

THE MLWGS *Gabberwock*

Volume VII, Issue 6

Friday, December 11, 2009

Debating Diversity

By Logan Ferrell

After months of debate and speculation, the first step in implementing the University of Virginia review of the MLWGS admissions process has begun.

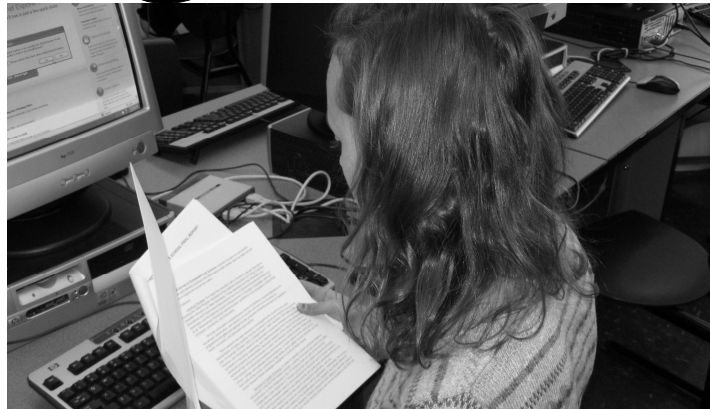
The final 112 page report, a culmination of the year long study, comes as MLWGS is faced with a new administration. The report focused on the three areas in which it was found that MLWGS could improve: recruitment of a diverse applicant pool, fair and equal admission, and retention of minority students. In each of these categories, the report offered commendations, observations on current practices, and suggestions for future policy.

As a conclusion, the report issued a number of recommendations on how to improve the enrollment process in these areas, such of which included: removing the Algebra requirement from those wishing to apply, beginning recruitment at an elementary and early middle school level, and adoption of different test formats for the admission exams.

“The diversity study was a \$70,000 boondoggle that should have been completed by the counties, as admissions are primarily their responsibility,” said Elsa Shultze (’10).”

MLWGS hosted an open forum last Thursday to discuss the three areas of improvement and the controversial recommendations. Announced as both an opportunity to expand on the findings of the report and for the wider school population to share opinions on the review, the forum drew an audience of approximately 75.

“The forum did a pretty good job of bringing up the main points of a delicate issue,” said Jocelyn Powelson (’10).



Student reads diversity study. *Photo by Elaine Hillgrove*

The event proceeded with an introductory overview by Director Morton, who compared some of the study’s suggestions with current school policy and his own vision for the future of MLWGS. The director quickly and enthusiastically endorsed recommendations, such as early recruitment, community outreach, and increased testing security, while rejecting suggestions which would appear to “water down” standards, such as the removal of the algebra requirement. Director Morton was also insistent in pointing out the progress already made by MLWGS, such as a diversity rate higher than the national average for similar magnet schools.

Following the conclusion of the director’s speech, the floor was opened up to people who had signed up speak each of whom had three minutes to make their case before the audience. MLWGS parents and students joined representatives of the Richmond Center for Peace Education and the Chesterfield branch of the NAACP in the opportunity for criticism or support of the study.

Some parents were eager to suggest changing the methods by which candidates are evaluated, calling the single composite score an inaccurate representation of student abilities.

Parents weren’t the only ones voicing their displeasure.

“The diversity study was a \$70,000

boondoggle that should have been completed by the counties, as admissions are primarily their responsibility,” said Elsa Shultze (’10).

If any relative consensus could be seen among the speakers, it was in the agreement that counties and localities, responsible both for early gifted education and specialty center admission guidelines, must bear the brunt of responsibility in reforming the processes in question.

The variety of ideas expressed in the forum, and controversy surrounding some of the proposals makes one thing very clear. While the UVA study is over, the debate over diversity at MLWGS is just beginning.

In Today

Editorial—Page 2

Obama Address—Page 3

Glee Feature—Page 4

Faculty Lounge Lizards—Page 5

New Moon Review—Page 7

Boy’s Basketball—Page 8

Winter Sports Update—Page 9

Issue

Diversity Study Bad News for MLWGS Budget

Once again, Virginia schools are under scrutiny for alleged disproportionate representation of minorities in gifted education programs.

