



The

Admiral's

Log

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Groundbreaking Ceremony

By K. R.

On February 22, most of the student body and faculty of DGF attended the groundbreaking ceremony for the new school, scheduled to be open in 2010. The project will cost an estimated \$24 million. It will be completed in two phases. Phase one consists of building the school itself. Phase two



includes a finished field and an all-weather track. The new school will have 102,676 square feet. “We started the planning in, I think, January of 2005,” said Mr. Harvey. There are two contractors, Elecnor and Copcisa. One is from New York, and the other from Puerto de Santa Maria. Captain Earl Hampton Jr. was one of the main speakers at the ceremony. “This new school will be the most technologically advanced of any in Navy Europe.” The building of the new school has been long awaited. The

lucky class of 2011 will be the first to graduate from the new school.

The construction of the new school will help future students in their studies and hopefully inspire them to move on to bigger and better things after they graduate.



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“We started the planning in, I think, January of 2005,” said Mr. Harvey. There are two contractors, Elecnor and Copcisa. One is from New York, and the other from Puerto de Santa

Editor's Note: It is difficult for us to cover the European Championships in Germany; none of us were there! Fortunately, three brave students stepped up to cover the tournament for us. Of course, it's not that easy for them, either. They're on the court, not watching in the stands. Thank you to S. F., V. F., Mr. F. for the pictures, and B. W. Please enjoy their articles on pages 2-4.

European Championships



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Cheerleaders win it all!

By V. F.

The three months of hard work have finally paid off. Your very own "RHS" varsity cheerleaders swept the 2008 Cheerleading Competition by taking home the Spirit Award, placing first in Division Four, and setting a record on the all-tournament team.



The first of many games was a girls game against the Sigonella Jaguars. For some of the cheerleaders, this was their first time cheering against another school; they soon learned that it was much more exciting. Throughout the entire game, both squads were being judged for the Spirit Award and All-Tournament. We all knew we had to impress them. We were determined to be better than any other squad in every aspect. Turns out, we had to be another two times, the third time being by tournament officials.

Friday morning was our mat run-through. It is the only time a squad has on the competition mat before their warm-up time Saturday morning. We had seven minutes to do everything we had to. When you're in there, you feel like you're under so much pressure because the judges are constantly reminding you how much time you have left, "You have five minutes left!" "You have a minute and thirty seconds left!" Our mat run through didn't go as well as planned, but we didn't let our hopes down.

Both championships took place on Fri-

day afternoon. It was extremely exciting to know that both of our basketball teams had a shot at the championship; they had both come a long way since the beginning of the season, as had we. Even though both basketball teams were done by Friday night, we cheerleaders had wait until Saturday afternoon to see where we placed.

Saturday morning was show time. We had already cheered eleven games, but we were still pumped. We arrived at the sports arena a few minutes before eight. There was a huge line that went halfway down the parking lot waiting to get in. They started opening the doors to the public at 7 a.m., so we were nervous that our teams and parents wouldn't get good seats. To our surprise, both teams were already in the stands looking dead tired. They arrived at 6:45 in the morning to make sure they got good seats. We love our basketball teams 😊!

We were getting ready to perform, and we were all excited, and of course nervous. We were performing last for our divi-



sion, which is exactly when we wanted to perform; judges score low at first. We were called onto the mat (well, not really, but we went onto the mat anyways). We had to wait there for about five minutes, and our crowd was already going crazy.

Finally, it was time for us to perform. I must say, our routine was pretty much flawless. There were two stunts that didn't go perfectly, but they still looked amazing. Our routine was two minutes and thirty seconds long, but afterwards, it's just a blur. We all knew that we did extremely well when we hit our last stunt, and the crowd was going crazy. We got a standing ovation like no other squad; it was amazing.

When the awards came around, we were all excited. The All-Tournament team is made up of eight girls. Five of those girls came from Rota, breaking a record. The All-Tournament Cheerleaders were B. H., S. G., H. Y., J. M., and V. F. We were awarded the Spirit Award, and we placed first place.

At the beginning of the season, the Rota Admiral cheerleaders set a goal for themselves: we planned on going to competition to not only beat the Division Four schools, but to show everyone there that we were the best squad there, bar none. We were able to do this thanks to our coaches: Ms. B., Ms. U., and Ms. D.

A special thanks to all the parents and the basketball teams. The squad couldn't have done what it did without everyone's support.



Hanau Spoils a Great Tournament for DGF Boys

By S. F.

