

Out of the Blue

The Key Club will be holding a "Toys for Tots" drive from November 3- through December 8. New and old toys are acceptable. Boxes will be placed in each first period class.

The next PTSA Walk-Thru is scheduled for January 22, 2001 at 7 p.m. Parents can walk their child's schedule and meet their teachers.

The band will perform their annual holiday concert on December 6 at 7:30 p.m. The orchestra's holiday performance will be held on December 5 at 7:30 p.m. Both concerts will be in the auditorium.

Grimsley High School Student Directories are available in the main office. The cost is \$5. Make checks payable to GHS PTSA.

The Grimsley marching band will march in the annual Greensboro Holiday Parade on December 9, 2000. The parade begins at noon.

Peer tutoring is still available. Students are to report to the futures center on Thursdays from 3:30-4:30 p.m. Most of the tutors are seniors who are capable of offering assistance in any subject area, including foreign language. For questions, see Ms. Manning or Carter Stroupe.

Grimsley Whirlies who shop at Harris Teeter, remember the number 1128. Just give the cashier your VIC card and the number. For the rest of the year the school will earn a 2% rebate from any purchase.

Whirlie Santa collectible figures are available from If It's Baskets. The cost is \$49.95 and the Booster Club earns \$5 for each Santa sold. These make a great gift for your Whirlie. Call Beverly Avren at 218-5161 for additional information.

Greensboro Ballet, along with the Greensboro Symphony Orchestra, will be performing "The Nutcracker" at the War Memorial Auditorium at the Greensboro Coliseum Complex. Show dates are December 9 at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. and December 10 at 3 p.m. Grimsley Students performing in the ballet are Liza Cassity, Rikki Smith, Joanna Bryant, and Rachel Rodriguez.

2000 Election keeps America waiting

By Erin West
Reporter

At 7:30 p.m. EST, November 7, 2000, NBC announced Al Gore to be the winner of the presidential election. The other major networks (including CBS) stated the conclusion soon thereafter.

Many viewers unquestioningly accepted Dan Rather's statement that preceded the pre-election coverage, that if an outcome is announced by ABC, we could "...take that to the bank." At 2:15 a.m., the FOX network stated that George W. Bush was the winner. The other major networks then did the same.

These premature predictions undermined the public's faith in our country's media. However, the confusion and controversy that has followed the initial election coverage has declared this election as one of the most unique events in our country's history.

The embarrassment was not just claimed by our nation's media. Many world leaders rushed too quickly to congratulate the "winning" candidate, discovering the errors in coverage afterwards. This created a situation that posed much ambiguity about the correct diplomatic protocol.

This election has challenged a more than 200-year-old institution, the Electoral College. This was the first time in over a century that a candidate, Al Gore, won the popular vote, but not the Electoral College Vote. As a result, some have again raised the question



West Palm Beach residents say their votes were discounted due to confusing butterfly ballots. Because of the closeness of the election, these ballots could be the deciding factor in determining the 43rd president.

as to whether the electoral system should be abolished.

The Electoral College consists of 538 people who elect the president and vice president. Members of the Electoral College are obliged to vote based on each state's popular vote though there is some differences among states' specific requirements. Each state gets one electoral vote for every member it has in the House and Senate. The actual electors are chosen by parties and by voters in the states. In most states, the candidate who receives the majority gets all of the state's electoral votes, even if the vote was close.

Winning this election required a candidate to have 270 of the electorate's votes. Following the elec-

tion, Al Gore had 260 votes and George W. Bush had 246, without counting Florida's 25 electoral votes. Thus, both candidates were highly motivated to win Florida, resulting in many disputes about legal avenues and processes.

Al Gore, on the other hand, clearly won the nation's popular vote. He had 49 percent of the individual votes while Bush had 48 percent. At one count, Gore was leading the popular vote by 169,542 votes. If Bush wins the election, it would mean this would be the 4th time in history that a man who lost the popular vote won the presidency. The three others were John Adams, Rutheford B. Hayes, and Benjamin Harrison. This situation flies in the face of the popular idea of "one man,

one vote" or that the majority wins.

The last time serious consideration was given to abolish the Electoral College was in 1969, when the House of Representatives approved such a bill. Then President Richard Nixon was ready to sign, but did not have the chance, because the Senate blocked the bill.

The interest in changing to a "majority rules" system falls along different party lines, this time. Still, no one has given it much thought for 31 years. The American people will watch in the weeks, months, and years ahead, to see the electoral system will be seriously challenged, or if the attention will subside as media attention wanders to "hotter" issues.

New program to increase student awareness

By Erin West
Reporter

Grimsley's START program promises action, as it has already sprung up with a whirlwind of healthy activities.

START is the acronym for Student Tobacco and Alcohol Resource Team. It is a drug and alcohol prevention program, and Grimsley is one of only four schools in Guilford County chosen to participate.

The club's members were selected through an application process. They hope to make prevention efforts effective by sharing knowledge about alcohol and tobacco, and by raising levels of awareness of not only Grimsley students, but also parents and others in the community.

START was initiated through a partnership between Alcohol and Drug Services (ADS), Project ASSIST, and the Guilford County Schools. However, it would not have been possible without a grant from the Moses Cone-Wesley Long Community Health Foundation. The schools selected to participate along with Grimsley were Eastern, Northeast, and Ragsdale High Schools.

Our program at Grimsley began with cooperative efforts between counselor Suzanne Weaver and Susan Bragg, a START coordinator. Together, they introduced the program and invited students to apply.

To apply, any 9th through 12th grade student who was interested needed to complete an application form and provide two letters of recommenda-

tion. Eight Grimsley students were chosen, and subsequently received extensive alcohol and tobacco education and prevention training. They also signed a contract stating they will not use alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs.

After applications were reviewed, the selected students were Pam Edwards, Jay Davies, Meghan Sullivan, Manecia Dilworth, Calvin Wynn, Brantley Highfill, Katie Beavers, and Victoria La Fevers. The newly elected co-presidents are Jay Davies and Meghan Sullivan. Calvin Wynn and Brantley Highfill are secretary and treasurer, respectively.

It was amazing what these students accomplished during their first meeting on October 12. In addition to elect-

ing officers, they talked about Red Ribbon Week (October 23-27) activities. The activities included creating a bulletin board, preparing and distributing posters and flyers, and having a "Drive by Sharing" in which members passed out literature to parents as they dropped off students and put information under car windshield wipers in the parking lot.

In addition, the plan was made for "Mr. Butts," a cigarette mascot, to make an appearance on Halloween and pass out literature.

The club's major focus is to deliver the message that drugs and alcohol are not healthy ways to have a good time to teens. "This is a threatening topic for some folks," said Ms Bragg.



The START club takes time out of their monthly meeting for a group shot. At this meeting the club discussed visiting Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) meetings and conducting Great American Smokeout activities. The members are, from left to right, Victoria La Fevers, Meghan Sullivan, Calvin Wynn, Susan Bragg, Suzanne Weaver, Brantley Highfill, Manecia Dilworth, and Jay Davies.