

The MLWGS Jabberwock

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Friday 23 April 2004

Band, Chorus and Orchestra Head Off to Orlando

Music Department Has High Hopes for Musicfest and Disney World Performance

Jeremy New

Jabberwock Staff Reporter

On April 21, the MLWGS jazz band, chorus, and orchestra left to attend the Musicfest Orlando Adjudication in Orlando, Florida. They will be in Orlando for nearly five days.

"A lot of people are going and it will be a good time," said junior Jackson Williams. Approximately 65 students from the entire

MLWGS music department went on the trip. Most were anxious and looking forward to the whole thing, except the prolonged bus ride along the Atlantic coast.

"The ride is going to be boring, but everything else will be great," said Cameron Williams, a jazz band member. The MLWGS band, orchestra, and chorus left at 7:00 yesterday on their thirteen-hour bus ride to Orlando.

Approximately 65 students from the MLWGS music department went on the trip. Most were anxious and looking forward to the whole thing, except the prolonged bus ride along the



The orchestra practices their songs in preparation for the Musicfest in Orlando. *Photo by Jeremy New.*

Atlantic coast.

"It is going to be awesome—I can't wait to go to

Disney World and meet Mickey," said freshman jazz band member and drummer

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MLWGS Hosts Model Congress

Jay Parrish

Jabberwock Staff Reporter

MLWGS hosted its first Model Congress meeting on April 16th and 17th. Students from Henrico High School and Moody Middle School attended the conference.

"We are expecting about 10 schools next year," said co-president Mrinal Menon. The session of Model Congress was quite a success, with many bills being passed and a large amount of student approval.

"It's surprising how fun Model Congress actually can be," said Nick Skaper-



Model Senators practice their bill passing. *Photo by Jay Parrish.*

das, chairman of a House committee.

The conference was divided into the two Congressional bodies, the Senate and House of Representa-

tives. Each of these bodies was divided into two committees ed to judge bills proposed by students before they were tried in a full session. If a bill survived the committee session, it progressed to the "full session," where the two small groups rejoined and decided whether or not to pass bills.

The conference finished Saturday evening with an awards ceremony. Either an Honorable Mention, Outstanding Representative/Senator, or Best Representative/Senator was awarded to deserving participants. The winners of "Best Representa-

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Standardized Tests Hurt Students

Tests are becoming the basis of learning throughout Virginia and the United States, with SOLs, AP Exams, SATs, and ACTs slowly taking over the job of deciding how well students do academically and what schools they will be able to get into.

Because of the academic importance of these tests, some teachers merely “teach to the tests.” Doing this often encourages the students to just memorize facts instead of using inquisitive and in-depth thinking.

Many if not all MLWGS students are also faced with this problem. Most students will probably find themselves doing exactly what they shouldn’t: learning just what is on standardized tests. Students should seek to avoid learning just the facts for which they need to pass the tests. The extra mile is worth running in order to not only learn but also understand the material.

Nonetheless, not all fault lies with the teachers and the students. Many colleges are also to blame because who gets in and who doesn’t is highly based on how well the applicants do on standardized tests. Colleges should look more to accomplishments and extracurricular achievements of students instead of just their test scores.

In the end MLWGS students should hold to what they believe they can do through learning. If they want to memorize facts, so be it, but learning to understand will eventually pay off.

—KC

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The MLWGS Jabberwock

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It's a Woman's Choice

Abortion has one of the most hotly debated topics since its legalization by the Supreme Court decision *Roe vs. Wade*, which was handed down on January 22, 1973. The court decision gave a woman the nearly uninhibited right to an abortion in the first and second trimesters of a pregnancy.

A woman should have control over her own body, just as the Supreme

Opinion by...

Carolyn West

Court ruled. That is really all that should need to be said; unfortunately, some refute what would seem to be fact. In this manner, they have basically claimed that people do not have the right to control their own bodies, but that some outside force does.

While abortion should by no means

be used as a form of birth control, it is still up to a woman to decide what to do with her own body. When abortions were illegal, many girls felt trapped by their circumstances. Mrs. Karen Rashke, a recent speaker to Ms. Paige Hawkins' Health class, recounted a memory from her youth of looking down her stairs and thinking that if she were to become pregnant she would then "fall" down those stairs in an attempt to miscarry. In 1972, the year before the Supreme Court decision was made, the number of maternal deaths from illegal abortions was 39.