This has been one of the best years for Admirals sports; last week, the DGF Admirals basketball team traveled to Germany to play in the European tournament where they came out second. It was a hard fought tournament and a great show the boys put on everyday.

The first game the boys played in was against Lajes, who they beat with a rain of three pointers by A. D., J. S., and C. R. They won that game 45-31.

The next game, the boys dropped even more threes and won 63-44 over Si-gonella.

These leads gave the second team a lot of playing time and showed that the Admirals bench ran deep.

Day 2, the boys played in the sports



arena. Their first game was against Men-with Hill; it was a hard game with all the other players averaging at 6'2 and Rota boys about 5'8. The boys had some trouble rebounding because of this, but it did not slow them down one bit. Rota won the game 43-36.

The second game of that day was against Incirlik, who hung tough with Rota during the first half, but after a talk



with Coach B. A. in the locker room, the Rota boys came out to kill. They were all over the place—stealing the ball and transitioning; Rota had the momentum the whole second half and won 50-36.

In the semifinal round, the boys had to play Alconbury. The Admirals started off slow; at one point they were behind but not for long—at the half the Admirals were only up by a few. In the second half, they stepped it up and gave it to them, winning the game 60-30 and moving on to the championship game in the arena that afternoon.

Championship game the gym was packed, and the crowd was ready to see the two most talked about teams go at it in D-IV.

The game was long and intense with scoring from both sides; in the second quarter, Hanau got a run and led for the rest of the game. The Admirals fought their way through a tough third quarter and had a run in the fourth but couldn't cut the lead down far enough.

The score was 62-48 for Hanau.

It was a hard fought game and a tough loss coming in second, but it wasn't all bad. Two boys from Rota got on the all-tournament team—J. S. and A. D.

This was a season to remember, to see kids that walk into a gym and were



laughed at for their size and looking like they weren't a basketball team, until you saw them step on that floor where they left in all and gave it 110% all the way.

To all the boys, it was a great season from watching you play and also from playing along side of you, and you should all be proud off what you all have accomplished.

Girls Place Second at European Championships

By B. W.

The European Championships held great promise for the DGF Lady Admirals, but they came up one heartbreaking game short of the title. It was a tough end to a great season.

The Lady Admirals started off the season with only four returners, and many of the new girls had never even picked up a basketball. Working hard at practice and doing lots of drills, the Lady Admirals started to become a team. They went from making no layups in Michigan and Kansas, to not missing one for the duration of the drill.

They worked hard, and they were ready for the tournament. The Lady Admirals went up to Germany two weeks ago to participate in the DoDDS European Basketball Tournament.

It was an action packed week with basketball games every day, a cheer competition, and some Sing Star on the side.

The girls came into the tournament seeded number one. On the first day they defeated Sigonella (44-14) and then Menwith Hill (26-21). The next day they played Hanau and unfortunately fell short of a victory (29-36), but they stayed tough and beat Lajes that same night (36-31). With that win they sealed their seat in the finals.

In the final game they took on Brussels. The game was close all the way through, but Brussels came out ahead (34-28). It was a good tournament and a great season. The girls took second, and A. H. and B. W. were awarded All-Tournament.

I don't think any of the girls will forget the fun they had or any of the memories. They all became a family, a nest of cobras.



Top row, L to R: Coach J., M. C., B. E., A. H., B. S., B. W., Coach A., Coach H.

Middle row, from left to right: J. A., M. B., A. S., K. M., A. S.

Bottom row, from left to right: B. S., M. A.

The History of St. Patrick's Day

By C. H.

St. Paddy's Day is on the way! Besides being an excuse to go have a good time and to show some Irish pride, do you think you know the story behind the holiday?

Who was St. Patrick? The patron saint of Ireland, his life remains shrouded in mystery. Many of the stories traditionally associated with St. Patrick are false, the products of hundreds of years of exaggerated storytelling.



Saint Patrick was born in Britain to wealthy parents near the end of the fourth century. He is believed to have died on March 17, around 460 A.D. At age sixteen, Patrick was taken prisoner by a group of Irish raiders attacking his family's estate. He spent six years in captivity in Ireland. During this time, he worked as a shepherd. Because he was away from people, he became lonely and turned to religion for solace and became a devout Christian. After escaping Britain, he was said to have experienced a second revelation (the first being God's voice telling him to leave Ireland)-an angel in a dream telling him to return to Ireland as a missionary. Patrick soon began religious training that would last for over fifteen

years. After his ordination as a priest, he was sent to Ireland to minister to Christians living there and to begin to convert the Irish.

