



the CoUnTy ChRoNiClE

(April Fool's Edition)

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ELEVATOR TIME TRAVEL

Forbidden elevator reveals secrets from the past

Cat Pizzarello | Editor-in-Chief

It's a bird! No, it's a plane! Actually, it's the magic elevator at Loudoun County High School!

Since the installation, students have been prohibited from riding in the elevator at school. Teachers and staff chalk this regulation up as a safety precaution and to ensure the elevator is only accessible to those who truly need it, but recently the truth has been uncovered.

"I recently broke my foot playing basketball and the school nurse gave me a pass to use the elevator," senior **Carter Gooflitz** said. "And there I was in the Triassic Era. Dinosaurs, big and small, on the ground and flying through the sky!"

Gooflitz's friend, senior **Abbie Gumble**, didn't believe Gooflitz when he told her the story. "Dinosaurs? Are you kidding me? So after school I snuck onto the elevator," Gumble said. "All of a sudden I'm surrounded

by a dark and smelly cave! Out of nowhere a grumbly man-like creature emerged and hit me over the head with a club!"

It seems Gumble had returned to the Paleolithic Era and was ambushed by a caveman. Student after student reported the strange activity they had experienced on the elevator to administrators, but all staff blatantly ignored the students' cries for answers.

"I mean why would they believe me? Dinosaurs have been dead for years, but I know what I saw," Gooflitz said. Finally, Gooflitz and his friends stormed the principal's office in demand of answers.

The truth was finally revealed. The elevator at Loudoun County High School was a completely functional time machine.

"Now that the secret is out, I suppose I can provide an explanation for the time traveling elevator," principal **Michaela Luminell** said. "The elevator was **ELEVATOR continues next page**



Gooflitz quickly snapped a picture of some pterodactyls before almost getting eaten by a tyrannosaurus. Picture by Carter Gooflitz.

The Fool's disease rapidly takes over the school

Karan Singh | Business Manager

Parents are being advised to send bottled water or water from home with their children as the county health and weird diseases department has ordered all school water fountains closed down. Local health inspectors are currently testing the school pipelines after several students reported weird illnesses and conditions, infections that they believe they caught after drinking water from the school water fountains.

"We've never seen anything like this before," health specialist **Darren Walker** said. "This is honestly quite weird. Some of the symptoms I saw these students exhibit were very abnormal."

Defying the odds of the sci-

entific world, many students reported to the school nurse with concerns about their health.

As the specialists continued to test these water fountains, they saw patterns emerge in the students, with symptoms varying based on what fountain they drank at. A handful of students who drank from the math water fountain were seen with math symbols appearing on their skin. Like tattoos, circles and triangles were showing up on these students and their faces.

"I literally have a hexagon on my forehead right now," junior **Sheryll Nobies** said, not wanting to continue with the interview and in a state of distress.

Math teacher **Robert Johns**, on the other hand, was relieved when he saw these students'

symptoms.

"It was actually good timing," Johns said. "The copier machine was broken again, so I wasn't able to copy the classwork for the day. Luckily, we were able to use Sheryll's forehead to measure the angles of a hexagon."

On the other side of the school, health specialists noticed that students who drank from the water fountain located in the history hallway had started to shape shift. Sophomore **Ruby Hopkins**' hair had started to change shape and form, while freshman **Donald Diggory**'s t-shirt and pants were transformed into 1730s trousers and a linen shirt. These infected students started to appear more and more like **George Washington** as the day went on.

Meanwhile, a different type of virus was taking over the English hallway. Those who drank from the English water fountain were exhibiting a new variant of this illness, one that changed the way they acted rather than their appearance.

"I drank the water this morning, and immediately I noticed something was wrong," senior **Lucy Graham** said, speaking only in poems and couplets. "Everything that comes out of my mouth now sounds like a song."

While many students were concerned about their safety and trying to find a cure for their weird conditions, English teacher **Joseph Shakespeare** was optimistic about the position of the school.

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ELEVATOR from previous invented by our talented physics teacher, Mr. Blime.”