The health and well being of the mother must be kept in mind at all times. Victims of rape and incest, as well as those who are very young, are in danger of emotional damage should the pregnancy come to term.

From the noise made by those who consider themselves "Pro-life," one would think that the abortion rate is

constantly increasing. However, since its peak in 1981, the percent of abortions has decreased nearly 6 percent. The often-debated late term abortion is often portrayed as the major issue. However, about 90 percent of all abortions are performed in the first 12 weeks.

The first state legalized abortion in 1967; in 1966 the number of maternal deaths from illegal abortions was 120.

Past behavior is said to predict future behavior, so a good guess is that abortions will always be performed, whether they are legal or not. As such, shouldn't the circumstances of the abortion be as safe as possible?

Children Have the Right to Live

Recently, politicians have pushed the abortion issue into the background in favor of "more important" issues such as terrorism and the war in Iraq. While the war in Iraq has claimed over 600 American lives and terrorism has claimed over 3,000, abortion—by the numbers—is more important by far. According to the Family Research Council, abortion has claimed the lives of over 42 million American children.

Abortion is the first step down an inexorable slope that will result in the ethical dismantling of society.

Some liberals claim that the child isn't alive until born, yet this foolish

assumption is obviously flawed. If we determine death by whether the heart is beating, then we should determine life in the same way. A baby's heart, according to WebMD, starts beating by the end of the fourth week of pregnancy. This means that by the twenty-eighth day the baby is alive. Yet still abortion rights activists insist that the baby isn't living until the third trimester or actually birth.

In ancient Rome, people would dump their babies on trash piles and leave them to die if they didn't want them. Is this where society is headed? If so, perhaps it'll be the elderly and infirm who we kill off next (because medicare and social security cost a lot) or perhaps the mentally retarded (since most of them end up on the streets anyway).

Abortion is the first step down an inexorable slope that will result in the ethical dismantling of society. Perhaps

Opinion by...

Michael Douglass

euthanasia will soon be legalized in the US, since we've already consented to destroying our children. (Currently only Belgium and the Netherlands allow euthanasia.) This wanton slaughter of those with terminal illnesses will be common practice in ten years if we don't make a stand against the ruthless murder of children and the elderly right now.

We all want to leave all of our children with a good world to live in, so let's start with allowing all of our chil-

Nightmare Rain Affects MLWGS Athletics

Spring Season Off to Rocky Start Due to Rain

Alex Guzman
Jabberwock Staff Reporter

The week following spring break brought forth a sense of gloominess and despair. Rain had been cast down upon the students at MLWGS, causing wet hair and saddened faces, along with the many cancellations of athletic events and practices. These cancellations not only affect the many spring athletic teams at our school, but it also put stress upon the athletic directors at MLWGS. According to Paige Hawkins, dealing with the rain was a nightmare.

This season, the boys' tennis team has had four matches postponed. Girls' soccer, softball, and boys' soccer have each had three games postponed. Baseball has missed a total of five games.

"The rain has ruined our season so far. It's ridiculous how many matches have been rescheduled," said Jeremy New, freshman and second ranked on the boys' tennis team.

Lack of game time along with missed practices has affected the play of the teams. Spring break followed by a week of rain has stunted team progression.

"We haven't practiced much and it's affected our fitness and overall," said Mike Hagemann, captain of the JV boys' soccer team.

Days of consistent rain



Ms. Paige Hawkins directs athletic activities at MLWGS.
Photo by Alex Guzman.

caused mayhem for the athletic directors at MLWGS. For practices, staff would have to check the fields to determine if they were playable. This meant checking for standing water on tennis courts, checking water on

According to Ms. Hawkins, "Spring season is any athletic director's nightmare."

the soccer fields, and calling a hotline to determine whether the baseball fields, which are under Richmond City jurisdiction, are playable. The rotation system for the gym is then initiated if the fields aren't playable.

Developed by Ms. Hawkins, the rotation for gym use is as follows: softball, tennis, girls' soccer, baseball, and boys' soccer. Baseball and softball normally share their rotation in the gym.

On game days, if the fields are not playable,

league officials are contacted. The opposing school is contacted to reschedule the game. The school calendar is then changed, and the cancellations are announced over the intercom. In spring, this task of notifying officials is made even more difficult because very few of the spring season coaches teach at MLWGS.

