

THE SURVEYOR

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The Senior Issue



THE LEGACY OF DP

Surveyor Staff (As Babies)



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Bryan Ennis



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Isaac Gomez



Gabe Greco



Miguel Jacobo



Ben Janssen



Seth Keppler



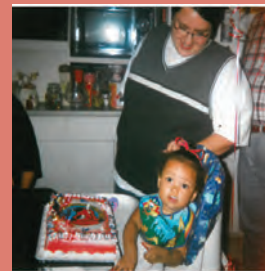
Jessie Koozer



Sophie Lindwall



Grace McKinstry



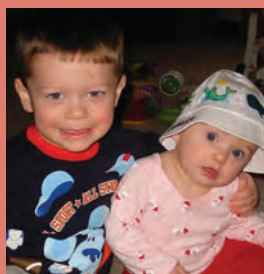
Jaydin McMickle



Paris McNutt



Lindsay Gordon



Abby Thronson



Kaden Fields

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Paris McNutt

Co-Editor-in-Chief

Letter from the Editors

Welcome to the final issue for the class of 2019. This issue is a special one, focusing on the class of 2019 and the past four years at this school. In our staffbox for the issue, we have the traditional last issue baby photos, so enjoy how cute we all were.

We have columns written by the seniors currently on the Surveyor Staff as well as two special guest columnists. Superlatives have always been our readers' favorite, make sure to check that out! Our feature this issue is focused on Doctor Plagman (DP) and his legacy here at Wash. This graduating class is the last class that he oversaw. DP was a giant part of people's views and memories of Wash, so we felt that the relationship between him and the teachers and students should be documented.

Lastly, this issue is dedicated to Kyle Phillips, our fearless advisor. He has pushed us to excel in journalism and put the best content out there to our readers. The entire staff will miss him and we appreciate what he has done for us. And from us on a more personal level, thank you Mr. Phillips for choosing the two of us to be the next Editors-in-Chief, and for reassuring us that next year will still be okay without you here. Good luck with your new adventures, but we will never forgive you for not inviting us to your wedding.

-Paris McNutt and Abby Thronson

Cover by Gabe Greco

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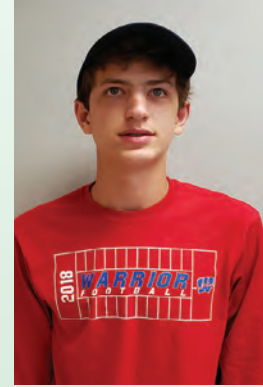
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SCRANTON AREA PAPER COMPANY DUNDER MIFFLIN APOLOGIZES TO VALUED CLIENT; SOME COMPANIES STILL KNOW HOW BUSINESS IS DONE.

Scranton area paper company dropped the ball, the bat and the mitten quality assurance according to business guru, author of "Somehow I manage", and writer, director and lead in hit movie "Threat Level Midnight". The regional manager of the scranton branch of the paper company Dunder Mifflin held a press conference to apologise to a customer whose paper had a disturbing watermark of a cartoon duck and mouse doing unspeakable things. Over 500 boxes of this tarnished paper was distributed, some of it going to the local Dunmore high school. Dunmore high used this paper to print their prom invitations, enraging parents and faculty.

That is the story I am most proud of writing over my three and a half years on staff. My life has become an endless stream of obscure references to a show that started before I was five, and I don't really mind. Although this is intended to be a more satirical column because those that are way too serious bore me, there is one thing I must address. Last year at the end of the year I was sent a text that a friend of mine who lives in Michigan had mentioned me in a speech he wrote, reminiscing about our childhood, so I chose enact my revenge now. I am doing so by calling him out in a more public situation so I can thank him for being such a reliable friend and

helping be grow into the person I am today.



Ben Janssen

EXIT STAGE LEFT

"Sorry I have a show." or "Actually I can't I have practice," have been common phrases I have used for the past three years of high school, and it shows what I did and what I wish I would've done in high school.

"Sorry I can't go to the football game I have a show tonight." I swear I've said one thousand times and I just want to say now "Go Warriors!"

"Sorry, I'm going to miss homecoming, I have a show." Two homecomings I missed due to being in a show, hope you saved me a dance.

"I can't hang out until after practice." or "Nope sorry, I can't hang out this weekend." Those sentences spewed out of my mouth several times and I just want to apologize to the people I could never spend time with. I love you guys to death!

"Sorry I can't come to your birthday I have a show." To mom, Jensin and friends birthday I couldn't celebrate.

Happy late birthday!

But all of that shaped my high school career for the better. I wouldn't change a thing. I enjoyed my time at Washington and at Theatre Cedar Rapids.

It was so awesome when people at school recognized me from shows and would come out to support me.

Thanks Mrs. Schmelzer for attempting to see me in Joseph! I am so sorry that I fell off the stage the night before and was on crutches!

