

# The MLWGS Jabberwock

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Friday 15 April 2005

## MLWGS Holds State Election Debates

### Democratic Candidates for Lt. Governor Square Off

**Alex Guzman**  
Jabberwock Staff Reporter

The Democratic candidates for Virginia's Lieutenant Governor office took place on Friday, April 8 in the MLWGS Auditorium.

This event was sponsored by the Virginia Student/Parent Mock Election (VSPME) and organized by Melissa Prestosa ('06). Delegate Viola Baskerville of Richmond, former Senator Leslie Byrne of Fairfax,



The Democratic candidates for Lt. Governor await the start of the debate. *Photo by Alex Guzman.*

Delegate J. Chapman Petersen of Fairfax, and state Senator Phillip Puckett of

Russell County squared off for over an hour.

The debate was moder-

ated by Dr. Robert Holsworth, dean of the L. Douglas Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs at Virginia Commonwealth University.

The format for debate included four MLWGS student panelists: Jessica Burris ('05), Carlton Forbes ('05), Shaily Pandey ('05), and Tobin Van Ostern ('05).

Each panelist asked one question to one specific candidate. Each candidate had two minutes to answer the questions. After the first round of questions, each panelist asked a question and all candidates had to

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## Suspensions Rock School

### China Trip Students Face Suspensions and Acquittals

**Alex Guzman and Sohini Sircar**  
Jabberwock Staff Reporter

Several MLWGS students were suspended for alcohol consumption and drug use during an overseas spring break field study. The suspensions were handed out following an investigation by the school administration.

Through the suspension appeals process, all students suspended for drinking were acquitted and returned to school Thursday. According to Mr. Douglas Hunt, MLWGS Director, expulsion reviews for select students are still "in the process."

The accusations of drug and alcohol use stem from the field study trip to China, in which 31 MLWGS students

participated. The *MLWGS Jabberwock* was unable to confirm the number of students involved.

The suspensions have caused a stir in the MLWGS community. Students have varying opinions about the recent controversy.

"I think the situation was handled completely inappropriately. I don't know why they thought that suspension with the threat of it going on their permanent record was an appropriate punishment for out-of-country drinking, but they did," said Tommy Nicholas ('07) in regards to the actions of the school administration.

Other students support the original administrative action.

"I think the students were very aware of what they were getting themselves into," said Hai-in Kim ('07). "The students and their parents signed

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# Student Forum

The letters-to-the-editor section of the Jabberwock is a forum for student discussion. MLWGS students are being given the opportunity to bring issues to the forefront of the student body, teachers, administration, and community. Students are encouraged to use this forum to dispense their viewpoints.

The letter sent in by Robert Hatchel ('07) about the pledge created a lot of buzz in the student body. Mr. Sorrinteno was the only person who took the time to respond by sending a counterpoint to Hatchel's letter. With a student body of over 600, students should be the ones responding to issues brought up in the paper. If a student feels strongly for or against an issue, publishing it in the Jabberwock allows their opinion to be seen.

The letters-to-the-editor section is not limited to one page of the Jabberwock. This space can be expanded if numerous students would like to voice their opinions about various issues concerning them. These letters-to-the-editor do not represent the views of the Jabberwock. The newspaper is the forum through which issues can be circulated and gain significance.

Now located in the Staff Box is the Jabberwock's policy concerning student letters. The Jabberwock reserves the right to edit letters for grammar and length. These letters can be about any impending issue or responding to anything that has been discussed in a previous issue of the Jabberwock. All letters-to-the-editor should be sent to [Newspaper@gsgis.k12.va.us](mailto:Newspaper@gsgis.k12.va.us).

--SS

Want to see your opinion in print?

**WRITE A LETTER  
TO THE EDITOR**

Send an email to [newspaper@gsgis.k12.va.us](mailto:newspaper@gsgis.k12.va.us)

# Letters to the Editor

Dear Editors,

Every day as I enter the cafeteria the monstrosity that is the lunch line unfurls before me. My heart fills with woe as I realize that, once again, the monster will eat up the entirety of my lunch. It consumes at least 20 minutes of lunch just to get to the cash register.

When I arrive at the cash register I am admitted through quickly. So why, I ask, does the lunch line take so long to get through? It is a mystery, one we must crack in order to have a more fulfilling lunch.

—Chelsea Herzog (07)

## *The MLWGS Jabberwock Staff*

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### **Faculty Advisor:**

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## *Statement of Editorial Policy:*

The MLWGS Jabberwock covers news events related to the school community and provides a forum for students to share their ideas. However, the statements expressed by columnists do not necessarily reflect the views of the Jabberwock staff.