Patrick chose to incorporate traditional ritual into his lessons of Christianity instead of attempting to eradicate native Irish beliefs (most Irish practiced a nature-based pagan religion). For example, he used bonfires to celebrate Easter since the Irish were used to honoring their gods with fire. He also superimposed a sun, an important symbol to the Irish, onto the Christian cross to create what is now called a Celtic cross. The Irish culture centered around a rich tradition of oral legend and myth, which may explain why Patrick's life became exaggerated over the centuries.



What's the importance of the Shamrock? The shamrock, which was also called the "seamroy" by the Celts, was a sacred plant in ancient Ireland because it symbolized the rebirth of spring. By the seventeenth century, the shamrock had become a symbol of emerging Irish nationalism. As the English began to seize Irish land and make laws against the use of the Irish language and the practice of Catholicism, many Irish began to wear the shamrock as a symbol of their pride in their heritage and their displeasure with English rule.

The Snake? It has long been recounted that, during his mission in Ireland, St. Patrick once stood on a hilltop (which is now called Croagh Patrick), and with



only a wooden staff by his side, banished all the snakes from Ireland. However, the island nation was never home to any snakes. The "banishing of the snakes" was really a metaphor for the eradication of pagan ideology from Ireland and the triumph of Christianity. Within two hundred years of Patrick's arrival, Ireland was completely Christianized.

And the Leprechaun? The original Irish name for these figures of folklore is "lobaircin," meaning "small-bodied fellow." Belief in leprechauns probably stems from Celtic belief in fairies, tiny men and women who could use their magical powers to serve good or evil. In Celtic folktales, leprechauns were cranky souls, responsible for mending the shoes of the other fairies. Though only minor figures in Celtic folklore, leprechauns were known for their trickery, which they often used to protect their much-fabled treasure.

With that in mind, "May you have the hindsight to know where you've been, the insight to know where you are, and the foresight to know when you've gone too far."



I Can Change the World With My Own Two Hands

By B. C.

On Feb. 15, many ASPIRE members and I travelled to Chefchaouen, Morocco. It was truly an experience I will never forget.

We first took the ferry in Tarifa, loading the boat with boxes full of medical supplies, clothes, and toys. From there, we took the voyage across the Mediterranean to Africa.



Then, we finally arrived in Morocco. A variety of languages greeted us - Arabic, English, French, and Spanish - and we unloaded every box out of the ferry, this time using the stretchers to carry out many supplies at a time. At this point, we waited for about three hours, drinking hot Moroccan tea, made from a mixture of water, black tea, mint leaves, and sugar.

We then took the long, winding road through the mountains to Chefchaouen, stopping at a restaurant for dinner. It was, for most of us, our first experience with Moroccan food. Everything had a unique, barbecue-accented taste that was purely Moroccan.

After arriving finally at the little town of Chefchaouen, we pulled our luggage through the small, dark, surprisingly blue pathways. We got lost for about 15 minutes, but we immediately found our way again and arrived at the hotel: Casahassan. What we saw amazed us all.

The delicate, intricate designs were dazzling—they covered the entire hotel, and anyone with an eye for details would have been overwhelmed. The doors were shaped reminiscent to the tales of the Arabian Nights; the rooms each had a different theme, (my room had dark purple accents) and the light was dim, warm and inviting. The roof was a sun-roof; we could see the night sky without stepping a foot outside. By this time, it was 3:00 in the morning, and everyone was exhausted and eager to get into his or her nice, warm beds.

The next day, we got up early and ate fried eggs, corn crepes, funnel-cake looking donuts, bread, cheesy-tasting butter, jelly, and hot, minty Moroccan tea. We then went to the headquarters of “Sonnae al Hayat,” or

“Makers of Life,” a group devoted to social work throughout Chefchaouen, and then to the school and converse with the Chefchaouen natives.

After breakfast, we heard the speeches from our partnership group with ASPIRE, as they expressed their gratitude towards our service and their hope that this corporation continues. We practiced our pronunciation of their names; everyone introduced himself or herself.

Arriving at the school, we were greeted with many smiles and curious looks. We went into a large room, where we met many Moroccan teens and were given a page of their e-mail addresses and phone numbers. They were already eager to keep in touch! I met several Moroccans, including Haja, Ouimaima, Salma, Fadua, Muhammad, and many more. They were all smiles and curious about our tastes, whether it be music or how we liked Chefchaouen. From there, we walked through the streets, asking questions along the way, until we arrived at the orphanage. The orphanage was very open and full of young boys.



