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**CELEBRATING SIX YEARS & SIXTY ISSUES OF  
MSA JOURNALISTIC EXCELLENCE**

## EDITORIAL

By: Joe Kushnick

### Do you really care that Email is gone? To be honest, I don't.

I can't think of anything so important that I can't wait until class is over to say it. Personally, I think it's about time we students grew up.

I've heard a lot of kids argue that the administration here needs to treat us like adults to prepare us for life. Some students point out that in college and in adult life we will have freedoms we don't have here. This argument is also the basic idea behind the "there are no point sheets in college" argument.

It seems like everyone who fails a point sheet brings up the fact that colleges don't have point sheets. These students tell teachers that they can behave correctly when there are *real consequences*.

Wake up! If it's so easy for you, why don't you do that *now*? You're not mature enough to face college. You have to change yourself. Do it in high school where your academics won't suffer while you change.

Actually, there's a name for the kind of school that gives you many of the freedoms of a college environment. It's called "public school" and it costs a lot less than MSA. In publicly funded schools there are no point sheets, few helpful teachers, and certainly nobody to cut you some slack as far as grades and stupid mistakes.



Is the Mill Springs Email policy too strict? Many students think so  
Photo art: Joe Kushnick

Oh, that's right. Chances are good that you already gave that "public school" thing a try. How did that work for you? Good plan, trying to replicate that environment here.

Sure we have smaller classes, but if you're Emailing, aren't you too distracted to learn anyway?

MSA is designed so that teachers can help students individually, but if you refuse to try their suggestions it's wasted. Those helpful suggestions extend to getting off your E-mail and actually trying to understand a few facts every once in a while.

At some point you're going to have to change the way you act. It's not an easy thing to do on your own, so you probably need some help to do it.

Your parents have given you the option of letting MSA knock some sense into you now as a teenager, before the realities of adulthood take over. Doesn't that seem better than flunking out of your chosen college or losing a job in your eventual career because of antics that don't fly in the real world?

*Editor's note: On Feb 12 most Upper School and Communication Arts students lost the ability to Email each other because some students were abusing the privilege. Students can communicate with teachers and receive mail from outside addresses. Level A's continue to enjoy full email privileges. The MSA Technology team is fine-tuning the process.*

## EDITORIAL

By: David Toler



Albert Einstein once said, “Condemnation without investigation is the height of ignorance.” If this statement is true, then our nation is run by the most ignorant people on the planet.

Democrats and Republican alike seemed to have given up on the ideas that have made this country great: the sharing of thoughts, the offering of compromise to suit everyone’s needs, and standing for ideals instead of just a person or a group.

Instead of intelligent discussion, politicians often use labels like “liberal” so they can dismiss people’s ideas without thinking about them. They often refuse to acknowledge suggestions and ideas of the opposing parties, and do you know what the best part is?

Our nation is suffering at the hands of name-callers, closed minds and sweeping generalizations. What happened to healthy debate?

Both the Democratic Party and Republican Party have organized themselves into lock step voters so as to completely defeat the purpose of Congress: balanced government.

are throwing at each other.”

MSA Junior Joe Kushnick says, “The checks and balance system has become totally inefficient with all the bureaucracy that they

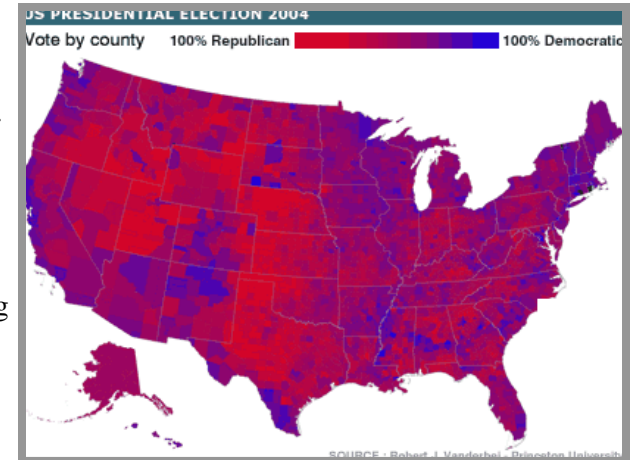
He is right; our political system has become a war zone in-and-of-itself. Just watch the news to realize that our government has collapsed into a game of political chess instead of the grand sharing of ideas that it was supposed to be.

**So what can the public do about it?** Educate ourselves. Americans today have become so caught up in their own lives that the only time politics is thought of is two months before an election.

This nation is full of voters that need to think outside their own little boxes. So, please...**Do not dismiss the ideas of anyone without considering them first; wisdom can be found anywhere.**

Our country is not in the best of conditions. Many agree that the number one problem is the Iraq War. During the Vietnam era, America was in a similar situation: divided politicians, a war with no end in sight, and the public's support slipping down the drain. We as a nation need to prevent such a situation from happening again.

Understandably, it is difficult to run a country based on debates and discussions; the results might turn ugly. However, if we allow that ugliness to take control, it will remove America from the heights it has worked so hard to achieve, and send us crashing down like so many of the great nations before us.



TV and Radio Commentators often refer to states as Red (Republican) and Blue (Democratic). Surely the situation and the American public are more complex than these labels would suggest.