The struggle to make the athletics department at MLWGS function properly is made stressful during the spring season by weather conditions and the effects of those weather conditions on the fields and athletic teams. The burden of notifying all the proper contacts and rescheduling games is more than enough to drive someone crazy, but with six different sports programs active during the spring season, rescheduling and dealing with cancellations is enough to drive anyone crazy. According to Ms. Hawkins, "Spring season is any athletic director's nightmare."

SPORTS SCORES

Varsity Boys Soccer Thursday 15 April

Deep Run 1
MLWGS 3

Monday 19 April

MLWGS 4
L.C. Bird 3

J.V. Boys Soccer

Thursday 15 April

Deep Run 5
MLWGS 3

Monday 19 April

MLWGS 2
L.C. Bird 1

Varsity Girls Soccer

Monday 19 April

L.C. Bird 1
MLWGS 0

Varsity Boys Baseball

Friday 16 April

Mills Godwin 5
MLWGS 0

Varsity Girls Softball

Friday 16 April

Mills Godwin 15
MLWGS 0

Tuesday 20 April

Patrick Henry 16
MLWGS 0

Wednesday 21 April

Henrico 16
MLWGS 2

Boys Tennis

Thursday 15 April

Tucker 6
MLWGS 3

Soccer Team Gets Sweet Revenge

Nick Eilerson
Jabberwock Staff Reporter

The MLWGS boys varsity soccer team won its fifth game of the season in dramatic fashion on Monday, April 19 at home against L.C. Bird High School. Junior Walter Diaz's goal with only a few seconds remaining in the match allowed the Green Dragons to get revenge on the team they had lost to by five goals only a few weeks before.

MLWGS 4
L.C. Bird 3

"This was our biggest win this season," said Senior Luke Hostetter, who scored one of MLWGS's four goals. "After losing 5-0 in the first game, and now coming back to beat them makes it so much sweeter."

The match started badly for the

Dragons, as Reed Westra knocked a shot into the back of the net for L.C. Bird five minutes into the first half. Later in the half, Luke Hostetter blasted a shot into the top left corner of the goal to even the score. Soon after, Walter Diaz converted a penalty kick, allowing MLWGS to have a 2-1 advantage heading into the break.

L.C. Bird dominated the second half of the match, maintaining possession of the ball and taking six shots as opposed to the Dragons' two. They scored the half's first two goals, jumping out to a 3-2 lead with 12 minutes remaining in the match. When hope seemed lost for the Dragons, Sophomore Rami Hamzey scored a goal with about ten minutes left to play.

The crucial moment came when only about 30 seconds remained on the clock. This was when Walter Diaz booted a high, floating free kick from



Walter Diaz jukes L.C. Bird defenders. Photo by Mr. White.

about 25 yards outside of the goal that bounced onto an L.C. Bird defender's head and into the goal, inches away from the goalkeeper's fingertips. The crowd erupted, and Dan Park, the Dragons' head coach, began running in circles, yelling with joy. His team won the match seconds later.

"No game is over until the final whistle," Coach Park wisely said.

Baseball Team Scorches John Marshall

Nathan Burniva
Jabberwock Staff Reporter

On one of the hottest days Richmond has ever seen in April, the Maggie L. Walker Baseball team turned up the heat on John Marshall in a blowout of a game. The Dragons won 21-8 after 5 very short innings on Monday, April 19 at their home field.

"I almost felt bad for them," said starting shortstop and junior, Sam Wilmoth. "They almost got one hit, but then I caught the line drive."

Walker had a total of 12 hits with no errors while Marshall had no hits and 5 errors. Matt Elliot started pitching for the Dragons but came out after striking out



Sam Wilmoth reflects on a well-played game. Photo by Nathan Buniva.

two in the first inning. Actually, all of the starters came out after the first inning, but some returned later in the game.

Wilmoth pitched for two innings and was able to rack up five strikeouts. The only reason Marshall got on base

MLWGS 21
Marshall 8

was through several walks.

"At first I was disappointed when I was taken out, but I understood that our benchwarmers deserved some time," said starting second baseman and junior Adam Roberts.

Marshall finished the game with a record of 0-5 while Walker finished with a record of 2-5.

"It felt great to get our second win," said Wilmoth. "Even if they were an easy team, a win is a win."

The baseball team will next face Mills Godwin at home on Friday April 23, 2004. Godwin hopes to provide more of a challenge for the Dragons. The last time these two teams met, the Eagles beat the Dragons 5-0. In that game, Pete Gorgon threw 159 pitches compared to the average 40 pitches a game.

