

Council votes leadership as top priority

BY DANIEL ARONSON
Reporter

Dr. Michael Renn, former Grimsley principal, member of the Center for Creative Leadership, and Guilford County Associate Superintendent, spoke to Student Council on Monday, Oct. 24 about leadership, decision making, and teamwork.

Renn returned on Thursday, Oct. 27 to speak in more depth to the executive board of Student Council. Subject matter included delegating leadership, the importance of communication, and the ability to release responsibilities without micromanaging. Students learned that leaders must trust fellow members in order to feel comfortable with project completion and goal achievements.

Student Body President Neagheen Homaifar found Renn's presentation helpful.

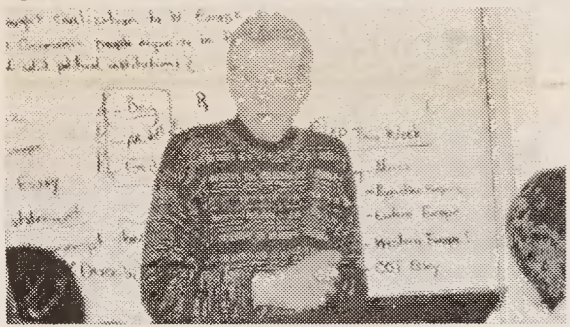
"Deciding what to delegate to whom and determining how to put my skills to the best use were relevant topics for me," said Homaifar. "To be able to know how to propose and advocate student issues effectively is an important aspect of student leadership."

Sophomore Class President Sam Hyman also attended the meeting.

...."I take leadership very seriously because it is my job," said Hyman.

Also in attendance was Lauren Stubbs, vice-president of the junior class.

"After hearing Dr. Renn, I think that we will be more focused and productive in effective delegation and how to approach differences of opinion," said Stubbs.



Moore photo

Dr. Michael Renn, Center for Creative Leadership

Student Council Advisor Grady Peace was pleased with Dr. Renn's visits, as they inspired the students to take it upon themselves to be stronger leaders.

"By doing so, students will assume accountability and motivation to make their ideas realities," said Peace.



Above, a photographer captures the fear and desperation in the face of a little Sudanese girl. The issue of Sudanese Genocide has only recently captured the attention of the United States and other nations.

Sudanese Genocide breaking hearts worldwide

As more international media coverage exposes the issue of genocide in Sudan, refugees relocate to other countries, including the United States. Many of the refugees attend local high schools.

BY MELISSA BYRD
Reporter

Despite the signing of a peace agreement on Jan. 9, 2005, the violence in Sudan fails to cease. Many Sudanese civilians remain innocent victims of the civil strife that has continued for 21 years.

The occurrences in Rwanda, Bosnia, Cambodia, and the holocaust appear to have had minimal impact on current U.S. aid and peace outreach to people plagued by genocide. Controversy

exists regarding the response of the United States to the horrific events taking place in Sudan. While the U.S. openly acknowledges the Sudanese genocide, government officials have taken no action other than observing the abuse.

A violent division between the north and south has continued in the African nation for over three decades. The January signing of the peace agreement has only reduced the fighting taking place between the regions. The accord equally split the control of oil between the northern government and the southern rebels.

Even as many families return to a more peaceful Sudan, the issues of child soldiers, famine, disease, and refugees linger. To fill their military ranks, the southern rebels recruit young children into the armies. Abducted children who had no choice whether or not they

would join the war comprise the majority of this juvenile force. Children of elementary-school age, armed with heavy rifles, are trained to kill.

Two thousand Sudanese refugees reside in Guilford County alone. Many of these individuals are children who have been thrown into a new culture, forced to adapt to American society. Some of those young people who escaped the violence of Sudan are now students on campus.

Mahmoud Mahmoud has been in the United States for five years and has not found the adjustment to be difficult since he had his family with him. Ahmed Althaher arrived in the United States three years ago. He misses Sudan and the people he left behind but considers himself happy to be in his new home.

Mix It Up Day creates a stir at lunchtime

Forty-five minutes each day are allotted to students to relax, socialize, and just hang out with their friends; however, a new plan hoped to assist students to meet new people during this non-academic time.

