

Internet photo

Above, a father embraces his son; both wear protective face masks to prevent the infectious bird flu from spreading between humans and animals, which is now classified as an epidemic worldwide.

Bird flu sweeps Asia, threatens many lives

As the two forms of bird flu spread across Asia, people panic worldwide. The disease affects multiple organs and has caused death in birds and humans. As Asia scrambles to contain this fatal disease, other nations, including the United States, take preventative measures.

BY WILL BAKER
Reporter

Avian influenza, more commonly known as "the bird flu," currently calls for much alarm across the world.

Bird flu is a contagious disease caused by viruses that normally infect only birds and, less commonly, pigs. These viruses are highly species-specific, however, they sometimes cross the barrier and infect humans.

This disease comes in two different forms: a low pathogenic form, which causes only mild symptoms in birds and often goes completely unnoticed; and a high pathogenic form, which travels rapidly through a flock of poultry and causes disease, infecting multiple internal organs. It can reach a mortality rate of 100% within 48 hours.

Because of the effects of this disease in China, the government is taking quick action. On Wed. Nov. 16, the first two cases of bird flu were identified in China. The cases were seen in a nine-year-old boy and a 24-year-old woman. The boy was discharged from the hospital after recovery, but the woman died on Nov. 10. The boy's sister died on Oct. 17, after experiencing similar symptoms to his, although her death has not yet

been blamed on bird flu.

China immediately responded to the situation after seeing 11 outbreaks. They cut taxes on any organization selling or raising poultry in an effort to prevent the situation from becoming a widespread epidemic. In addition, China has shut down all markets selling poultry within a 10-mile radius of the affected areas.

"I believe we can contain the outbreak at its beginning...and avert a flu pandemic," said the Kumnuan Ungchusak, the director of the bureau of epidemiology at the Thai Ministry of Health.

Indonesia has also fallen victim to bird flu. On Wed. Nov. 16, two more deaths were confirmed. A 20-year-old woman and a 16-year-old girl both became ill after coming in contact with chickens that died from bird flu. The death toll is now up to seven in Indonesia, with four additional surviving patients. Fighting the virus is a top priority for President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono.

Mao Qun'an, the health ministry spokesman for the World Health Organization in China said that China is making "timely reports" and has "immediately released information to the public" so that everyone is aware of the situation.

Two main risks are associated with bird flu. One is receiving the virus via poultry, while the more serious concern is that if given enough opportunities, the virus is capable of changing into a form that can spread from human to human. Such a possibility has the potential of starting a global outbreak.

Either way, this virus is serious and has little if any likeness to the flu with which Americans are familiar. Its most common course consists of primary viral pneumonia followed by multi-organ failure. Bird flu follows a rapid course that results in quick deterioration and high fatality.

Internationally recognized artist shares experience, art

Sculptor Billy Lee shared his experiences with students after traveling around the world making artwork and exploring cultures.

BY EMILY HARDEN
Staff Writer

World-renowned sculptor Billy Lee provided a slideshow and lecture showcasing his work and offered advice to young artists on Nov. 14 in the auditorium.

His presentation was open to any interested students and teachers who were curious about the life of a sculptor. Lee, who was born in South Africa and grew up in London, England, spoke of his experiences representing the United States in multiple art contests and showcases around the globe, particularly in China.

Lee's presentation featured many interesting facts about sculpting, including an insight into the mind of a sculptor.

"It's what I do everyday; it's what I think," said Lee. He stated that he loves his family, having a wife and a daughter,



Internet photo

Sculptor Billy Lee visited Grimsley on Nov. 14 to present his artwork.

but his job entails many months spent away from home. While this time distanced from family can be mentally enduring, Lee stressed that it was worth it; he has seen the world many times over.

"The sculptor seemed to have accomplished a lot at a young age," said Photo Design student and

sophomore Katie Barnes. "I would love to be able to travel around the world with my job like he does."

During his stay in China, Lee participated in the building of a sculpture garden that included pieces sculptors from over 37 countries created. While Lee's artwork may seem simple at first glance, they take many days to complete, and he uses multiple devices and a variety of substances to finish his artwork.

"His work used many enduring and skilled tactics to put together a variety of great art pieces," said sophomore Charles Behrhorst. "He is a skilled artist and has created things I would never think possible."

Lee uses substances to create his sculptures, ranging from wood to bronze; his most common medium is silver.

"When I make my pieces, I

see Page 2

Fiery Franks addresses PTSA

Twenty-three years ago, Coach Joe Franks returned to his alma mater to teach social studies. After the many years of service, the PTSA honored him.