"This next game will give us the opportunity to finish what we started," said a perhaps overly optimistic Jake Gunst.

America is Nice but It is Not Home

Heriberto Vazquez II
Jabberwock Staff Reporter

Early April ninth in a home in Bonn, Germany, a 14-year-old girl woke in anxiety. Julia Romberg started her journey to the United States. Her mother accompanied her on a cab to a German train station, which then took her to the airport.

When Julia arrived in Washington D.C. her excitement was still at a high, but fatigue had begun to set in. Julia slowly became very nervous as she took a second plane to Richmond, Virginia to meet her exchange family for the first time, the Accordino family.

“I don’t know if I would prefer to stay in America. I belong in Germany. It is my home,” said Julia.

“There are so many things I do not know. I am staying longer than last time, and I didn’t know if everything would go well,” said Julia.

Julia had visited the United States two years before. She had been sight

seeing in Washington D.C., Virginia, New York, and Philadelphia.

“I am seeing less sights this year, and I am interacting with more teenagers,” said Julia.

While she is here, Julia will be attending MLWGS on a regular basis. However, she does not seem too out of place. Julia speaks fluent English very well. She has been studying English for five years.

Julia comes from Jugenddorf-Christophorusschule Koenigswinter, a Gymnasium (academic high school) near Bonn. Compared to MLWGS, Julia’s school is large. The school has three separate buildings, all three stories high. The school has a total of 960 students. Julia’s school does not have many computer labs and, unlike students here at MLWGS, students at Julia’s school do not have their own network accounts.

“I am here to learn English, visit an American high school, and to get a new experience,” said Julia.

Julia can be found learning American customs in her free time. She has learned to play many games here in America. Julia has learned games like basketball, whiffle ball, and many board games. Julia has also learned to



Julia Romberg poses for a picture in Germany. Photo by Herr Mayer.

play the harp and to perform step.

“I have fun in Germany, but it is not that exciting. To me, America is more

“There are so many things I don’t know. I am staying longer than last time and I didn’t know if everything would go well,” said Julia.

exciting. There are so many things I don’t know and so many things I am not used to,” said Julia. “I don’t know if I would prefer to stay in America. I belong in Germany. It is my home,” said Julia.

Sigmund Freuda by Herb



Kill Bill Kills

Whoever said sequels can't be better than the originals obviously never saw "Kill Bill Volume 2". The second volume of this two-part revenge thriller was much better than the first with significantly less bloodshed. In fact, they seem like two entirely different movies or as if director Quentin Tarantino de-

Review by...

Shana Arias

cided to put all of the violence and gore in the first volume and all the plot and character development in the second.

The second volume starts off much like the first, a black and white flashback of "The Bride's" wedding massacre. Here we meet Bill, played by David Carradine, for the first time. Frankly, I blame casting. Carradine just doesn't fit the

part of the leader of a deadly assassin squad, but then, perhaps that's part of that Tarantino charm. In the first movie, Bill was some unreachable evil that had to be stopped, but in the second, as Thurman inches closer to her ultimate goal, Bill becomes more and more real to the audience. In fact, we sort of end up liking him, leaving viewers with conflicting emotions. Do we really want to "kill Bill" or more importantly, does Thurman?

After beating off countless numbers of bad guys in the first installment, one would assume "The Bride" had to be invincible, but of course, this would be a logical assumption and logic is anything but Quentin Tarantino. So the sword swinging butt-kicking Thurman is taken down single handedly by Bill's out of work brother "Bud" (played by Michael Madsen). Of course, instead of killing her on spot, Bud decides to burry Thurman alive because after all, no villain can simply kill the hero with a quick and easy shot to the head. They have to have a long, dramatic, tortuous murder from which the hero can miraculously escape. (It was a disappointing to see Tarantino, revered for his originality, use such a cheapening plot device.)

And Thurman does eventually escape, but only after a terrifyingly realistic burial scene that would make even the most non-claustrophobic viewer squirm. Pitch black dark-

ness, heavy breathing, and the deafening sound of dirt being slowly piled on top of you is proof of Tarantino's ability to make the unbelievable believable.

In this scene and various

much on character development and plot (as it was lacking in the first film) there are several long scenes with, gasp, no fighting! These scenes do tend to get a bit on the boring side, but



Uma Thurman as "The Bride" targets her next victim. Photo courtesy of Miramax.

others in the film, Tarantino puts the audience into the action, making them feel as if they were actually there. Still, he knows he has a large fan following backing

thankfully, Tarantino jumps around, never staying in the same place for long. It keeps everything fresh, the audience interested, and the movie original.