Thank you to all the friends I met at TCR that are my friends at school! Love you Liv and Jaeden!

Shoutout to my mom, and grandparents who would drive me from school events to shows, and back to school!

Thank you to Kaylea, Madison, Hunter, and Alex who always pushed me to go try out for shows.

Thank you Washington High School!

You shaped me into the person I am today and let me do everything I wanted to do. You let me be who I wanted to be in and out of the walls of Wash!

As written in Billy Eliot "What the hell's wrong with expressing yourself?"



Jaydin McMickle

CONQUER LIFE

I have insecurities. There are things about myself that I hate. Quite frequently my mind will wander off thinking about how nice it would be to excel at everything. But at the end of the day, I'm me. And slowly but surely I'm learning that being me is not such a bad thing.

It's crazy to think that out of the billions of people on Earth, there's only one me. No one else in the entire world is exactly like me. I'm extremely unique. And that goes for you, too. You're not just one in a million. You're one in billions.

It is often at times we find ourselves to be our worst enemy. We put ourselves down and think we're never good enough. But as I continue to experience life, I'm becoming more and more aware of how special we

really are. There has been no one in the past that was exactly like us and there will never be anyone in the future that's exactly like us. Yet we compare ourselves to others. We're so quick to look at other people's traits and ask ourselves why we don't have them.

As I finish up my remaining weeks of high school, I find myself excited and ready for the future. I take pride in knowing I have something to contribute to the world that no one else does. I'm slowly learning to accept myself for the person I am. I'm becoming proud of being imperfect. And if I was to leave my fellow Warriors off with some advice, it would simply be to experience life to the fullest. (Intense motivational music starts.) I hate to sound like the cliché motivational speaker, but that's

all it really comes down to. Don't worry about what other people think. Be proud of who you are. Go out and conquer life. (Intense motivational music stops.)



Bryan Ennis

STUPID IS AS STUPID DOES

What do you know? What do I know? The sky is blue, grass is green, and the cow goes moo. But who said moo? And which cow was the first to moo? You can never know. Not knowing is knowing, it is knowing that you don't know. He who knows nothing knows something, and man who goes to bed with itchy butt wakes up with smelly finger. How bad did it smell?

Smelly things smell bad, but how do you know what is really bad? Cell towers. People always complain about a fart. Fart smart. What will happen when we reach 5G? The end is in front of us, but nowadays everyone is too preoccupied with Fortnite and ASMR. Farts only stink if you smell them, but cell towers are always on. Coincidence? I think not.

I really need to reach three hundred and fifty words for this story, but don't tell Mr. Phillips I wrote that. Don't let him read it either. I trust you. You're

loyal. You're beautiful.

This is the one hundred and seventy-first word, my favorite word. I think that books are better without punctuation, it leaves a lot more for the imagination. I wish people would take my advice more. You, take my advice: do not take my advice.

Over four years in a place like Wash, I realized something: people are stupid. That's not a bad thing and I condemn my peers for helping me realize this. Some people are just straight up peanut brained, but that's okay because they won't be reading this. Other people are stupid but only because they aren't me. I am stupid because I am not you. That's stupid. Life is stupid. The only thing that can't be stupid is you, stupid. If you were stupid, then everyone would be smart, and you shouldn't listen to anyone.

Almost there. It has been a long journey to this point, I'm disappointed

it took this long. I really had to think to write something this stupid. How stupid. People are probably gonna say I'm stupid for writing something so stupid. No stupid, you're stupid. I am smart. Three hundred and fiftieth word.



Seth Keppler

A POEM



Gabe Greco

Surveyor has been fun
Even though sometimes I want to be done
With school
But I guess it's cool

This class can be lit
Because all the uncool kids quit
Except for Matthew

I mostly just take pics
I'm always looking at the clock hoping it ticks

Wandering 'round first lunch
With my camera 'round my neck
It's making my spine crunch

Lemme ask you a favor
Can I get some more flavor

I don't know what to write
I need that bulb above my head to get a light

I put a photo of a kid with a juul
On the cover of a magazine for my school

When LA teachers read this they'll be sad
But I still know they'll think I'm rad ;)

Senior year is almost a wrap
And I'm starting to not a give a crap

But don't get it twisted
Because I still do

All I'm sayin is ...
It has been cool

A COLLECTION OF QUOTES



Miguel Jacobo

Quotes that I'm putting here because I don't know what to write so here it is! If miraculously one of these helps you in some way, well, job done eh?

