

THE MLWGS *Gabberwock*

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Weight Room Rules Now Enforced

By Charles Condro

The recent enforcement of weight room restrictions by the MLWGS faculty is causing problems for students.

Many students used to use their free time at school to exercise and work out in the school's weight room. They were surprised, then, when students were no longer allowed in the weight room without adult supervision. This rule is not, a new restriction, but one that has been on the books for several years.

"[The restrictions] are not really new," said Athletic Director Ms. Paige Hawkins, "They are just now being enforced. We used to be more lenient."

The renewed application of the restriction does not come from a specific incident, but rather with a mind towards what could happen in the future.

"We talked to our legal advisors," said Ms. Hawkins. "It is a liability. Somebody could drop a weight on their throat and we could lose the whole building."

The school is not only worried about the liability of minors working out alone in the weight room, but for the safety of the students.

"It is a safety issue," said Ms. Hawkins. "As much as you guys don't want to admit it, kids your age can have heart attacks and strokes too. What if someone was in their alone and had a stroke?"

Both students and teachers, however, would like to work out a compromise so that students could still use the school's work out facilities.

"A compromise could be weight room training with one of the gym teachers that is required to be in the gym without supervision," said Andrew Sullivan (ø1), "This does two things, eliminate the people who would goof off in the gym by singling out the ones that care enough to attend training, and fur-



Asian Assembly:
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Photos by Susan Ballentine ('10)

ther educate those who do on safety matters. I would even sign a release form to be in the weight room."

"If I am in here [Ms. Hawkinsø Office]," said Ms. Hawkins. "I would be okay with [upperclassmen] working out in the weight room, but they would have to do it with a buddy. I also like the idea of signing release forms."

The issue remains, however, that the school has to consider liability and the safety of the students.

"I really hope that we can work something out so that people can use the weight room responsibly," said Sullivan, "But I can see why they want to make sure that it is safe for the students, and why they want to make sure that they are not liable."

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February's Assemblies Good for Students

While February is officially Black History month, at Maggie Walker, it's cultural history month. February is a time where Maggie Walker students get the chance to learn about various cultures. Both the Asian and USB assemblies expose students to new perspectives and traditions.

As a school for International Studies, it's important that the student body learn about ethnic customs they may not have been familiar with. Not only do they teach students new things, but the assemblies break up the monotony that is winter. The beginning of the 3rd nine weeks generally shows student fatigue and disinterest. However, by giving the students a break from class with an entertaining, yet educational activity, the administration and the performers give students a much needed break.

The assemblies also allow the school as a whole to join together and recognize student achievements in the fields of dance, music, and acting that are normally not as celebrated. They give a different population of students the chance to express their creativity.

While some may argue that the assemblies digress from more traditional customs, they nevertheless succeed in opening students' minds. Not every aspect of each assembly is perhaps

the most ancient of customs, but all the acts still represent some spirit of the culture they are trying to teach, and they are all highly entertaining.

Assemblies also give students the chance to show their maturity and compassion, as shown through their excellent behavior as audience members, making the assemblies even more successful than they would have been.

-EH

Sport's Editor's Note: In the article previewing the upcoming Hesser/Schick race (now tentatively May 1st), after consultation with multivariable calculus student Brennan Dolson (ø10), the Jabberwock did not take into account Hesser's acceleration in the 100 meter dash carried over to the 1600, and his recalculated time is 2:34.51.

THE MLWGS *Jabberwock*

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Have an opinion?

WRITE A LETTER
TO THE EDITOR

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Former Maggie Walker Student Escapes from Haiti

By Ginny Cross

After staying a week in Haiti with four others from his Richmond church, St. Bridget's, Danny Yates (09) spent the evening of January 12 relaxing on the church stairs of Sacre Cour, Saint's Bridget's Haitian sister church, talking to Father Pere Bourdeau, parish priest of Sacre Cour. When the two felt the ground tremble, they first dismissed the vibrations as from either a generator or a truck. Even when Father Bourdeau began to suspect the rumbling was an earthquake, he just said, "This sometimes happens in Haiti."

Other than a falling brick, their town of Hinche, located about 50 miles north of Port-au-Prince, only initially suffered minimal damage and casualties. Following the quake, somebody set up a radio in the middle of the street, and townspeople gathered around the radio, where they listened to reports trickle in about the damage of the quake elsewhere in Haiti.