# COLUMBINE GAME FINDS ITSELF IN THE CROSSHAIRS

By: Evan Hopkins

Taking place annually in Utah, the **Slamdance Film Festival** has established a name for itself for representing what its founders consider “a truer representation of independent film-making.” The Festival also holds the “**Slamdance Guerilla Games Competition**,” which is a competition of independent game makers. The yearly Games competition, until this year, has always gone off without a hitch. A jury votes for and awards a prize to what they consider to be the “Best Game.”

## But, for the first time in the festival’s history, a finalists’ game was dropped.

The game in question is **Super Columbine Massacre RPG!**, a game which depicts the 1999 Columbine High School shootings, located outside of Denver, Colorado.

So, at this year’s competition, what began as a celebration of games turned into an examination of games as art.

Developed by **Daniele Ledonne** utilizing the engine RPG Maker, Ledonne originally intended to make an “unthinkable game.” He eventually settled on the **Columbine High School shootings** because of one elusive question: Why did they do it?

The game was completed and released for free onto the internet, at which time Ledonne was contacted by Slamdance, who offered the developer a spot in the competition. *Slamdance* organizers liked the game for “its unique and compelling contribution to gaming.”

Ledonne accepted the offer, and was flown to Utah to compete in the Festival. His game was reviewed by a panel of Slamdance judges, where it made

its way to the finals.

But this high approval rating seems to be the straw that broke the camel’s back. Other competitors expressed concern over the game being allowed in the competition period, let alone winning a top spot.

In protest, several competitors (including **thatgamecompany** and **The Behemoth**) pulled their games out of the competition. Originally twelve finalists were left standing; however, after the controversy, the final count was eight.

Ledonne claims he intended to use the game to make the player confront the horrible shooting in an effort to understand the shooters’ motives. In an interview with *Game Informer* he said, “This game, frankly, may be either a bit ahead of its time, or there may be *no* time for this game, depending on how our culture will view serious games in the next five or ten years.”



ABOVE: The real Columbine teenage assassins. Sources: <http://www.columbinegame.com/>

BELOW: The game’s storyline is constructed from what is believed to have happened during the shootings. Source: <http://www.columbinegame.com/>



Daniele Ledonne has also gone on record to say he holds no bad blood with Slamdance, but admitted to confusion over why the competition judges would invite him to join in the first place, if there was any chance of controversy.

Many groups (including the Parents Television Council) have judged the game’s creator. They have labeled him with all types of descriptions: “genius,” “a sick human being,” “a real philosopher,” and even “the Anti-christ.”

As to whether or not Ledonne should be criticized for marketing a game based on the Columbine killings, no easy answers come to mind. In his defense, he originally created the game for himself and to distribute on the internet; Slamdance chose to bring the game into the spotlight. The media have cried out with an enormous backlash; citizens of Columbine are enraged.

However, Daniele Ledonne has chosen to stick by his creation. If the game is used in the way that Daniele intended, the game can almost be seen as an interactive history lesson.

But this history can only be examined when the viewer is ready. In the words of the creator, “I present to you one of the darkest days in modern history and ask, “**Are we willing to look in the mirror?**”

# DOOMSDAY VAULT: NORWAY IS PREPARING FOR THE WORST

By: Tucker O'Brien

The idea of a nuclear war is not too farfetched these days and the Norwegian government is not taking any chances in protecting the human race's future.

The Norwegian government is paying about five million dollars to build a "doomsday" vault whose purpose is to safeguard the world's agriculture in case of catastrophes such as asteroid strikes or nuclear war.



Sunflower seeds are for growing and eating. Photo: GKreher

The seed vault, also known as the **Svalbard Global Seed Vault**, is to be built roughly 364 ft. inside a mountain north of Norway close to the North Pole. The purpose of building the vault so deep into the mountain is so that in the case of failure of the vaults' mechanical refrigeration system, then the surrounding climate of the arctic will help to keep the seeds cold instead.

The seeds will be stored at zero degrees Fahrenheit wrapped in aluminum foil which will ensure that **the seeds will last for potentially tens of thousands of years**, although exactly how long the individual seeds last will be determined by what specific crop they are. The vault is scheduled to open and start accepting seeds in September of this year.

While the facility will be fenced in and guarded, the land's **polar bears**, known for their ferocity, could also help act as a sort of natural protection.

The seed vault is not the first of its kind, as **approximately 1,400 already exist storing seed samples of their host country**, but those facilities are vulnerable to war, natural disasters, shutdowns, and lack of funds says Norway's Agriculture Minister.

Location of the Vault near the North Pole will use the natural cold of Norway to safeguard the seeds of essential crops



MAP: Laris Karklis, The Washington Post



'Orange' you glad a new doomsday vault will protect oranges? Photo: Resimao.org



Beets may not be your favorites, but their seeds will be included in the doomsday vault Photo: Clagett Farm

# WORLD LEADERS HATCH PLANS TO AVERT AVIAN FLU

By: Emily Elkind

So everyone's been hearing about the bird flu scare... and maybe about how the U.S government plans to allocate funds to prepare for the possible pandemic – a worldwide epidemic. For instance, recently at a farm in Holton, England, a large number of turkeys became infected with the virus. The United Kingdom, which has one of the largest poultry industries in Europe, is especially interested in sick birds. Not surprisingly, they are taking many steps to contain the threat. No one wants to see the disease mutate and spread to humans.