All members of the MLWGS community are invited to submit letters to the editor on any topic, although the publication of all letters is not guaranteed. The newspaper reserves the right to edit letters for grammar, language and length. Please e-mail letters to the editor to: [newspaper@gsgis.k12.va.us](mailto:newspaper@gsgis.k12.va.us).

# More Letters to the Editor

Dear Jabberwock,

We are all supposed to be honorable members of our school community; we pledge it everyday on our quizzes and tests. Many of us sat through the assembly last year where we were lectured about not cheating, copying or plagiarizing. I think that all of that is fine. Indeed, cheating impedes teachers' abilities to give us accurate grades.

However, what happens when trust and honor breaks down? We know that in such a situation the Honor Council is supposed to step in. From that point on I think that a lot of people, including me, are in the dark.

Apparently once somebody is turned in to the Honor Council, they have to face a hearing. Unfortunately for us, these proceedings are done in secret, which means that we are completely shut out of an important part of our school. If we are supposed to be members of an "honorable society" then I think it is important that we be able to see the enforcement of such honor.

On numerous occasions, out of curiosity, I have

asked a council member what is going on in the Honor Council. The usual reply is something to the effect of "Why do you want to know? It's none of your business."

I am sure that some will agree with her, but I contend that it is my business and the business of every student. After all, these are our classmates on trial, the classmates we sit next to on test day.

Would you want to sit next to somebody with a known history of cheating? Also, if one knew that they had their reputation at stake, that person would be less likely to make the wrong decisions.

Now, I am not debating the virtue of our Honor Council members. They were, of course, elected by the student body. I do, however, think that their work needs to be put on display for us to see.

There is no reason for their proceedings to be a secret, and it is our right to know what is going on inside our school.

Sincerely,  
Bryan Moorefield ('07)

Dear Editors of the Jabberwock,

I would like to respond to the previous letter regarding the pledge with a poem:

It is the soldier,  
not the reporter,  
Who has given us  
freedom of the press.

It is the soldier,  
not the poet,  
Who has given us  
freedom of speech.

It is the soldier,  
not the campus organizer,  
Who has given us the  
freedom to demonstrate.

It is the soldier who  
salutes the flag,  
Who serves beneath  
the flag, and  
whose coffin is draped  
by the flag,  
Who allows the protester  
to burn the flag.

-Father Denis Edward  
O'Brien (USMC)

The flag is a symbol of  
American freedom and ide-  
ology. Standing for the  
pledge of allegiance is a  
form of respect. Thank you.

--Mr. Sorrentino



## Cartoonist

A position in the MLWGS Jabberwock staff is open for a strip cartoonist.

Please submit five comic strips either to Sohini Sircar ('07) or to Mr. Hal Waller in room 236.

# A "Pro-Life" Party? Sort of.

With the recent deaths of Terry Schiavo and Pope John Paul II, issues surrounding a culture of life in society (or lack thereof) have surfaced once again. Conservatives have been actively touting their opposition to abortion, stem cell research and euthanasia, claiming to be the true "pro-life" party in America.

But the "pro-life" crowd has conspicuously omitted one important issue from their list: capital punishment. There has been no discussion from conservative leaders on the importance of repealing the death penalty as inherently immoral, or as a gross violation of a person's right to life. Instead, it gets pushed by the wayside, leaving important questions unmentioned, as they have gone for so many years in mainstream American politics.

Republicans have branded themselves as the "Law and Order" party,

one in favor of a strict and efficient criminal justice system. Yet, they ignore the fact that our own Justice Department claims that scores of individuals have been wrongly convicted of capital offenses, sentenced to death and imprisoned for crimes they have not committed. How does one reconcile with a man who spent 17 years on death row for someone else's crime? A life is impaired beyond comprehension, and many conservatives are silent.

There are many other glaring facts that leave the death penalty subject to criticism: the horrific methods we use in executions and the massive amounts of money and time poured into an already overburdened justice system, just to name a few. But what outrages me more than capital punishment itself is my party's refusal to promote *every* life.

I fear that we as a party have lost

*Writing from  
the Right*

By Matt A. Kiehl ('06)

sight of our guiding principles that make us unique as conservatives. We are a party that is supposed to advocate the most fair, accurate justice system the government can provide. Ours is the party that should promote the preservation of life. It is time we return to action on those values we've seemingly left behind.

So my challenge to conservatives is this: if you are going to call yourselves "pro-life," then be willing to stand up and promote the preservation of *every* life. Picking and choosing lives and issues for political expedience will only lead to conservatives being known as misguided hypocrites.

