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Christmas Holidays
December 17 - January 3

Students Return to School
Tuesday, Jan. 4

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Monday, Jan. 17

SAT Reasoning Test & SAT Subject Tests
Saturday, Jan. 22

Honor and Promise Scholarship Testing
Saturday, Jan. 29

Open House
Jan. 30 & 31

Varsity Basketball Game
Jan. 4, 7, 8, 11, 14, 15, 18, 21, 22, 25, & 28



STATE CHAMPS

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SPORTS Page 5

One Act Takes Region

One Act wins regional competition

By Katie Cauley

The One-Act cast and crew won the region title with their performance of *Steel Magnolias* in Americus at the Rylander Theatre, November 4. They advanced to the State competition, which took place November 15.

"At region [their performance] was absolutely phenomenal. It was interesting to see how they took to the stage and made the theater their own," One-Act sponsor Lindsay Stewart said.

Junior Caroline Davis won the Outstanding Actress award at the region competition, which is given to the actor who most exemplifies his or her character. "I was excited. It's a bittersweet award to get because you think that everyone of the cast deserves it, but overall I'm very honored that I was chosen," Davis said.

Stewart was optimistic about Region, but less so about the state competition. "We generally do well at region... as for State, we've done OK, but we usually don't place. It's just a tougher competition once we get there," Stewart said.

"I was proud of us for getting first place," said One-Act member Emily Reed. "When you practice, you don't really think about the competition until you're there. I was happy we won, and I was excited for state."

The play *Steel Magnolias* was a favorite among the cast and crew. "I loved the play," expresses crew member and freshman Marli Collier. "It just had a really fun plot, and the cast and crew became really close throughout all of the practices."

continued on the next page

Students Head to Still Ravaged Haiti

Students plan to make a difference in devastated country

By Bryce Earnest

Christmas break is a time for good food, relaxation and spending time with your family. However, for a few select Deerfield students, this break could lead to a life changing experience.

On the day after Christmas, a group of nine youths and four adults from First United Methodist of Albany (FUMC) will visit Haiti, which was struck by a horrific earthquake at the

beginning of the year. Seniors Beau Sinyard, Shannon Doherty and Zach Cleland will participate in the mission, along with Sophomore Lexie Harrison. Accompanying the group will be students for other schools and FUMC Youth Minister, Joel Diaz.

The FUMC mission is intended to help the Haitian people by showing them the power of Christ through prayer. Sinyard hopes to "gain a humbling experience that will allow me to see

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Fundraiser Changes Leads to Concern for Prom Success

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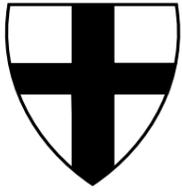
COURTESY COCA-COLA

Diet Soda... What Happened to Regular?

OPINION P7

SCHOOL NEWS

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One Act

continued from previous page

The play, which is set in Louisiana in a beauty parlor owned by Truvy Jones, follows the events occurring after the marriage of the daughter of one of the regulars at Truvy's shop.

The cast competed against eight other schools at the State performance, but did not place.

In describing the atmosphere at the state competition, Stewart explains that "it was different and kind of put a damper on things. We had some technical difficulties that they weren't used to that kinda threw them off. They played them off fine, and I think it was just as strong of a performance as region if not better."



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A devastating earthquake struck Haiti in January of this year, leaving many young children homeless

Students Head to Still Ravaged Haiti

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the greater things in life and lose some of my American views."

Students participating on the mission are exchanging their traditional holiday break for an opportunity to help others. Doherty, who usually goes skiing with her family over the break, is sacrificing much more than relaxation. "Skiing verses spreading the word of God in a suffering country? There is no comparison," said Doherty.

The team of volunteers recently took a day trip to Atlanta to prepare for the mission. They joined with an organization called Adopt-A-Block and knocked on strangers' doors to ask if they needed any help with anything.

However, the Atlanta residents only asked the volunteers for prayer.

The FUMC mission trip is sponsored by Adventures in Missions (AIM), a worldwide organization which encourages young people to join mission trips to assist the poor. AIM's website states, "All Christians are called to share their reason for hope" with those in need, an appropriate cause in a season of giving.

Prom Fundraising Changes

By Becca Brown and Hope Kitchen

Last year, juniors were required to sell \$300 of Sally Foster gift paper each to raise money for prom. This year, however, juniors are required to either sell \$150 of gift paper or buy an \$80 prom ticket, leading to concerns that there will not be sufficient money for prom.

"There may be a decrease in funds for this year's prom. The Sally Foster sale has changed quite a bit from years past, so I don't think it's sold like it usually has," said Junior parent Kimberly Williams.

The overall goal the administration wished to achieve by changing the Sally Foster policy was to eliminate the costly \$300 worth of Sally Foster or \$150 charged to juniors' accounts that parents have had to pay for in previous years.

Upper and Middle School Director Will Kesler explained that "Mr. Davies felt very strongly that this sort of indiscriminate billing is just a bad practice. Essentially it [the \$150 charge] is hidden tuition."

Last year the seniors sold a little over \$14,000 of Sally Foster products, compared with the little more than \$3,000 amount that the current juniors have sold this year so far. Because of this decreased amount, junior class officers have already put other fundraisers in place, such as selling Austin's BBQ tickets, to raise money for prom.

