

Grimsley is alive with "Sound of Music"

By Dirk Lankford
Reporter

How do you solve a problem like Maria? Well, the cast of Grimsley's latest play, "The Sound of Music" answered with unquestionable style.

The play is about Captain Von Trapp, an Austrian naval official during World War II, and his family, who ultimately escape to Switzerland because their views differ from those of the Nazis. Von Trapp needs a woman to help tend to his children and takes a nun, Maria, as their governess. Von Trapp and Maria fall in love, which creates interest as the play progresses.

"The play by itself, the set, and music are good enough to stand alone. It's going to be spectacular," said Mr. Zaruba, Grimsley's drama teacher, about opening night.

People commented that opening night was definitely a sight to see, with the cast fully dressed in their costumes, accompanied by dramatic lighting, smoke, thunder and other special effects. Jo Armeniox and Sarah Coates filled the role of Maria, while Justin Michaels and John Kernodle played Captain Von



The Von Trapp children sing with their new governess, Maria. Leah Roth, Elizabeth Pascale, Isabel Chasse, Lindsay Kidd, Dan Hughes, Mario Richardson, Emily Coates, and Sarah Coates perform "Do Re Mi."

Trapp. The pit provided the soundtrack to the play. The experience was exactly how Mr. Zaruba hoped it would be.

"We decided to do 'The Sound of

Music' because it has never been performed at Grimsley before. It requires a large cast and lots of women, which is important because there is a large female interest in the play,"

said Mr. Zaruba.

And he was right. The on-stage cast consists of 58 people total--42 females and 16 males. The technical and stage crews consist of

20 people and the pit orchestra is comprised of 13.

Mr. Zaruba's casting philosophy is also quite unique. "I believe that anyone who truly wants to participate can have a role in the play. It is more of a placement process than an audition. Just about anyone who tries out will get on stage," said Mr. Zaruba.

But signing on with the musical means signing on for grueling work and long hours.

"All the cast and crew have been working really hard on this play. When a high school play is performed, you want most of the audience to be made up of students. I think that's important. I know all our hard work will pay off," said Mr. Zaruba.

To huge crowds each of the four nights, the Von Trapp Family Singers, and everyone connected with them, sang old favorites familiar from the movie version, such as "So Long, Farewell" and "Sixteen Going on Seventeen," as well as new songs written for the Broadway musical.

Days later, our auditorium still echoes from the "sound of music," a fitting tribute to cast and crew.

Palestinian, Israeli conflict raises questions

By Erin West
Reporter

Imagine: For years there have been on-and-off battles outside your doorstep. A seven-year peace is suddenly shattered once again. Within a month, you hear your country's leader referring to the sudden outbreak as a "war."

This is what it is like to be an Israeli or Palestinian right now.

Fierce wars have been raged between these two cultures since Biblical times. More recently, the two have fought over land given to Israel when it became a state in 1948.

The kidnapping of three Israeli soldiers, including Sgt. Adi Avitan provoked the current disagreement. The soldiers were taken during an attack on October 11. They

were ambushed unexpectedly while on duty as border patrol near a border gate in Lebanon.

The last person that Sgt. Avitan had talked to was his girlfriend. In fact, during the call he had commented on the serenity and beauty of his location.

The unexpected attack came only minutes later.

A mine was detonated, fol-

lowed by shots from almost twenty Hezbollah gunmen. Avitan and his comrades are thought to have been alive during their time of capture. However, the explosion had wounded them.

The following day brought the murders of two other Israeli soldiers. The soldiers, who had presumably gotten lost while on their way to Bet El junction, drove into

the town of Ramallah, making their way into town through back roads.

Had they driven through more traveled roads, their vehicle would have been stopped by guards set up to prevent Israelis from entering the town. The soldiers drove into a crowd that was going to

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Controversial abortion pill approved in U.S.

By Kate Boylan
Reporter

With the FDA's approval of a new abortion drug, the abortion process moves from a strenuous carried out process to a quicker, less painful process.

On Thursday, September 28, the Food and Drug Administration approved Mifepristone for sale in the United States.

Mifepristone, better known as RU-486 has been available to European women as a pharmaceutical alternative to surgical abortion for more than 10 years.

Mifepristone works by blocking the receptors of progesterone, a key hormone in establishing and maintaining pregnancy. The pill also prevents the fertilized egg from adhering to the

uterus. Within two days of taking the Mifepristone pill, the woman takes a second drug, Misoprostol that causes uterine contractions and bleeding. The combination terminates the pregnancy.

Compared to the surgical abortion, Mifepristone takes far less time to terminate a pregnancy. Within 48 hours of tak-

ing Mifepristone, women return to their doctor to receive Misoprostol. Most women have then completed the abortion process within six hours of receiving the second drug.

The only required follow-up procedure is a return visit two weeks after the procedure so that the woman can have an ultrasound to be sure the pregnancy

was terminated.

Despite the ease that seems to accompany Mifepristone, the process and the pill can also cause side effects. Including extensive bleeding, nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea. A small percent of women who used Mifepristone required blood

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