*Leaning to  
the Left*

By Aileen Zhang ('05)

"They that can give up essential liberty to purchase a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety," commented Benjamin Franklin.

Mere weeks after the horrific September 11<sup>th</sup> attacks, an apprehensive and bipartisan Congress approved the Uniting and Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism Act, otherwise known by the misleading acronym USA PATRIOT Act.

Congress may have had great ends in mind-- to protect the safety of the American people, but in this case, it is clear to liberal-minded Americans that the ends cannot justify the means.

# What's so PATRIOTic?

The overbreadth and vagueness of many provisions of the Act takes away constitutional checks on law enforcement and allow for government abuse of power and intrusion into the privacy of many innocent citizens.

For example, Section 215 allows the FBI to mandate a person to turn over "any tangible things... for an authorized investigation... to protect against international terrorism or clandestine intelligence activities." This allows the wiretapping, spying, other forms of surveillance, acquiring medical and student records, and viewing the web-sites and books the person has recently viewed without the knowledge of the person inspected.

Section 215's automatic gag rule violates the First Amendment by giving the FBI authority to investigate persons for exercising First Amendment rights

of expression and association. The Fourth and Fifth Amendments are discarded by secretly allowing a person's privacy to be compromised without even having to prove probable cause, much less clear and present danger.

The intrinsic rights that are naturally bestowed upon us as individuals cannot be taken away for the purposes of supposedly protecting us. A state has the responsibility to look after the safety of its citizens. However, a balance must exist, and the USA PATRIOT Act crosses the line.

As David Hume stated, "It is seldom that liberty of any kind is lost all at once." When the path to safety requires the forsaking of constitutional liberties, then the objective becomes so abstract and unattainable as to perpetually taint society of the status quo.

# Starting Off on the Right Cleat

**Jason Bodman**

Jabberwock Staff Reporter

The MLWGS boys' varsity soccer team began the season with 5 big wins, bringing the Dragons into the lead in the Colonial District standings.

The first game of the season was against Appomattox Regional Governor's School. The boys won the game with a 6-0 shutout.

Their second opponent was Highland Springs on March 21. The game ended with the dragons up by eight goals. The final score was 10-1.

"Nathan [Lautzenheizer ('07)] scored a pivotal goal against Highland Springs,"

said Zach Stergar ('06). Even though the Dragons won by such a great margin, Stergar still claims, "Pivotal is pivotal right?"

The Dragons also defeated Patrick Henry. The final score of the game was 3-0, another shutout.

"The game against Patrick Henry was my favorite so far this year," said Keith Moran ('07), "because P.H. is my home school, and its fun to play my old friends."

Moran also said that it was a great game because Patrick Henry is one of the better teams in the district.

On Wednesday, the boys crushed Thomas Jefferson. The final score was 10-2.



**Joe Addison (05) takes a shot during team practice. Photo by Jay Parrish.**

## Upcoming Games

April 15 — 4:30 PM  
**Baseball**  
V. Patrick Henry

April 15 — 4:30 PM  
**Softball**  
V. Patrick Henry

April 15 — 4:30 PM  
**Girls' Tennis**  
V. Appomattox GS

April 15 — 4:30 PM  
**Boys' Tennis**  
V. Appomattox GS

April 21 — 5:00 PM  
**Girls' Soccer**  
@ Collegiate

April 21 — 4:30 PM  
**Boys' Soccer**  
@ Appomattox GS

April 22 — 4:30 PM  
**Baseball**  
V. J.R. Tucker

April 20 — 6:00 PM  
**Softball**  
V. Henrico

April 19 — 4:00 PM  
**Girls' Tennis**  
V. J.R. Tucker

April 19 — 4:30 PM  
**Boys' Tennis**  
V. J.R. Tucker

April 28 — 4:30 PM  
**Girls' Soccer**  
V. Hermitage

April 28 — 7:45 PM  
**Boys' Soccer**  
@ Hermitage

## Remembering A Coach...

MLWGS volleyball coach Arthur "Art" Suarez passed away on Saturday, April 9th after a canoeing accident on the James River. Despite rescue attempts and the collective efforts of many emergency medical personnel and bystanders, Art drowned in the hydraulics of the Williams Dam.

His friends, family, players and fellow coaches will always remember him as an energetic figure, leading the way in hiking expeditions, mountain biking rides, paddling trips, and anything that took place outdoors. His love for the outdoors was only topped by his love for the game of volleyball.

Art's players will always remember his passion for the game of volleyball. He put everything he had into practices and conditioning. Last year, he was responsible for stopping a 0-5 skid, winning 7 of the 11 remaining JV games.