In former years, the juniors raised the prom budget by cleaning up after football games,

selling raffle tickets at football games and selling Sally Foster as their main fundraisers. In these respects, not much has changed pertaining to the actual fundraisers, but the process of raising the money through Sally Foster has changed.

This year, Sally Foster customers are required to purchase items from a junior student online, as opposed to a physical booklet. The customer must also know the student's Identification Code, as well as the school's account number in order for the student and school to receive credit from the order. This has become a confusing and strenuous process.

Kimberly Williams said, "Not having a magazine/pamphlet for customers to actually see the product they are purchasing has affected the sales at my house."

Another junior parent, Mandy Flynn, agreed. "I was disappointed to not have a catalog to give to older family members who aren't comfortable using a computer, or to take to work to share with co-workers," she said.

The change in fundraising policy is intended to make the process easier on juniors and their parents. "Ultimately it [the fundraising changes] will end up costing juniors less money on the whole," said Kesler.

However, the new way of purchasing Sally Foster through the Internet has proven to be a challenging process for customers. The changed system has taken the time of junior students and teachers, to ensure students are getting credit for their sales. Moreover, many

are concerned that the \$150 difference in required amount per junior will not raise a sufficient amount to hire a DJ or band, rent a place to hold prom and purchase decorations and food.

"The website made the entire process difficult and it did not offer the quality and quantity of items that have been offered in the past through the catalogue," said parent Lisa Divine.

Parent Teresa Breen added that she was "frustrated by the lack of stock and delivery... I have no way of being able to tell friends... the status of their order."

By mid-November, over half the junior class members had not even registered online and were therefore not able to sell and raise money. In previous years, students did not have to register, therefore making the process easier. Also in previous years, the selling or charging was mandatory, giving the junior class a definite prom budget by the end of first semester.

Like every other prom, seniors will be admitted for free, but guests from other schools will be required to pay \$80 upon their entrance to prom.

Despite the concern and criticisms of the new policy, Kesler assures the Deerfield family that if there is an insufficient amount of money for prom after the Sally Foster fundraiser is over, "we'll find that in the budget, because we're the one who made the change this year and then we'll have to recalculate our numbers for next year."



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SCHOOL NEWS

Q&A with Headmaster Davies



This is a new section where we get the chance to interview teachers and administrators in the school. For this first interview, we were lucky to have Headmaster Davies sit down with us and take a few questions. He spoke with us about what he feels about Deerfield so far in his tenure and where he thinks it will be. But we also couldn't resist asking about a certain prom date he once had.

Q: Where do you envision Deerfield in ten years?

A: Well, I think Deerfield will continue to be the premier independent college preparatory school in South Georgia. We will be farther ahead from where we are now in technology. Our faculty will be stronger having benefited from additional professional development through conferences and workshops. I expect that our college counseling program will be first rate, once we've had a chance to fully implement it. And our world language program will produce students who are stronger listeners and speakers in language.

Q: During your transition year, what thrilled you the most, and also, what really frustrated you?

A: What thrilled me about last year...*(laughs)*. I'm not cynical enough to say the end, but yeah, there are a lot of good things to say about last year. I had talked to many people about the first year as a headmaster at a new school and everybody says it's a very difficult year. I was expecting that if I worked hard enough at it and was a nice enough person that it wouldn't be that hard. It was very difficult. Most of us who work at schools are not interested in fast-paced change. And Deerfield also had thrived for 20 years under Mr. Henry, so I think there was a lot of concern on the part of faculty as to whether a different style could work. The good news is we had a great enrollment last year, we had a lot of success academically, artistically, athletically, and the school didn't close under my first year as headmaster *(laughs)*. People have really enjoyed Mr. Kesler, the new Middle/Upper School Director, and the faculty have responded very well to him. There are a lot of good things happening and I think we're off to a really good start.

Q: When you meet prospective parents or students, what is a favorite place or aspect of the school that you really enjoy telling them about?

A: We had a young man and his father come to the state semifinal game and he [the prospective student] was really impressed by the football team, but even more impressed with the sense of community that was at the ball game. We had a reporter from the *Albany Herald* here do a story on the football game a couple weeks ago and he said this is really a special atmosphere, regardless of the athletic event that's going on. That's what I think we're about and that's what I try to get people to understand.

Q: How did you perform academically in school?

A: I would say in high school I was probably an A minus student: not at the top of my class. Part of that was I wasn't motivated, part of it

was I was involved with band and wrestling and Student Council and Key Club and probably too many activities but they all played a role in who I am. So I would say as much as I value the academic education I got, all of those activities were as important if not more important.

Q: What do you think are the greatest strengths of this school, and what are areas that need improvement?

A: People believe seriously in the value of Deerfield Windsor and I think we're in a very strong position because of that commitment. We suffer from being isolated from the independent school world and one of the ways we suffer is that we have to work a whole lot harder to be aware of what best practices are out there than we would if we were in a place like Dallas. When I was in Dallas, there were ten private schools in a five mile radius. If your facilities, if your teaching, if your program was not up to speed with the other schools, people would just walk down the road and go somewhere else. What I want for Deerfield is not just to be the best school in Albany, I want it to be the best school that it can be. We have to continue to examine the assignments we give to make sure that they are worthy of the students' time and effort, we have to examine the curriculum and how that is delivered by the teachers to make sure that students are as prepared as they can be, as excited as they can be. We don't say in our mission statement "we want to get students into the best colleges." It says in the mission statement: "we exist to inspire a passion for learning." We challenge the faculty to say "Is your instruction inspiring passion in students to pursue [a subject] at a higher level?"