This time, though, it's not just Maggie Walker. The Governor of Virginia has called for a statewide examination of gifted identification methods in order to rectify the apparent problem. According to a press release issued on November 17th, 26% of Virginia's population is black, while only 12% of identified gifted students are black. Similarly, 9% of Virginia's population is Latino, but only 5% of identified gifted students are Latino.

While this is a very serious problem, and should be examined thoroughly, it means that Maggie Walker will once again revisit the UVA study.

The UVA study (which, as a reminder, cost around \$80,000) concluded last year and was released on June 15. An open forum was held on December 3rd to discuss the results of the study.

The problem with both the UVA study and the statewide examination of gifted education identification methods right now is that they bring undue attention to charter schools, and

Maggie Walker in particular, during a budget year.

Already Maggie Walker has to face the possibility of severe budget cuts, and although Governor-Elect Bob McDonnell is a supporter of charter schools, some of his plans include cutting funds to education. That means that Maggie Walker will face the same budget cuts that every other school district is facing, due to the economic crises and the need to cut back.

However, if you add to that the fact that charter schools in Virginia (Maggie Walker, while not a charter school, shares several similarities with them) are currently getting national attention, it doesn't look good. Legislators are more likely to vote against funding for schools like Maggie Walker if it looks like the admissions process of identification methods are not fair.

The administration needs to make sure that it does its best to present the school in the best light possible between now and the Congressional Session. The open forum is a good start as it allows the community to understand what the findings mean. But there is more work to be done before then.

-EH

THE MLWGS *Jabberwock*

Jabberwock Staff:

Editor-in-Chief: Elaine Hillgrove

News: Charles Condro

Opinion: Logan Ferrell

Features: Ginny Cross

Sports: David Wagner

Reviews: Brie Cifu

News-in-Brief: Scott Yeudall

Website: Porter McRoberts

Layout: Sean Youngstone

Assistant to All: Melanie Burks

Photo Editor: Annie Weidhaas

Contributing Writers:

Emlyn Crenshaw Natalie Pita

Henry Woodburn Melody Wang

Jacob Bradshaw Matthew Ruskan

Editorial Policy:

The MLWGS Jabberwock covers news events related to the school community and provides a forum for students to share their ideas. Statements expressed by columnists or in letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the staff. However, all editorials are the combined work and ideas of both the Editor-in-Chief and her 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 newspaper@gsgis.k12.va.us.

Have an opinion?

WRITE A LETTER
TO THE EDITOR

newspaper@gsgis.k12.va.us



Support the Afghan Surge

Last week, after months of deliberation and seemingly constant press speculation, President Obama announced his plans for a new approach to the war in Afghanistan. While I find some contention with certain details of the plan, I agree with the president that such a shift in troop strength is in our vital national interest.

That said, I found the delivery over-ambitious and something more appropriate for a candidate rather than the Commander in Chief. Much of the speech was devoted to distancing President Obama from his predecessor, by making deliberate references to his opposition to the war in Iraq. In addition, optimistic digressions on the economy and nuclear proliferation, seem like the strained justifications of a president seeking public support after a problematic first year. Such a speech may befit a rally, but not an audience of young men and women

Leaning to the Left

By Sean Youngstone ('12)

Last Tuesday, President Barack Obama announced a massive troop surge to Afghanistan. Their goal: to magically solve every problem in the most war-torn and hostile country in the world and make it home before the 2012 primaries. Such poorly crafted fantasy is probably enough to make even Stephanie Meyer frown.

Unfortunately, what our national leadership fails to see is that you cannot put a war on a timetable, especially not in a country as decentralized and chaotic as Afghanistan. Unlike Iraq, which at least has a history of strong leadership, Afghanistan is divided into thousands of shifting nomadic tribal groups, only a few of which have ever come under the control of Kabul. It is possible that we might be able to achieve some degree of stability after a lengthy bloody campaign, but that could only come to pass if we were willing to pour all our resources into the conflict indefinitely. Most commanders have admitted that

who may within months face deployment to Afghanistan.