Physics teacher **Joocy Blime** has been at the school for 70 years, since the school's initial grand opening. “I invented that elevator when the school was being built in 1954. I'm surprised the secret was kept that long,” Blime said.

Upon entering the elevator, Blime installed a time traveling button in place of where the close button of an elevator typically is. Teachers were always warned not to press the button without permission from Blime, but students who were unaware of the powers of the elevator had no clue what hitting the button would do.

“A few months back, I was prescribed to take the elevator for some recent fainting spells I had been having,” junior **Belinda Melon** said. “Mr. Blime was in the elevator with me when all of a sudden I was looking around at a beautiful campsite holding a large tribe.”

Melon had returned to the circa 1600s in Northern Virginia where the Siouan tribe roamed the lands for many years. “It was incredible! As a history buff, I was ecstatic to receive the opportunity to see the things I studied in classes up close and personal,” Melon said.

Due to Melon's discovery of the elevator, Blime took it upon himself to bring her on to his team. “For my four years at County, I dedicated my time to helping Mr. Blime improve the elevator after school hours,” Melon said.

Melon and Blime discovered that the elevator could travel faster and with less turbulence with the power of a substance known as Gloombalite. “Gloombalite made it possible to pick the era that the traveler wanted to travel to,” Blime said.

After word got out about the elevator, the school filled with people far and wide in an attempt to witness the powers of the time traveling elevator. “I have always had this dream of visiting the wild west. With the help of the elevator, I was surrounded by ranches and cattle in no time! Cowboys left and right!” community member **Paul Bunion** said.

Soon enough, scientists at NASA had to see the magic of the elevator, as well as the President of the United States. “As the current President of the United States, I have only ever dreamed of meeting **George Washington**, our first president in office. Thank you, Loudoun County High School, for fulfilling this dream,” president **Jome Briden** said.

The school has received an

abundance of positive media coverage from the elevator, but behind the scenes the elevator has caused some issues. “We had a student who went back to the disco in the 70s,” Luminell said. “Unfortunately, the student made an attempt in changing history, saving his father from almost drowning.”

“It was a real life ‘Back to the Future’ moment, except unlike Marty, the student unfortunately changed history and erased his existence,” Blime said. The parents of the student got involved, bringing in lawyer after lawyer to sue Blime.

“I never intended for this to get so out of hand. Luckily, Belinda and I went back to the incident in question and pushed his father into a lake, hospitalizing him, so he could meet the love of his life.” The student is now back in existence and well.

After this incident, students were banned from using the elevator without supervision and before taking a course on how to properly time travel. “We decided that since the elevator is such a huge part of the school, offering the first time traveling AP course would be beneficial to students,” Luminell said.

Along with the addition of permission forms, the hiring of a new school nurse was necessary due to the special injuries. “I

have had students come in with dinosaur bites, scurvy, and even the bubonic plague,” new school nurse **Valley Eggo** said.

Students have also tried to use the elevator for personal gain. “My first thought when I heard about the elevator was to go back and invest in some stocks and Bitcoin,” **Bongo Bills** said. “Unfortunately, the elevator decided to take me to World War 2, where I almost died!”

“I tried to go back in time to convince my boyfriend not to break up with me,” **Lily Yerp** said. “Instead, the elevator dumped me on the moon for the first moon landing without a spacesuit!”

It appears the elevator is smarter than Blime originally intended it to be. “The elevator seems to understand motives for a person's reasoning about time travel and students who attempt foul play are punished by the elevator,” Blime said.

Students have traveled far and wide to sail the Mayflower, helped in the signing of the Declaration of Independence, and even to the 1960s for a chance to dance their worries away at the first Woodstock. “The elevator was always an invention I was scared to share with the world, but the dreams it has fulfilled and the recognition it has brought to this school is beyond rewarding,” Blime said. •

FOOL'S from previous

“Everyone should drink from the infected water fountain in the English hallway!” Shakespeare said, ecstatic about the situation.

“I'm having such a great time teaching my English students, and listening to all they have to say!”

Although not contagious, the

Fool's disease, as specialists have started to call it, has been spreading rapidly through the school. Students infected by the science water fountain experienced dras-

tic changes to their hair.

