

The MLWGS Jabberwock

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Richmond Youth Model UN at MLWGS

Middle Schoolers Seek Solutions In Kidnapping of Dalai Lama and Chinese Invasion of India

Jay Parrish

Jabberwock Staff Reporter

Schools from all over the Richmond area attended the Governor's School Mock United Nations conference at Maggie L. Walker Governor's School, March 12th and 13th.

Dr. Uliana Gabara started off the conference with a seminar on what September 11th has taught us about the value of

education. She said that organizations like the Mock UN will be invaluable in the destruction of racial and national prejudices, as well as providing a training ground for future world leaders.

"Pretty soon, the world will be your responsibility," said Dr. Gabara to the assembled students.

After opening ceremonies the delegates split into five different groups, SpecPol, Science & Technology, European Union, and two "crisis" groups. The first three collections of delegates debated on assigned issues while the two crisis committees were dubbed either China or India.



Saul Mutchnick speaks prior to Dr. Gabara's seminar. (Picture provided by Trevor Buckley.)

dia.

Each crisis committee was composed of high-ranking government ministers who were in charge of

their countries' foreign affairs. The crisis began with the abduction of the Dalai Lama by the Chinese mili-

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Dance Team Performs at Siegel Center

Lucy Sprague

Jabberwock Staff Reporter

On March 10th and 11th, the MLWGS Dance Team performed at VCU's Siegel Center. Their first performance was at 10:30 PM, and their second was at 5:00 PM.

The Dance Team performed during the intermission of the high school state basketball tournament semifinals. The Dance Team was the only team to dance at the Siegel Center for these games.

"We were invited by the athletic directors of the Virginia High School League,"



The dance team entertains the crowd during state tournament intermission. (Picture provided by Lucy Sprague.)

said Mrs. Marsh, the Dance Team's sponsor. "[The audience] was great."

The Siegel Center was packed with about 3,500

people each night. The Dance Team performed to hip-hop songs for about three minutes each time.

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Parking Lot Too Small

Every day, MLWGS students (seniors and juniors) drive into school and park in the parking lot. It's a common sight to find the parking lot filled almost to capacity with cars of all types, shapes, and sizes. Yet this parking lot only gives 155 (the number of parking permits issued per year) of the 293 juniors and seniors a chance to park close to the school. The others have to park on Elizabeth and Moore streets and, basically, anywhere they can squeeze in. Frankly, this isn't a great state of affairs.

Seniors automatically get permits. Of the 146 seniors, 105 took permits this year. That leaves 50 for the Junior class. These 50 precious parking permits only go to those juniors who are involved in many clubs throughout the year. 93 juniors have to find other places to park, and Elizabeth and Moore streets don't have close to that many spots. Furthermore, the homeowners on Moore Street are pretty darn sick of students taking their parking spots. Just the other day, a woman who lives on Moore Street told some students that she had been in contact with both the school and a civic group to prevent MLWGS students from parking on Moore Street anymore.

Also, as mentioned before, the parking lot at MLWGS is almost filled to capacity with cars. There are always a few seniors/juniors who are absent, leaving some vacant spots in the parking lot.

There are two solutions to this problem. The first is simple: Since some people are always absent, the school should issue a few extra parking permits per year. That way the parking lot will *always* be filled to capacity. The other solution is also simple: The school should either buy another parking lot, or buy land to expand the current one. The second solution is more costly but will be more beneficial to the school and the student body in the long run. However, if the second proves unattainable, the first solution at least should be implemented.

— MTD



Letters to the Editor

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Death Penalty Never Justified

Sniper suspect John Allen Muhammad was sentenced to death on March 9 by a Prince William County judge. Whenever a high-profile case affecting

Opinion by...

Alex Guzman

a wide area of the United States' population occurs, the question of capital punishment always arises. Is it really justified to take life from a human being? I don't think so.

Although the Supreme Court does not feel this way, capital punishment could be viewed as a cruel and unusual punishment, something deemed unconstitutional by the Bill of Rights. These supreme representatives of justice believe that taking the life of United States citizens is justice, but can murder ever be justified, even by the state?

Currently, the traditionally conservative Republican Party holds control

over the government, with George Bush as President and Republican Party members dominating Capitol Hill. These conservative politicians often base their views on Christianity, pushing for a ban on gay marriage and abortion, and yet they support taking the life of those who commit crimes. Surely, they are not above God. Jesus was even against the death penalty, saying the words *"He who is without sin among you, let him throw a stone at her first,"* (John 8:7) in condemnation of a public execution. How can you get more Christian than that?

But even if you aren't Christian or don't base your life around morals, there is always the concern about money. According to the Moratorium Campaign (www.moratoriumcampaign.org) the costs of capital punishment are more than that of sentencing someone to life in prison. Through the process of the arrest, up to the time of the execution of the convicted, the government

can spend anywhere in the range of \$1 million to \$7 million, depending on the stature of the case. Cases involving life in prison sentences cost the state about \$500,000 in costs per person, including the cost of incarceration. In some states, money is cut from social programs to ensure that the capital sentence can be carried out.

Obviously, capital punishment does not teach the criminals a lesson in the

**"He who is without sin among you, let him throw a stone at her first."
(John 8:7)**

long run. It also doesn't help in preventing murders. Capital punishment is a waste of money and time, and it is also morally wrong. It should be abolished. No person has the right to say who can live and who can die.

Mass-Murderers Deserve to Die

I agree with the Prince William County judge's March 9th decision to administer capital punishment in the Muhammad trial. There are some people who are so detrimental to society that they must be eliminated once and for all.