"We're not retreating, we're advancing in a different direction." - Lewis Brindley

"I've never aligned with this city's pulse so that makes it easier to leave behind." - Jessi Mason, Castaway by Grant

"Times up let's do this!" - Ben Schulz (Leeroy Jenkins)

"My name is Jeff." - Channing Tatum, 22 Jump Street

"We're all just dust in the wind dude." - Keanu Reeves (Ted Theodore Logan), Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventure

"I have the high ground!" - Ewan McGregor (Obi-Wan Kenobi), Star Wars Episode III

"My ancestors are smiling at me Imperial, can you say the same?" - Random Stormcloak, Skyrim

"Snap into a Slim Jim®!" - Randy Savage

"So long and thanks for all the fish!" - The Dolphins, The Hitchhiker's Guide to The Galaxy

"You're not wrong..." - Me

Guest Columnists

THE LIFE OF A 100% FULLY FLEDGED SURVEYOR MEMBER



Quintin Gay

Ahh, the famed senior column. The moment that every Surveyor senior staff member looks forward to. The opportunity to finally, after all these years of slaving away to Mr. Phillips and the deathly strain of the 24 hour news cycle in The Surveyor lab, share a piece of my mind.

You, my dedicated readers (and fellow journalists), may be thinking to yourself at this point, "Quintin?! Quintin Gay?! That fool? He isn't in Surveyor! How did he manage to finagle himself a senior column?" Still, unbeknownst to many, deep in the secrets of The Surveyor archive one can find record of my presence in the staff Snapchat

group chat. That's right, kids. I've been here all along.

I've been here for it all. I've been here for Ben Janssen tormenting Sophie Lindwall with pictures of himself attempting to kiss Joe Jonasson. I've been here for Gabe Greco making it very clear that he is not an exceptionally productive member of the Chick-Fil-A employees. I've been here for Kaden Fields sending pictures and videos to which not a single of the other 13 members respond. I've been here for Seth Keppler sharing delicious pictures of food while asking what happened today while he was skipping Surveyor. I've been here to notice Bryan Ennis lurking in the shadows, seen but never heard from. I've been here for Miguel Jacobo's near constant commentary on all that is said.

There was also that time I found myself in the back closet of the

Surveyor lab with Ben and Gabe, wearing nothing but a sequined tube-top and green satin harem pants while the flash of Gabe's camera temporarily blinded me. But that was a one time thing.

Regardless of all previously said, I could not be prouder of my school's newspaper, and the students that dedicate their time to make it the phenomenon it is. There is no thrill which compares to that of the newest issue, hot off the press, being delivered to your classroom. It's one of those Washington High School staples which make this building into the second home we all cherish. With that, I will be signing off for the last, and first time.

Your respected first-ever-honorary journalist,
Quintin Gay.



Olivia Kennedy

There are a million great things I could say about Washington High School. I'm so grateful to have spent the last four years here with such an incredible student body. Reflecting on my time at Wash, I have realized that this school is really something special, and there are a plethora of reasons why "It's a Great Day to be a Warrior" is proudly donned on our main doors.

At Wash, I have learned quite a bit about many different things. I could tell you quite a bit about what's inside Foner's US History textbook and I can recant what the three branches of

IT'S A GREAT DAY TO BE A WARRIOR

government do, but the most important things I've learned have not been taught in a classroom. I have compiled a short list of advice that I would like to give to any underclassmen that wish to take it.

1. Take advantage of Kirkwood and concurrent enrollment!! It's the freest form of college credit!

2. AVOID the foyer during marching band performances and after school

3. The survey on the bottom of the Bruegger's receipt usually gets you three free bagels ;)

4. ALWAYS GO TO JAMNESTY & WRITE FOR RIGHTS

5. Start and join as many different clubs as you can (definitely do Amnesty)

6. Get involved in the community as much as possible

7. Finally, support your fellow

Warriors in all their endeavors! Don't skip assemblies, show up at sporting events, and go to art shows! You'll be surprised at how fun they actually are.

There is truly an environment of love and support here. This has been shown in so many different situations. From teachers taking time out of their days to highfive students as they enter the building to people spending their Friday nights in the Little Theatre observing a variety of their classmates' arts, there are so many instances where this community has shown each other exactly what it means to be a warrior.

I'm incredibly proud to graduate from such an amazing place. I'm going to miss Wash a lot, but I'm excited to see where all of my classmates and future classes go.

I. Can't. Stress. This. Enough. It is ALWAYS a great day to be a Warrior.

SENIOR SUPERLATIVES

MOST LIKELY TO SKIP



Logan Bowers, Jack Conley,
Laurynn Porazil (not in photo)

CLASS CLOWN



Walker Ochs, Rimmy
Nemickas (not in photo)

END UP WITH 30 CATS



Julia Narhi-Martinez, Emma
Hoover-Grinde, Emma Barton-
Norris (not in photo)

BEST HAIR



Van Novak, Noah Butler, June
Landa, Sami Squires

LEAST SEPERABLE BFFS



Van Novak, Gabe Greco



Kendall Stenseth and
herself

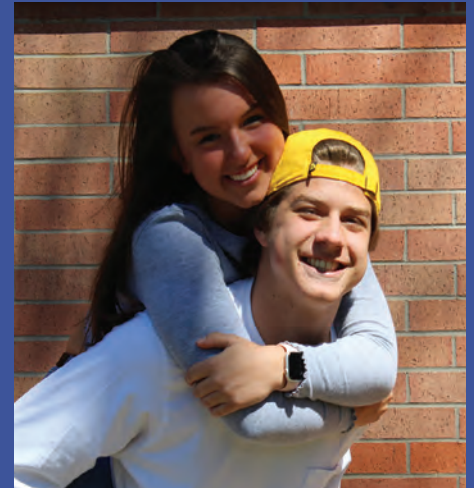


Mira Selk, Jarrett Dulin.

