

CAT TALK



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King leaving Millbrook throne behind



By Hannah Bailey
SECTION EDITOR

After 12 years as the principal of Millbrook High School, Dana King has decided to retire. Mrs. King was named principal in 2003. She has decided to retire, so she could spend more time with her family. Mrs. King attended Miami University (Ohio), where she earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Education. She then went on to Xavier University, where she received her Master's in School Administration. She has taught

Language Arts and English in California, Massachusetts, and Ohio before coming to North Carolina. Before she became Millbrook's principal in 2003, Mrs. King was assistant principal at East Millbrook Magnet Middle, and she taught at Athens Drive High School and Sanderson High School. Mrs. King has won many awards during her ca-

reer as an administrator including 1995 Wake County Public School

the Year and 2010 WCPSS Principal of the Year. Junior Joe Smith said, "Millbrook is a great school because of Mrs. King and all of the hard work she has put into making our school the best it can be." Through the years, many things have changed at Millbrook.

Teachers and students have come and gone, but Mrs. King has been a constant here. You can see her at a variety of Millbrook events from football games to band concerts. She has guided Millbrook through schedule changes and becoming an International Baccalaureate and magnet school. Millbrook has been named a 2013 National Magnet School of Excellence and one of the nation's best through her time here. Mrs. King is responsible for assembling her administrative team. She has also hired all, but one of Millbrook's department chairs. Mrs. King has been a part of the Millbrook community long before her time as principal since both of her children attended Millbrook. She is proud to be a



Photo by H. Bailey

After 12 years as principal, Mrs. King has decided to retire. She has been Millbrook's principal since 2003, and the school underwent major changes under her tenure, including becoming an International Baccalaureate school.

Mrs. King has won many awards during her ca-

Systems' Assistant Principal of

things have changed at Millbrook.

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Altering more than just prom dresses



By Brittany Hubbard
STAFF REPORTER

Dresses are not the only thing being altered this prom season! One of the many things that students look forward to is attending prom during the spring. Students often form groups of friends and dates, take pictures, go to dinner and try to have a good time overall. However because administration has become concerned with the amount of tardies and overall behavior of the students, this year prom has been altered in ways that may be concerning to the upperclassmen planning to attend prom.

Assistant Principal McGarry said, "The Cats on Time revisions

are not proving to be successful. So to counteract the consistent absence and tardiness of our students, we are implementing stricter policies regarding prom this spring." Mrs. McGarry goes on to say that throughout the duration of the year, students have collectively obtained over 3500 tardies accompanied by 7,800 ab-

to offer an incentive to students that do not have an issue with showing up, on time."

In hopes of correcting attendance issues, Millbrook admin, as well as selected faculty members, have decided that anyone with more than three unexcused absences per quarter leading up to prom may be given the opportunity to serve two hours of ASD per unexcused absence exceeding the three absences limit to redeem themselves if they present a signed form from a parent or guardian. Abuse in the redemption process will result in parent conferences with Mrs. King or complete dismissal from prom altogether.

Another prominent concern among admin is whether to include sophomores in the upperclassmen festivities to offer a

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Provided by C. Newman

Following the traditional rules, many of last years students were eager to attend prom. Faculty members, as well as administration, are just as eager to introduce the new alterations to prom.

sences. Mrs. McGarry adds, "Because attendance is a key part of succeeding, we feel that we need

Cook Out stuns community



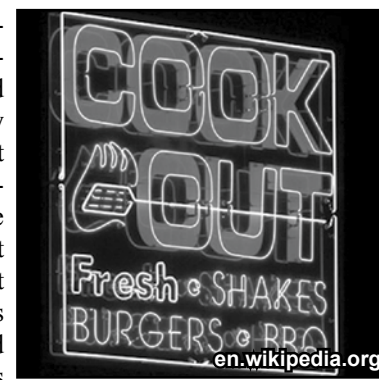
By Lexi McCool
SECTION EDITOR

On Saturday, March 28, a nearby Cookout franchise unexpectedly announced that it will close its drive-thru windows forever and promptly go out of business. The Cook Out branch at issue is located 1.4 miles north of Millbrook on Falls of Neuse Road and has been a popular lunch destination for students since its opening in the year 2000. While many individuals throughout the Raleigh com-

munity are baffled and upset by this disconcerting news, it seems no group is as shaken as the upperclassmen population at Millbrook. "I'm really not sure where I will go for lunch now," stammered bewildered senior Jacob Brynson. "Cook Out has always been so convenient and reasonably priced; it's my go-to spot when I'm in a pinch during my lunch break."