Tarantino often tests (and sometimes crosses over) the fine line between genius and sheer stupidity.

him, so he often tests (and at times crosses over) the line between genius and sheer stupidity.

This volume might put some of the action lovers to sleep. Because it focuses so

Kill Bill Volume 2 is dark, original, and follows in the footsteps of its earlier cult favorite predecessor "Pulp Fiction" by introducing us to a world many didn't know existed. If you, like me, were disappointed by the gory massacre of a film in "Kill Bill Volume 1", you won't be disappointed again. With great acting, humor, action, deeper meanings, and even a little romance Quentin Tarantino has redeemed himself in world of filming with "Kill Bill Volume 2".



Bill (David Carradine) offers "The Bride" (Uma Thurman) some advice. Photo courtesy of Miramax.

Multiculture Mural

Sohini Sircar

Jabberwock Staff Reporter

Students eating lunch in the cafeteria will now have something else to look at. Students in the 6th Period Art II class began the mural's planning in the third nine-weeks and hopefully will be complete by the end of the school year.

Mrs. Judith Kowler, the art teacher, thought up the "International Skyline" theme to reflect the school's "international studies" specialty.

The process of transferring the idea into a mural involved numerous steps. The class first contributed and voted on buildings to place on the mural. Then,

the outlines of the buildings were sketched onto translucent paper and projected on the wall, which was then outlined again in black.

The next step will be to paint the scenes with both realistic and fantasy colors using acrylic and latex paints. The backgrounds will blend together pictures of trees, water and the sky.

Mrs. Kowler describes the final product as having "brilliant colors with the backgrounds merging in together."

The buildings that will be depicted are the following: the Coliseum, the Sydney Opera House, the Golden Gate Bridge, the Eiffel Tower, the Taj Mahal, a German castle, the



Megan Stucke ('05) traces the Eiffel Tower. Photo by Sohini Sircar.

Parthenon in Greece, the Statue of Liberty, a Japanese pagoda, St. Basil's Cathedral in Russia, the Chinese Forbidden City, a Mexican Aztec Pyramid and a scene from Venice.

When asked to name her favorite scene, Mrs. Kowler replied, "I wouldn't even say. I think they work

wonderful together."

"I like the Eiffel Tower the most because I like the way it was traced," said Megan Stucke ('05).

Students in the 6th period Art II class rotate shifts in working on the mural.

In the following years, Mrs. Kowler plans on painting the cafeteria poles.

Band Trip

Continued from page 1

Amit Jain

The jazz band performed yesterday in Disney World's Magic Kingdom. They will play throughout the weekend at Orlando area schools as part of the competition.

Band director Ed McClellan has high hopes for the band despite the stiff competition. Over thirty jazz bands from around the country will compete in the Musicfest.

"The students have put in a lot of effort... it will all be worth it," said McClellan.

Sophomore bass player Shравan Kumar added, "We have a lot of good players and will perform well."

Model Congress

Continued from page 1

tative/Senator" were awarded a gavel with their certificate, though no student could receive two gavels. The awards were given by the chairmen in accordance with outstanding oratory ability and bill quality.

Teachers, sponsors, and parents alike agree that Model Government participants are very opinionated and many will have future careers in government.

"The goal of Model Congress was to give kids a good hands-on opportunity to work in the world of government," said Mike Dunavant, sponsor of the Henrico program.

Talent Competes for Scholarship Money

Sohini Sircar

Jabberwock Staff Reporter

The 2nd Annual City Wide Competition will be giving out 7,500 dollars in scholarship money to students throughout the Richmond Area. Students will be auditioning and presenting their talents in the MLWS Auditorium for the next four consecutive Saturdays (April 24 & May 1, 8, 15).

The Stu Gardner Institute, a non-profit organization, motivates students, ages 9 to 18, through constructive activities and scholarships opportunities.

The institute's goal is to

help students afford the high costs of a college education

The founder, Stu Gardner, is a resident of Richmond and was the musical director for Mr. Bill Cosby. He recently was the recipient of a Masters of Divinity Degree from Virginia Union University and currently is pursuing a Doctorate in Management Sciences.

"He [Stu Gardner] just likes to help the children and he has always been helpful around the community," said Gloria Gardner, who has been helping out for the last two years.

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