bonham and Deonna Diggs helped propel the tigers to their first DCSSA victory. Bonham captured first in the high jump, and earned points in many other events including a third place finish in the long jump. Diggs triumphed in the 55m hurdles and also placed third in the 300m.

Wilson’s win was also a historical one. It was the first DCSSA championship win by a public school ever, not just in the girls track category. The DCSSAA format was introduced to schools across the area just this year. It incorporates both public, private, and charter school athletes in a competition that is open to the best school in the area.

In the past, the different school systems would compete in separate championships. The girls not only proved to be the best public school team last month in the DCSSA championships, they showed their strength again by coming out on top against a challenging field of opponents.

Turkey Bowl

Continued from P. 4

also discredited Dunbar’s two-year winning streak; the Crimson Tide won the first place title against Coolidge in 2011.

“It is deeply disappointing to lose to a team with enough talent and experience to take this title from us,” DCPS Chancellor Kaya Henderson said in a statement, “but it is even more disappointing that an ineligible player was playing on the team.”

This ruling will mark the third eligibility infraction in DC Public Schools within five months. H.D. Woodson Coach Greg Fuller was fired in October for the use of an ineligible player. The Washington football team was also penalized for use of an ineligible player in November and was subsequently dropped from the Turkey Bowl lineup.

Wilson’s designation in November marked the second infidelity from the championshiop game in three years. In 2010, DCPS found Ballou to have used ineligible player in a semifinal win. Dunbar then replaced Ballou in the Thanksgiving game.

Said Henderson on the ruling, “We have high expectations and rules at DCPS, and that applies both in the classroom and in athletics.”

Winter Roundup

By Maya Ettleson and Nora Peschon
Staff Writers

This winter was a successful one for Wilson Sports teams. Both of the track teams and the Girls JV basketball team went to the city championship. Although the girls basketball team lost to Banneker, the both of the track teams were successful, winning the DCSSA championship for the first time in seven years. The boys track team came in first place with a score of 132 in the DCSSA championship. However in the state championship they only placed in fourth. The Boys Freshmen Basketball team finished their season with an overall record of 4-11. The Boys Swim Team wrapped up this year with a 3-1 record and the Girls Swim Team closed out with a record of 2-2. The wrestling team concluded their season with a ((( record. The Squash team had a great season, concluded with an overall record of 1-6. Also, the Boys and Girls Varsity Basketball team looks to continue their run for the playoffs and hopefully appear in the city championship. Congratulations to all winter sports teams for a great season!
Teenagers have a reputation for being reckless, causing trouble and experimenting with illegal activity. While these generalizations aren’t always true, teenagers are often under suspicion from law enforcement. Knowing your constitutional rights is a good idea and make sure that you aren’t exploited by those in power.

Some of the most practical for teenagers to be aware of are those guaranteed by the Fourth Amendment, the one that protects citizens from illegal search and seizure. The Supreme Court has ruled that the Fourth Amendment only applies if you can demonstrate that you have a reasonable expectation of privacy in the place or property that was searched. You don’t have a reasonable expectation of privacy for anything that you knowingly expose to the public. You do have a reasonable expectation of privacy in your own body, personal property, home, vehicle, or business office.

The following are the Fourth Amendment rights that apply most often to high school students.

**Home**

Your home is the place where you have the most rights. Police cannot search your house without your consent unless they have a warrant. To get a warrant, they need probable cause. Even if they have a warrant, it matters what kind of warrant it is. A search warrant allows police to enter your address and search the areas listed on the warrant. An arrest warrant allows them to enter the address if they think that the person listed on the warrant is inside. In 1961, Thomas E. Delson, a Watson attorney for the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), said that if someone else living in the house gave police permission to search, the police can search the common areas in the house (living room, shared bathrooms, kitchen, etc.). They can also search the private quarters of the person who gave them permission, but not the private quarters of the other person living in the house. However, parents can give consent to search their children’s rooms.