Besides being a beloved lunch location, Cook Out doubles as a gathering place for high school students after sporting events, such as football and basketball games. The fast-food joint's parking lot can often be seen teeming with teenagers eager to purchase Cook Out's signature "trays" late on Friday nights. "It's the perfect place to meet all of your friends after the game," explains junior Jamar

SEE COOK OUT, PAGE 2



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Tupac has returned from the dead! Read the specifics.

SEE PAGE 4



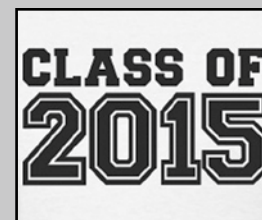
See which MHS faculty member is joining American Idol.

SEE PAGE 4



Get informed on the changes coming to Millbrook lunch.

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Catch up on the most recent updates on senior exemptions.

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KING, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Wildcat and you can see her Millbrook pride through her work as principal. Kendall Casey added, "You can see Mrs. King's love of Millbrook through her hard work and dedication. She has put in a lot of time to our school and deserves a great retirement." Mrs. King has left a lasting mark on Millbrook, and she will be truly missed by all.

PROM, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

more teenage-like, age appropriate atmosphere during prom. Mr. Dansky says, "We are concerned that high schoolers are taking the innocence out of a fun tradition. As a precautionary measurement we feel that incorporating various age groups will help with this arising issue." As an experiment there will be one hundred prom tickets available for sophomores to purchase. They no longer have to be invited by an upperclassman; however, tickets will be sold on a first come first serve basis. In addition to the invitation of sophomores, buses will be available for any sophomores that need a safe method of transportation to and from prom.

Administration collectively agrees that these few minor changes will be effective in correcting the recent behaviors in students. They are hoping to not only correct behaviors but also improve the overall connotation of prom. Mrs. King said, "We are excited to witness the outcome of prom this year. We also hope that students are just as excited as we are!"

COOK OUT, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Carter. "I'm not sure if any business can ever replace Cook Out. I just do not see everyone hanging out in the McDonald's or Chick-fil-a parking lot. It's not the same," he added wistfully.

So with all of Cook Out's apparent popularity amongst Millbrook students, what motivated the chain's owner to order the business closed? According to general manager, Jillian Hathaway, "A lot of different factors influenced the decision."

For one, Cook Out operated under longer business hours than many nearby restaurants and fast-food stops. The average business day for the franchise began at 11:00am and ended around 4:00am Sunday through Thursday, and 5:00am Friday and Saturday. "At our current prices and hours of operation, it just was not lucrative enough to stay in business," explained Hathaway. "Our building and equipment were beginning to need serious replacements and updates, and this particular franchise was not worth the investment." According to Hathaway, Cook Out owns and operates approximately 10 other branches throughout the Triangle and 150 throughout the southeastern United States, all of which were grossing more money than the establishment on Falls of Neuse.

"It's sad to see such a cherished piece of Raleigh iconography go, but at the end of the day remaining open did not make economic sense," concluded Hathaway.

Sophomore girl run over by Driver's Education car



By Jessica Urbanski
STAFF REPORTER

Last week after school in the senior parking lot, tragedy struck innocent Kristy Hopkins. As she was walking to her older brothers' car after softball

workouts, Kristy was hit by a Driver's Ed car that was being driven by freshman Michael Greyson. When asked how this happened, Michael said, "I did not see her

walking there. She kind of ended up in front of my car and then under it." After the accident, Kristy was taken to the Sports Med room to see if she was alright, but needed further medical attention. 911 was dialed, and an ambulance arrived to take Kristy to the hospital.

While Kristy was being rushed away, Michael stayed at the scene of the accident. "I do not understand how I did not see her. I was looking in my mirror, and then she appeared in front of us," he said. Michael's

instructor, Mr. Wooten, was the teacher involved with Michael's accident. "It seems that the girl was unseen until she ran her over," he said. According to both of the people in the car, the girl mysteriously appeared in front of them, with no warning.