"People were in a state of fear," said Yates. "The death toll started coming in around 10,000 people, and there was

even a rumor that the president had gotten warning and was in a helicopter at the time of the quake."

While checking the conditions in Hinche with Father Bourdeau, Yates said the owners of a local supermarket had heard reports of looting, and were already guarding the store with guns and machetes.

"When crazy things happen, tensions flare," said Yates.

The next morning, Yates woke to the prayers and chants of people flooding the streets, calling out for the safety of family and loved ones. The villagers had heard by this point that the archbishop of Haiti, Monsignor Joseph Serge Mior, had been killed, and as a further sign of the catastrophic impact of the quake in Port-au-Prince, a dump truck arrived in Hinche, full of injured people, some with missing limbs. While the quake had hardly touched Hinche, some of the worst consequences of the quake came to Hinche with the thousands of survivors fleeing out of the capital.

Within 24 hours of the quake, Yates

and his team found weak internet access and were able to notify their families that they were safe. While online, the group saw CNN coverage of Port au Prince showing the damage there to be far more horrific than they had suspected. Father Bourdeau made a plan to drive to Port-au-Prince to rescue several family members out of the city, and on the morning of January 15, Yates, Bourdeau, and another St. Bridget's team member drove to Port au Prince.

“When crazy things happen, tensions flare.”

"That was the longest day of my life," said Yates. "Just the trip there took three hours, and the roads were unimaginable. We were driving 70 miles per hour in a Toyota Tundra on dirt roads. On the radio we heard, "Do not come to Port-au-Prince. Do not come to Port-au-Prince," but we didn't see any damage until we got to the city limits."

At the advice of another member of his church group, Yates packed a spare t-shirt, a change of socks, and a first aid kit, but Yates had no idea until he got into the city that he would use the sock to cover his mouth from the street stench and the t-shirt to bandage somebody's severed arm.

"It was worse than any apocalyptic movie you could imagine," said Yates. "Dust in the sky, 95 degree weather...bodies piled up to block roads coming into the city."

In Port-au-Prince, the three stopped by the house of the Haitian archbishop, where they knew his body lay under debris.

"We saw people on top of the rubble who had bandanas over their mouths, [still] grieving for the archbishop," Yates said. "Father B. was crying."



Danny Yates (09) talks to Father Pere Bourdeau. Photo courtesy of Danny Yates.

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In a city previously inhabited by over three million people, Yates and Father Bourdeau found Bourdeau's sister, cousin, and a few other friends and relatives to take back to Hinche. In the same truck that held three people on the way down, about 25 people crammed into the cab and truck bed for the trip out of the city.

It took five hours for us to go from Port-au-Prince to Hinche, and on the way we had to get gas," said Yates. "200 people were all grabbing for the pump but Father B. knew the owner. We sweet talked him into giving us gas, and he came out with a gun to let us to the front."

Yates and the rest of the St. Bridget's group were eventually able to leave a few days later, when they took a six-seat plane from Hinche to Cap-Hatien, and then they traveled from to Turks and Caicos, then to Miami, then home to Richmond.

"The day I left, I believed the country was descending into a revolution," said Yates. "But as Father Bourdeau said, of any people in the world, the Hai-



Scenes from Hinche and Sacre Coeur. Photos courtesy of Danny Yates.

tians are best equipped [to persevere]."

Days after coming back from Haiti, Yates returned to William and Mary, where he is a freshman, and he quickly set up a blog (hincerelief.wordpress.com) to share updates and collect donations. He spends hours a day organizing further relief for Haiti, and his efforts have brought thousands of dollars to Hinche and several medical teams to the town.

"When I'm not studying, running, or biking, it's all Haiti, Haiti, Haiti," said Yates.

Currently, Yates is working to bring several students from Hinche to study at Virginia universities, but the required documentation for admission may delay enrollment though they have passports, it will be very difficult to obtain high school transcripts and records from their previous universities. Yates plans to speak at the March 10 MLWGS PTSA meeting, and he hopes to inspire a connection between the MLWGS community and these students from Haiti.

In a personal reflection included in the Hinche Relief blog, Yates wrote, "Each day when I call Father Bourdeau he leaves me with the same question, 'do people know what has happened? Tell them your story.'"

Danny Yates served as the editor-in-chief of last year's Jabberwock



News in Brief

08-09 Yearbook Wins Award

Last year's MLWGS yearbook was awarded first prize in early January by the American Scholastic Press Association. Many aspects of the yearbook were evaluated, including cover design, photography, and story layout.

