

Out of the Blue

Choral Coffeehouse

The choral department will hold their first coffeehouse of the year on October 24 from 7 - 10 pm in the chorus room (2nd floor music building). Admission is \$1 for students and \$2 for adults, which includes a cup of Starbucks coffee and a night of entertainment.

National Honor Society Induction to be held

The Fall Induction of the National Honor Society will be held on October 26 at 7 pm in the auditorium to honor seniors with outstanding academic and extracurricular achievement.

Drama department prepares for fall musical

Grimsley's drama and music departments will perform "Bye Bye Birdie" on November 19 - 22. The show will be held at 7:30 each night in the Grimsley auditorium. Tickets are \$3 and can be bought from cast members.

Fall dance scheduled

The annual Autumn Ball will be held November 15 from 8 pm to 12 am at the Brian Park Enrichment Center. Tickets will be available the week before the dance for \$10 (Grimsley students) and \$15 (non-Grimsley students).

Drivers' Education class schedule

November 3 - November 18
January 7 - January 22
February 23 - March 8
March 23 - April 6
April 20 - May 4
May 5 - May 19

Orchestra students hold fundraiser

Orchestra students are selling pointsettias as a fundraiser to buy new instruments and finance a spring trip. The cost is \$15 for a pot with 6 - 8 blooms, and checks should be made out to GHS Friends of the Orchestra. The sale ends November 21.

Creative writing class publishes literary magazine

The Literary Magazine, *Blue*, will be available for sale beginning November 20. Magazines can be purchased from any creative writing student for \$2.

Infamous Sheriff Hege indicted on five counts of embezzling

The Davidson County Sheriff of nine years was arrested on Monday, September 15, 2003. He is accused of obtaining property by false pretense and the interception of oral communication, among numerous other charges.

By Sarah Hampton Cheatham
Copy Editor

The personal website of Davidson County Sheriff Gerald Hege, www.hegecountry.com, displays a list of Davidson County's top ten most wanted criminals. Ironically, number one on the list is guilty of the same crime Hege himself was indicted for on September 15—embezzling.

Since gaining office in 1994, Hege has drawn national attention for his unorthodox policies and practices. Hege publicly touted himself as "America's toughest sheriff" and patrolled Davidson County in a paramilitary uniform, often armed with a submachine gun. He also had the Davidson County jail cells painted pink and decorated with murals of teddy bears carrying "buckets of tears" to emasculate prisoners.

Perhaps most infamous is Hege's "spider car," a squad cruiser specially modified by NASCAR racing mechanics to run on nitrous oxide and reach 170 mph. Most recently, Hege made headlines by distributing holiday cards portraying himself holding a bloody sword in one hand and Osama bin Laden's severed head in the other.

Despite the debate surrounding his office, the 15 felony charges Hege is now faced with are the first major legal action ever taken against the controversial sheriff.

"I think it's pretty cool that if dads in his county don't pay child support, they spend the weekend in the pink jail," said junior KatyBeth Schmid. "Some of his practices really work because people learn quickly to do what he wants. But there's a point where his policies just get ridiculous and, apparently, illegal."

Davidson County District Attorney Garry Frank filed a 113-page petition for Sheriff Hege's removal immediately after Hege was arrested on Monday, September 15, 2003. The sheriff is accused, among other things, of using \$6,200 from county drug busting funds to finance post-election parties.

In all, Hege is charged with five counts of obtaining property by false pretense, five counts of embezzlement by a public official, two counts of obstruction of justice, and one count each of aiding and abetting the obtaining of property by false pretense, interception of an oral communication, and aiding and abetting the interception of an oral communication.

Frank's petition includes 67 sworn affidavits from various Davidson County employees. According to these affidavits, Hege is guilty of harassing employees and political rivals, falsifying crime statistics and financial statements, and racial profiling. In one of the affidavits, sheriff's Captain Christopher Lee Coble claimed he heard Hege instruct deputies to pull over everyone "darker than snow that was driving in Davidson County."

Though Hege's popularity with voters in Davidson County has kept him in office for nine years, many feel that his "tough guy" approach to the law and alleged bigotry are relics of a different era.

"Hege's antiquated style of 'southern justice' has no place in the modern legal system," said senior Charles Cleaver.

Also under investigation is Hege's pet project, the Blue Line Foundation charity for the wives and children of fallen officers. Throughout its history, the foundation has paid its only employee, the sheriff's wife, over half again as much as it has given all of its intended beneficiaries combined. Deputies also assert that Hege ordered them to distribute jars of his own personal line of "barbecue dip," ostensibly to raise funds for Blue Line, to restaurants during work hours.

Frank's affidavits also include a claim by William Dale Alley that Sheriff Hege allowed politics to interfere with his professional duties. According to Alley, Hege instructed a detective to stop working on the recovery of Alley's missing son after Alley posted a sign in his yard endorsing Hege's opponent in last year's sheriff race.

After reviewing the attorney general's request and petition, Superior Court Judge Erwin Spainhour suspended Hege, ordering him not to return to his office or contact anyone related to the charges filed against him.

The hearing for Hege's removal is scheduled for October 27. The sheriff will be represented by attorneys William Hill and Walt Jones.

NEWS from around the WORLD

Two-year-old survives week alone

A two-year-old girl was left alone at home for almost three weeks. Her mother was in jail for unknown reasons. The two-year-old lived off of ketchup, mustard, rice, and raw pasta. She was discovered watching cartoons by her father. She is now being treated at Wolfson Children's Hospital for malnutrition.

-Cnn.com

Chinese space mission orbits Earth

China's first manned space mission came into view on Wednesday, October 1. A human crew is expected to orbit the earth on October 15. The mission is expected to stay in orbit ninety minutes, which means they will circle the earth once.

-Yahoo.com



Hockey player crashes while driving

Atlanta Thrashers star Dany Heatley was charged with reckless driving and serious injury by vehicle. While driving with teammate Dan Snyder, he veered off the road at 80 mph and hit a wall. Heatley was left with a broken jaw, but Snyder was critically injured.

-Cnn.com

Egyptian Siamese twins separated in Dallas

Doctors in Dallas, Texas made a medical breakthrough on Sunday, October 12, when they separated two Egyptian Siamese twins joined at the head. The operation to separate two-year-old Ahmed and Mohamed Ibrahim lasted 34 hours. A 60-person medical team spent an entire year preparing for the tricky surgery. The twins' separation was so complicated due to shared blood flow and the close connection of the right hemisphere of Ahmed's brain with Mohamed's left hemisphere. Though the boys are currently stable, they still face the possibility of stroke, swelling of the brain, and the leakage of spinal fluid.

-Cnn.com