"I saw this happen, and I saw the girl walk by and the car turned around the corner and hit her," said senior Daquan Adams.

Several other students' witnessed this event. When the authorities arrived to the parking lot, those students were questioned as witnesses. Seniors Troy Baker and Gabriella Fieldsmen were walking to their car after a school musical rehearsal, and witnessed the event, too. "It was very strange. It's like the driver never saw her," said Troy.

The dent on the car proved that Kristy was actually hit hard by the car. These accusations lead to Michael getting questioned on the speed of the car. "We were

only going 25 miles per hour in the lot," Michael said. The speed limit in the school lot is 15, which means that the Driver's Ed student and driver were speeding. If the car had been going any faster, Kristy could have lost her life.

Three days after the accident, Kristy was released from the hospital on crutches with a cast on her leg. The impact from

the fast-moving vehicle broke her right femur. Kristy was able to return to school that following week, but had trouble getting to her classes

and getting to her brother's car. "Hopefully I do not get hit again while walking to my brother's car," Kristy said.

As for Michael, community service and fines were given. Mr. Wooten was charged a small fine for being the adult involved, but no extremely large penalties were given. Michael has returned to school and continues to practice safe driving skills while attempting to get his permit. He is a clear example as to why it is imperative to pay attention while on the road.



All around North Carolina, Driver's Education courses are available to students as early as age fourteen and a half. Young drivers do not have as much experience as older drivers and can cause damage to others around them.

Exemptions deception has negative reception



By Oliver Ficker
STAFF REPORTER

It is a dark day at Millbrook, as the administration announced this Monday that they were removing the senior exemptions policy this year. After much deliberation, administrators finalized the decision in mid-March. However, they delayed the announcement until fourth quarter to reduce stress on students. This has been a surprise to the senior class, as exams are only two months away.

Many seniors are understandably frustrated with the change. When the senior exemption policy was in place, they were granted based on consistent attendance, a lack of tardies, and good grades. This aspect of the policy received much criticism from seniors while the policy was in place. Many felt that the requirements for exemptions incentivized otherwise irrational behaviors. Among these included coming to school while mildly ill and skipping school for the entire day rather than being tardy. Senior Vallory Brown, who

came to school sick for two days this year, said, "If I had known they were going to cancel the exemptions, I would have stayed home and slept so I could gotten better quickly." Although students no longer have to stress over these flaws in the policy, there is a general consensus that adding slightly more flexibility to the policy would have been a preferable solution.

Although it seems that this

tors' reasoning. Administrators cited the attitude of the senior class as the primary reason for the change, saying that seniors, "just seemed too happy to us."

Other students besides seniors are also worried about what this means for them. The administration shows no signs of bringing the policy back, which some students view with more relief than frustration. Sophomore Jason Cross explained,

"Even if they bring exemptions back, how do we know this won't happen again? They could take a way exemptions every year if they

felt like it." At least with senior exemptions gone, future classes would not have to worry about feeling cheated out of their exemptions. However, Millbrook's student body is not giving up without a fight. Students have created a petition calling for the continuation of senior exemption for at least this school year if not permanently. The petition emphasizes the positive aspects of giving senior exemptions, such as the incentive it provides for students to come to school and work hard in class.



Celebrating the change in policy, Mr. Hosking laughs at his disappointed students. This is merely one of the many horrible ways that the removal of senior exemptions has affected Millbrook seniors.

Millbrook *Wife Swap!*



By Mitra Norowzi
SECTION EDITOR

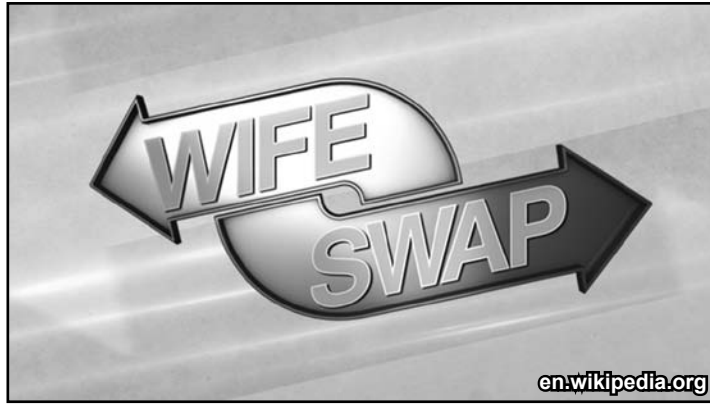
Millbrook has been and remains home to some dynamic spousal duos. Two such pairs are the Davises and the Geneskys. Both of the Geneskys, as well as Mrs. Davis, are some of our school's most beloved English teachers, primarily at the upper levels of AP and IB. Mr. Davis teaches visual arts, including AP and IB. It is with great excitement that we announce that the Davises