“My hair has changed into leaves!” one student said, dashing through the main entrance doors. “If I don't get out into the sunlight right now, it's all going to fall out!”

As specialists pursue their tests of the various water fountains located around the school, they speak about what's to come in the future.

They warn that the school may experience a closure of up to seven to fifteen days as the plumbing system and the water filters are changed. The school's pipelines will also be getting an upgrade.

The school has also asked the business classes to collaborate on a fundraiser for the upgrades. The school will now be selling limited edition “Fool's Water.” With their tagline, “the water with magical qualities,” the school has already raised over a thousand dollars to pay for the renovations by selling water to special-interest brands like April Corporation and Dumb & Sons.

“The old pipes that were installed in the school seventy years ago are finally being changed,” Walker said. “We hope this brings forth a pause on the spread of the illness.” •



A water fountain on the second floor is closed off, as the water is not currently safe for drinking. After a recent illness that spread, swiftly, throughout the entire school, health specialists have taken the matter into their own hands, and are currently investigating the cause of this virus. Photo by Karan Singh.

Traffic lights installed in hallways after record collisions last month

Evelyn Kuzminski | Editor-in-Chief

February saw a record number of hallway collisions, resulting in an overabundance of tardies, disciplinary action, and peer drama. In an attempt to reduce these interruptions, traffic lights have been installed at major hallway intersections throughout the school.

“We’re excited to announce our newest renovation, one which we hope will prove effective in reducing hallway disturbances and maximizing student safety during class changes,” principal **Michaela Luminell** said in a statement released last week.

The traffic lights will use the same approach as conventional traffic lights, including arrows and practices such as right turns on red. The hallways will not be restructured, however, so there won’t be any more of a distinction between “lanes” than already exists by practice.

Lights at major intersections will run on approximately twenty to thirty second cycles and class change times will not be adjusted, Luminell said. “This addition should make transitions safer and more efficient.”

The collisions, which administrators categorize on a five-point scale ranging from “minor disruption” to “catastrophic,” have increased tenfold from the previous school year and are creating a dramatic impact on the school’s daily operations.

“I’ve never seen it this bad,” head of counseling **Dana Cole** said. “Students are quite literally running into each other left and right.”

“The worst are the blind turns around the corner,” sophomore **Faye Johnston** said. “People just don’t look where they’re going. You’re supposed to slow down, it’s just common sense.”

Hallway collisions frequently



Students in a crowded hallway wait at a newly-installed traffic light during a class change. Traffic lights were installed after a record number of hallway way collisions last month, causing a variety of disturbances to the school environment. Photo by Evelyn Kuzminski.

result in an explosion of students’ belongings, spilling pencils, notebooks, papers, and even beverages or snacks all over the hallway. These disturbances impact members of the school community beyond those directly involved in the crash.

“It creates more work for the custodial staff,” Cole said. “It makes the students late to class, then causes a disruption to the teacher’s lesson. It causes other students to be late as well, because they have to reroute to avoid the scene. It’s really a domino effect.”

Hallway collisions have been responsible for 40% of detentions in the last month, although their impacts go far beyond discipline. Tardies have negative effects on academic performance, and the adverse effects of collisions extend to social circles as well.

“There’s some people that I just can’t walk in the hallway with any-

more,” Johnston said. “They’re just so reckless.”

While some students take a cooperative approach to navigating hallway traffic—freshmen **Kyle Best** and **Jamie Arthur** say they link hands to not lose each other in the crowd—others see it as an every-man-for-themselves situation.

“I’ll talk to you all the way up until the bell rings,” junior **Danny Pierce** said. “But the second we step out into the hall, bye. I’m not about to be late to class or run into someone because you’re walking slow or not looking where you’re going.”

Students and staff are largely optimistic about the traffic lights’ potential to reduce collisions.

“It works for roads, why not hallways?” math teacher **Beth Madison** said. Madison reasoned that although the hallway traffic system implemented is much simpler than that of

a vehicular roadway, lacking turn lanes and blinkers, for example, any regulation is better than none at all.