Despite my distaste for the semantics of his announcement, I am compelled to agree with its premise. While American strength has been focused on restoring security to post-invasion Iraq, Afghanistan was left to an undermanned contingent. This less publicized theater of operations has gradually slipped back into a state of violence and disorganization.

The tide of instability has already hit the government and populace of neighboring Pakistan. A flowing trade of weapons and drugs, encouraged by organizations such as al-Qaeda, has made this region an incubator of terror, the likes of which America originally intervened to prevent.

At this critical moment, a clear, hold, and build approach, like that begun in Helmand this summer, is the best way to pull Afghanistan back from the brink of

Bring Home Our Troops

30,000 is a grossly inadequate number; at least a hundred thousand would be needed to unite the nation.

As is, our government is completely unwilling to make the necessary commitment, and rightfully so. Victory in Afghanistan would require the sacrifice of American lives and taxpayer dollars, neither of which we can afford in this recession. To appease the extreme right, however, the president has taken an equally deadly middle path. It is obvious that he is either resigned to failure or filled with delusions of a quick victory; why else would he mark the date of our withdrawal on the same day he announces the surge?

That error alone costs our troops any chance they may have had of stabilizing the militant eastern border. Now that we have announced when we will withdraw, the Taliban simply have to bide their time until we pull out before they can reassert control over Afghanistan.

It is also worth noting that the terms of this conflict make it almost impossible for us to win. Our enemies are

Writing from the Right

By Logan Ferrell ('11)

failure. This requires a major troop presence in order to turn a full-blown insurgency into a threat that can be handled by Afghan forces. It also necessitates a long, low-intensity conflict, something not taken into account by the President's eagerness to set a deadline for redeployment in 2011.

That is perhaps the greatest flaw in the President's idealistic rhetoric and expectations: one year will not turn Afghanistan into a model of freedom or security. Rather, the President will most likely have to accept the disappointing reality that perhaps no number of troops can turn Afghanistan into a corruption-free democracy. Even basic security will require the extended presence of a large force. Nevertheless, we must persevere in the face of these unpleasant obstacles. The stakes are too high and the consequences too dire, to accept failure.

largely hidden within a vast wasteland that could only be effectively neutralized with a nuclear attack. The villagers who we rely upon for help are far more easily won over by Taliban sophistry than they are by our brute show of force. Our forces are uneducated about Afghan culture, and they are unable to provide neither the protection nor the funds that the Taliban are able to. Furthermore, we are up against an enemy that will not shirk from blowing themselves up along with several city blocks just to kill a single Western infidel. Meanwhile, every innocent civilian that we kill is seen as a sign of imperialist cruelty. When the odds are so stacked against us, we can hardly hope to win.

The Taliban themselves failed to control much of Afghanistan. With the limited resources we currently have, it is inevitable that we will fail to do so as well. If we are unable to commit completely to this conflict, it would be better for us to be done with it than to wallow for two more years. President Obama, bring our troops and our dollars back to where they belong: the USA.

Senior Hosts Fan Website, Meets Glee Cast

Story by Virginia Cross

By the time the Glee cast broke out into "Don't Stop Believing" during the show's first episode last May, Robert Black (ø10) decided that he wanted to be more than a once-a-week fan of the show: he began planning how he could promote the show with fans all over the world.

"[After that episode] I remember sitting there thinking, 'This is going to be huge.' Black said. "I had never before seen a show that so perfectly walked the line between hilarious and heartwarming."

While searching the Internet for a possible route to establish a fan community, Black stumbled upon GleeFan.com. Black "went out on a limb" and contacted the owner of the website, a man named Travis Yee, to see if he could help contribute anything to the site.

Out of the six fans who contacted Yee to contribute time to the site, Black was the only person who had the computer knowledge necessary to work with the blogging software. Within a week, Yee had news for Black: he was going to let Black manage the entire site.

"I've been running GleeFan.com on my own ever since," Black said.

This past summer, Fox sent the members of the Glee Club in *Glee* on a 10-city mall tour across the U.S. Yee

obtained press passes for Black and another editor of an affiliated *Glee* fan site for a cast visit at Fair Oaks Mall in Fairfax VA.