and the Geneskys will be featured in the hit TV show, *Wife Swap!*

Wife Swap is a popular reality TV series wherein two families trade wives for approximately two weeks. Typically, the families in question are of very different social classes and lifestyles so as to keep the show interesting.

Each wife leaves a manual describing her normal role and dynamic in the family, and during the first week, the new wife is supposed to follow this guide. In the second week, however, the new wife is allowed to create her own rules and the family is expected to adhere to them.

At the end of the two week period, both couples meet together to discuss their



en.wikipedia.org

feelings regarding their time together, which often results in verbal or physical altercations.

Although neither couple has children, we can still

expect an entertaining show. Both husbands are notoriously eccentric with

equally eclectic music tastes, judging by the music they play in their classes. The wives are generally known as kind, fair people and indeed are very similar

in personality. It will be interesting to see how far their similarities run, and what will be challenges for them. Mrs. Genesky said, "They [the Davises] live really far out in rural NC, and I have a serious fear of axe murderers and not being close to a Starbucks, so I think that would be a problem." However, she expressed hope that since Mr. Davis is such a snappy dresser, that Mr. Genesky might gain more style

coordination from the experience, perhaps from Mrs. Davis' influence. Mr. Davis predicted that healthy eating would be part of Mrs. Genesky's new house rules, which he was

not opposed to. Regarding his main worry, he said, "I would have to be going to sleep at 8:30, so if Mrs. Genesky isn't down with that..." Both couples are known cat lovers, and it remains to be seen if the wives will get attached to the other couple's cat. If so, we could very well see some attempted cat thievery on the show. Perhaps the tension between AP and IB will finally rear its head when Mrs. Genesky and Mrs. Davis have to teacher each other's English classes.

The Millbrook *Wife Swap* episode will air two weeks from today on ABC. The couples will begin their two week swap tonight.

Dress code drama continues



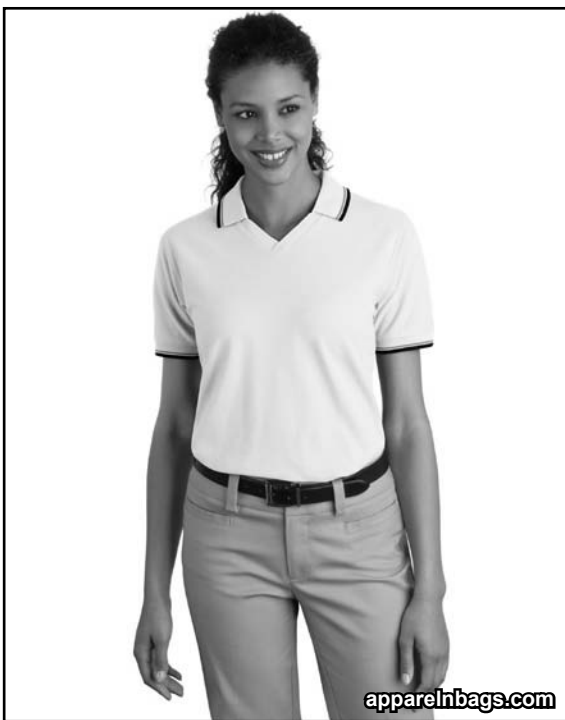
By Alana Topakian
SECTION EDITOR

A new and extremely restrictive dress code is coming to Millbrook

next year, and it will be a huge change, especially since Millbrook is a public school. What is it? **U n i f o r m s .** There are many reasons for this change, but the rules that go along with it are ones to be strictly heeded. Students will be given the chance to buy the uniforms through the school at the end of the year, or going to a select choice of stores such as Target, Walmart, or Sears. Fortunately, there will be some flexibility left for students to choose, but not much.

