

Celebrities in office becoming new trend

Schwarzenegger and Ventura are just two of the celebrities who have recently prepared to run for public office.

By Brian Gould
Reporter

Politics no longer just appeals to lawyers and doctors; the number of celebrities running for office seems to be increasing.

Most recently, the recall election in California has caused a firestorm of celebrities to enter the race. Celebrities Arnold Schwarzenegger, Gary Coleman, and Larry Flint are just a few of the more than 150 people who seek victory in the gubernatorial race.

California's recall election is not the first time celebrities have sought political offices. The most publicized election in recent years was the gubernatorial election of Minnesota in which Jesse Ventura, a former pro-wrestler, was elected governor. According to reason.com, Ventura's popularity with young voters stemmed from his casual dress and reformed views that favored children.

Celebrities are not only seeking political positions in state and local governments. In 1980, Ronald Reagan, a former actor, ran for the presidency and won. He was re-elected again in 1984 for a second term.

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'03-'04 school year comes with a modified schedule

Students and staff will see new features such as the "collaborative period" this school year.

By Hannah Wineburg
News Editor

The transition from summer vacation to the ringing of school bells is currently progressing, yet this year the traditional Grimsley schedule includes a new twist: a "collaborative planning" period.

Implemented for the first time this year, the collaborative planning program will involve students working in partnerships with each other while teachers do the same within their departments. The collaborative session will occur during first period every Monday, lasting fifty-seven minutes.

Principal Mr. Rob Gasparello insists "no instructional time is being missed." In order to compensate for the loss of first period on Mondays, the class schedule for Tuesdays through Fridays has been rearranged.

Beginning Tuesday mornings, first periods will last seventy minutes instead of the usual fifty-seven. Second through sixth periods will be reduced to 55 minutes.

Mr. Gasparello borrowed the idea for the collaborative schedule from Adelaide Stevenson High School in Chicago, Illinois, where he visited last spring. Adelaide Stevenson, according to Mr. Gasparello, is one of the top high schools in the nation.

Mr. Gasparello stated that the most successful high schools around the state and country have some form of collaborative activity.

"By working together and sharing the best practices, teachers become more effective in working with students," said Mr. Gasparello.

The collaborative period will allow students to come together as one student body for programs like elections, pep rallies, and performances by students. While the students team up, the teachers will have their own departmental time to discuss strengths and weaknesses of lesson plans, assignments, exams, and concerns about students.

The collaborative planning model is new for teachers as well as students.

Senior Ricky Nxumalo believes there are good intentions behind the collaborative schedule, yet the system may need some tweaking.

"There is the possibility of positive outcome, but productivity between 300 to 400 high school students at one time is limited. In short, the collaborative planning period's benefit is outweighed by its burden," Nxumalo said.

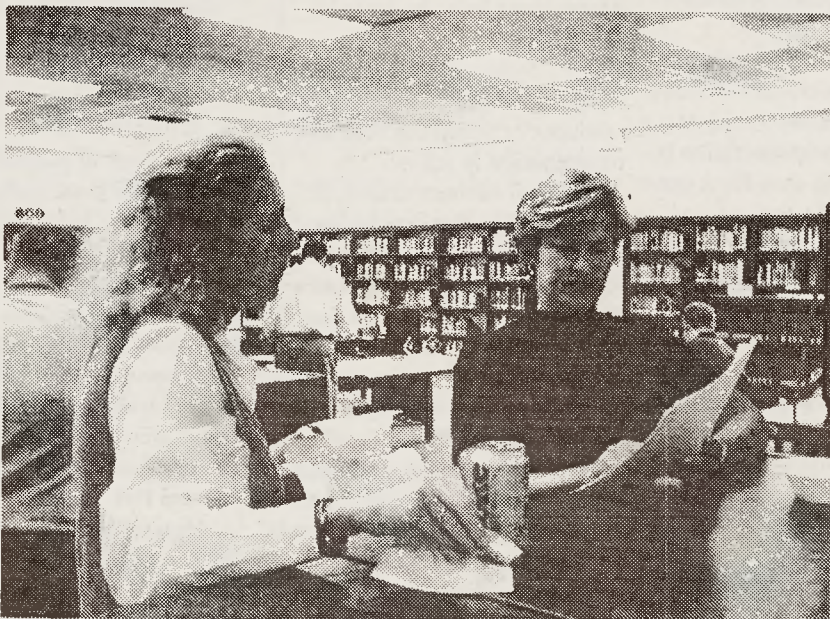
Freshman Ronlee Bengal agrees with Nxumalo's concerns.

"I was excited and nervous to come to GHS...but I don't really like the collaborative periods...and now we have to sit in our first period classes for a longer time," she said.

The first year of the collaborative schedule is on a trial basis. Mr. Gasparello's enthusiasm for the new plan may show tangible results in time. His desire to help Grimsley achieve its highest potential began with his now famous saying "together we can."

Mr. Gasparello continues to encourage Grimsley students and staff to strive for success of this new initiative, despite a range of doubtful feedback.

"Grimsley is an outstanding high school, and we want to do everything we can to continue to improve as we work to meet the needs of all students," he said.



Leung photo

Ms. Cummings and Ms. Cea discuss an issue in the media center. Teachers will use this year's new collaborative period to work together with members of their departments on topics like course objectives and concerns about students.

Recent humidity causes unforeseen trouble

Although Greensboro's four-year drought has ended due to nearly ceaseless rain, the humidity has brought several problems of its own.

By Rachel Rodriguez
News Editor

Because of Greensboro's record-breaking amount of rain over the past few months, the four-year drought has long been forgotten. However, while this new climate has replenished reservoirs, it has brought on a new set of problems.

From 1998 to 2002, Greensboro endured a seemingly endless drought.

Rainfall was over a foot below average during this entire period, forcing Greensboro to be one of 70 cities in North Carolina that imposed water restrictions. However, since the beginning of 2003, rain has been recurring frequently. In July 2000, Greensboro received just 2.18 inches of rain. In July 2003, the city received 7.58 inches.

Grimsley is just one of 41 schools in Guilford County to experience serious problems with mold as a result of the almost non-stop rain. Other high schools having trouble with mold include Andrews, Northeast, Northwest, and Southwest. Problems in these schools range from mold growth on windows and

ceilings to mold in air-conditioning systems, a much more serious issue.

"When [the staff] came back to Grimsley in the summer just before school started, I came in the media center and there was a mushroom growing in the carpet in a corner," said Grimsley media specialist Ms. Susan Cannady. "People have come in and wiped down the mold, but there is still too much humidity."

The humidity has created many problems for the media center. According to Ms. Cannady, the copier has jammed because of damp paper, and the paper in the books is beginning to curl up. Also, because of the four dehumidifiers and

two high-power fans used to keep the humidity level down, many of the computers in the media center are unable to be turned on because it would overload the circuits.

While low amounts of mold are generally not hazardous to most people, higher levels can cause asthma, sinus infections, and serious allergy problems. The mold at Grimsley was found to be nontoxic; however, many students and staff members have complained of asthma or sinus problems. All schools experiencing mold problems are now either cleaned up or are in the process of

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