Back to that farm in Holton... Upon discovery, sanitation workers euthanized the sick turkeys. Workers arrived in white, full-body suits with black gloves and respirators, first disinfecting the entrance to the farm, then making their way inside. They began carrying out crates of birds, preparing them to be gassed.

To ensure the safety of all types of life, and as a standard procedure, European poultry farmers are encouraged to have anti-viral drugs on hand to reduce the likelihood of another outbreak. How the birds are housed and how they move around the farm is mandated by specific limitations imposed by the government.



Health officers walk into a village where a bird flu case occurred at a poultry farm in Ansong, 66 km (41 miles) south of Seoul February 10, 2007. REUTERS/Kang Jong-min/Newsis

Because of this recent turkey contamination, Japan and Russia have banned British imports of poultry for now to prevent the spread of the outbreak. The good news is that no contamination of the human food supply occurred.

In general, grocery stores

have not experienced a slump in sales of poultry because families are still eating chicken and turkey. But the experts are still trying to figure out the primary reason for the outbreak in the UK.

British health officials feel confident enough that the bird flu can be controlled throughout England. But EU Health and Food Safety Commissioner Markos Kyprianou added, "The virus is still around. We should never feel that we are safe."



Finding a dead bird means more today than it used to. This dead duck, found on the shores of Lake Ontario in October 2005, was suspected by a tourist to be a victim of the Avian Flu Photo: Studio 2f.com/blog

The outbreak is widespread - found in Asia, Middle East, and Europe since it re-emerged in 2003. Birds in nearly 50 countries have suffered with the virus.

Around the world, 165 citizens have died from the Avian Flu, primarily from contact with infected birds. Indonesia is one of the most affected regions with 63 Indonesians dead from the flu.

While Japan has had four separate cases, no human fatalities have been linked with this virus. Soon there will be a drill to test the safety procedures in case a dangerous outbreak should occur. Other countries are also working to put into place such a plan.

Because of the outbreak in England, countries and governments all over the world have been forced to take a very hard look at the bird flu pandemic, and how to best ensure the safety of all around the world. It will be interesting to see the developments of the plans in the countries in the coming months. For more information on how the US is preparing for the threat, see <http://www.pandemicflu.gov>.

# NEW MUSTANGS

# MSA GRAD AT UGA

**Michael Poulos** - Our newest Comm. Arts 10<sup>th</sup> grader comes to us straight from Etowah High School. Michael enjoys the outdoors: backpacking, hiking, fishing, hunting and rock-climbing trips. He loves rock music and his favorite subject is history. Michael's favorite thing about MSA is our friendly environment.



**Patrick Felton** - He comes to us from Dominion Christian High School, the latest addition to our 11<sup>th</sup> grade class is. He enjoys rock music, hiking, and the great American pastime of baseball. Patrick's first impression of MSA was a fun atmosphere; however, the hardest thing for him to get use to will be levels meetings. His favorite part about our school is the block schedule.



**Dear Mustangs:** First I would like to say **Congratulations to the basketball teams!** Awesome job winning the championship and beating the one team I couldn't beat.

Things up here at UGA are going very well this semester...my mid-term grades were just posted and I earned a **B+ on three** I worked hard to recover my grades because last semester ended horribly for me: I made my first F and barely escaped making more.

Big news, which helped my average I think...**I've changed my major** from Business to Sports Studies and hopefully I can combine that with Journalism. I have realized that this concept of "studying more than two days before the test" actually works! I've just had to bear down and really put as much effort as I can to make it all pay off.

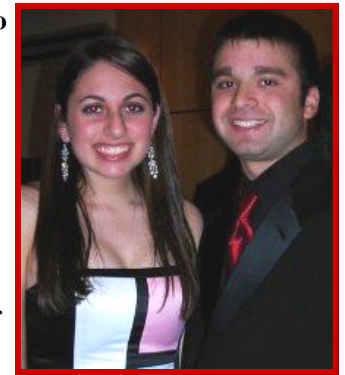
My fraternity life is fun as usual, but I've cut back on "party time" on a little bit and it is working out well. We had our formal in New Orleans n a riverboat with a live band. Those of you who know me, remember that I am a sports maniac. Well, one night we were on Bourbon Street in the heart of New Orleans when the Saints beat the Eagles! Imagine how crazy that was!

Did you see my front page article for the *Red & Black*, the UGA newspaper? It was the featured article on February 6 called "Over the hill from behind the Arc." Check it out; it is still posted on the web.

**To all you seniors,** I am very impressed with the variety of schools that have accepted you and the multiple scholarships. Study hard, then push yourself to study harder. **Alex Adams** will be coming up at Athens next year! Finally, a fellow Mustang will wear the red and black.