The dress code itself is pretty simple: boys and girls have to stick to the colors blue, white, and khaki when choosing their clothing. Boys are limited to polo shirts, khaki pants, and khaki shorts. Girls can get blouses, polo dresses, khaki pants, or khaki skirts. Girls are also allowed the option of a skort instead of a skirt, which many

of the administration definitely would prefer. When it comes to shoes, students are allowed to take creative liberty giving them the option of wearing whatever they please. Upon hearing of what next year's clothing options will entail, junior Lacey Ragford said, "This will definitely be a huge change for me. I mean



apparelnbags.com

With the upcoming dress code change, students of 2015-2016 will be rocking these clothes as their new uniforms. Though the new dress code will be more restrictive than the one this year, creative liberties can still be taken in some aspects.

it will definitely be easier to get up and ready in the morning, but I hate that I will not get to wear what I want like I do now."

The question most likely on many students minds is why the change? First of all, the change to uniforms will help many families financially because the options are limited, simple, and can be bought almost anywhere. Also, the administration feels this will be a way to help take the social divide away from the

student body, as everyone will be at the same level clothing-wise. Lastly, this change will limit student dress code violations, and hopefully the amount of students taken out of class due to their clothing choice. There will still be a punishment system in place for dress code violations, the administration calling it the 'three

strike system', and it will begin two weeks into school. The first strike is a warning, the second a call home and immediate report to ASD after school, and the third a call home along with a two day suspension. The new punishment system has definitely raised a few eyebrows, most prominently within students made aware of this change in policy. "I think the rules they are putting in

place are kind of harsh I mean all for a dress code violation? But I guess it makes sense since it is a uniform, and compared to what we have now, this dress code is not that hard to follow," freshman Trish Falkner said.

Any questions about the change to uniforms will be addressed at the end of the year in a school-wide assembly, but until then, enjoy the clothes you get to choose yourself.

Millbrook anticipates major lunch changes



By Kiley Burns
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Plans to restructure the lunch schedule and rules for the 2015-2016 school year are currently underway here at Millbrook. The administration believes

that the changes are likely to meet opposition but will benefit both faculty and students.

Effective at the start of the next school year, juniors will no longer be allowed to go off campus every day. Instead, juniors who have no missing assignments in any of their classes will only be allowed to go off campus on Fridays. Administrators hope that this will encourage students to seek academic help from teachers and peer tutors and develop successful work habits. Students must obtain each teacher's signature in order to be let off campus on Fridays. The off-campus policy will stay the same for seniors as a senior privilege. Sophomore Sue Smith said, "I do not think that this is a practical idea. The lines in the cafeteria will

be too long, and there will not be enough room for everyone to have a seat."

Security will also increase to prevent students from sneaking off campus. It is rumored that cars will be thoroughly inspected and trunks will be randomly inspected. Anyone found going off campus without a pass or taking someone off campus without a pass will face ALC and lose any off campus privileges

believe that its absence will have a negative impact on student performance. The traditional three-lunch schedule will be in place every day of the week. Numerous fights have also broken out during Smart Lunch due to the large amount of students scattered around campus, and it is difficult to monitor. Freshman Bobby Joe Johnson said, "I understand why upperclassmen enjoy

Smart Lunch. They get to go off campus and have longer to eat at restaurants. However, for us underclassmen, it is just us sitting around for an hour."

In food news, the school is planning on opening a café-style stand in the lunchroom. It will serve Starbucks coffee, tea, smoothies, and healthy snacks. This stand will be open before school,

during all lunches, and after school and available to all students and teachers. When asked her thoughts on its opening, junior Macie Moxfield said, "I am really excited about the new café! It will be great to add some variety to our lunches and have some options in the cafeteria. I already know I will go broke next year because I will spend all of my money on the coffee!"

So get ready, Millbrook. Big changes are in store for lunch here at Millbrook, and their effectiveness will be tested in August 2015.



Photo by K. Burns

During smart lunch, many students take the opportunity to go to the library to work on assignments and meet with clubs. Next year, Millbrook is eliminating this extended lunch period.

for a month. By popular demand, the Johnsdale exit at the senior parking lot will be open every day, every lunch to control traffic flow, but a faculty member will check passes at that entrance during all lunches.