Q: You once said you had an interesting prom date. Could you tell us a little bit more about that?

A: *(Laughs)*. Well I will give you the medium version. Well, the way it came about was that a young woman that I had known through church since we were little came up to me and said that her friend and she would like to go to the prom with my best friend and me. I didn't have a whole lot of experience with women at that point and don't now, but I thought, "well, there's no way she would ask me if she wanted to go with me. She must want to go with my friend." So I said to him, "We're in luck. Kit wants to prom with you, and Donna wants to go to the prom with me." So we each asked our respective date and they both said yes. We double dated together, went to the prom together and had a miserable time. It wasn't until weeks later that I found out that I had gotten it backwards, so I had a 50 percent chance and I messed it up.

The only thing that makes the whole story interesting is that the girl that I went to the prom with eventually became a Playboy bunny. Not in the magazine. In one of the clubs. And so my claim to fame is that I dated a Playboy bunny. The bottom line of it is: We had a miserable time, she was not a Playboy bunny at the time, and we never dated after the prom. But that's about as exciting as it gets.

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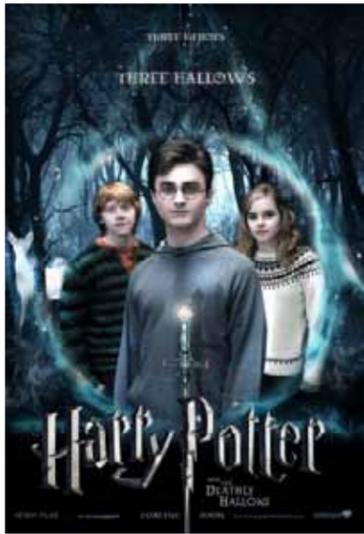
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FEATURES

Movie Review



Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows

By Nick Lee

WARNING: The following preview contains spoilers for Harry Potter books/films six and seven.

The time has finally come for each and every Harry Potter fan to start counting down to the big screen conclusion of the epic series. This time, we aren't at Hogwarts anymore, and not only do moviegoers get to sit through the Deathly Hallows experience once, but twice. The split into two parts is to allow the screen adaptation to include as much of the book's plot as necessary in order to do the story justice, and I must say that this was a very wise decision. To think of the studio taking the entirety of Deathly Hallows and confining it into a three hour time constraint only produces shudders on my part.

In this film, we witness Harry Potter (Daniel Radcliffe) on his journey to find and destroy the divided pieces of Voldemort's (Ralph Fiennes) soul known as horcruxes. Harry is joined by friends Ron Weasley (Rupert Grint) and Hermione Granger (Emma Watson) as they venture far from the walls of Hogwarts in order to accomplish the harrowing task of putting an end to the uprising evil that has taken control after the death of Dumbledore (Michael Gambon). It is evident that, along with the plot's material, the three

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Christmas in the Air



Christmas Program

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM BRINGS ON THE HOLIDAY MOOD

By Katie Cauley

On Monday, December 13, the DWS student body gathered in the gym at 11:30 to partake in a little holiday fun before exams began.

The annual Christmas program included a Toys for Tots collection, several student dance and music performances and a presentation of Christmas bonuses to the custodial staff

Both varsity danceline teams performed a dance together at the program, a tradition which began five years ago. "The teams both look so good on the field and on the court, and to have twenty girls dancing instead of ten looks better at the program," varsity football danceline sponsor Margaret Wilson said.

In addition to the danceline performance,

the current Miss DWS, Olivia Lee, performed a religious dance with first and second DWS runners up, Tracy McGee and Beverly Guillebeau. The dance was choreographed by owner of Pritchett-Pippin Dance Studio Kathy Hall-Hawkins. "I cannot wait to express myself [through dance] with two seniors who I really love, and it means a lot to me to be included," said McGee.

The dance segment of the program was complemented by student musical performances. Senior William Chan, who is also concertmaster of the Dougherty County Youth Orchestra, played several violin solos to add a little pizzazz to the program. "I'm excited that William Chan is playing [the violin] because

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New Latin Teacher Revives Classics

NEW TEACHER SERIES: Graduate of Florida State University begins teaching at Deerfield-Windsor.

By Emily DuVall

"You can either complain that roses have thorns or you can rejoice that thorns have roses." This is the philosophy of Deerfield Wind-



Katherine Norton

sor's new Latin teacher, Katherine Norton. Her ability to be positive, inspirational, and helpful are some of her most treasured and greatest characteristics.

At Deerfield, Norton has enjoyed teaching students what she is passionate

about, Latin. Her favorite part of teaching is when students have an "Ahha" moment and the concept clicks in their mind. Third-year Latin student James Larussa, said, "I like how Ms. Norton has made Latin more fun and interesting this year."

"I always knew I wanted to be a teacher," says Norton. The draw to teaching was also the desire to help students learn new and interesting things. Even now, Norton's loves helping students learn something new. When the students she has taught look back, Norton wants to be the teacher "who was there to help them whenever they needed me" and "encouraged [them] to work hard in life."

In the past few years, the position of Latin teacher has been filled by several different individuals, but Ms. Norton was thrilled to fill in as the new Latin teacher. Born and raised in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Norton received her undergrad at Samford University and earned her graduate degree at Florida State University, which is where she learned Deerfield was searching for a Latin teacher.