The owner of a building can give their consent to search the common areas of the building, but not a tenant’s house. And according to the doctrine of plain view, although police can’t search your house because of something they saw while on your property, they can search if they can see illegal items from public property, like the sidewalk. For example, if they saw guns or drugs through a window, that would give them probable cause to come and search your house.

**School**

The amount of evidence necessary to search a student in school is lower than outside of school because school officials operate under the locus parentis mandate, meaning “in place of a parent.” This means parents are the school’s custodian, and it is their duty to ensure the safety and well-being of the students. As a citizen, you should know not only your Fourth Amendment rights, but the rights guaranteed to you by state law. The following are the Fourth Amendment rights that apply most often to high school students.

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**How to ACE the APs**

Studying for APs is daunting. It’s a years worth of material to learn in just a few weeks. But don’t be afraid. There are lots of ways to study and do well on them. Here are a few options, pick what suits your learning style.

**If you like to feel prepared…**

Study a map out about a study or two before your exam. Every night read a little bit of your review book so you’re not overloaded with practice problems. If you have any questions or concepts you are confused about, ask your teacher or a classmate.

**If you like reading…**

In my experience the easiest way to do well on an AP exam in a class you spaced out in during the year is to buy two review books. Yes, that’s right. Buy two. They change cheap on Amazon, or you can be super cheap and sit in Books-a-Million or Barnes & Noble and read them right there. Ms. Bean also has review books available to borrow. All you have to do is do well on the exam is read any of those two books cover to cover. By reading two different books you will have a full picture of the subject and know everything there is to know!

**If you are a visual learner…**

Reading every word of your review books can be boring and it’s certainly not for everyone. Another way to study is to skim through your review book and for every bolded [or word in bold type] word you see, make a flash card. It will take a long time and can feel very tedious but by the end you will have a strong grasp of the subject and will be ready to ace your exam!

**Words of Wisdom from Teachers:**

"Start out buying a review book and the flashcards. But it’s important to do these things at the right time. The best time is when you’re least likely to need help from teacher once when a week when they do review sessions." - Ms. Geremia

"Don’t study the day before the test. Make sure you look at trends that have been focused on in the past because every standardized exam is a formula so you just need to focus on the content that has been most tested. Do little chunks at a time, don’t wait until May to start studying. Map it out. Eat a good breakfast and make sure you have a calculator and batteries (if you are taking a math AP)." - Ms. Tucker

"Make sure you’ve been attentive in class all year because the AP classes are taught to the test. Ask your teachers when refresher courses will be because all teachers that taught APs, even the ones that taught first semester will have refresher courses. Take advantage of them!" - Ms. Bean. She also has review books for the taking in the College and Career Center if you can’t afford to buy them!

**City Spots: Best Pizza**

Compiled by Martin Sakanoson and Aidan Caldwell

Pizza Kingdom, located in Brookland, is another jumbo slice joint. It offers regular pizza and wings and the jumbo slice is the best thing on the menu. What is different about this place is that it isn’t a fancy restaurant but it is just about the food, with no #tweeter or #instagram. Prices are fair for jumbo slices (around $6.1). The address is 3524 12th St NE Washington, DC 20017.

We the Pizza. With pizza recession hailing from across the world and some amazing buffalo wings in town, there is no doubt this is the work of a former “Top Chef” contestant, Pelle Dels. Prices are fairly high: $20 for a large pie. Located at 2007 14th St NW Washington, DC 20009.

H & Pizza is located on H Street, which is unli- mitley the busiest neighborhood in DC right now with all its hipster bars. This pizza place lets you pick your own ingredients, but not just the traditional items: they have exotic choices for an affordable price ($8.64 for a pie, they only have one size). The address is 1118 H St. NW Washington, DC 20002.
Mazlyn Ortiz is trying to tell me how she became deaf. But she can't stop laughing.