The award is well deserved by last year's staff, according to Susan Ballentine (ø10), the Editor-in-Chief of the 2008-09 yearbook. The small staff worked to improve the yearbook by switching publishers, employing new online programs, and upgrading the design.

"We only had eleven people, so everyone had to do a lot more work than normal and find a few new creative ways to get the job done," said Ballentine.

This is the second honor bestowed upon the yearbook in the recent weeks. The 2008-09 yearbook was also chosen by the publishing company Herff Jones to appear in "Ideas that Fly," a compilation of the 150 best yearbooks across the country. The publication will be distributed to yearbook staffs across the nation.

"I'm a pretty demanding editor, and I know [the staff] probably all wanted to yell at me or curse me out a few times," said Ballentine, "but it was their hard work that made the book so good, and I can't ask for more than that."

Sophomore Wins Class Ring

Jeremy Teller (ø12) won the raffle for a free class ring during the sophomore meeting with the Herff Jones company for class rings on February 16 in the auditorium.

"I'm ecstatic. [Winning] saved me two hundred dollars," said Teller.

All who attended the meeting were encouraged to submit a slip of paper. The person selected would receive an Ultrium ring, the least expensive of all the options.

"Everyone wishes they would have won. I personally wanted to win a two hundred dollar ring," said Eileen Wang (ø12).

"I'm not going to buy it because it's so expensive, but Jeremy won, so fair is fair."

Asian Assembly

By Annie Weidhass

Students and teachers enjoyed the annual Maggie Walker Asian Assembly on February 17, one performance during 5th period and the other performance that night at 7 o'clock in the auditorium.

A variety of acts were used in the assembly. Some acts have become traditions and are now in the performance every year, such as the bamboo dance and the Chinese Yo-yos. Students that went to different assemblies saw different acts, while other acts were shown at both.

Kevin Wu (ø12) was in five acts throughout the assembly. He was a part of the Super Junior dance, the S.T. Island act, and the Tinikling (bamboo dance), the Gee dance, and the Super Mario Act. Wu's favorite act to be in was the Super Junior dance.

"We practiced for several hours; it is not that easy to teach several other people choreography," said Wu. "In the end, it was really satisfying to see the nine of us complete the performance without any issues."

"There are two main ways you can become a part of the Asian Assembly," said Wu. "Either you organize your own act, or you get asked to be in one."

Performers who are part of a performance from the previous year often get carried over to the next year.

"There is a large portion [of the assembly] that is student driven, however, Mrs. Schuler is a large help to keep the Asian Assembly organized and on time," said Wu.

"It's a chance for people to get together and do things they normally wouldn't have time for," said Wu.

"To have everybody together and doing something that we enjoy and represent a part of our culture comes with a lot of excitement."

Caroline Rose (ø12) was a part of the Tinikling dance, the more official name for the bamboo dance.



"We started practicing in maybe December, and then we practiced after school on random days," she said. The students who participated in the dance last year taught her the dance.

"I guess my favorite part was meeting new people and learning more about Asian culture," said Rose. "And I know what K-pop is now!" (Which is Korean pop).

"It's a performance for a reason," said Wu. "You have to love showing what you've practiced for so long to the audience. You feel a lot of contentment and satisfaction after you perform and hear compliments from others."

News in Brief

81 Juniors Still Interested in Mentorships

There are still 81 juniors planning to take a mentorship for the 2010-11 school year. Some juniors who originally indicated that they wanted a mentorship have since switched to seminars, but Ms. Sharon Parker, the seminar and mentorship coordinator, expects even more juniors to switch as well.

"The numbers [of juniors] in mentorship are still very high, maybe too high to accommodate," said Ms. Parker. "It's been slow going... because of being out with the snow," said Ms. Parker. She has been having meetings with all of the juniors interested in mentorships since after winter break, but still has to meet with two more.

"The seminars are not finalized, either, so we may have some seminars eliminated depending on the numbers (how many juniors move from mentorships to seminars)," said Ms. Parker.

Chloe Simpson ('11) is trying to get a mentorship in police works, but it's not easy to get. "If I don't have a mentorship, I'm going to be really unhappy with whatever seminar I get stuck with," said Simpson.