Keep up the good work guys and do not slack off, I can't stress enough how difficult it is to work "from behind" in college. You can handle it in high school, but college is way different and it is a terrible feeling to start off on the wrong foot. To your instructors and professors in college you are just a social security number. So, don't count on anyone holding your hands! Or feeling compelled to help

you out. **Go Mustangs and Go Dawgs!**



**Jordan Silver '04, with his date at a formal UGA fraternity dance held in New Orleans** Photo supplied by JSilver

*Jordan Silver*

# NUEVO MAESTRO: JAIME GUTIERREZ

By: Shawn May



Jaime enjoys a cabin in Alaska. Photos provided by JGutierrez

You may think you are familiar with one of our "newer" teachers here at MSA, **Jaime Gutiérrez**. Although you may have seen Jaime in the halls, at levels meetings, and you may even have a class with him, have you taken the time to get to know a bit about his extremely interesting background? Take a minute, and you will find him to be quite interesting.

Jaime has taught for over 13 years, in many schools, in the United States and **Colombia**. Education has always been his first career choice, and that led him to teach at an **English Institute** that was located on campus at his college, Universidad Industrial de Santander. He is originally from Colombia.

**Jaime's dreams don't stop with teaching**, he continued studying psychology related subjects after finishing his career as a professional teacher of languages.

He has also specialized in **family counseling** and special attention to the problems of young people.

Jaime's interests extend way beyond the walls of schools and counselors' offices.

He speaks four languages - English, French, Spanish, and Italian. He can also understand a few more. Other cultures, especially Asian, fascinate him.

He also enjoys writing; he started writing a novel in 2001 about Science Fiction. He isn't close to finishing it quite yet. "It will take a long time," he says.

He loves taking pictures and has traveled to 20 states in the USA, as well as **a few other countries including France, Belgium, Mexico and Venezuela**.

When asked if he likes teaching at MSA, he said he "absolutely loves it!"



Jaime rides in a plane over Alaska



Jaime's choice of clothes is not always the required shirt and tie of a teacher.  
Hawaii

By: Chris Magill

## Colts Reign in the Rain

**In** a game under a heavy downpour in Miami that saw a 92-yard opening kickoff return for a touchdown, eight turnovers, one botched extra point, and one missed field goal, quarterback Peyton Manning and the Indianapolis Colts defeated the Chicago Bears in Super Bowl XLI and finally became NFL champions.

Chicago's **Devin Hester** got things started with an opening kick return that went 92 yards for a quick 7-0 lead, the first player ever to return an opening kickoff for a touchdown in a Super Bowl. After the Bears kicked off to the Colts, Manning tried to force a pass into double coverage to receiver **Marvin Harrison** but was picked off by defensive back **Chris Harris**. When Indianapolis got the ball back, the Colts converted three different third downs and Manning found receiver **Reggie Wayne** and hooked up for a 47-yard score. Indianapolis' **Adam Vinatieri**, one of the NFL's most clutch kickers, would miss the extra point, keeping the score 7-6.

To prevent another kickoff disaster, the Colts squibbed the ball down the middle to Chicago. After Bears running back **Thomas Jones** broke a 52-yard run, quarterback Rex Grossman lobbed the ball from four yards out to receiver **Muhsin Muhammad** and gave Chicago a 14-6 lead. Indianapolis would score next on a 29-yard field goal by Vinatieri (who missed a 32-yarder at the end of the half), followed by a one-yard run by running back **Dominic Rhodes** to make the score 16-14. After a Prince halftime show, both teams resumed play in the second half. Indianapolis had two very good drives down the field, only to be limited to field goals for a 22-14 lead. The Bears would

respond with a field goal of their own to cut the lead to 5, but then Grossman had a nightmare of a fourth quarter.

With 12 minutes left, Grossman threw his first of two interceptions to defensive back **Kelvin Hayden**, who ran it in for the score and gave the Colts their first insurmountable lead.

"I was just thinking about getting into the end zone," Hayden said. "We stepped up the whole postseason where we just made the plays and the defense buckled down." Their defense didn't allow another score, winning 29-17. This emphasized the defensive improvement the Colts made in the playoffs from the regular season, when they were allowing 332 yards and 22 points per game.

Manning, who completed 25 of 38 passes for 247 yards, one touchdown and an interception, was named the game's MVP. Manning has broken records such as most touchdown passes in a single season, and has put up big numbers in the stat book, but never seemed to be able to win the big one. After nine seasons, Manning finally has the one thing that matters to him most: an NFL championship. "It's hard to put into words," said Manning. "I'm proud to be part of this team. We stuck together, won this game for our coach, **Tony Dungy**."

Dungy built a championship team in Tampa Bay but was fired the year before the **Buccaneers** won Super Bowl XXXVII. He became the first black head coach to win the Super Bowl. "I feel good I was the first one to do it," Dungy said. "This may not have been our best team in five years, but it was the closest and the most connected and it showed in the way we played." Although Manning repeatedly declined to discuss his legacy, Dungy was more than happy to share his thoughts. "If people thought that Manning's career was incomplete without a Super Bowl victory, that's just wrong," Dungy said. "But now, he's done it. He's a Hall of Fame quarterback, one of the best that's ever played the game."