Meeting most celebrities would involve only the expected quick hello and autograph, but Fox gave Black thirty minutes to interview Cory Monteith (Finn), Lea Michele (Rachel), Mark Salinger (Puck), Amber Riley (Mercedes), and Chris Colfer (Kurt).

"Luckily for us, this was over the summer, before *Glee* had officially premiered, so it was mainly just us and then a few people from the local Fox station," said Black. "We got to talk to record our interviews with the cast for half an hour before they started signing [autographs]."

Throughout the day, Black videotaped portions of the event, and he later posted several interviews and a cast performance on GleeFan.com.

Since the summer, the popularity of the show has exploded, and in turn, so has Black's GleeFan.com.

"Usually, I get anywhere from 8,000 to 12,000 unique hits a day," said Black.



Robert Black with Chris Colfer.

With updates about three to four times a week, Black adds previews of upcoming shows, news about the cast members, and video interviews released by sites like AOL. In addition, Black has even compiled questions submitted by followers of GleeFan.com, and he has arranged Q&As with Jenna Ushkowitz (Tina), Amber Riley, and Chris Colfer.

Black hopes to conduct interview with more of the cast members, but he also has plans at the moment to further the connection between the site and the fan members.

"I have been sent a lot of fan art by some very talented artists, so I think a fan art contest would be pretty successful," Black said. "I have a few signed posters as well as a few signed 'I am a Gleek' t-shirts stashed in my room that I can use as giveaway prizes."

Black currently has 470 followers on his twitter account (@GleekRob), and Fox Broadcasting, ABC News, the Rachel Ray Show, TV Guide, Entertainment Weekly, and Parade Magazine have all contacted Black about GleeFan.com.

"I want to go into public relations, preferably doing publicity for something entertainment based like a television/film company or magazine," said Black. "I've been practicing my networking skills, and making a lot of connections. I've been using this whole adventure as a learning experience."



Robert Black (ø10) meets the cast of *Glee* at a mall promo tour.

Old "School" FLL Play Gig

By Natalie Pita

The Faculty Lounge Lizards (FLL) are not just for kids anymore.

Since their last school performance at Fall Festival this past October, the Faculty Lounge Lizards, an R&B band made up entirely of teachers at MLWGS, have been gigging out in the community, most recently at a return performance at the Dixie Diner in Petersburg on Friday, December 4.

"We had such a good show [last time] and a good time performing that it's nice to return someplace," said Mr. Zweerink, bass player and guidance counselor.

The FLL says that they felt very prepared for this performance, as they put a lot of time into rehearsals. Mr. von Klein, saxophonist and music teacher, says that when the band practices they try to avoid long hesitations "when we're looking around at each other asking how [the song] began."

We're about more than just the music. We're about enjoying comrades and creativity.

The band practices after school almost weekly, but they like to get away from their usual environment. One of their favorite places to rehearse is Mr. Clark's barn. Mr. Clark is a Chemistry teacher and the drummer for the band.

FLL has also been carefully planning their set list for when they play off campus.

"On a set list I try to narrow the list down to one word," explained Mr. von Klein. The band also tries to find contrast between songs, which involves varying the time signature and tempo of the songs.

The set list for the Dixie Diner was similar to the set list they played at Fall Festival, but this set list includes two new songs, both of which were written by Mr. von Klein.

"I've written dozens and dozens of songs, but I have to think of it in



Members of the FLL perform, from left Mr. White, Mr. von Klein, Mr. Clark, Ms. Arnold, Mr. Zweerink, and Mr. Waller.

terms of whether or not it fits the FLL," said Mr. von Klein.

"I'm happy playing covers, but when he [Mr. von Klein] writes songs, it's a big bonus," said Mr. White, Russian teacher and keyboard player for the band.

"From the beginning I said let's all write together," Mr. Klein commented. "I'm really not trying to say you are going to be my backing group that I'm going to cover for."

The band hopes to write more songs in the future, but they often spend much more time in rehearsal working on original songs than cover songs. Eventually, they even hope to come out with a CD.