We then went to someone’s house to eat Couscous. This was an unforgettable experience. With the Couscous, we had steamed vegetables (cabbage, carrots, etc) and some smoky meat. Some of us were even able to help prepare it! We also had a thick, sour milky drink that is normal to drink with Couscous. Over our meal, we discussed Facebook and other random topics.

That evening, we ate at another Casahassan and discussed our experiences. The food was delicious and our conversations were full of laughter.

The next day, our morning started out the same as the day before. Our group separated, and each person did what they chose. As for my group, consisting of B. S., D. C.,

E. S., and myself, we met with the Moroccan girls and were off to our day of shopping and cultural enlightenment. We were invited to Ouima’s house, and we met her mother, brother, and his friends.

When her brother and his friends arrived, we were surprised to see her rush to the other room and get out her headscarf. She was sure not to be seen without it! Later, she eagerly showed us her pictures of Chefchaouen and her family. We had another breakfast, ate “Moroccan style” (with our hands), and were all given headscarves by her family. It was astonishing to see the remarkable difference of our appearance with this simple garment. We all looked authentically Moroccan!

After shopping for a while, we went to another’s house and ate another Moroccan delicacy- a salad with sugary pastel. Our pastel was made with cinnamon and powdered sugar over a crunchy shell, inside of which was chicken, vegetables, and other delicious spices. After our meal, we were treated with a re-enactment of an authentic Moroccan wedding, consisting of E. S. and R. C.

They were dressed up with genuine wedding attire, everyone heard the blood-pumping Moroccan calls and chants, and they both went through the ceremonial rituals, including the groom dipping his finger into oil and kissing his father on the forehead.

Following the amazing incident, we travelled through the streets once more. Unfortunately, it began to rain, so some of us went back to the hotel and others had to run back to the Moroccan football players and explain to them that they couldn’t come. (We had plans to play football that evening.)

That night, we went shopping again (this time with only Americans) and successfully bargained the prices way down. After shopping, some people returned to the hotel, while others ate out again with some of the Moroccan students.

Finally, that night, we all gave each other henna tattoos, admired at the effect, packed, and went to bed. The next morning, we travelled back to Spain.

It was an amazing, eye-opening cultural experience that will never be forgotten by anyone on the trip.



Should the CIA Waterboard Prisoners?

By M. K.

Recent arguments have arisen over waterboarding, both in Congress and in presidential debates, but the details of what waterboarding is have eluded the public, as well as the arguments for and against the use of waterboarding on prisoners.

Waterboarding is a form of torture during which a person is immobilized; while his head is inclined downward, covered with a mask or towel, water is forced into his face. This causes the sensation of suffocation and the inhalation of water, simulating drowning, and causes severe discomfort and oxygen deprivation.

According to former CIA director Michael Hayden (in an article in *The Washington Post* dated Friday, February 8th, 2008), a minimum of three alleged al-Qaida members have been waterboarded since 9/11, and many more detainees have been subject to the “enhanced interrogation techniques” that have been put into effect by the CIA.

The legality of waterboarding is sketchy; many international laws and federal laws declare waterboarding as torture, but CIA interrogation operators have been given the go-ahead to waterboard suspects on occasion. The president gave an executive order to abandon torturing methods but did not necessarily include waterboarding, so who is granting the authority?

Professors, lawyers, and judges have evaluated the Constitution, and many have declared waterboarding to be “cruel and unusual

punishment,” and it’s constitutionally illegal. Also, the U.N. Human Rights High Commissioner Louis Arbour stated that waterboarding is considered torture by the U.N., and the War Crimes Act of 1996 bans the use of torture.

If it is a form of illegal torture, why has the CIA used it? An argument for the use of torture is that it could help save American lives and prevent future and possibly imminent terrorist attacks, resulting in an unknown number of saved lives if the interrogation was successful in achieving information. Being such a powerful nation, the U.S. has the obligation to try and serve and protect itself and its allies, as well as innocent people across the world. What should we not do to save the lives of American servicemen?

An argument against the use of

torture is that it is legally and morally the wrong thing to do. The U.S. is the last super power, and our government should be a beacon for democracy, justice, and human rights. After all, would you want them terrorizing our captured servicemen? According to the Geneva Convention, captured prisoners are to be treated humanely. If we’re waterboarding our prisoners, you can expect them to do at least as much to their prisoners.

So the question is whether our country should allow an archaic method of interrogation to be used to defend our citizens lives, or should our country, a pillar for democracy, hold itself to a higher standard of law and human rights, and apply those rights to everyone, whether they be citizens of our country or not.