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SPORTS

THE EXCELSIOR

Scores

VARSITY FOOTBALL

10.29.10

Deerfield-Windsor	21
Westfield	7

11.5.10

Deerfield-Windsor	40
Southland	7

11.12.10

Deerfield-Windsor	38
Griffin Christian	14

11.19.10

Deerfield-Windsor	30
Mount de Sales	27

9.24.10

Deerfield-Windsor	38
Tattnall	22

V BOYS BASKETBALL

11.30.10

Deerfield-Windsor	68
Brookwood	28

12.7.10

Deerfield-Windsor	63
Mount de Sales	46

By the Numbers

17:04

Taylor Withers' record time at XC state meet

8

Field goals made by Trey Puckett

943

Rushing yards for Quentin Heard

13

Wins for the football team

86

Total tackles for James Tyson

4

Sacks by Walker Lanier

1

Boys basketball starter returning

8

Average rushing yards per carry for Davis Moore



L to R: Banks Kinslow, Michael Kelly, and Cooper Shoemaker celebrate the Knights' success

Knights Capture Third State Championship

By Will Taylor

Imagine being drenched in sweat, covered in mud from head to toe, smiling from ear to ear, exhausted but functioning off of adrenaline, and surrounded by screaming fans and loved ones. These are just a few of the gamut of emotions experienced by the Deerfield football players after routing Tattnall 38-22 to become the undefeated 13-0 GISA state champions.

After going 10-0 during the regular season, the Knights were thirsty for a third state championship and the first ever 13-0 record in Deerfield-Windsor history. The Knights cruised to a 38-14 victory over the Griffin Christian Crusaders, emerged victorious from a 30-27 battle against the Mt. De Sales Cavaliers and stomped the Tattnall Trojans 38-22 in the championship game.

"The coaches and players feel truly blessed to have this success," said Coach Allen Lowe. "We did a good job of focusing on one game at a time, and this team was special because

the players pulled for each other and accepted their own roles with energy."

In the opening round of the state playoffs, the Knights faced off against Griffin Christian. After missing the game against Southland, running back Davis Moore rushed for a touchdown and returned an interception for a touchdown which gave the Knights an early 14-0 lead before Trey Puckett kicked a field goal to extend the Knights' lead to 17-0.

Quarterback Banks Kinslow then threw a touchdown pass to tight end Walker Lanier, and the Knights led 24-0. Griffin Christian's running back rushed for a touchdown and narrowed the lead to 24-7 before Moore rushed for another touchdown, expanding the Knights' lead to 31-7. Griffin Christian returned Deerfield's kickoff to narrow the lead to 31-14; however, running back Quentin Heard sealed the victory for Deerfield with a touchdown run that made the final score 38-14.

"This game meant a lot to me since I was

Athlete of the Month: Taylor Withers

PROFILE

By Davis Moore

Throughout their lives, most people tend to dread running, but Taylor Withers is a born runner.

Withers was elected as The Excelsior's Athlete of the Month due to his stellar cross country season. However, for Withers, a well-rounded athlete, this season was not very different from the others; for the fifth time, Withers was selected as an All-Region performer. He was also selected as an All-State runner for the second time.

Running has never been a problem for Withers. "In middle school, everyone would dread running the mile in P.E., but to me, it wasn't a big deal. Unlike most sports, the success of running is gratifying solely to the runner because he has put the time in to benefit himself. I guess running boils down to the saying, "you get what you deserve," Withers said.

Withers' favorite cross Country memory occurred this season when he broke his own record at the State Meet in Macon. Previously, the school record was held at 17:08, but when Withers crossed the finish line at state, he had not only run a personal best, but he had also provided the school with a new record (17:04).

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Senior Taylor Withers

Cheated!

COLUMN

By Davis Moore

The NCAA's institution of the Bowl Championship Series or BCS has caused many National Championship caliber teams to be left out of the "big game." Thus, based on the errors of the BCS, a playoff system must be incorporated.

Just ask Auburn University, Boise State, or even powerhouse Alabama, should the NCAA install a playoff system? All of these colleges would reply "Yes" without any hesitation. The BCS has managed to cheat many teams on its way to making millions, yet the money seems to be all that matters.

In the 2003-2004 NCAA football season, Auburn University maintained a perfect record of 12-0. Although they were in the SEC, the projected top conference of college football, they were left out. Why? Because the computer system voted on USC and Oklahoma based on unorthodox statistics.

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In Defense of the Offense

COLUMN

By Trey Flynn



You'll never hear Coach Gruhl acknowledge our efforts over the loudspeaker following a long run. No second graders ravenously line the fences in hope of one of our high fives. We are super heroes plagued with secret identities that cannot be shed.

But it is the nature of our game.

We are offensive linemen, the inglorious brand of football players who are often overshadowed by the talented athletes that surround us. While our contributions to the game are seldom recognized by the untrained eye, we as a unit made our presence felt across the state. After our opening victory against Sherwood, the Albany Herald included a headline that read "Credit Due to DWS' Thunder and Lightning." Including the names of all 15 linemen that manhandled the oversized Sherwood defensive line, the article set the tempo for a season of offensive dominance. Thirteen wins and zero losses later, our offensive line paved the way for our success as a team. However, as has been the case for centuries, our unskilled labor is eclipsed by the graceful athletes for whom we block.