One example is a guy who kills many people, such as Osama Bin

**"He that smiteth a man, so that he die, shall be surely put to death."
(Exodus 21:12)**

Laden, Sadaam Hussein, and Timothy McVeigh. These are the people that will ruin the world if they *ever* get out

of jail. Their survival serves no purpose because all they would do with their freedom is attempt to destroy democracy and take power away from everyone else. These are the people who will not stop until they've won this power, or at least done as much damage as possible to innocents.

I'm not talking about fits of passion and anger, or accidental murders during burglaries.

I'm talking about cold, calm, premeditated mass-murders. I'm talking about murders with a great deal of preparation behind them, committed as efficiently as possible, like the gassing of the Kurds by Hussein. The people who commit these terrible crimes dehumanize everyone around them, and their continued existence is such a

threat that they must be destroyed to ensure the safety of society.

The Bible provides verses that seem

Opinion by...

Michael Douglass

to be in support of the death penalty. According to Exodus 21:12, "He that smiteth a man, so that he die, shall be surely put to death." As a matter of fact, the Bible is taking an even harder line than I am. It is—as far as I can tell—suggesting the death penalty for everyone who commits murder. I'm not after the common murderer. But I want the mass-murderers and those who commit genocide to die for their crimes.

Debate Wins at States

Many on Team Will Continue on to Nationals Held in Boston

Sohini Sircar

Jabberwock Staff Reporter

The Debate team won 1st place on Sat. March 6 at the Catholic Forensics League (CFL) State tournament and qualified many individuals for the upcoming CFL National Championships held in Boston.

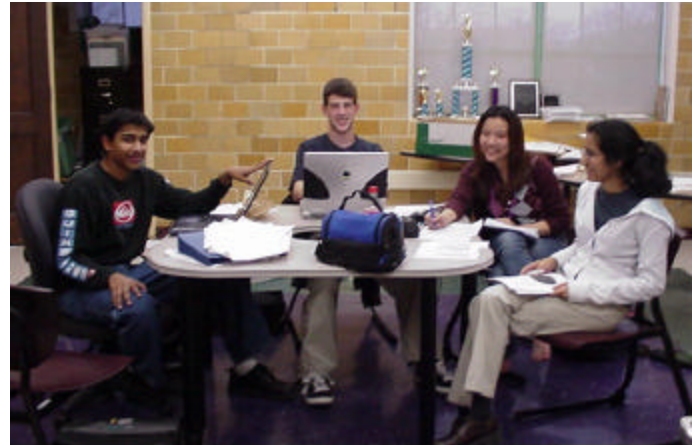
"I was happy with the team altogether because there are so many seniors and I was glad to see them

win because it was a culmination of three years of work put in by those kids," said Dan Brown, Debate Team coach.

The Lincoln-Douglas category qualified Nick Desai, Daniel Lautzenheiser and Kate Dydak (1st alternate).

The Policy teams that qualified were the following: Thomas Fortuna & Amar Shah, Shaily Pandey & Aileen Zhang and Saul Mutchnick & Hans Sahni. In fact, Fortuna & Shah received 1st place in their category.

In Student Congress Tobin Van Ostern, Matt Kiehl and Mrinal Menon all



Debate team preps out. Left to right is: Amar Shah ('04) & Thomas Fortuna ('04), Aileen Zhang ('05) & Shaily Pandey ('05). (Picture provided by Sohini Sircar.)

qualified for nationals.

The MLWGS Debate Team hosted the Virginia High School League (VHSL) District tournament

after school on Thursday, March 18th. The team will also host the VHSL Regionals on Saturday, March 27th.

GSMUN

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tary. An outbreak of the bird flu complicated matters, and combined with a Indian rescue mission, brought the countries into a full-scale war.

The speed and efficiency with which the committees made their decisions affected the outcome of the crisis. After a bloody, but short war, the two nations came to a grudging peace, at the request of their generals.

"I found the crisis committee very enjoyable," said freshman Stacy Jefferson, "we all worked together, and were dedicated to our assigned posts."

The European Union

debated several topics, including Catalonia's bid for national recognition, genetically altered foods, and EU & NATO relations. Resolutions were reached on the Catalanian crisis and genetically altered foods. The SpecPol handled an outbreak of hostilities between Pakistan and India.

The Science and Technology group debated over two key issues, cloning and space exploration. After several hours of debate, a resolution was passed recommending therapeutic cloning, but requesting a ban on reproductive cloning. Delegates were required to take on the views and beliefs of their nation, not their own.

"If I ever have to represent Hungary in the UN, this will have been a good experience," said delegate

Dance Team Shows-Off

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There was one freshman, one sophomore, one junior, and five seniors who went to the Siegel Center.

Governor's School students started the Dance Team about four years ago, but Mrs. Marsh joined as the sponsor two years later. The Dance Team captain is Jasmine Elmore, a junior.

Although this is the first time dancing at the Siegel Center, the team participated in a competition last fall at Manchester. They also dance at all the varsity basketball games played at home.

Robotics Smolders Competition

Sohini Sircar

Jabberwock Staff Reporter

The MLWGS Robotics Team qualified for nationals at the NASA/VCU Regional Competition at the Siegel Center from Mar 4-6.

The team, also known as the MechTechs, took their robot, named the Phoenix Rising, to compete with 63 Mid-Atlantic teams.

The team finished with a record of 3 wins, 2 losses and 1 tie allowing them to rank 19th out of 63 spots.

The MechTechs received the Judges Award for demonstrating merit. Nationals will be held at the Georgia Dome in Atlanta April 15th - 17th.