A real picture of waterboarding might be a little disturbing, so this is a painting.

Senior Profiles

By M. F.

C. H.—a Renaissance man for the 21st Century

To whom do you think you owe your high school success?

I owe my success to all my teachers, since not one of them have given me a failing grade. In addition, my friends (both those who do and do not go to this school) and my parents have helped me get through this period.

What would be some of your advice to incoming freshmen?

You only go to high school once; make the most of it. Try things that you've never done before, and break out of the mold. Don't work yourself too hard but don't slack off either. It's difficult to

catch up once you've fallen behind.

What college do you want to go to, and do you know what you want to major in? Why?

I plan to attend Saint Louis University in Madrid while majoring in the Spanish language. First, I love the language. Second, it's important to be bilingual in today's society.

What are you going to miss most when you leave DGF?

What I'm probably going to miss most is the sense of community we have here. It's completely different from any other place I've lived.



D. I.—Knows Where He's Been and Where He's Going

What would be some of your advice to incoming freshmen?

Don't get caught up in everyone's drama, have fun, and keep on top of your school work.

What college do you want to go to, and do you know what you're going to major in? Why?

I would like to go to the University of Maryland. I want to major in Criminal Justice because I like that career field and I like helping people.

Who is someone that you admire?

I admire my grandpa because he's an honest, hard-working man who has overcome many obstacles in his life. He is a positive person and continues to be a positive influence in my life.

What are you going to miss most when you leave DGF?

When I leave this school, I'm going to miss all of the friends that I have made, especially those who are closest to me.



K. G.—"The Gun Slinger" Shares Tips For the Kids

To whom do you think you owe your high school success?

I owe my success to the teachers of DGF; they taught me, I learned, and I succeeded.

What would be some of your advice to incoming freshmen?

Stay on task, finish homework the night before it's due, and make time for study, but also for fun. Prioritize everything. Important things come first.

What college do you want to go to, and do you know what you want to

major in? Why?

I would like to go to SDSU and major in Motion Pictures and Television because I have always loved movies and had dreams about working in film.

What do you think is your greatest achievement at DGF?

I think that my greatest achievement is being known as "the Gun Slinger" in this school, or even around the whole base. Also, I'm the best uncoordinated Armed Drill Solo per-

former in Europe.



New Kids on the Block By L. P.

G. K. from the Republic of Georgia

Age: 18
Grade: 11th

What was the first thing that you noticed when you got to Spain?

I noticed the nice people.

How does DGF compare to your old school?

DGF is a lot better than my old school.

What is your favorite part of DGF?



My favorite part of this school is

the students.

Where do you stand on the cat situation at DGF?

I definitely don't like them, but I don't hate them either.

What extra-curricular activities are you involved in?

I play soccer.

What do you miss most from your old school?

I probably miss my friends most.

R. U. from Japan



Grade: 9th

Age: 14
What was the first thing that you noticed when you got to Spain?

I noticed that there was lots of open land.

How does DGF compare to your old school?

DGF is very small.

What is your favorite part of DGF?

The teachers are a lot nicer than

in my old school.

What are your favorite and worst subjects?

Favorite: Biology
Worst: Japanese

What extra-curricular activities are you involved in?

I might get into sports later.

If you had to label yourself, what would you be?

I would be a rocker.

C. C. from Mildenhall, England

Age: 17
Grade: 10th

What was the first thing you noticed when you got to Spain?

I definitely noticed the heat.

How does DGF compare to your old school?

DGF is kind of small.

What are your favorite and your

worst subjects?
Favorite: Ceramics
Worst: Physics, this year.

What extra-curricular activities are you involved in?

None at the school, but I like drawing.

What do you miss most from your old school?

I definitely miss the social life.

If you had to label yourself, what

would you be?
I would probably be a hippie.



March 2008



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Birthdays: C. L.
2	3 Soccer Season Begins	4 Birthdays: B. O.	5	6	7 No School— SIP Day	8 Birthdays: P. C.
9 Birthdays: L. H.	10 Birthdays: J. S.	11 Birthdays: A. C.	12	13	14	15 Birthdays: C. A.
16 Birthdays: J. A.	17 St. Patrick's Day Birthdays: T. P. R. G.	18 Birthdays: P. B.	19 Birthdays: M. K. M. A.	20 Birthdays: J. L.	21 Early Release @ 1330	22
23	24	25 Birthdays: N. K. R. M.	26	27	28	29 Birthdays: S. W. L. B.
30 Birthdays: T. C.	31					

The Admiral's Log Staff

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