Manning and Dungy can finally celebrate a Super Bowl victory. Photo: espn.com

By: Chris Magill

**T**he smell of hot dogs, hot summer days, the crack of a bat; baseball is finally back for a new season.

A big part of baseball's offseason was free agent signings. Several teams have loaded their teams with big-names and shifted the power within divisions. The **Chicago Cubs** (a team known for its bad luck), spent over \$136 million to acquire outfielder **Alfonso Soriano** (179 hits, 46 HRs, and 95 RBIs). Chicago also spent over \$60 million on young pitchers **Jason Marquis** (14-16, 96 strikeouts, 6.02 ERA) and **Ted Lilly** (15-13, 160 strikeouts, 4.31 ERA). The Cubs in recent years have signed talented players but not performed well during the season, not reaching the playoffs since 2003.

Los Angeles' most historic team, **the Dodgers**, spent over \$80 million to obtain pitcher **Jason Schmidt** (11-9, 180 strikeouts, 3.59 ERA), and also outfielder **Juan Pierre** (204 hits, 87 runs and 40 RBIs). The Dodgers were one of the surprise teams last year, and signing Schmidt makes their pitching rotation with aces **Derek Lowe** and **Brad Penny** among the best in the league. Los Angeles is a solid team this season and should be in the playoff picture come September.

Beantown's best, the **Boston Red Sox**, spent over \$90 million to get outfielder **J.D. Drew** (140 hits, 20 HRs, and 100 RBIs), and shortstop **Julio Lugo** (89 hits, 53 runs, and .308 batting avg). Boston's most publicized acquisition was spending \$52 million on pitcher **Daisuke Matsuzaka**, who is from Japan's baseball league. The Red Sox missed out on the playoffs in 2006 because of a late season collapse but should be back in the postseason hunt this year.

One of the most talked about topics during the offseason was **San Francisco Giants** outfielder **Barry Bonds**.

Bonds, as you may know, is under suspicion for illegal substances and steroids that may have helped him pass **New York Yankees** legend **Babe Ruth** for second on the all-time home run list (714).

Bonds goes into the 2007 season with 734 homers, 22 shy of passing former **Atlanta Braves** player **Hank Aaron** for the record. The Giants resigned Bonds to a one year contract after the 2006 season.



Bonds is 21 homers shy of Aaron's all-time Major League record. Photo: MLB.com

Baseball proves to us over and over again that we can't predict what will happen. Who would have guessed that the **Detroit Tigers** would go from being one of the worst teams in the league to making a World Series appearance in 2006? First baseman **Derrek Lee** of the Cubs was an MVP candidate in 2005 but was injured for much of last year. Second year closer **Jonathan Papelbon** of Boston went from one save opportunity in 2006 to 35 saves in 41 chances last year.

I guess the only thing we can predict is that the 2007 season will be full of summer days and surprises.

# SPORTS GUY’S WORLD—DAYTONESO 500

By: Chris Magill

## Ladies and Gentlemen, Start Your Engines

**A**fter a cheating scandal tarnished the Great American Race, **Kevin Harvick** beat out **Mark Martin** by 123 seconds in the **Daytona 500** to put racing back in the spotlight.

Five teams were busted for breaking the rules during Speedweeks, including two-time winner **Michael Waltrip**, who broke the NASCAR code by tampering with his fuel before qualifying.

Martin led 26 laps out of 200 and was out front when a five-car accident halted the action with 5 laps to go. When racing resumed, it seemed that Martin only had to hold off **Kyle Busch** and weaved high and low to block his attempts, distracting him from Harvick. Just as Harvick pushed into the lead, Busch sneaked behind them and bumped into **Matt Kenseth** to start a scuffle.

Harvick and Martin raced side by side, hoping for NASCAR to call for a caution. When it finally came, they were both at the finish line, with Harvick barely ahead. NASCAR had to review the tape just to be sure who really won the race.

“I got so excited at the end of the race, and I knew we had won,” Harvick said. “I just didn't realize how excited I was, and I punched the dang mirror out of the car. Just overexcited, I guess. Knocked the mirror right out.”

Martin finished second, followed by **Jeff Burton**, Harvick's teammate, and **Mike Wallace**. Fifth place was rookie **David Ragan**, the kid (21) who replaced Martin when he left Roush Racing this winter. "I haven't even seen the finish (on tape). It is what it is," Martin said. “We were inches or feet or whatever. We were short. It was so close, but it was second. I let it slip away, slip through my fingers, and I'm fine with that. I am very proud of what this team did for me this weekend.”

The pre-race scandal put the sport in the spotlight for all the wrong reasons, and NASCAR had to put on quite a show to improve its image. Finishes like this one might fix everything.



Harvick(left) is 2-2 in Daytona this season after a close finish with Martin. Photo: Espn.com

# MUSTANGS FINISH FIRST IN THE LEAGUE



PHOTO: DCarson

## THE CHAMPIONSHIP MUSTANGS 2006-2007

**FROM LEFT:** Jared Smoak (4); Jack Trantham (42); Michael Scott (rear); Colin Cook (14); Mitch McCollum (31); Trey Ayers (20); Chris Nelson (behind 20); Bryan Lynn (rear); Varsity and Junior Varsity Coach Phil Hanson; Patrick Marco (behind trophy); Edward Kenimer, Team Captain (holding trophy); Alex Williams (rear); Michael Greco (15); Austin Coleman (1); Dan Prothero (30); Matt Fraser (41); Kneeling: Tucker O'Brien. Missing: Ian McNabb, Chris Torres, Will O'Neal.