FLL also commented that they have just gotten serious about the band, although Mr. White and Mr. Waller, who teaches English and plays the guitar for the band, formed the band in 2006.

"We played at post prom one year and the crowd dwindled because they didn't want to listen to us," said Mr. White.

Things changed for the FLL when they added Ms. Arnold, English teacher, on vocals.

"Since Ms. Arnold just started singing with us last year, we've just recently gotten serious," said Mr. Clark.

"What I think of as the begin-

ning of FLL is when Sherri [Ms. Arnold] hopped on board," said Mr. von Klein. "The spotlight is always on the lead singer, so we're lucky we have a great one."

FLL categorizes themselves as old school R&B. They try to stress the word "school" to the audience and try to communicate the fact that they are educators and colleagues getting together for a hobby that they have in common.

"We're about more than just the music. We're about enjoying comrades

Selections from the Dixie Diner Set List

"More Today than Yesterday"

Spiral Starecase

1969

"Sugar-Pie Honey-bunch (I Can't Help Myself)"

Four Tops

1965

"I Heard It Through the Grapevine"

The Miracles

1966

"Waterfalls"

TLC

1995

"Green Onions"

Booker T. and the M.G.s

1962

Pleasantly Dull to Adamazing

By Brie Cifu

American Idol winner Kris Allen released his self-titled debut album on November 17. As a co-writer to nine of thirteen songs, Allen collaborated with such artists as Joe King of *The Fray*.

His first released single, "Live Like We're Dying," has catchy lyrics, strong beat, and is overall memorable. It is well suited to Allen's voice, and more upbeat than many of the other tracks.

Also enjoyable is "Alright With Me," one of the most energetic tracks on the album. While still strongly suited to Allen's acoustic, laid-back style, this is the most pop-like of all of Allen's songs. It is not as lyrically inventive as the previous song for example, however it has a catchy beat to make up for this.

Several of the ballads on the album, such as "Lifetime" are wonderfully sung by Allen, and are best representative of the vocal talents that won him the

American Idol Title in May.

Highly anticipated was "Red Guitar," which was written by Allen before *American Idol*. It was not as imaginative as expected. Lacking a catchy melody and lyrics, this song becomes merely peaceful background noise.

This, unfortunately, is what happens to the majority of the tracks. While Allen has a pleasant voice, it lacks in versatility, and many of his tracks are indistinguishable from another, leaving listeners with an overall dull feeling.

One of the issues is the generally slow tempo of the songs. While Allen is vocally strong in tracks such as "Is It Over," the dawdling beat causes it to sound boring, rather than inventive.

Coming from his *Idol* days is "Heartless," an acoustic rendition of Kanye West's hit single. This shows Allen's ingenuity on the show in terms of choosing songs everyone knows, and is equally enjoyable to West's version.

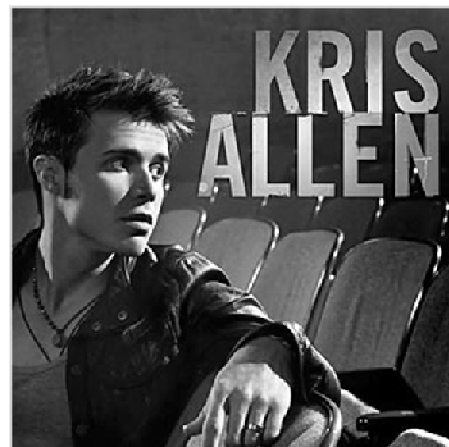


Photo courtesy of 3.bp.blogspot.com

Thankfully, Allen neglected to put his nauseatingly-cheesy original *Idol* track "No Boundaries" on the album, which was, unfortunately his first single.

Pleasant would be the best description of Allen's album. It is in no way bad, yet lacks the energy and originality that it could possess.

American Idol runner-up, Adam Lambert, released his highly anticipated album "For Your Entertainment" on November 23. The first noticeable thing about Lambert's album, is that unlike the majority of *American Idol* stars, it bore little resemblance to his performances on the show.