BY DANIEL ARONSON
Reporter

Billed as "An Evening with Joe Franks," the General PTSA meeting on Monday, Nov. 14, housed a larger than usual number in attendance because of the popularity of the speaker as both a teacher and coach. Franks addressed the crowd about his love for Grimsley and his passion for teaching.

"This is a special place and there is no other place like it," said Franks, who not only attended the school as a student, but has taught at the school for 23 years, beginning in 1983. After graduating high school in 1978, Franks earned his college degree from Clemson University in South Carolina.

"I have a special bond with Grimsley. I went here as a student, and teaching here is the only job I've ever had," said Franks.

Coaching the men's golf team for the past ten years and the ladies' team for the past three, he knows his way around greens covering the state. He also served as an assistant football coach for six years and took interest in sports medicine for 13 years.

Other highlights are his traditional roles as emcee for the Mr. Whirlie Contest, leader of pep rallies and the annual bonfire, and host of several PTSA events. Franks received the PTA's Educator of the Year Award and the Whirligig

Yearbook Dedication in 1997.

"Initially I became a teacher to work with young people in athletics. Over the years, my work in the classroom became as rewarding as athletics," said Franks.

During his years as both student and teacher at Grimsley, Franks has observed the school as it grew and changed. Rob Gasparello is the sixth principal for whom he has worked on staff. During this time, Franks has witnessed an increase in student population and teacher turnover.

"Grimsley students have changed. They do not enjoy themselves as much as in earlier days because of the stress and pressure. Also, teaching has changed because of schools becoming more test-driven," said Franks.

Franks likes to be dynamic in his actions. He even proposed to his wife Tiffany in front of 65,000 fans at a Clemson-Georgia Tech football game. He cares deeply about his students and always makes sure that each one feels appreciated.

"I love teaching. I have no kids of my own, so there's

nothing better than seeing a class full of smiling faces everyday," said Franks.

Teachers who know Franks show him respect and appreciation for his commitment to education.

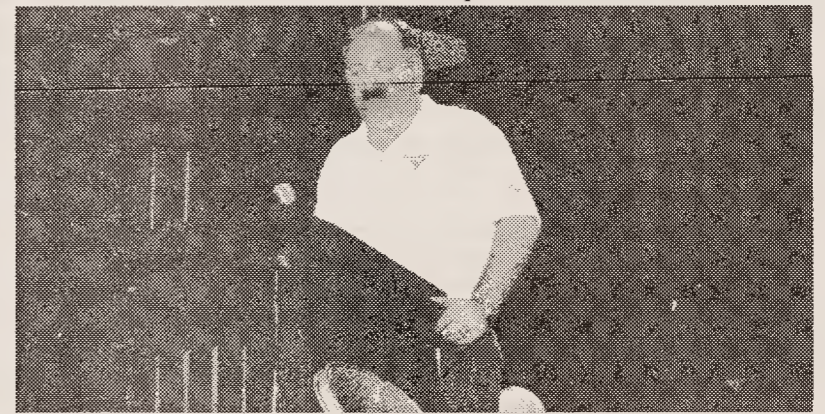
"Coach Franks is the most dedicated and enthusiastic teacher at Grimsley. He strongly believes in his students and strives to help them succeed," said Athletic Director Neal Hatcher, who has been at Grimsley for thirteen years.

Especially close to his students, Franks forms lasting relationships with them. He hopes to help them prepare for their next step in education.

"I treat my students as young adults by being honest with them and not treating them as children," said Franks.

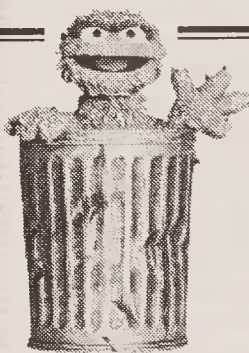
Senior class advisor Catherine Barnhardt knows Franks quite well, especially since they both teach numerous seniors.

"Coach Franks loves his job, and it shows in everything he does. He takes great pride in the school and its traditions and wishes always to be a part of them. Coach Franks is a great role model in all respects," said Barnhardt.



Moore Photo

Above, Coach Franks addresses the PTSA. Franks has received numerous awards and honors for his accomplishments in education.



Nullify Negativity

Random acts of rudeness leave one writer disgruntled.
>> Opinion: Page 3

Winter Break?

With political correctness at an all time high, the spirit of Christmas is no more.
>> Features: Page 7



News.....1
Opinion.....3
Features.....4
Sports.....8