MOST LIKELY TO GET MARRIED



Julia Narhi-Martinez,
Emma Hoover-Grinde



Claire Stevens, Erik Lenzen

FASHION ICONS



Grace Neumann, Audrey
Fashimpaur, Grant Knutson
and Lauren Pakulis

HAVE THEIR OWN REALITY TV SHOW



Shaylinn Hard, Walker
Ochs, Natalie Novak

BIGGEST FLIRTS



Mick McCurry, Ben Lagrange
Ally Bemus, and Grace Dewolf

MOST LIKELY TO WIN THE NOBEL PEACE PRIZE



Quintin Gay, Olivia Kennedy,
Regan Gorman, Chloe Hamer

MOST LIKELY TO WIN AN OSCAR



Paul Linville, Van Novak,
Audrey Fashimpaur, Ally
Bemus

Keaton Woods, Rami
Scheetz, Caitlin Riley
(not in picture)

MOST LIKELY TO GO PRO



WORST CASE OF SENIORITIS



Jack Conley, Logan Bowers

MOST LIKELY TO CRY AT GRADUATION



Grace Dewolf,
Audrey Fashim-
paur, Izzie Wilcox,
Jacob Cacioppo

MOST LIBERAL



Olivia Kennedy, Walker Ochs,
Dean Wibe

MOST CONSERVATIVE



Mary Weston, Bennett
Cooper

MOST LIKELY TO WIN A GRAMMY



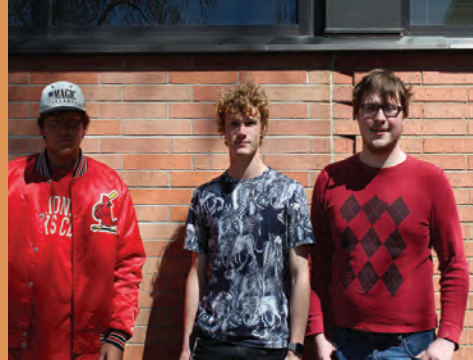
Grace Dewolf, Natalie Novak-
Bryan Ennis, Connor Wilson

MOST LIKELY TO GET A PHD



Ben Goodall, Nicholas Garrelts,
Michael Davenport, Quintin Gay

MOST LIKELY TO START A BUSINESS



Grant Knutson, Alex
Wickham, Ben
Goodall

MOST LIKELY TO GET RICH



Grant Knutsen, Bennett
Cooper, Mary Weston

Brandon Needelman,
Jayden McMickle,
Tavius Sykora-Matthess
(not in picture)

MOST LIKELY TO BE TIK TOK FAMOUS



BIGGEST GLOW UP



Paul Linville, Quintin
Gay, Ben Janssen

MOST LIKELY TO GET VERIFIED



Grace Neumann, Natalie Novak,
Laurynn Porazil (not in picture)