In the aftermath of our 21-7 victory over rival Westfield, Albany Herald reporter Mike Phillips commented of the defense's effort, "By the time these kids are done, you might need a statue." Throughout the week the Herald continued their praise of the defense, going as far as nominating all 11 members as a unit for player of the week. Forcing two safeties and ten tackles for loss, the defense's recognition was well deserved, but the most pivotal series of the game came on offense late in the game. With the clock winding down and Westfield's defense beginning to tire, Coach Lowe chose to run four HI consecutive off-tackle plays behind Harrison Houston. Powerfully opening up the running lane, Harrison performed his duty perfectly, resulting

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Letters From An INSOMNIAC

By Davidson Goldsmith

Well, it's about that time again, time to do my homework. Déjà vu. I could have sworn I was just doing this. Oh well; I might as well start while I have the motivation. (I pull out my iPod for some inspiring music while I do my homework.) What! The headphone wires are tangled...again! I mean come on! It's as if Sony does not want me to use these things.one hour later...YES! I finally got them untangled. Shoot, it's dead. Where did I put that charger? It is somewhere in here. (I take everything out of my closet and throw it on the floor) Oh wait... it's in the wall; silly me. Hmm, I have been meaning to put some new music on this thing. I think I have listened to this Jack Johnson song about a thousand times too many. I'll just get on iTunes to load some fresh songs. That will help me study and shouldn't take long. Wow! "The Beatles are now on iTunes." I'll give a quick listen to a few of their songs. . . .That took a little longer than I thought, but who knew they had 24 albums? . . . Okay, now I'm really ready to start my homework.

BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP

"Mom? What are you doing up at this hour? And what's that beeping?"

"Davidson, it's your alarm. It's 6:30. How did your homework go?"

"Well, I am not sure what happened, but I think I haven't quite finished yet."

Tip number two: Learn to recognize when you are procrastinating.

For the readers of my first column who didn't think I was talking to them, it is impossible to stop a problem when you don't recognize there is one. Like recognizing when your free-throw shot is wrong; when your car is not shifting correctly; or when your cow is not mooing right, seeing the problem comes before fixing it. It's sort of like the first step to knowledge is to know what you don't know. But that's a different lesson, and right now I've got to go move everything from my floor back into my closet. Procrastination that leaves a mess is the worst type.

New Teacher Series: Norton

continued from page 4

As the new Latin teacher, Norton has also taken on the role of Latin Club sponsor this year. Earlier this year, the Latin club raised \$500 by selling chocolate bars. The money will be used to fund Latin students fees in attending Georgia's Latin Convention at Rock Eagle. For the convention, the Latin Club is making plans to build a chariot so they can compete in the annual chariot race.

According to Norton, Latin is an essential academic course for high school students. Latin can help with "English, vocabulary, SAT prep, critical thinking, medical field, historical terms and understanding history a little better because it is more about the culture." In fact, if Norton could go back to high school and change one thing, she would have studied Latin more because now she sees "how much it would have helped me in life."

Christmas Program

continued from page 4

he is a very talented musician," said Senior Will Taylor. "It is rare to find someone who can play with such skill at his age."

The band also performed several Christmas carols, to which the students and faculty are encouraged to sing along. The set list included "You're a Mean One, Mr. Grinch" and "Christmas Festival." "I'm excited we were able to play because the whole band has worked hard on all of these pieces since October," said junior and clarinet player Julie Ann Hogan.

The program also included a presentation of the Christmas bonus to the custodians. For weeks prior to the program, students and faculty contributed donations to the custodial fund and collected the money in envelopes. The total amount was then divided up and presented to the custodians to express the Deerfield community's appreciation for its staff.

Finally, the Christmas program included an opportunity for Deerfield students to provide for those in need. Faculty and students were encouraged to bring a toy to the Christmas program as a donation to Toys for Tots. The toys collected are given to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital where many of the young patients are not expected to experience much joy at Christmastime. "I get teary-eyed every time I think of the generosity of our students and the kids they are helping" middle school counselor and Girl Talk sponsor Laura Kinslow said.

Harry Potter

continued from page 4

leading actors and actress that we have come to know well over the years have matured greatly since their fledgling days of the first movie. They now face near death at every turn, and like the movie's tagline warns us: "Nowhere is safe."

One thing that nearly every Potter fan pays close attention to when viewing the films is how close the movie sticks to the source material of the books. Though it has been a while since I've perused the seventh Harry Potter book, from what I recall, this movie included just about all material from its half of the plot that was necessary. All I can think of, even now, is the absence of some back story (such as bits of Dumbledore's past); however the beautiful circumstance of this two-part film is that anything left out of the first may very well be in the second. Yet all in all the film did much justice to the novel in regards to the plot, and as long as you are familiar with the story, you won't miss what is going on during some of the fast-paced portions of the movie. Though there are indeed some slower parts, especially around the middle, I found these necessary in order to take a breath from the film's action-packed beginning and ending sequences.

Comparisons to the book aside, I feel that the film stands strong in and of itself. The performances by much of the cast were done quite well, and it is easy to see that the series' veteran actors and actresses are now quite comfortable in their roles. The visuals, while often CGI, were quite beautifully rendered, and had me personally thankful that the characters were not confined to the grounds of Hogwarts for this film. The plot is well maintained, allowing both those who have read the books along with those who haven't to keep quite a decent perception of what is going on. As far as I'm concerned, the only negative comment I have for Deathly Hallows: Part 1 is the state of anticipation is has put me in to see Part 2. It has been a joy to see the actors and actresses, along with the films themselves, progress from the children's fantasy novels of old into the suspenseful and quite dramatic powerhouses they are today. It's only too bad that "The Boy Who Lived" will not be gracing the big screen until July of next year. Until then, Potter fans will have to be content with the novels at hand and wands at the ready.