Instead, Lambert opted to make a pop/techno album. While this style took a few listens to get used to, it shows the pure ingenuity of Lambert as an artist.



Photo courtesy of buzznet.com/

Also having co-written some tracks, Lambert collaborated with artists like Lady Gaga and Pink to create a fresh album well suited to his extremely versatile voice.

“ [“Broken Open”] has an ethereal sound...perfectly suited to show off Lambert's extensive vocal range. ”

The album includes a number of ballads as well as more upbeat pop songs. "Whataya Want from Me," which was co-written by Pink, is a more vulnerable ballad, with a rock edge. "Broken Open," which Lambert co-wrote, is reminiscent of "Mad World," for which he was greatly praised during *American Idol*. It has an ethereal sound to it, which is perfectly suited to show off Lambert's extensive vocal range.

"Fever," which was written by Lady Gaga, has a more pop-rock feel and is one of the more showy tracks on the album. Songs such as this and the lyrically intriguing song "If I Had You," are two of the most upbeat on the album,

and have a more danceable feel, as does his first single "For Your Entertainment," which has a memorable beat.

"Pick U Up" is one of the most climactic songs on the album, as it gives Lambert a chance to build up the song to an energetic conclusion that again shows off the incredible power of his voice. Similar is his bonus track "Unfortunately," few other songs include these hard-hitting notes of which Lambert has become so widely associated.

The track "A Loaded Smile" however, does not meet the vocal standard that has come to be associated with Lambert. More techno oriented than the rest of his songs, it does not provide Lambert with the chance to sing to his full potential, and comes off as otherworldly, in a dull and uninventive way.

Overall, Lambert has already made a definite impact in music through his unique vocal style and his versatility in music genre. Fans are eagerly anticipating his next album, which based on Lambert's history on *Idol*, could likely bring out a whole other side of him, along with a completely different genre.

Taylor's Hot, New Moon's Not

By Brie Cifu

The hoards of screaming fans standing outside the theater at midnight could only mean one thing: the vampires and werewolves were back in the second movie of the *Twilight* Saga.

In *New Moon*, Edward Cullen (Robert Pattinson) and his vampire family move away from Bella Swan (Kristen Stewart) after he becomes concerned that he and his family endanger her life. Spiraling into depression, Bella finds solace with her old friend Jacob Black (Taylor Lautner). Their friendship is tested when Jacob becomes withdrawn due to an ancient secret in their tribe, but they are reconciled when Bella figures out that he is a werewolf, and accepts his fate.

“When it comes down to it, the movie was in no way a cinematic masterpiece.”

During her time with Jacob, Bella realizes that her participation in risky behavior, such as riding motorcycles with Jacob, results in images of Edward giving her caveats. When one stunt goes too far however, Bella must go to Italy to save a desperate Edward, who thinks she is dead, from the wrath of the ancient vampire coven, the Volturi.

With new director, Chris Weitz, *New Moon* did not disappoint fans, as everything from the screenplay to the quality of the filming seemed greatly improved



Bella confronts Jacob about his secret. Photo courtesy of <http://www.imdb.com/>

from *Twilight*.

The hype of the movie disguises the fact that Pattinson, Stewart, and Lautner are not the strongest actors. The fact that Bella and Edward are madly in love is unexplainable based on their seemingly detached personalities throughout and is a major flaw in the movie.

Lautner is more amiable, but doesn't always express enough conviction. He was able to make the transformation to a wolf in *New Moon*, proving he was worthy of continued portrayal of Jacob, and that in addition to his improved physique, he could hold his own next to the other leads.

With *New Moon* comes the introduction of the werewolves. Just like the vampires, the werewolves were well selected and well-portrayed. Most of the film characters lived up to their literary selves. The background of the werewolves could have been described in more detail for those who had not read the series.

While often unnoticed in

comparison to the leads, the secondary actors in *New Moon* were excellent. Particularly, Billy Burke, as Bella's father Charlie; Ashley Greene, as Edward's sister Alice, and Anna Kendrick, as Jessica, gave phenomenal portrayals of their characters, and subtly make the movie more complete and more compatible with the books.