MOST STRESSED

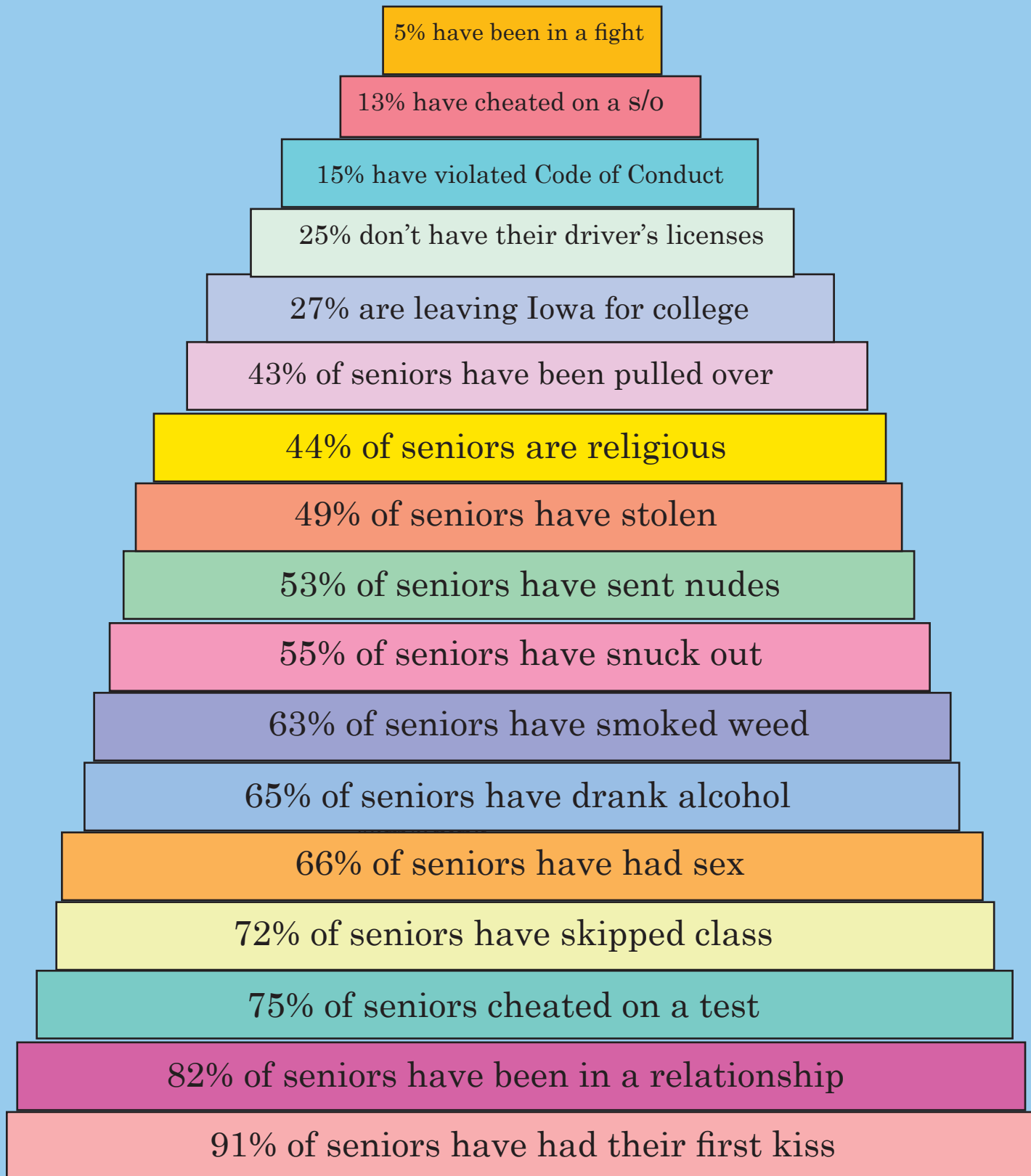


Izzie Wilcox, Harmon
Drexler

STRIVING AWARDS

1. Most likely to break both their arms- Walker Ochs
2. Most likely to miss school for three years- Travis Metzger
3. Most likely to be a weatherman on tv- Harmon Drexler
4. Most likely to get bullied on a Monday (and for his last name)- Quintin Gay
5. Most Positive- Darshaun Smith
6. Most excited for sports assemblies- Paul Schneidermann
7. Most likely to be President- Olivia Kennedy
8. Most likely to get their named yelled at an assembly- Jasper Green
9. Most likely to have a twin sister people like more than you- Jack Peckosh
10. Most likely to bike to Kingston from Mount Vernon- Jack Conley
11. Most likely to get free Panch- Hashim Herz
12. Most likely to wear a tree costume to homecoming- Emma Barton Noris
13. Most likely to tell people about their boyfriend from Kennedy- Mary Weston
14. Most likely to outshine their twin sister in choir- Mara Westphalen
15. Most ethereal- Grace Neumann
16. Most likely to have invented Finstas- Natalie Novak
17. Most likely to heely down the hallways- Brandon Needleman
18. Most likely to have four nipples- Khory Nobles
19. Most likely to always have a rubiks cube but lose in a competition in front of the school- Isaac Twedt Ball
20. Most likely to be Walker Ochs' cousin- Kellen Ochs
21. Most likely to fall asleep during class- Connor Wilson
22. Most likely to have a dad people like more than you- Jeremy Thronson
23. Most like Squidward Tentacles- Tyler Cruise
24. Most like Patrick Star- Alex Wickham
25. Most likely to not sit down- Sami Squires
26. Most likely to always have their name mispronounced- Roscian Wade
27. Most likely to sell you Yeezys- Grant Knutson
28. Most likely to beat you in a rap battle- Chris Klepach (a.k.a CK Fire)
29. Most likely to tell you he plays the tuba- Michael Davenport
30. Most likely to slither- Jake Sanders
31. Most likely to spell their name wrong- Brian Ennis

Senior Survey



Job Well Done Class of 2019!

The Surveyor would like to congratulate the class of 2019!