Next year, Millbrook is transitioning from an A/B-8 schedule to an A/B schedule. Due to the elimination of the eight-period day, Smart Lunch will no longer be offered. The tutorial periods offered have not been utilized, and the administration does not

Thin mints discontinued



By Drew Prentice
STAFF REPORTER

On Tuesday, March 31, the Girl Scouts of the USA have officially announced that Thin Mints will no longer be available for purchase, starting in 2016. The announcement was made as a result of the latest meeting of the leaders of the Girl Scouts and was publicly revealed on the Girl Scout website

last night at eleven o'clock.

While there have been no details as to why this is the

case, many people have created their own theories as to why the famous delicacies have been taken off the list. "I think Thin Mints have been discontinued because many kids devour these treats within the short time they can get their hands on them, which can lead to many problems like diabetes and obesity in the long run," says senior Georgia Anderson.

Anderson's theory is not the only theory about this sudden change in stock. Peppermint oil, one of the ingredients of Thin Mints that is responsible for giving these cookies their minty taste, is extremely expensive. With Thin Mint sales starting to drop due to popularity for other cookies rising, the price of this oil may become more than the cookies are worth, some experts say.

Another popular idea is that the production of these cookies is more time-consuming than other cookies, like Shortbread or Peanut Butter Patties. "I have a younger sister that is a Girl Scout, and she once took a trip to the place where Girl Scout cookies are made. She told me that the Thin Mint cookies take a longer time than the other cookies to make due to the peppermint flavor and the peculiar shape the cookies are in," says junior John Livingstone. Despite the

popularity of the cookies, factors like these are the most convincing ideas as to why they are being discontinued.

How will Girl Scout cookie sales be affected by this sudden change? The marketing company Cookie Money has predicted that due to this change, cookie sales are expected to drop drastically. This is because many loyal Girl Scout customers only buy Thin Mints, and though some have tried other cookies, the popularity of Thin Mints is much greater, and without them some people will decide not to buy Girl Scout cookies at all.



What will we do without Girl Scout Thin Mint cookies?

However, other Girl Scout cookies might improve in sales due to this change, experts say, so it is hard to know for sure.

The reactions of many Girl Scout cookie buyers largely support this statistic. "Whenever the season is around, I always buy Thin Mints. They are delicious, and the only cookie that I really enjoy. These cookies have cheered me up in the worst of times. Now that they are being discontinued...I do not know what I will do," says freshman Samuel Christopher. A petition on the site change.org has been created to protest against the discontinuation of these cookies with the goal of 500,000 signatures. So far, the petition has already gained over 50,000 signatures in one day. Others have complained to the little Girl Scout cookie sellers themselves, though they have little power over the matter at all. A few consumers have gone through the trouble of approaching the heads of the Girl Scouts of the USA, but have returned with the same news that nothing will change.

This sudden change has brought panic all over the country, and many people have started to buy many boxes of the chocolate coated snack in order to save them. There are rumors that production of Thin Mints has already stopped, so those who still want some will need to hurry and buy soon.

Rise is on the rise!

Millbrook takes *American Idol*



By Audrey Kahwaty
SECTION EDITOR

Most students know him as Mr. Williams: a well-respected and friendly advocate for the Wildcat community, not Rise Rashid, an extremely talented hip-hop artist that even incorporates Millbrook into his songs on occasions. Originally from Atlantic City, Rise shows a more poetic, northern-style of rap in his songs. Rise was discovered in Virginia where he then came to star in an independent movie (filmed and based in Virginia), host radio and television shows, and even release a book, all on top of constantly releasing new songs for his fans. In the 2013-2015 school years Rise began working at Millbrook as a mentor and basketball coach for our outstanding Wildcat basketball team.

Last week, on Thursday's nerve-racking episode featuring only 16 competitors, we watched as Rise performed one of his

original songs and favorites, "I'm a Wildcat." His outstanding performance led to a standing ovation by not only the audience but the judges, something we rarely see happen from the critical hip-hop star Jennifer Lopez. His newest album, *Microphone X*, has proven to be a hit, seeing as though you can ride around the parking lot and hear songs such as "Wildcat

PSA" and "Cold World" echoing from student's subs. There has even been talk that Rise Rashid could be writing and performing the Class of 2015's official class song, something almost every student has requested to happen now that this underground hip-hop artist has risen to the top.

In an interview with Rise after his last performance, he commented: "The best advice I can give to anyone pursuing their dreams is never give up. I know it sounds simple, but it's important to remember that chasing a dream is a marathon and not a sprint.