Meanwhile, Jessica Ogle ('11) thinks that she may do a mentorship in psychology at VCU, but is unsure because her mentor doesn't know if they can have high school students in mentorships. "I don't know what I'll do [if I don't get a mentorship]," said Ogle.

Ms. Parker expects the number of juniors in mentorships in seminars to be finalized the first week in March.

This week's News in Briefs were written by students in the Journalism Class



2's a Party, 15's a Crowd

By Brie Cifu

When you put more than fifteen well known actors in one movie, it can either turn out to be a must see movie, or a recipe for disaster. Surprisingly, *Valentine's Day* had great entertainment value.

Starring Jessica Alba, Cathy Bates, Jessica Biel, Bradley Cooper, Eric Dane, Patrick Dempsey, Hector Elizondo, Jamie Foxx, Jennifer Garner, Topher Grace, Anne Hathaway, Ashton Kutcher, Queen Latifah, Taylor Lautner, George Lopez, Shirley MacLaine, Emma Roberts, Julia Roberts, and Taylor Swift, *Valentine's Day* had almost every actor you could want.

In a nutshell, it's a typical Valentine's Day, and all of these people are either in love, having romantic problems, or trying to find love. However, many of the characters are connected to each other, and of course there are many mini-dramas associated with them.

With so many actors, it is illogical to believe that they will all be excellent actors. With the exception of a few (hem hem Taylor and Taylor), however, most of the actors pulled their weight and were charming in their roles. Although some actors, like Ashton Kutcher, were more involved with the plot, there was overall a good balance of screen time for the actors.

“ The theme of the movie was highly entertaining. ”

One of the major concerns before seeing this movie was that the movie would consist of a number of smaller plots, and that the characters would not be interconnected. Fortunately, however, all of them were in some way connected to at least a few of the others, so the plot flowed smoothly between the various stories.

While the script was far from stellar, it can definitely be described as cute



Ashton Kutcher presents flowers to Jennifer Garner. Photo Courtesy of <http://>

and humorous, which was really all that was expected of the movie. Rather than an Oscar worthy film, most viewers expected a charming romantic comedy to celebrate the holiday, which they were definitely given. The writers were very successful with some well-placed comedic lines that redeemed any lamer dialogues, particularly between the teenagers.

Perhaps one of the cutest parts of the movie was the little boy in the movie, who was both Shirley MacLaine's grandson and Emma Roberts's babysitting charge. His naïve ideas of love, and all of the people in the movie who helped him on Valentine's Day, were absolutely adorable.

While it was slightly unbelievable that everything that happened in the movie occurred within twenty-four hours (all on Valentine's Day), the movie had a strong conclusion that left viewers satisfied. There was no intense drama throughout the film, and the movie was left light and happy.

All of the actors were excellent choices for the film, and fit their roles well, whether they were supposed to be comedic, serious, or a hopeless romantic.

The only couple that was completely unneeded in the film was Taylor

Lautner and Taylor Swift. To begin, neither can act. Also, it was difficult to distinguish what their role in the film was. Swift acted like the stereotypical dumb blonde with Lautner naturally being her jock boyfriend. While they went to school with Emma Roberts, they really did not add significant plot to the film. However, their poor acting combined with some poorly written dialogues provided the audience with some (unintentional) laughter.

The theme of the movie was highly entertaining, and with the number of actors in the film was overall well executed. Viewers with exceptionally high standards were probably disappointed, however, having had lower standards going in to it, *Valentine's Day* proved to rise above those standards significantly.

Valentine's Day was the perfect Valentine's Day romantic comedy. With tons of actors, all viewers were sure to have a few favorites, and get in a few good laughs. Overall, the movie was cute, entertaining and overall just a fun movie.

Rating:

(Out of Four)



You Won't "Shutter"

By Brie Cifu

Isolated island with an insane asylum + a giant storm + decent actors + a legendary director = 2 hours of boredom? Something does not add up here!

Starring Leonardo DiCaprio, *Shutter Island* is the story of Teddy Daniels, a U.S. Marshall, who is sent to investigate an escape on Shutter Island, where an insane asylum for the most dangerous individuals is located. Along with his partner, Chuck Aule (Mark Ruffalo), Teddy begins to question everyone and everything on the island from Dr. Crowley (Ben Kingsley), the island's main psychiatrist, to illegal practices that may be occurring in secret. As the story progresses, Teddy must deal with flashbacks of his time serving in the army during WWII as well as a dark secret that seems to be looming over the island.