A memorial service will be held Friday at 7:00pm, and a Mass of Christian

**Contributed By...**  
**David Calvert,**  
**Varsity Volleyball**

Burial will take place on Saturday at 11:00am at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church.

# Lingering Questions...

## How much does your choice for high school affect college admissions?

**Sarah Beth Gross**  
Jabberwock Staff Reporter

Would it improve chances of getting into college for students to attend schools other than MLWGS?

The mission of MLWGS is to identify and educate gifted students. And by “gifted,” most people usually mean relatively smart. But therein lies the key word: relatively. Compared to other students from area public schools, most MLWGS students would look very accomplished. Yet put all together, students who would normally be at the top of their class look average.

The problems begin with applying to college. Many media sources have labeled the 2005 graduating class as applying to college in “the most competitive year in college admissions history.” This is especially true at state schools. Many students who received admission into equally prestigious private schools were denied or wait-listed at Virginia public schools, such as U.VA.

The admissions offices for both UVA and William and Mary proclaim that applicant’s academics come first. Yet this year, no MLWGS student with a GPA below 4.0 got into U.VA, and some people with a GPA above 4.0 were wait-listed. However, students from other Virginia public schools got in with GPAs of 3.2 and 3.5.

U.VA. posts one reason for the difference in GPAs of accepted students on their website: “We try to evaluate each applicant’s academic program within the context of his or her own school.”

Essentially, if ten people from

MLWGS applied and four of them had a 4.2 GPA, two had a 4.0 GPA and the rest had less than a 4.0, then even a person with a 3.95 would look like they were less than average in the context of other MLWGS applicants. Because of the intellectual ability of this institution, many people will have high GPAs, and for this reason, students from other schools will be accepted with lower GPAs.

“We have so many more APs than other schools, which colleges look at, and we can boost our grades with. We also have a lot more activities offered here. People are involved in so many things, more than the space they give you to write them,” said Ritchie Vaughn (’05), explaining why students from other schools may get into state colleges with seemingly less qualifications than some students from MLWGS.

Class rank also seems important to colleges, and MLWGS doesn’t rank. For example, out of 2,317 early decision U.VA applications, only 985 were

accepted. The average SAT scores were between 1270 and 1410. These scores are certainly good, but not unusual for MLWGS students. The shocking part about the students accepted early to U.VA. was the fact that

**“This year was the most competitive year in college admissions’ history.”**

87% were in the top tenth of their class.

“I think that, in terms of going to college, going to MLWGS...just doesn’t help in getting into college,” said Heather Hodges (’05).

Does it really hurt, in terms of college admissions, to go to MLWGS or should students just work harder to prove themselves in the eyes of college admissions?

“Many colleges know that we are a good school, especially in-state colleges. We have definitely proven ourselves,” said Vaughn.



Seniors Chris Ballard, Lauren Palmer and Kendall Wallace check the wall of admissions to see where seniors got in. *Photo by Sarah Beth Gross.*

# Suspension Process Explained

Continued from page 1

papers, [which] listed what they were allowed to do and weren't allowed to do on the trip... They should have considered that [the consequences] before they did them [the action]."

Student movements have been at the center of the situation, with many students asserting that the administration dealt with the situation the wrong way. Others simply wish to support their classmates. Some students have worn "Save China" apparel and spread "Free China" flyers.

Director Douglas Hunt would not comment about the student movements, but he stated that "opinion is fine as long as it's appropriately done" and does not break school rules.

The administration as-

serts that they followed the handbook in dispensing proper punishment. If an incident occurs on a trip away from school, "Normally," said Mr. Hunt, "what you [the chaperone] do is you call home and inform the parent, and a school administrator is informed, and obviously, the student is counseled." Privileges on the trip are then revoked.

A case involving drugs and/or alcohol results in an automatic 10-day suspension, a recommendation for expulsion, and a 45-day exclusion from school-related activities. Students are also encouraged to enroll in drug and alcohol education classes.

Mr. Hunt explained that the assistant principal is the administrator who grants suspensions.

If the student wishes to appeal a suspension, he or she must inform the director within two days of receiving the letter. The director can then choose to uphold, decrease, or abolish the suspension. If the student still wishes to appeal the director's decision, then that appeal is heard by a superintendent. Suspensions lasting more than ten days are referred to the entire school board.

Expulsions are reviewed and carried out solely by the school board.

Students who are suspended must be allowed to make up their work.

"You can't punish the student's academic well-being for their conduct," said Mr. Hunt.

Due to the suspensions, the future of the international field study trips is

being questioned. The administration has guaranteed that trips abroad will not be cancelled, but there will be a "revamping" of the international field study trips and trip forms.