Anyone that has ever achieved their dreams will tell you that it takes a lot of time, and hard work. You need to remind yourself to



Provided by J. Williams

Surrounded by fans and supporters as he performs, Rise shows America his true talent. Watch him on *American Idol* on Fox at 7pm, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

never get too comfortable with the highs and never get too discouraged with the lows. Never give up." Since he has gained so much popularity and publicity for his outstanding music performances on *American Idol*, some worry that he may forget about his fellow Wildcats along his way to fame. But, he assured, "Millbrook has affected me in many ways. My first month working at Millbrook was a little overwhelming because so many faculty and staff members wanted to know who I was, and a lot of students gravitated towards me quickly. I have met so

many different types of people being that Millbrook is so diverse. But, most importantly Millbrook has affected me by giving me another boost of energy musically. Since my music is driven by encouraging what is right and forbidding what I view as wrong, the message conveyed through my songs is the same message that I practice rough my job."

We cannot guarantee that Rise Rashid will be America's newest idol; but one thing is for sure; the entire Wildcat community will be watching and waiting to see just how far Rise can actually make it in this nationwide competition. Interested in watching Rise Rashid as he rises to the top of *American Idol*? Tune in to FOX at 7pm on Wednesdays and Thursdays. You can even go the extra mile and vote simply by texting RISE to 72047 while he is performing to increase his chances of becoming an *American Idol*.

Long live the king



By Frances Deese
STAFF REPORTER

Tupac Shakur, born Lesane Parish Crooks, is alive. Many of you reading this will think it is some sort of joke, that it is just another spotting of him, adding to the pot of conspiracies involving his death. This time it is not a joke.

Tupac Shakur is alive; he said so himself in an interview with Barbara Walters. Which will air tonight on ABC at 9 o'clock. He is not scattered across his mother's North Carolina farm in ashes form, as many believe. Shakur stated that he woke up from his coma when his fiancé Kidada Jones first visited him in the hospital. Shakur told Walters, "I wanted to get out of the

industry and lime light. I was tired of being a slave for what everyone wanted to hear."

Tupac seemed very comfortable with death; this is why so many people believed he was alive. In his famous poem "In the Event of My Demise," Tupac states, "I will die before my time because I feel the shadow's depth." Tupac knew all along that he would die before his time; that is why he chose to fake his own death, as a protection from his enemies.

Tupac was rumored to come back in 2014 due to a conspiracy with the Italian war stagiist Machiavelli. Tupac called himself Makaveli after reading Machiavelli's books while he was in prison. Machiavelli talks about tricking people and faking a death. The real Machiavelli did just this; he "died" at age 25 and came back at age 43. Many believe Tupac would comeback in 2014 when he was 43, since he

died at age 25. When asked about this by CNN, Tupac said, "I couldn't have come back when everyone was expecting me to. I wanted it to be a big deal, and I didn't want everyone knowing I was gonna be back. I figured this way even my diehard fans would have given up on me."

There have been over 10 spottings of Tupac over the past 18 years. Tupac has stated that these spottings were all posers or doppel gangers, meant to keep people's hopes up that he was still alive. So where was Tupac for all those years? He has not commented on that yet and might never, although Cuba has confirmed he was never there during his time.

Jada Pinkett Smith said, "I always knew Tupac was alive. He's my best friend, but I hadn't seen him for 18 years. I'm just overjoyed with happiness that my best friend is back. It's quite crazy but a blessing." Smith and Shakur met at The Baltimore School for the

Arts in high school. Shakur also stated that he is excited to meet some new rappers since his disappearance, such as Nicki Minaj, Drake and Rihanna. Tupac told Walters "It's so weird I knew about all the pop culture stuff that was happening, but I was so far away from it; I can't believe I'll actually be back and making drama of my own."

President Obama has invited Tupac to dinner as well as some other celebrities such as Jennifer Aniston, Beyonce, Tom Hanks, Angelina Jolie, Brad Pitt, Johnny Depp and many others. The White House is calling this fun party the "Homecoming 2k15."

It is quite amazing that a man could have hid himself away for so long, and perhaps none of us will ever know a real reason why he did it. Tupac stated, "I'm just lucky that I live in a place where I'm able to escape whenever if I feel like it."