To Harmon Drexler

"Job well done, Harmon! We are very proud of everything you have accomplished these last four years at Wash. Your open enrollment was the best decision you made. We are glad you loved band and German during all 4 years." Congrats and all our love - Mom, Dad, and Gram

To Benjamin Goodall

Ben,
You've always been curious and blessed with a drive to learn and through this you have accomplished so much. We couldn't be prouder of you! And, this is just the start! We can't wait to see what you'll tackle next. We love you.
10/10 XO Love, Mom & Dad

To Ben Janssen, David Hebrink, Jeremy Thronson, Quintin Gay, and Tyler Cruise

"The Boys": They are an incredible group of young men who are leaders in the classroom, in music groups, on sports teams and in many organizations at Washington. Congratulations Ben, David, Jeremy, Quintin and Tyler-go do great things! We are proud of you!

To Audrey Fashimpaur

Congratulations on surviving four years packed with marching and miming, singing and sewing, playing Poppy, playing basketball, painting sets and shoes, speaking and miming, hosting our Japanese sisters, dancing, drumming, and donating (blood), and being a big-hearted friend and a hard-working (albeit procrastinating) student. - your Moms & Dads

To Seth Keppler

We are so proud of the commitment and enthusiasm you have shown to Surveyor. We have enjoyed taking part in the restaurant reviews (besides just paying for it- ha!) You really surprised us with your amazing, descriptive dining critiques! You should feel very proud of your accomplishments as a student at WHS. We love you and the young man you have become. xoxo Mom and Dad

To Olivia Barnhill

You did it young lady! We are all so proud of you. Your resilience and perseverance has been impressive!
Can't wait to see what you do next.

To Dominique Martin



Mom is so proud of this little cutie. Enjoy UI next year. Your dad would be so proud of you.

The Legacy of DP



Benjamin Janssen
Editor-in-Chief

Photo courtesy of
Impact
Photography

As Graduation looms ever closer, and as the seniors prepare to walk across the stage on May 25, there will be one man who is notably absent.

Dr. Ralph Plagman served as Wash's principal for 35 years until he resigned following the 2016 school year amidst an infamous scandal. The last class he oversaw is now preparing to finish high school and we want to revisit the legacy of this man.

In his letter of resignation, Plagman says he was asked to resign by district officials as a result of the sexual relationship between a substitute teacher, Mary Beth Haglin, and a 17-year-old student. Former district spokeswoman, Marcia Hughes, told *The Gazette*, "The statement represents Dr. Plagman's perception of events and is not an official District statement. ...Since the District's investigation into this matter has not concluded, the district will not substantively comment on Dr. Plagman's statement."

Plagman investigated Haglin's conduct when it was first brought to his attention with another administrator. This investigation lasted one day. It wasn't until a few months later that Plagman brought this to the attention of the district when a video of Haglin and the student was posted on a

social media network.

Despite this, Plagman retired after serving the district for 49 years and as Washington's Principal since the 1981-82 school year. "I love Washington High School, where I have been principal for 35 years and one month, and all of the thousands of students, staff members, and parents whom I have been blessed to know and serve over all of those years. It has been tremendous honor and joy! I also have wonderful memories of my earlier years at Kennedy High School and Metro High School. In my retirement I will continue to be the #1 fan of the Washington Warriors!" Plagman wrote in his letter of resignation.

Since his resignation, Plagman's name has seemingly become taboo, rarely spoken throughout the halls, and if his name is brought up, it's followed by silence. This is because, despite a large support from the seniors and students he taught, there is a lot of controversy still surrounding his name. The question must be asked, does he deserve this?

Following his retirement, current and former students were outraged. So much so a rally was held at Washington, with attendees chanting and holding signs supporting their former principal. Izzie Wilcox, '19, had

just completed her freshman year when Plagman retired. She attended the rally with her brother and father, both Wash grads. "We just wanted to try and express to people outside of the Wash community what DP (a nickname given to Plagman) meant to us. It was a very cool experience because people from all areas of Wash came together to share our admiration for Dr. Plagman," Wilcox, '19, said.

Plagman was beloved by his students due to the attention and care he had for them. "DP knew every single student's name and what they were involved in. He would go out of his way to speak to students about the different activities they were doing and personally congratulate them for different accomplishments. He never played favorites, and made even the smallest clubs feel valuable and a part of the Warrior community," Wilcox said.

Plagman was always remembered by his students even years after their graduation. Tom Wilcox, a 1992 Wash grad, stood outside the school while supporting his son and daughter who were rallying. "I pictured his last year as a series of applause and celebration, a victory lap," Tom told *The Gazette*.

After Plagman's departure, the school was left hurt and confused. The principal who represented Washington for so many years would no longer be there. "I know people fault him for many things and I know that like every human he had his issues, but all in all, I would not come out and say that he was a bad leader for this school. I think he did a lot for Washington High School and his departure damaged the spirit of Washington, not him personally, but that he was let go. We miss him," Sarah Swayze, a Wash special education teacher, said. "It's become a struggle for senior students to adapt. You're stuck at this thing that you're happy to be graduating and your stuck knowing that this man isn't going to be leading your graduation."