"The intent of the trips was twofold," said Mr. Hunt. "The first thing was that students were taking an exchange program. The other one would be for credit in which you do course work, go to some location. It was not meant to be a travel agency. We want to make sure we get back to the real reason. Trips are important to our school. That's what we are dealing with, international studies."

Mr. Hunt added, "I can promise you from this point on, there is going to be a different direction in our trips."

# Democrats Discuss Issues

Continued from page 1

answer. The moderator then elaborated on those questions in the final round of the debate. As moderator, Dr. Holsworth had the authority to step in at any time during the debate.

The debate covered everything from gun control, violence, education, taxes, and immigration. The candidates contested the tuition and admission rates of Virginia's public universities.

Delegate Baskerville also disagreed with gubernatorial candidate and current Virginia Governor Tim Kaine's tax exemption plan, which would allow local governments to exempt up to 20% off a farmer's or



**Melissa Prestosa ('06) poses with Dr. Robert Holsworth, debate moderator . Photo by Alex Guzman.**

homeowner's taxes.

Some MLWGS students found that events like the Lieutenant Governor debates are important to the school.

"The students have an opportunity to hear firsthand the issues of Virginia politics and the candidates' stands on those issues," said Mairin Cipolla, ('05).

"On a different level, it fulfills the mission of the school. Finally it invites the public to take part in and benefit from the Maggie Walker community," said Cipolla.

The Lieutenant Governor debate for the Republican primary will take place on March 22 at MLWGS.

# NEWS IN BRIEF

COLLECTED BY JOURNALISM CLASS

## Terrific talent coming up

The talent show is scheduled to take place tonight at 7:30 in the auditorium. Put on by the SCA, the participants have been practicing diligently for the past two weeks in preparation for tonight's show.

"It will be the pinnacle of your high school experience," said Josh Porter ('05), encouraging students to attend.

Although tickets have been sold in the cafeteria all week, they will be available at the door for \$5.

## 20th century trip

Students in Mr. Wilkes' 20<sup>th</sup> Century American History class are visiting the "Price of Freedom: Americans at War" exhibit at the National Museum of American History, the Vietnamese embassy, and the Korean and Vietnam War Memorials today. The class has extensively researched the Korean War and the Vietnam War.

"I can't wait to go visit the Vietnamese ambassador," said Dipen Patel. "It's like...a culminating event for the class after studying it for the past two nine weeks."

## Robotics rally

On March 17-19, the MLWGS Robotics Team competed in the Chesapeake Regional Robotics Competition at the Annapolis Maryland Naval Base. The MLWGS team, although finally losing due to a loose drive chain chain, won an unofficial award for "Coolest Outfits."

A red and blue alliance consisting of three teams each competed to place red and blue tetrahedrons on top of a raised tic-tac-toe board. Creating rows of like-colors earned bonus points and placing your own over enemy tetrahedrons was allowed. Robots could also ram each other.



## Green headed heroes

The robotics team got dressed up as the Nintendo character "Link" from the game "Zelda." The team's mascot is Link and they wore the interesting head gear in order to boost enthusiasm about the competitive tournament.

## Democrats debate

Four Democratic candidates for Lieutenant Governor and about 250 others came to MLWGS on Friday, April 8 for a debate sponsored by the Virginia Student/Parent Mock Election.

The debate, moderated by Dr. Robert Holsworth of VCU, was featured in local television and print media. Republican candidates will debate at MLWGS on Friday, April 22.

## Reactions to One Acts

The One Act plays took place last Friday, April 8, at both 4:00 and 7:30. They were performed at the fire-house theater on West Broad St.

Chekhov's "The Bear" and "Dracula" by Talia Pura were the two places produced.

"They were amazing," said Heather Hodges ('05).

Students from the school were responsible for directing and starring in the short skits, but due to scheduling difficulties were unable to hold the plays in the school auditorium.

## Daring debaters

Eight MLWGS debaters are competing in the Virginia High School League (VHSL) Debate Championships at Liberty University this weekend.

## Forecasting wins

Starting off the season with 5 wins, the MLWGS boys' tennis team has taken the top spot in the district rankings. The 5 wins have been contributed to the large number of good players on the team this year.

Defeated opponents include Patrick Henry (8-1), Kennedy (6-3), Hermitage (4-1), Hanover (5-4) and Armstrong.

"The match against Hermitage was the best," said Amit Jain ('07). The Dragons had won their first four matches of the day, and the last match was under way, when it began to rain.

The choice was to resume the match another day, or for Hermitage to forfeit.

"Then, the Hermitage coach said that we were too good, so they gave us the match," said Jain.