BY WILL BAKER
Reporter

Celebrated nationally and designed to eliminate barriers within schools, Mix It Up at Lunch Day took place on Tuesday, Nov. 15. The occasion challenged students to change their seating arrangements for a day during lunch and to test their social comfort zones in different company.

Tolerance.org inspired Mix It Up Day following a student survey regarding student relations. Statistics showed that 70% of the students observed the clearest social boundaries in the cafeteria, and 40% of the students admitted to rejecting someone from another group.

More than half of the students described their schools as "quick to put people into categories."

Faculty and administration encouraged students to make connections with new people and to ease the tension that exists within many high schools across the nation.

Principal Rob Gasparello suggested the idea to junior Michael Betts and sophomore Sam Hyman, who then presented it to Student Council.

"Any time we can move away from our comfort zone, even for just a few minutes at lunch, I think we're better off for it," said Gasparello.

Early publicity ensured that students understood the concept of the event. Betts expected a large number of student participants.

"I really was looking for a large movement from the seniors and juniors. I realized that we have very few proactive sophomores and freshmen, but as far as Mix It Up Day was concerned, if only three or four people participated, I would know that at least somebody was touched by it, and I could push for more participants," said Betts, who expected it to become an annual event.

"I am hoping and praying that eventually, we will not need a designated day to change whom we eat lunch with. I am hoping that it will become a natural move without the motivation of others," said Betts.

Mix It Up at Lunch Day aimed to eradicate any type of segregation, whether based on racial, religious, sexual orientation, or social class distinctions.

'The Music Man' sings in the spring, not in the fall

BY HALEY PHILLIPS
Reporter

Choir director Marshall Johnson, drama teacher Richard Zaruba, and band director Stefan Stuber, all playing integral roles as directors in this year's production of "The Music Man," recently changed the play's opening from the first week in November to the first week in March because of insufficient rehearsal time.

All three agreed to postpone rehearsals until after the winter break. However, some of the choir members are holding unscheduled practices on their own to make use

of the otherwise lost time.

"The musical typically has been the third week of November. This year school started two weeks late, and the musical had been scheduled two weeks earlier than usual to avoid scheduling conflicts, so you can see how there was already a time crunch. We lost four weeks of rehearsal time," said Johnson.

Although the musical's directors initially believed they would be able to produce the play on time, as November drew nearer, they realized they were wrong.

"We thought we could get the play ready, but it wasn't happening. Rather than stress everyone out and put on a poor

show, we moved the dates. Also, a lot of people who wanted to do the play were involved in other fall activities, so now they will be able to participate," said Zaruba, the acting director.

Students taking active roles in the production, both on and off-stage, agreed that the amount of practice time scheduled was insufficient.

"The choreography for the play was seldom rehearsed, so seldom that if the show were to up on Nov. 2, the dances would be performed about as gracefully as infants performing surgery," said senior Chris Plott. "From talking to participants in the musical, the main problem seemed to be

poor communication between the directors and the lack of commitment of everyone to the quality of the performance."

In addition to the lack of rehearsal time, students claimed that not enough students signed up to make the meet the high expectations as past performances.

"We hadn't rehearsed enough, and more people are needed," said junior Liz Fletcher.

Johnson, Zaruba, and Stuber feel certain that the extra preparation time will enhance the production.

"While I hated to postpone, I think everyone understands that it is for the best. The stress

level that was being generated made the play more work than fun. This way we can ensure a better production and one that is a great time as well," said Zaruba.

Because of the new school calendar, the directors plan to begin a new tradition of scheduling

the annual musical later in the year so the situation occurring presently with the "Music Man" musical will be of no concern.

"In the future, we anticipate that we'll be doing the musical in the spring every year instead of in November," said Johnson.

'The Music Man'

When: Originally 1st week of November,

now 1st week of March

Where: Grimsley High School

Contact: Mr. Marshall Johnson, Mr. Richard Zaruba, or Mr. Stefan Stuber



Harry Potter

Rowling's character bewitches readers, movie-goers, fans, and consumers.
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McNopoly

One McDonald's customer faces the reality that he will never win a million dollars.
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