"When I was born, I had an issue...I basically ate sh—," she says, and the two friends sitting next to her erupt into giggles.

"There's like a medical term for it but I don't know how to pronounce it."

It's called Meconium Aspiration Syndrome, shortened to MAS, which is weirdly similar to the name that Ortiz goes by: Maz. MAS occurs when a baby ingests their feces before, during or after labor or delivery. "So when I came out...caused me to be like deaf. I wasn't breathing," Maz said. She had a 2% chance of survival.

Her medical problems didn't end there. "The nurse overrode me on the medicine, and the medicine screwed up both of my ears," as a result, she became deaf and developed asthma.

Her hearing problems, however, were not addressed by a doctor until she was 10 years old. Maz says that her mom knew something was wrong, but her doctor told them everything was fine. The doctors said she talked funny because she knocked out her front two teeth when she was three and they didn't grow back until she was nine.

"I couldn't talk until I was 4 years old," Maz said. "I formed my own language. It wasn't normal. She moved when she was 10 and saw a different doctor. They said 'like yeah, she's definitely deaf, and she's been getting more deaf since she was born.'"

"That's when Mazlyn started wearing hearing aids, much to her dismay. "All through middle school I didn't want to wear them. I threw them out and let cars run over them," she said with a guilty laugh. "They're like thousands of dollars... [My mom] was so mad."

She wears them in both ears without complaint now, but they are a lot more discreet than the big glittery ones she refused to wear in middle school. "I just wanted to be like everyone else and be normal," she said. "A lot of people made fun of me."

Maz's sister, who is a freshman at Deal, was like 'This is so incredible,'" laughs Maz.

"My hockey coach, when she was 10 and saw a different doc- tor. "They said 'like yeah, she's definitely deaf, and she's been getting more deaf since she was born.'"

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Maz says the friends she's made at Wilson are "the most supportive group of people I've been around."

Emily Kofsky, a close friend and fellow senior, said "She's really dedicated—to her friends, to her teammates, especially on the hockey team, to swimming. I could go on forever. Maz is awesome."

"She's really supportive," said Ailis Grosh, also a senior. "I'm the person who listens to everybody's problems," said Maz. "The three tell me about the time when Maz found out that Ailis had been asked out by a boy Maz had been trying to set her up with. "She cracked the window in Z-burger because she got so excited that she slammed her chair back into the window. She pulled up into a corner and was like 'This is so incredible,'" Ailis said."

"I just got excited, I don't know," laughs Maz.

Maz says her whole family is very dramatic. She has a brother who is a seventh grader at Deal, and a sister who is a freshman at Wilson. "They are very loud, very obvious. One time my mom was speaking to my dad by kicking it because she was mad at me."

Maz has an artistic streak, possibly inherited from her mother, who is an artist. It could also have to do with her hearing disability. "I'm really visual," she says. "I've been around."

Maz says that when she was younger, she liked art because it was the one activity where she never had to worry about the way she talked. Her top college choice is the Fashion Institute of Technology (FIT) in New York City, where she would like to study textiles.

"I've always had this dream of having my own baby line. I want to make my own baby clothes," she says. "I know, it's so random."

Strange as it might seem, Mazlyn thinks finding out she was deaf so late was actually a good thing. "I grew up thinking I was normal...If I'd have known when I was a lot younger, they probably would've made me go to special education all through elementary school, middle school. I don't even deal with that," she said. "I have to work like 10 times harder than everybody else. I grew up working that hard so I'm used to it."

Maz doesn't know sign language, except for the curse words. She does swimming, yoga, and field hockey. She takes AP classes and does well in school. If students are interested or would like to submit a design, contact Margaret Kellogg.

"I just get excited, I don't know," laughs Maz.

The designs will be created by students, is one of the most interesting classes at Wilson. In addition to not having any homework, it is a discussion based class, and students get to watch movies.