Knights Capture Third State Championship

continued from previous page

coming back from an injury," stated Moore. "It felt good to know my injury would not affect my performance in the playoffs."

In the semi-finals of the state playoffs, emotions ran high as two of the best teams in the GISA met at Webb Memorial Stadium to battle for a place in the championship game. Not only were the Knights playing a talented opponent, but they also faced additional pressure as they were preparing to make history as the first Deerfield-Windsor football team to reach 12-0.

"It was an emotional game for us because when you put two great teams together, you are going to get a great game," said Senior Cooper Shoemaker. "We had to win big or go home."

The Knights scored early and led 6-0 after fullback James Tyson rushed for a touchdown. After multiple penalties murdered their first drive, the Cavaliers scored a touchdown which tied the score at 6-6. The Cavaliers scored another touchdown, and the Knights trailed for the first time this year 6-13. The Knights demonstrated courageous determination, however, and quickly tied the game 13-13 after Kinslow rushed for a touchdown. The Cavaliers took the lead 13-20 before halftime on a controversial play that miraculously led to a touchdown.

At the beginning of the second half, middle linebacker Rhett Cooper forced a Cavalier fumble, leading to a Kinslow touchdown pass to receiver Michael Laslie that tied the game 20-20. Both defenses began to control the game until Heard rushed for a touchdown, and the Knights regained the lead 27-20. The Cavaliers answered with a touchdown, tying the game at 27-27. Coach Allen Lowe employed excellent clock management and set Puckett up for a game winning field goal with 0:05 seconds remaining. Despite the immense pressure, Puckett made the field goal and lifted the Knights over the Cavaliers in a brilliant 30-27 victory that carried the first ever 12-0 Knights team to the championship game against Tattnall.

"It felt great to be in a position to contribute to a great team that has supported me and given me the confidence to kick it through the uprights," said Puckett. "I knew I had to block everything out and pretend it was just like

In Defense of the Offense

continued from previous page

in a valuable first down. For similar efforts throughout the year, Harrison deserves commendation as a true representation of a great offensive lineman. Parks Pace, the anchor of the offensive line, says of Harrison, "He was probably the best lineman on the team. He is truly irreplaceable." And now, as injuries sustained in a car accident have led to the premature end of his season, we as a team recognize the contributions Harrison made as a selfless offensive tackle. With his number 63 displayed on the midfield logo and on our helmets, Harrison became our primary source of inspiration on an amazing playoff run that ended with the reception of the state championship trophy.

Of course, no discussion of our offensive line could be complete without mentioning the tremendous influence of our fearless leader, Coach Kinslow. From the beginning of summer workouts, Coach Kinslow stressed the importance of unity among all members of the line. Every Sunday following a game, the Kinslow house was the gathering place at which we met and discussed the past week's game and our next opponent. Week after week, as we watched film and ate platters of Mrs. Kinslow's delicious cookies, we became an inseparable unit. And now, as we reflect upon a season of perfection, we can look back at our efforts and be truly proud. So this is my tribute to you, my brothers in arms: Thunder, (Parks, Caleb, Tanner, Patrick, and Harry Dawg) Lightning, (Mike, J.D., Shoemaker and Big Pauli) and Fire Tornado 9000 (Hunter, Jordan, Matt, Nicky, and Weston). I'm proud of every one of you. We dominated. Together.

practice."

After surviving Mt. De Sales, the Knights refused to let anything block them from the trophy, not even the Tattnall Square Trojans. Webb Memorial Stadium was drenched from recent rain, thus the weather provided an obstacle for both teams throughout the game. Whether from the adverse weather or just simply the ferocious Knight defense, one thing is for certain: Tattnall had trouble hanging onto the ball, and Deerfield took advantage of it.

"Going into the game, we knew Tattnall had a problem with turning the ball over to opposing teams. Thanks to their mistakes, we were able to put a lot of points on the board early, which allowed us to control the game for the rest of the night," said Jordan Funderburk.

After defensive tackle Matt Miller recovered a fumbled Tattnall punt snap, the Knights took a 7-0 lead on a Quentin Heard touchdown run. Then defensive tackle Jordan Funderburk forced another Tattnall fumble which eventually led to a breath-taking Banks Kinslow touchdown pass to Michael Laslie to extend the Knight lead to 14-0. Tattnall answered with a touchdown; however, both defenses dominated the remainder of the half so the score remained 14-7 at halftime.

The second half quickly turned ugly for Tattnall as the Knights forced another turnover, and Puckett kicked a field goal to extend the lead to 17-7. Tattnall once again fumbled which allowed Moore to rush for a touchdown, making the score 24-7. Then Tattnall mishandled a punt return, which led to a Kinslow touchdown and a 31-7 Knight lead. Tattnall answered with a touchdown and a two point conversion; however, Moore slammed the door on any possible Trojan comeback with a touchdown run that expanded the Knights' lead to 38-15. Tattnall scored again to narrow the lead to 38-22; however, the Knights clinched the championship with a final score of 38-22, making them the first ever perfect 13-0 state champions!

