

Football frenzy leaves other school activities searching for spectators

Where does all of the "Whirlie Pride" go after the end of football season? Drama productions and other activities also need student support.

By Sara Nelson
Staff Writer

Football game draws hundreds of students eager to spend a crisp, clear fall night cheering the Whirlies to victory. During the winter, students attend basketball games in droves, especially if the contest is between Grimsley and Page.

A typical theatre production draws 20 students, maybe.

Popular sports such as football and basketball never have a problem drawing a crowd, even if the team has a losing record. Our football team won

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two games this season, yet the stadium was packed every Friday night.

Other sports do not enjoy this luxury. Grimsley's women's lacrosse team finished last season ranked second in the state, but the games never drew more than a handful of students. Students rarely attend swim meets, despite the fact that the meets are free and the swim team is a perennial conference victor. The entire wrestling team qualified for regionals this

year, but somehow students never manage to find their way to competitions.

However, it is the cultural arts that suffer the most from student apathy. The drama department, which receives little school funding, must rely on the donations of parents and the funds generated by the sale of season tickets in order to produce its plays. Band and orchestra concerts, while well attended because the groups are so large, often find members playing to an audience of enthusiastic parents and their fellow musicians. Few students, if any, not directly involved in music or drama attend these events on a regular basis.

I never noticed this lack of student involvement until I was an athlete myself. It was discouraging to walk out on the lacrosse field, play my hardest, and turn around to see five students in the stands. I wanted to make the entire school aware of how good the lacrosse team was and how worthwhile attending games could be, but most people were too apathetic or busy to care.

As a result, I told myself that I would attend as many Grimsley events as possible this year, in order to support my classmates. I have not done so well in attending sporting events, but I have been to numerous plays and concerts, and I have not been disappointed.

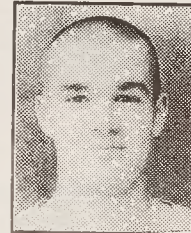
The amount of talented students in Grimsley's student body never ceases to amaze me, and I only wish I had begun attending events earlier than my senior year. Though the football and basketball teams are worthy of student support, there are dozens of other activities that require just as much hard work, talent, and dedication and deserve just as much peer recognition.

Speak Out: What is the value of Black history within the larger context of American history?



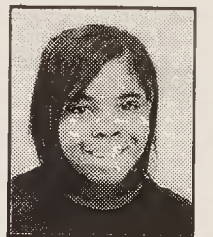
"Each has value on its own as a focus of study, but I think it's important to look at them together in a US history curriculum. You can learn a lot by examining how each has influenced the social, economic, and political growth of society."

Mr. Kashubara,
teacher



"I think that Black history is an integral part of history as a whole, and therefore should not be segregated from the rest of history."

Jacob Spangler,
senior



"It is good to recognize Blacks for what they did. Black people did a lot and they should be given credit for it."

Shannon Sanders,
freshman



"I feel that we are not taught enough in history about Black history. Black history is very important because it reminds us of the accomplishments made by African Americans."

Jessica Jones,
sophomore

Tastes like chicken: Recipe for the perfect chicken biz calls for greed, cheap labor, dash of immorality

Think chicken is cheap? The real price of the labor exploitation behind the original white meat is more than dollars and cents.

By Molly Chadbourne
Staff Writer

I'm no chicken when it comes to chicken.

In the Chadbourne domicile, my parents often complain that they too frequently have to prepare America's favorite white meat on a nightly, if not bi-daily basis.

But now, an issue has fully crossed the road of my life that makes me want to check out of the chicken-consuming coop. Lend an ear to the tale of the Tyson indictment, and fear not the boxer who likes to nibble on them. This time, it is the Tyson chicken company that is in trouble.

Tyson Foods, one of the nation's companies with the most meat, is now in the roaster. The guys at Tyson are a bunch of big chickens when it comes to their poultry profit policies.

Why did the migrant worker cross the border? To get to the



Bon Appetit graphic

chicken waiting on the other side, of course. Chickens, rather, bucketfuls of them.

With the exploitation of migrant workers, Tyson is able to make an extra 100 million dollars

a year in profit. Whatever amount of money the company would make simply hiring American workers or legal immigrants must not be enough for these greedy chickens; I mean pigs.

Tyson is currently on trial for conspiracy to smuggle illegal immigrants from Mexico, Guatemala, and Honduras to work in 15 heinous henhouses, spread throughout the South and Midwest. These charges hatched in a December, 2001 indictment. The states of Tennessee, Alabama, Indiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Texas, Virginia, and even the great Tar-Heel state all have egg on their face.

Colonel Sanders' artery-clogged corpse would roll over in his grave if he heard what was cooking in his own state of Kentucky. Would you like a side of coleslaw with your extra-crispy indictment?

Tyson's exploitation raises an age-old question: which came first, greedy corporations or immigrants so eager for a better way of life that they are willing to risk exploitation? The indictment has also raised some eyebrows because disgusting labor conditions of immigrants in the United States are just as common as eating chicken is for dinner. Why is the US government playing chicken with one company when there are

plenty of others to peck? On the other hand, how can corporations be blamed when many Mexicans come here as most immigrants do, in search of a better life? Hard labor and bad factory conditions are like chicken Cordon Bleu to the chicken bones of many of these people's lives.

Corporations like Tyson have an excess of money, therefore have no need to take advantage of immigrants who are willing to work in poor conditions. If Tyson is so cocky about claiming to "feed America," then perhaps this corporation should demonstrate some more American values, such as the importance of an honest living or the right to be able to choose one's own way of life. "The chicken in every pot" that is part of the American dream turns out to be rotten scraps of the real "breast-bone" of America. Greedy corporations have a hunger for money and do not seem to know the difference between fowl and foul.

And although the subject is egging me on to make a dozen more cracks, it is really nothing to yolk about.