### MESSAGE FROM THE COACH

This 2006-2007 Basketball Season has been very special indeed. It is a culmination of five years of very hard work. It has been a blast coaching and working with my guys this year. They were extremely focused on their task and came to work everyday with one mission in mind.

We were paced by a great senior class of Edward Kenimer, Michael Greco, and Tucker O'Brien.

Our surrounding cast of Chris Nelson, Dan Prothero, Bryan Lynn, Mitch McCollum, Michael Scott, Trey Ayers, Colin Cook, Matt Fraser, and Ian McNabb did a super job accepting and carrying out their roles.

We completed our journey with our first championship and posted a 15-9 overall record. We were 13-3 in The AAC and 2-6 outside the league.

This team has set the new standard for our program, and we will go to the post for many years to come.

**Destination Arrived!**

***Coach Hanson***

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

# BOYS BASKETBALL WINNING SEASON

Photos by Drew Carson, Freelance

**RIGHT:** Senior Edward Kenimer receives the Most Valuable Player Award for tournament play from the Tournament organizer Denny Beatty. Coaches from all participating schools selected Edward for his outstanding play. Edward has always played with heart, drive, determination and plenty of success.

**BELOW:** Edward shoots for two points as a tough man from Hidden Lake Academy tries to stop him,



**MOST VALUABLE PLAYER  
EDWARD KENIMER**



**LEFT:** Michael Greco gets ready for a two-point shot.

**BELOW:** Sophomore Jack Trantham helps to snip the net after the exciting MSA victory.



**ABOVE:** Senior Michael Greco outsmarts and outplays a very tough Hidden Lake defender. The highly disciplined MUSTANGS ruled the game for the long haul; their hard training throughout the season and dedication to excellence carried them to victory.



**ABOVE:** Junior Chris Nelson prevails over a strong Hidden Lake defender.



**BELOW:** MSA President Robert Moore is one of the team's biggest fans. After the championship game, the coach draped the winning net briefly over Robert before draping it on the team's First Place trophy. The Mustangs earned first place status for the first time this season on the night of the Tournament games. Robert was overheard to say, "That's when it counts."



# LADY MUSTANGS FIGHT HARD; PLACE SECOND IN LEAGUE

Photos by Drew Carson, Freelance



## LADY MUSTANGS SNAG SECOND PLACE IN LEAGUE

**FROM LEFT:** Alaina Macke; Holly Thillet; Rachel Lasky; Coach Jennifer Kramer, Allison Ashlock; Cassie Kanelos; Alexa Picolo; Laydie Gaddes. Missing—Coach Taniah Jones

**ABOVE:** Senior Rachel Lasky receives the MOST VALUABLE PLAYER AWARD by League Commissioner and HLA coach, Denny Beatty. Rachel does not know the meaning of “coast,” and she has played hard, every minute, every game... in dozens of games as a MUSTANG.



**ABOVE, FAR LEFT:** Senior Rachel Lasky is airborne as she takes the ball in for two points.

**LEFT:** Junior Alaina Macke cuts off a move as HLA tries to score.

## MESSAGE FROM THE COACH

*Taniah and I are very proud of our girls this year. We lost 4 of the 5 starters and only had 7 players on this year’s team. We did not expect to make it to the finals with such a young team which is why we are so proud. They worked hard all season long and they were able to make it to the championship game.*

*Although we did not win all the girls played hard and they accomplished a lot this year. We want to congratulate all the girls: Allison Ashlock, Holly Thillet, Cassie Kanelos, Alaina Macke and our seniors: Rachel Lasky, Laydie Gaddes and Alexa*

*Picolo for a great season.*

**Jennifer Kramer**

By: Eric Brown

**W**ith the arrival of Spring Training, it's fascinating to think that Major League Baseball is entering its 131<sup>st</sup> season. 131 years... Baseball truly is America's Pastime!

**Back when the game was first starting out, plenty of interesting and crazy things happened that could never happen today.**

**In the early years; the late 1800's – early 1900's, baseball was**



Cy Young was on the Boston Americans team that was part of the 1904 World Series incident.  
Photo Credit: old-picture.com

**chaos.** Players fumed over the rules and the financial constraints. There were labor strikes right and left. Some teams tried to break off and start their own leagues. The *National Association* lasted for five years. The *American Association* actually made it a full decade. The *Union Association* and the *Player's*

*League* each lasted just one season.

Even after the American League came together in 1901, **professional baseball was still pretty chaotic.** Gambling and fixing were huge problems. Trades were often made so the owner could get a huge sum of money from the other team. Just two years before the *American League* formed, the *St Louis Browns* and the *Cleveland Spiders* basically traded teams. All the star players from the Cleveland team went to St Louis and Cleveland got a handful of terrible players that had kept St Louis at the bottom of the standings for the past

several years. The *Spiders* would go on to have the worst record in the history of baseball that season: 20-134. They were 84 games out of first place and their 'winningest' pitcher had 4 wins. The team would cease to exist by 1901.