Dakota Fanning joined the cast of vamps as Jane, a Volturi guard, and also acted her part convincingly as a dark vampire. Appropriately young, she, and Michael Sheen as Aro, a Volturi leader, both contributed to the climactic scene where Bella, Edward, and Alice confronted the Volturi.

An aspect of the film that continues to lack is the special effects. There is a fight between the Volturi and the Cullens, which consists of blurred movements, the normal fast pace for vampires and over dramatized slow motion stunts that detracted from the excitement. It would be better for the

entire scene to be done at normal speed, which while not demonstrative of a vampire's speed, would make the scene more believable.

One of the most entertaining aspects of the films now are the friendly feuds that exist between Team Jacob and Team Edward fans (as well as those on Team Taylor/ Team Rob). In very few other films have there been so much bantering and cheering throughout the entire movie, which in many ways simply made the whole experience more exciting.

When it comes down to it, the movie was in no way a cinematic masterpiece. Despite all the possible criticisms, I thoroughly enjoyed the film. While it is clearly not destined for an Oscar, it was much less cheesy than *Twilight*, and an enjoyable watch overall.

Rating:

(Out of Four)



Boy's Basketball Beats Lee-Davis

Story by Charles Condro

2-1. That's the record of the Varsity Boys Basketball team after an impressive victory over Lee-Davis High School in the home opener on Tuesday.

The Dragons started off well, taking the lead on the games first points by forward Dan Laws (ø1), and they never looked back. The first quarter finished with MLWGS ahead 12-8, thanks to a timely three-pointer towards the end of the quarter by guard Tommy Davies (ø1), who drained the shot even though he was being guarded by a much taller LD defender.

Davies hit another shot from beyond the arc to start the second quarter, and forward and Co-captain Parker Kirwan (ø0), continued to slash through the LD defense to create baskets for the Dragons.

The Dragons went into the break leading by five, but LD got a point back by outscoring the Dragons 6-5 in the third quarter, so the score was 29-25 in favor of the Dragons heading into the final quarter in regular time.

While it is a rare occurrence for MLWGS to go into the final quarter with a lead against a team from the highly-talented Colonial District, the Dragons

stood tall through the pressure. Laws and guard David Wagner (ø0), each scored four points in the fourth quarter, and a steal and layup by guard Blake Powers (ø0), helped to seal a Dragons victory.

While the offense was led by Laws, fifteen points, Kirwan, ten points, and Davies, six points, defense was the key to the game.

øWe really stress defense in practice,ø said Davies, øAnd all of that practice is paying off.ø

Jerry Fiala (ø0) sent the crowd to their feet throughout the night with his numerous blocked-shots at the expense of the LD players.

øJerry Fiala was a monster,ø said Green Machine member Jack Scher (ø0). øHe spiked the ball with malicious intent on several occasions.ø

The team was cheered heartily by the Green Machine faithful, who came out by the dozens to watch the home opener.

øThey were a sixth man for us,ø said Davies. øI want to thank all of them for coming out to support us.ø

While the road will be tough throughout the regular season, the confidence and experience gained in this impressive victory over the LD Confederates and the win last week over the Appomattox Regional Governor's School, and it has

many of the Dragons faithful looking forward to the rest of the season.

øIf the Green Machine turns out, and the team performs like that every game,ø said Green Machine member Ese Shaw (ø0), øIt is going to be a good season, probably the best.ø



Photo by Norris Guncheon

News in Brief

Music Composition Seminar to Play in Commons

Music will resound from the commons next Thursday as the Music Composition Seminar will be playing there while the students eat lunch. It will be the first time the seminar has performed together in front of a crowd.

"We just wanna get it out of the way, I guess," said Alex Zuercher ('10), one senior in the seminar. "[But] It's gonna be awesome!"

The seminar divided themselves into groups that play their own styles of music, from jazz fusion to classical to even indie rock. At times they will use instruments like the banjo and synthesizer, according to Ryan Meng ['10], another senior in the seminar.

All of this should make for an overall eclectic performance from the Music Composition Seminar.