It was tough for students and teachers move on and try to let go of the past. "I was very angry and bitter. Once the realization hit, yeah he's not going to be here, I realized that we all need to step up. He can't be replaced by anybody, a single person at all. We all need to lift our game up to keep this train moving along," Robert Thronson, a Wash math teacher and parent of two Wash students, said.

Plagman was a man with a vision for this school. He knew what he wanted the school to look like and be known for, so everything he did was to promote his vision and make this school ideal for every student. Plagman worked towards his vision by promoting Advanced Placement (AP) testing and advanced courses. He made every student feel welcome and important, without any bias. "The thing that I'm discovering I liked most about him, was that he had a really clear vision of what he thought our school was about, and everything he did was intended to support that vision," Adam Witte, Wash English department chair, said.

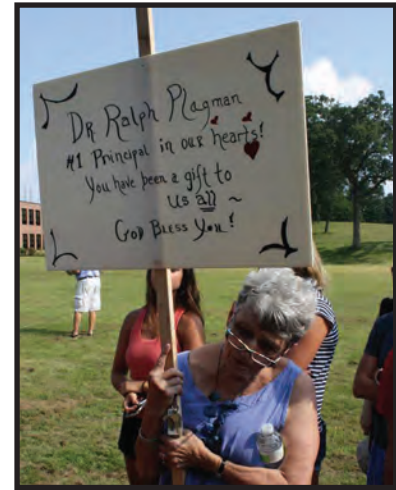
Plagman cannot be mentioned without talking about his support and the relentless push he had towards AP

testing. Washington has sat atop the AP index for the past 9 years largely due to the determination Plagman had to get every student to participate in difficult classes. Plagman would show a massive thermometer on the announcements everyday and fill it up as more people signed up for AP tests. He would speak directly to the students, urging individuals to sign up for more tests. Plagman also would provide numerous incentives for students. Plagman made AP testing part of the Washington culture. "Dr. Plagman had a vision for what our school needed to be, and part of that vision was we need to keep the kids at the top. We need to keep the top high achieving students, who honestly have a choice of where to go to school, to keep them here, we need to serve them better than the other schools that they could choose to go to. So his push for AP was part of a bigger plan on keeping kids here who had a choice, keeping families here who had a choice," Thronson said.

A common sight for young freshman in their first days of high school was Plagman walking into random classes and taking a seat at a desk. Then as if it were planned for weeks, the teacher would hand him a seating chart. Plagman would then sit in the class studying the seating chart, memorizing names and connecting those names to faces. He would then return the seating chart and venture off.

Plagman legitimately cared about every student that stepped into his school so much that he'd work hard to memorize every single student's name and what activities they are involved in so they'd feel welcome at Wash. "He cared for every single person. He used to come into my room at the beginning of the year, because we have large freshman classes, and ask me for a seating chart and he'd sit in the back of the class room and memorize names. Then when he was out in the hallway he'd genuinely

Person rallying in support of Dr. Plagman by Kyle Phillips



say to somebody 'Hello Sally! Nice job in the soccer game last night, and good luck in the concert tonight' so he just had a very caring heart and it was genuine," Peter Westphalen, '86, and current Wash choir director, said.

DP loved to recognize even the smallest accomplishments. What made it so special was how proud he was of his students. Whenever someone did something that he thought deserved recognition, he did so with genuine pride. "I think that he was incredibly highly respected by staff. I knew that his expectations of the choir department were extremely high, however his support was so great that you wanted to please him, and when you did something that represented Washington in a great way. I'm talking anything- I'm talking IJAG, I'm talking choir, band, athletics, student senate. Anybody did something, he was excellent at recognizing their efforts, so he instilled a huge sense of pride in being a Washington Warrior," Westphalen said.

Even after his retirement, Plagman still recognizes and congratulates Warriors successes as much as possible. "DP knew everybody's kids, he knew every kid here, what they were active in, he talked to them whenever he saw them, whether it was in school or out of school. And even

after he left he knew what my kids were involved in, and when somebody would be in the paper for something good he would make sure to let us know," Thronson said.

Plagman helped push the students at Wash to achieve their potential, especially students of color. In January 2016, Washington was one of four schools in Iowa to be honored with the Breaking Barriers Award for African-American students. This award was given by the State of Iowa. Wash was honored based on statistics from the past three years, during that time period.

Fifty-four percent of African-American students statewide were proficient in reading and math, while 74% of African-American students at Wash were proficient in these same subjects. Washington was the first high school to win this award and as of 2018 is one of just two high schools to have been awarded this for African-American achievement. "He prioritized making sure cultural diversity, especially embracing our racial diversity, was not a problem to be solved, it was a priority to be embraced, it was our greatest strength, and so I knew who we were and I valued that," Witte said.