"The discussions involve alternatives to domestic violence, military violence, racism, genocide, homophobia, violence, homophobia, and violence towards animals, and it really should be called peace studies," McCarthy says. The purpose of the class is to offer information that each student can use to design a better world and increase peace.

In addition to discussing different issues, McCarthy brings in many interesting guest speakers, including one urban farmer who saw hip-hop as a religion, and others who have never had of different experiences that relate to the class. In the words of McCarthy, "Each of us has the opportunity to be a conscious citizen. Social Issues offers methods and skills to do that."
Maybe my hopes were too high for this movie. Seth Gordon, the director, had previously directed Horrible Bosses, one of my favorite comedies in recent memory. Identity Thief reteams him with Jason Bateman, this time paired with Melissa McCarthy, everyone’s unstable darling after her breakout role in Bridesmaids two years ago. The story centers on an ordinary guy played by Bateman who, due to his female name, Sandy, gets his identity stolen by a woman, played by McCarthy.

One of William Shakespeare’s most beloved comedies, the play follows the young heroine Rosalind as she flees her uncle’s court with her cousin Celia and finds herself in the mysterious Forest of Arden. Quickly, the girls find themselves entangled in a web of elaborate disguises, love triangles and mistaken identities. They also come across some colorful characters in the woods, including the melancholy Jaques, who’s famous monologue “All the world’s a stage” is one of the most celebrated in theatrical history. It is a play about self-discovery, about gender roles in a changing world and more than anything, exploring the ever-ambiguous meaning of love. This rendition is set in the post-great depression, bluegrass-fueled American backcountry, 1938. It is being directed by Harriet Bronstein along with assistant director Jill Roos.

Show dates are March 14th, 15th and 16th at 7:30 pm in the Blackbox theater, with a special matinee performance at 2:00 pm on the 16th. Tickets are $5 for students and $15 for adults. Contact wilsondramatickets@gmail.com for information on purchasing tickets in advance.

By Jackson Ross
Staff Writer

Identity Thief is a Bust
Latest Blockbuster Reviewed

He has to go and drag her back to Colorado or confess to his crime or he’ll lose his job and go to jail for not paying his bills. The entire idea that she has to be in Colorado to be charged with identity theft is ludicrous. Granted, this is a dumb comedy, and reality isn’t that important, but it makes you mad at the movie. Bateman and McCarthy do their best, and they genuinely have very good chemistry, which is important, since most of the movie is just the two of them interacting with each other. They keep the film from being a total bust, but even they can’t elevate the stale jokes and slow pace. They interact with tons of different characters on the road, who all try their best, and a couple succeed, especially Modern Family’s Eric Stonestreet as a fat redneck who takes a shine to Melissa McCarthy’s character.

It’s clear nobody is phoning anything in. Bateman and McCarthy try their best, and they do make some of the better jokes work well. It’s just that their material isn’t that good. It’s not necessarily a very bad movie, it’s just mediocre. I had forgotten about it by the time I got home from the theater. Only go if you’re a fan of McCarthy’s schtick.
If you could change Wilson’s mascot, what would it be?

- A Maverick
  Dennis Maler 12 and Jessica Hernandez 12

- A Chinchilla
  Bella Heffernan 9 and Maude LaVaute 9

- An Albino Tiger
  Chris Bock 9

- Da Wilson Bait
  Lillie Carlson 12, Eliza Hamburger 12, and Kelly Sherman 12

- Alpacas (Michael Bayliss 9, Rahsaan Martinez 9, and Duncan Fitzgerald 9)
  Chicken Wings (Seamus Lynch 9)
  Flamingos (Corey Brown 9)
  BEASTS (Brandon Webster 9)

- 100 Dollar Bill
  Raquel Clark 10

- An Otter
  Maddy Taub 11

- A Pig
  Gabriela Maza 10 and Azalie Rivera 12

- A Pair of Foams
  Imhotep Bradley 12, Kyara Salmon 10, and Matthew Yeso 10