Poet Visits MLWGS English Classes

Poet Chuck Sullivan is visiting MLWGS this week to read some of his works and talk about his life as a poet with students. He is a friend of English teacher Mr. Bear O'Bryan and the two have been instructors at the North Carolina Governor's School together.

Carly Spraggins ('11), a student in Mr. O'Bryan's American Lit class, said she expected to "learn more about the structure of poetry and the process of writing it."

Spraggins and classmates prepared for a discussion with Mr. Sullivan by reading a variety of poems by writers like Emily Dickinson and Sylvia Plath. "I hope they'll learn that poetry is more about the individual that writes it than the poetry itself," said Mr. Sullivan.

MLWGS Winter Sports Preview

Girls Basketball

Head Coach: Carlton "Speedy" Baughman

Notes: The Lady Dragonø return two starters from last yearø team: Cheta Emba and Lindsay McGuire(ø1). Emba, who receives recruiting mail from the University of North Carolina, has her sights on the all-district team. Despite the key loss of Cassie Turnage(ø1) to indoor track, the Lady Dragonø team is rounded out by a plethora of solid contributors.

Key Games: Thomas Jefferson, December 15th, Home; Appomattox Governorø School, January 7th, Home; Patrick Henry, February 2nd, Home

Jabberwock Prediction: 5-17

Swimming

Head Coach: Rob Sultzer

Notes: The two time defending regional champ boys return a stellar group and the girls return many key swimmers after a successful campaign last year. Led by a whoø who in college recruiterø minds, the boys are led by Ben Catanese (ø0), Matt Hesser (ø0), Hunter Knight (ø0), and the speed demon Matt Gill (ø0). On the girlø side, Jocelyn Powelson (ø0), Deanna Guilick (ø0), Sarah Acree (ø1), Theresa Dula (ø1), Meredith Bearden (ø0), and the volleyball All-American Izzy Zechini (ø0) lead the way.

Jabberwock Prediction: Boys repeat as Regional Champs and improve to 3rd in states. Girls win the Region and finish top 10 in the state.

Wrestling

Head Coach: Don Blanton

Notes: The wrestling team returns as they hope to improve on the progress from last year. Team leader and dominator on the mats, Kenzie Grasso(ø0) hopes to become the first Maggie Walker state champion at 119. Todd Miller (ø10) and Chip Watson (ø0) also spearhead the attack with quick shoots and incredible reversals.

Key Matches: Multiple Teams, January 8th, Home; Multiple Teams, January 29th, Home

Jabberwock Prediction: Todd Miller, Chip Watson, and Kenzie Grasso will all have winning records this season

Indoor Track and Field

Head Coach: Jim Holdren

Notes: The indoor track team hopes to continue the success of the cross country team. Although weak on the sprinting side, the Dragons hope to own the distance events. Leading the pack for the girls will be Clarissa "The Beast" Schick (ø0) and Anna Spiers (ø1), and the addition of Cassie Turnage may prove vital. On the boys side, Cody Talmadge, Cameron "Boris" Napps (ø0), and Marc Breidenbaugh look to improve their impressive finishes in states last month.

Key Meets: Green Dragon Relays Indoor Track and Field Invitational, December 19th, Home; East Coast Invitational Indoor Track Meet, January 2nd; Saint Christopherø Indoor Track Invitational, January 29th and 30th.

Jabberwock Prediction: The Dragons will win the 2 mile on the girls side every meet and will have three of the top ten boys each meet.

Boys Basketball

Head Coach: Guy "The Legend" Davis

Notes: The Green Dragonø return four of five starters from last yearø team, including regional player of the year candidate Parker Kirwan(ø0). Currently 2-1, the Dragons hope to use sound fundamentals and defense to shatter the record amount of wins in Maggie Walker history of eight.

Key Games: ; Thomas Jefferson, December 15th, Home; Appomattox Governorø School, January 7th, Home; Trinity, January 19th, Home; Steward, January 26th, Home.

Jabberwock Prediction: 9-13



Regional player of the year nominee (2009) Parker Kirwin *Photo by Norris Guncheon*