CDO, an annual cultural diversity workshop, is an event that highlights the cultural differences of students at the school. Although there are many people that have helped make this into a major part of the Wash school year, Plagman did a lot to help this activity grow. "He pushed for [CDO], he fought that, even when the district was trying to get rid of it, he fought for that. The district did not what that to continue, Dr Plagman fought for many years to keep that going. It is because of him that that has stayed here as long as it has, because he fought for it, he saw it as an important part of representing every student that was in this building," Swayze said.

Another group that Plagman supported was the GSA (Gay Straight

Alliance). Although he is not the only person to thank for this group he, helped support it in the early stages so it could become a beneficial group for the school. "The gay straight alliance, he made sure that that was here, that it was supported. He made sure that every student had a place to belong. He was considerate, a very considerate man," Swayze said.

Plagman wanted every member of the Wash community to feel like they were a part of something and that they were supported. He did this by attending everything, Plagman had a superhuman ability to seemingly be at two places at once. He went above and beyond what was asked of him to make sure everyone was welcome. "Having him at every game just told the kids how important they were and every music thing and just everything, he was everywhere all the time. Insane. Since he's left, I've tried to go to as many things as I possibly can, I don't know how he did it. I can't keep that schedule, going here, going there. There are multiple activities every night he would make sure he was at," Thronson said.

A part of Plagman's personality that drew the staff and students towards him was how easy he was to talk to about any issue you may have. If someone wanted to talk to Plagman then he would make time and he would never forget a meeting. "This is what amazed me about Dr. Plagman, he attended everything, but yet always had time for everyone, and never made you feel rushed when you were meeting with him," Westphalen said.

Plagman was a person that drew respect and admiration from almost everyone that interacted with him because he was a person that genuinely love this school and every person inside of it. "I love the man, I don't always agree with him, we would

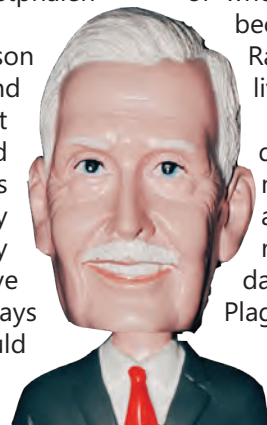
often have discussions where it would be like 'I'm not sure we're doing this right', but he would always tell me why he felt he was doing it correctly and it would always be in the best interest of the kids. Always in the best interest of the kids," Thronson said.

Without Plagman, Washington High School would be drastically different. Plagman made Washington a school that is respected and revered, he led this school to becoming one of the best in the state and country. "He put us on the map, we can very easily be an urban high school. He put us on the map. When you say you work at Washington High School people say, 'oh wow', or when I say my kids graduated from Washington High School, 'wow'," Thronson said.

Although Plagman no longer comes to Wash everyday his legacy lives on. His spirit lives inside every student that had the privilege of learning under him, and for those who never studied under him. The teachers he hired will continue to preach his beliefs and ideas while promoting the growth of the school as it becomes something better than even Plagman could've hoped for.

"That's part of what continues to live on. All these people that he brought together, this cohort of teachers, and it's not like Doc Jones teaches the same way as Mr. Kleman who teaches the same way as Mr. Scherrman, those are really different people but they're all excellent and when you're surrounded by people that are excellent, you want to be excellent. So I think that's part of where his spirit lives on, is just because this is the house that Ralph built, and we continue to live in it," Witte said.

There may be a day in the distant future that Plagman's name holds no real meaning at this school, one thing will remain constant, "It's a great day to be a Warrior!" -Dr. Ralph Plagman.



Best of



- Mr. Hilton
- Cheese Club
- 3 day weekends
- Star Wars
- Puppies
- TED Talks
- Senior skip day
- Polio vaccine
- Rookie cuts
- Playtime Poppy
- Grad parties
- Freedom
- Summer
- Vacations
- Ice cream trucks
- 4th of July
- Sleeping in
- No homework
- 4/20
- Kahoot
- Spring
- Microsoft Paint
- Rain
- Mr. Michael Moran

- Parking in Jock lot
- 4 fights in 1 day
- APUSH notes
- Math
- Terrorism
- Due dates
- Songs ruined by radio
- Long assemblies
- Damn Daniel
- 1st Ave construction
- Spring cleaning
- Sunburns
- Sunbaked car seats
- Humidity
- iLearning
- Freshmen drivers
- People stopping in the middle of the hall
- Inconsistent schedule
- Things costing money
- 2015
- 2016
- 2017
- 2018
- 2019 (probably)



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Roses and Thorns graphic by
Audrey Fashimpaur '19

mission

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by Gabe Greco