**Owners could just holdout or refuse to play** if it suited their own interests. If they didn't like the team they were facing or if they wanted more money, they could just refuse to play. The best example of this abuse of ownership power was at the time of the **1904 World Series.** **John McGraw**, manager of the *National League Champion New York Giants* hated *American League* president **Ben Johnson** with a burning passion. The *Giants* also didn't like the way the rules worked. The two teams had to sit down and agree on what rules to play by. Because of these disagreements, the *Giants* refused to play in the World Series, so the series was cancelled.

Even when baseball was in its infancy, the game was crazy. In this tumultuous time, a lot of strange and remarkable things happened in **America's Favorite Pastime**, some of which would be scarcely believable today. In 1865, the *Philadelphia A's* took the term "blowout" to the extreme. In a day-night doubleheader, they clobbered a team from Williamsport, Massachusetts **101-8**. In the night game, they pulverized Danville (don't know where that is) **160-11**. Do the math: the same team crossed the plate **261 times** in a single day!

Some of the strangest happenings in baseball have revolved around **pitching**. Even the most casual baseball fan knows the ultimate pitching achievement is the no-hitter. However, the loose definitions of a no-hitter have led to some pretty strange events. It seems hard to believe, but a couple of pitchers have thrown no-hitters and... **lost!** Runs were earned on errors and walks.

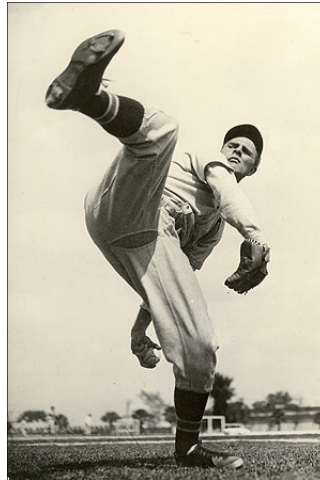
**1917 was an interesting year for the no-hitter.** In one game, pitchers **Fred Toney** and **Hippo Vaughn** squared off in one of the best pitched games in history. Neither team got a hit in nine innings. In the tenth inning, Toney gave up two hits and the winning run. That's the only time neither team could find the grass in a 9-inning game.

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In 1965, another competitor for the best-pitched game was when **Sandy Koufax** faced **Bob Hendley**. Koufax (often called “The Great One”) hurled a perfect game. His opponent was also throwing with no-hit stuff. Hendley was perfect through four innings. In the fifth, Hendley walked the first batter who was then sacrificed over to second. That same batter then stole third. The catcher then tried to pick him off but instead threw the ball into left field. 1-0 Dodgers, still no hits. Two hitless innings later, fans began to wonder if they would witness the first game ever in which neither side got a hit. Alas it was not to be. **Lou Johnson** dumped a blooper into right field. This game remains, however, arguably the best-pitched game in history.

Possibly the **most amazing feat by a pitcher** is by a guy you’ve probably never heard of. **Johnny Vander Meer** was an average pitcher: 13 year career, almost all with the same team. He didn’t even have a winning record (119-121). But what he did on **June 11 and June 15, 1938** has gone down as the greatest feat of pitching in the history of the game. *He pitched a no-hitter in two consecutive starts.*



**Johnny Vander Meer’s consecutive no-hitters have never been duplicated.** Photo Credit: baseball-america.com

In the first game, he was near-perfect, allowing Boston just three walks. The second game got a little hairy. Vander Meer faced the much more formidable *Brooklyn Dodgers*. It was also the first night game ever played at **Ebbets Field**. With Vander Meer more touchable, Johnny’s teammates showed that they brought their gloves and that the dark sky and bright, new lights didn’t bother them. Partly through their defensive wizardry and despite walking eight guys, Vander Meer carved his name into the history books.

**Back in the realm of the weird, fights have become a dark, yet strangely satisfying part of the game** Baseball calls itself a clean sport so when they do duke it out, it becomes almost fascinating to watch. The strangest baseball fight of ‘em all, however, had to have been in 1932. Umpires have long been a symbol authority and order in the game. But on May 30, 1932, George Moriarty decided to show that he was no ‘wuss.’ When the *Cleveland Indians* swept a doubleheader from the *White Sox*, a couple of Sox players accused Moriarty of taking sides. Taking offense, Moriarty challenged *the entire White Sox team* to a fight! He broke his fist on the pitcher’s face but was floored by the manager and a couple of catchers. But point taken; this ump wasn’t takin’ flak from *anyone*.



**George Moriarty caused a stir when he challenged the entire White Sox team to a fight.** Photo Credit: baseball-library.com

“Moriarty was one guy [players] would never challenge,” said Tigers second baseman Charlie Gehringer, “...George Moriarty was one tough cookie.”