"It's like a dream come true," said Banks Kinslow. "That's something you dream about as a kid. [Beating Tattnall] was the perfect ending to a perfect season."

Taylor Withers

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Fellow senior and cross country teammate Stephen Barnhill said, "Withers' record will definitely withstand the test of time; he's just an incredible runner."

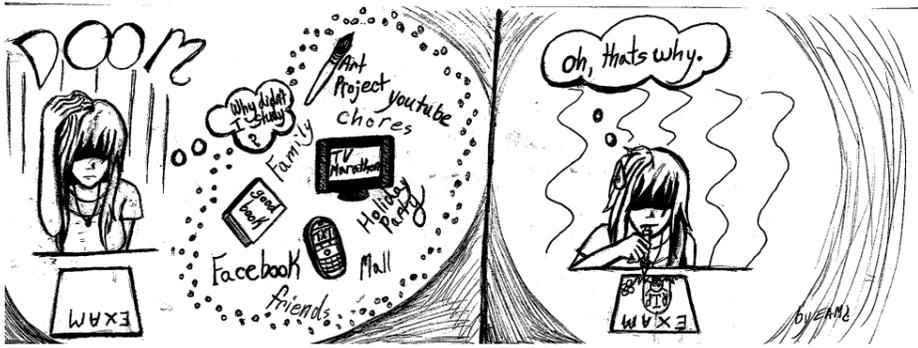
Withers' main concern with Cross Country is that it does not get the respect it deserves. "People don't understand the work that we (the cross country team) put in; we spend everyday after school running miles and miles. However, he is realistic about the excitement of the meets. "It's difficult for students to pay more attention to cross country because spectators can only see the start and finish of a race. They do not get to see the endurance or stamina that it takes to get through the middle of the trail," he said.

He understands that students do not want to wake up on Saturday mornings to attend meets, but he has an alternate tactic for collecting more people. "I feel like I'm always trying to recruit other students to run on the cross country Team. That's what people don't understand; No team can win a state championship with only a few runners. It is important for us to get as many runners as possible," he said. Senior Daniel Talley added, "He [Withers] knows it's not about the individual awards; that's why he is always pushing us to be better."

Although Withers' quest to win a team state championship fell short, he is still proud of the team's effort. Also, with winter approaching, Withers' favorite sport, swimming, lies on the horizon. He aspires to obtain an athletic scholarship to attend Georgia Tech next fall, where he will serve solely as a swimmer.

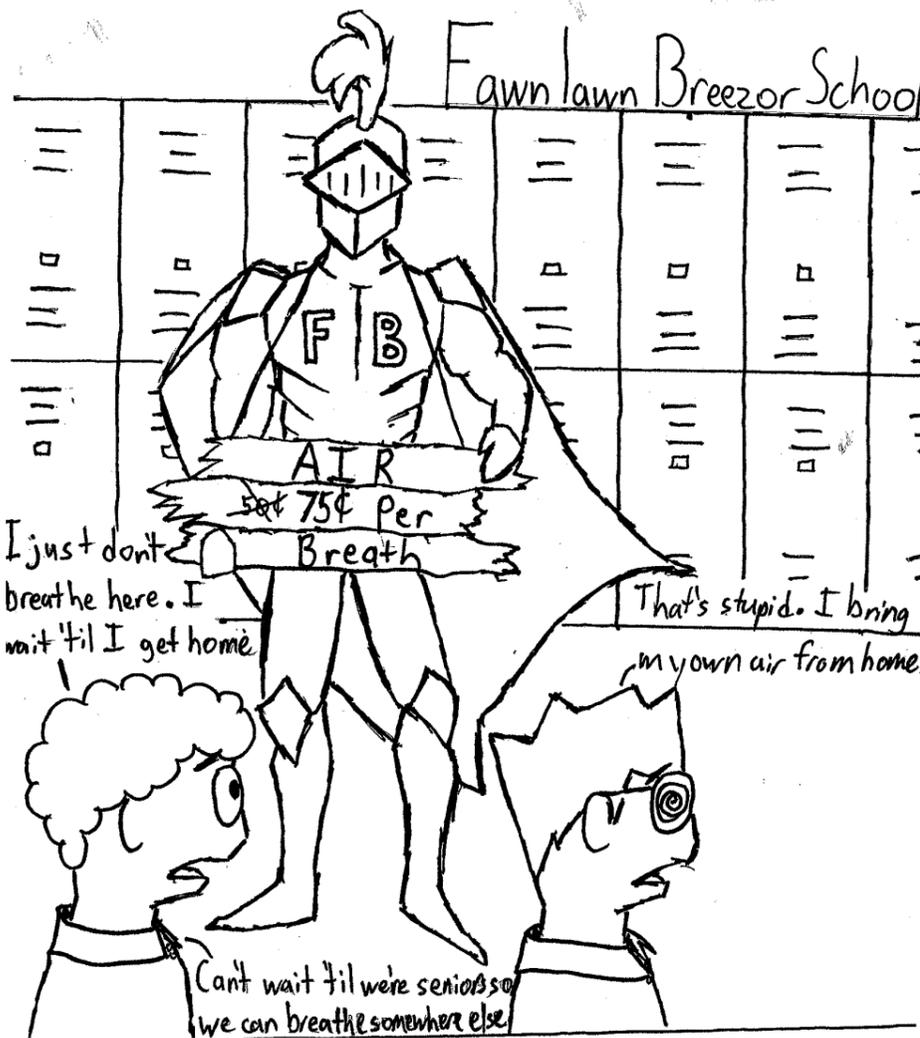
Cartoons of a Pessimist

Emily McPeters



Fawnlawn-Breezor

Alan Guan



Cheated!