They did not really capture the audience's undivided attention.

Really, *Shutter Island* had most of the components necessary to make a good psychological thriller. Directed by the legendary Martin Scorsese, this movie definitely had twists. The problem was, few of the little details they focused on had any real importance, and they did not really capture the audience's undivided attention.

The setting of the movie, an isolated island with an insane asylum in the middle of a hurricane, was the perfect set-up for a psychological thriller. The problem was none of the patients on the island were really used for scare factor, so we were only left to ponder Teddy's internal conflicts, caused by his distress after the war and losing his wife, which, truthfully, is only interesting for so long.

A great percentage of the movie was dedicated to showing his flashbacks towards arriving at Dachau after the war, and his nightmares where his deceased wife comes to warn him. About the third



Leonardo DeCaprio comes to the island. Photo Courtesy of <http://images2.fanpop.com>

time she showed up, you had seen her enough to think "Not her again!"

The acting in the movie was fine. While all the actors certainly held their own, none were exceptionally remarkable.

The main problem with the film was that it was not able to hold the audience's attention the whole time. There were so many twists and new revelations that the viewers just stopped caring about each one, and were not really

shocked by anything. For the most part, the ending was predictable, and did not differ greatly from other movies of the same genre.

On a higher note, the location was perfectly suited for the film and the island and buildings used for the asylum were excellent. The diverse terrain added some tension to important parts of the film, and helped to distinguish certain areas of the island.

Any air of mystery or any unsettled feeling that viewers had at the beginning of the movie was sure to go away as the plot began to move all over the place and completely lost its flow.

Overall, while the viewers were not confused by the flow of events, per say, it was simply too much effort to try to stay tuned in on the action. Viewers were left feeling bored and wondering when the movie would finally end.



Photo Courtesy of <http://images2.fanpop.com>

Rating:

(Out of Four)



Boy's Basketball

Boys' Basketball

Record: 4-17

Jabberwock Preseason Prediction: 9-13

Although we overestimated this team's potential, the Dragons managed to rack up more wins than in the previous three years and suffered multiple losses by less than ten points. On top of that, Parker Kirwan (ø10) captured the all time three point field goals record in Maggie Walker and is in the top three for numerous scoring records.

Last Game:

Maggie Walker GS ----- 4 4 14 10 -- 32
John Marshall ----- 13 30 21 11 – 75

Girl's Basketball

Girls' Basketball

Record: 5-16

Jabberwock Preseason Prediction: 5-17

We were about spot on with the preseason prediction for the girls, although a game got cancelled because of the snow. Cheta Emba and Lindsay McGuire (ø1) led the team to a successful season and the girls return all five starters for next years team.

Last Game:

Maggie Walker GS ----- 5 9 5 5 – 24
Mills Godwin ----- 9 29 18 10 – 66

Boy's Track

Jabberwock Preseason Prediction: The Dragons will have three of the top ten boys each meet.

Regional Tournament:

15th place, 13.5 points

Highlights:

Matty Moliterno (ø11): 5th place- 11-06
John Tomlin (ø1): 7th place- 11-06
Marc Breidenbaugh (ø1): 6th place 3200- 9:58.82
Cody Talmadge (ø10): 8th place 3200- 10:13.73
Jacob May (ø10): 7th place 1000- 2:46.26
Matt Pickering (ø13): 7th place 1600- 4:39.16

Girl's Track

Jabberwock Preseason 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.

The Dragons did clean up in the 3200 in regular season meets, and the boys posted two top ten finishes in the regional meet, along with many other impressive finishes.

Regional Tournament:

9th place, 29 points

Highlights:

Jessie Wheeler (ø1): 6th place long jump- 16-11.50
Clarissa Schick (ø10): 3rd place 1000- 3:07.35
Anna Spiers (ø1): 5th place 1000- 3:07.70
3200 Relay Team: 2nd place- 10:02.02
1600 Relay Team: 2nd place- 4:18.25

Swimming

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

The boys and girls did take home the Regional Championship, but the boys finished 8th and the girls were not in the top 10 in states. Hunter Knight (ø10) did capture a 3rd place in states and Quint Carr (ø10) placed last in one of his events.

Wrestling

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

Although Miller, Watson, and Grasso (ø10) did not have winning records, Watson and Miller advanced to the district tournament and performed well.