And now, to close out one of the longest high school newspaper articles you’ve ever read in your life, I will regale you with stories from **the longest Major League game in history**. You may have heard about a Minor League game that went on for a crazy **33 innings**. However, just three years after that game, in May, 1984 at Comiskey Park, the *Chicago White Sox* and the *Milwaukee Brewers* slugged it out for a brutal **25 innings**. The game lasted **eight hours**. Whenever the Brewers scored, no matter how many runs, the Sox would answer with that exact amount of runs in the bottom of that inning. It finally ended in grand fashion when **Chicago Baines** hit a walk-off home run off **Chuck Porter** in the bottom of the 25<sup>th</sup> inning. One can only imagine the elation of the White Sox players as they rushed onto the field to meet the man who ended the longest game in Major League history.



**A young Babe Ruth could thrill the fans with his batting power. While others may break his records, no one can deny that ‘the Babe’ is synonymous with American baseball.** Photo: Wikipedia

America’s Pastime has created many magical and unusual moments. Every season seems to hold something special. Wonder what 2007 season has in store?

# LUKE CUNNINGHAM PROVIDES BOOKS-ON-TAPE FOR MSA

By: Luke Cunningham

The road to Eagle Scout is a very long and hard one, filled with obstacles and hardships. To reach it a scout has to be very well disciplined and a responsible leader. The biggest challenge in the process would definitely be the required long-term undertaking called the *Eagle Project*.

I am at that part right now in the quest for my Eagle rank. Most scouts decide to make benches or to clear a trail for their projects; however, I chose something completely different. I chose to record 30 children's books for the MSA library. Many students in our school suffer from dyslexia and I wanted to help them out.



The prestigious Eagle Scout Badge is something only two percent of Boy Scouts have ever received. Photo Credit: troop97.net

The long process of an Eagle Project begins with the write-up, which any Eagle Scout will say is the absolute worst part of the whole process. They have to pass it through two levels, troop and district.



Beth Sawyer records a book for the MSA library for use by lower and middle schools. Her professionally trained voice is especially pleasant to hear. Photo Credit: Luke Cunningham

The **troop level** took the longest for me because the proofreaders who volunteered to help me were trying to get me through district on the first try. The proofreaders at the district level are very thorough. My write-up was 20 pages long on the first try and still didn't make it.

On the second try I managed to get it approved. I was able to start my project just in time for the mid-semester break.

Fine Arts director **Beth Sawyer** had this to say about my project: "Having worked as a music therapist for *The School for the Visually and Emotionally Handicapped Adults* in Bridgeport, CT, I can't say enough about the importance of books on tape."

She went on to say, "Those with visual handicaps AND those with learning disabilities have the opportunity to follow along with the book, helping them 'see' the words and their placement."

She concluded, "The words and story come to life when the reader is able to give them the proper inflections. This is a wonderful project and a worthy one!"

*Kickin' It is a student newspaper for the Upper School and Communication Arts School of Mill Springs Academy, in Alpharetta, GA. We publish about every three weeks. Students choose and research articles, find or take/process photos, write headlines and cutlines, proofread, print, assemble and distribute each issue. We are found online at [www.millsprings.org](http://www.millsprings.org)*

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## Climbing the Walls



**Nathan Ball loves Spiderman...a lot. ...Maybe a little *too* much!** Ball, a 23 year-old MIT student, took advantage of a school-sponsored and Army-funded competition for inventors and created a device that allows civilians and soldiers alike to ascend walls at an astounding 10 feet per second.

Ball demonstrates his wall-climbing machine in front of a curious audience. Photo Credit: www.cnn.com

Ball's device attaches to the standard rope and harness and is powered by lithium-ion batteries. Watch out, Spiderman; next year, Ball may invent a wristwatch that launches a web-like substance so we can climb buildings *and* swing across town. I'm sensing a cure for the common traffic jam. Source - CNN.com



**Dude, it was just a movie - Chewbacca: hairy, strangely cute, and in jail?** 44 year-old Frederick Evan Young of Los Angeles, California, was recently booked for allegedly head-butting a tour guide outside of a famous theatre in Hollywood.



Chewbacca is anything but generic. Photo: Zap-topi.net

Apparently, "the Force" (so frequently spoken of by Obi Wan) is supposed to be non-violent. But Young put his own spin on it.

Right before the violent cranium clash, a furious Young spouted off: "Nobody tells this wookiee what to do!"

**A Pricey Morsel - Tina Burlett of Raisinville Township, Michigan, has never been more excited to see her dog vomit than she was the other day.** Burlett's pup, Missy, accidentally swallowed her \$5,000 wedding ring last week, and if it weren't for Burlett's grandmother, Missy could've gotten away with it. Burlett was advised by the police to feed the dog a specific amount of peroxide to upset its stomach.



Generic 'cute puppy' phi-vestavia.com

She did, and then watched carefully for the safe return of her wedding ring. Now *that's* what I call a Scooby Snack.

**A Mouse ...with duck feet? Dick Cheney shoots people when he's hunting (OK – it was an accident). But William Roderick shoots people when he's ...fishing.** Roderick, who was later found to be in possession of methamphetamines and marijuana, admitted to accidentally shooting John William Cheesman last Saturday.

Cheesman was snorkeling near Roderick's boat when Roderick apparently *mistook him for a giant, swimming rodent*. Cheesman underwent surgery in Portland, Oregon, and doctors expect him to make a full recovery. Source: Chron.com



This generic rodent does not look like a man, generic or otherwise, to us. Photo: pangea.stanford.edu