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Similarly, Boise State went undefeated in the 2009-2010 season, yet they were left out because of the computer's votes. It is absurd to think that a computer can decide who goes to a national championship, but college football has come to that.

This problem can easily be solved: a plus-one playoff system. In this way, no teams would be cheated. The number one ranked team ensures their spot in the title game while the number two and three ranked teams can play it out on the gridiron.

Consequently, there are no guarantees that there will not be a fourth or fifth undefeated team. Although the plus-one is the only probable substitution as of now, the only true way to prevent subjectivity is to move to a sixteen-team playoff system.

Some of the teams in the weaker conferences with better records could be eliminated by teams in stronger conferences with worse records. College football would become the final major sport in the US to have playoffs, and all the turmoil the BCS has caused, would be gone forever.

According to the Associated Press, the NCAA President recently stated: "We will look to move to a playoff system if the BCS gets worse." How much worse could it get?! Three teams have already been cheated, but hey, what would three more be to the money-making Bowl Championship series? As long as the officials and general managers of the BCS are earning millions, Division-I college football will remain that most subjective sport in the world.

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What Happened to the Regular Soda?

By Shannon Doherty

Last year, the school removed regular sodas from the campus to try to create a healthier atmosphere in the school. According to Headmaster Dave Davies, the change was initiated by the school's soda suppliers but put into effect by the administration.



Major soft drink manufacturers voluntarily agreed to go along with the recommendations of a group called "Alliance for a Healthier Generation" that called for the elimination of sugar-based soft drinks from schools, added Davies.

The school adopted the policy to "become healthier" according to Health teacher Meredith Gruhl. However, the policy has questionably not proven "healthy."

"Regular drinks are loaded with sugar," says Gruhl. "But the diet drinks aren't any better; they are loaded with aspartame." Gruhl explains aspartame, a low-calorie sweetening ingredient, is a "toxic substance- it's not good for you."

Senior Audrey Mitchell has her own take on the unhealthiness of diet sodas. "I read somewhere that diet drinks are actually healthier than regular drinks," said Mitchell. "It makes sense; if the company creates a drink that has no sugar but tastes good, what the heck do they put in there to make it taste so good?"

Senior Katie Cauley agreed that the student body should have regular sodas. "If we are offered a drink like Gatorade which has like 20 grams of sugar, why can't we have regular coke?"

A 12 oz. orange Gatorade offered in the cafeteria's Buffalo Rock Beverage and Food Services drink machine contains 21 grams of carbohydrates. A Coca-Cola Classic 12 oz. beverage, which is offered in the teacher's lounge but in no student area, contains 27 grams of carbohydrates. Is this a significant difference?

"I enjoy a good, classic Coke. I don't drink five in a row- that's when they become so bad for your body," said Senior Ginny Stern. "It doesn't matter how unhealthy something is as long as you don't eat or drink too much."

Many students prefer to go toward the snack machines than the drink machines. "Personally, I find it absurd that the school is cutting back to diet drinks when the calories most students consume is in the snack machines, not the drink machines," says Senior Savannah

Hughes. Honey Buns, Hot Fries, M&M Cookies, and many other fattening products occupy the school's snack machines.

The rate of obesity in the school is not high. Even if the school did have a problem, two semesters of team sports or weight training is required to graduate from the school. Many students wonder why the administration is not focusing on more pressing issues.

Diet sodas limit the choices; many students do not like the taste of diet drinks. "The school should allow us the small pleasure of drinking our favorite sodas," states Senior Emily Reed.

The teachers have a vending machine in the teacher's lounge that offers regular Coke. Senior Davis Moore feels that this policy is somewhat unfair to students. "That's just common sense. If we can't drink it, why can they?" said Moore.

Upper/Middle School Director Will Kesler thinks that the school offers a healthy lunch even though regular sodas are offered in the dispensers in the cafeteria line. "In my mind, the goal should be to offer a healthy lunch each day," said Kesler. Lunch offered at school includes a salad bar with various fruits and veggies; this is a healthy choice many students go to.

"In terms of what we offer, it's important to have some sort of choice there," said Kesler. The school offers many healthy and unhealthy choices; it is up to the student to choose. The school does promote a healthy lifestyle by only offering diet drinks. Kesler added, "I think that's what our goal should be: to promote a healthy lifestyle."

While students are speaking up about the abstinence of regular sodas, the soda machine sales suggest an opposing result: acceptance. According to Mr. Davies, "Sales last year (the year we switched over to diet) were down about 10% over the previous four year average. However, this year we are running slightly ahead of the last five year average."

Davies feels that students should not be upset about the diet sodas because they can drink regular sodas out of school. "Most of the students in the Upper School are mobile enough and have their own money that shopping for a "Big Gulp" to or from school is possible for them. Deerfield's taking sugar sodas out of our machines in no way ensures that our students will not consume them," said Davies.

Students obviously feel that they should have the choice to choose between regular and diet sodas in the vending machines although they are offered during lunch. However, the sales in vending machines have gone up; have the students adapted to the change? According to Davies, students might have possibly made the transition to non-sugar beverages.



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