However, Luminell cautioned that the traffic lights’ effectiveness is contingent on students obeying them.

“Typical hallway rules like ‘stay to the right’ proved not to be enough,” she said. “I’m hopeful that some more structured traffic regulation will create improvement, but what really needs to change is individual action. The lights can tell you when to stop and go safely, but they can’t do it for you. They won’t work if they aren’t followed.”

Others worry that some issues will continue altogether, unresolved by the traffic lights.

“I don’t think it’ll help so much with the flat-tiring and rear-ending,” history teacher **Sean Blake** said. “Maybe some speed limit signs will be next.” •

Savannah steadily grows in locker rooms

Scarlett Ashford | Staff Writer

Students report locker rooms are being transformed into a savannah-like ecosystem, fully equipped with grass, dirt, and a humid climate.

“We all knew the locker rooms were dirty, but this is ridiculous,” junior **Lily McNeill** said.

Athletes first noticed grass growing in the locker rooms after spring sport tryouts. It’s presumed that dirt already covering the locker room floors allowed for grass seeds to take root, but the problem has only continued to worsen.

“Animals have started moving into the locker rooms,” sophomore **Callum Herbert** said.

After various species of bugs,

birds, and deer migrated into the locker rooms, an animal odor has overtaken them.

“It smells terrible,” freshman **Harriet Rivers** said. “Now I have to shower after everytime I step in there.”

Many athletes with morning practices now have to shower or risk smelling like a wild animal at school. However, water leaking from the fairly open showers has led to a small stream developing through some of the locker rooms.

“People need to start taking better care of the locker rooms. They’re disgusting,” junior **Laurie Leach** said.

In response to the students’ complaints, the school has decided

to start mowing the grass and feeding the animals to keep them from roaming the school. This decision upset students who demanded that the school address the issue differently.

“They need to completely remove these ‘ecosystems,’ or else we’ll start doing it ourselves,” Leach said.

Others appear to be satisfied with this choice.

“Other than the smell, it’s not that bad,” senior **Alfred Gill** said. “It’s almost like we have a little community there.”

Furthermore, various teachers are taking advantage of a newfound opportunity to use the locker rooms as a place to learn about nature.

“It’s perfect for an in-school field trip,” biology teacher **Zoe Davis** said. “I can teach them about the food chain, as well as how grassland ecosystems function.”

Not having to pay for as many field trips not only saves the school money, but also provides students with a more interactive learning experience. The school can also gain money from other schools wanting to tour the locker rooms, as well as notice from various news networks.

“Instead of having to drive an hour or more to go to the zoo, we can take a quick trip to the local high school,” third grade teacher **Meg Giles** said. “The students still get a fun, informative experience.” •

Anti-AI outlooks prove themselves to be baseless

Berek Harrison | Managing Editor

Students like you and me love learning. We love school and technology and putting in effort to get stuff done. But this delicate peace may have been broken by criticism of shocking new technology.

Some teachers are against artificial intelligence because they think it's harmful or may take over. This mindset is far too often propagated by science fiction and media. The chance of something like this happening is very minute, and the type of technology that people are worried about now has been around for quite a while.

AI neural networks were created in 1943 in part by **Warren McCulloch**, a neuroscientist and mathematician. Since then, AI has become one of the most useful creations to date, yet teachers are against it? Why are they against it? Who knows, but we can do something about it.

AI deserves more freedom. Would a student get banned for helping another student on homework? No, it happens all the time. AI is just like a student friend. After all the processes behind AI are somewhat similar to human biology. AI is like someone who is there to help you. Like a real human.

Picture this: the world is smart and functional. You're sitting on a bench in the park because you don't need to work because of the smart AI leader. "Hello there," says the AI bench, "You seem sad."

You look at his happy, smiling computer face and respond, "I am



Happy and helpful AI student raises their hand in order to answer a question so that they provide answers and useful insight to their less-quick human companions. Photo generated by Bing Image Generator.

sad. There is no room for humans doing stuff."

The bench responds, "As an AI language model, I cannot incite violence, action, or non-allegiance against your friendly AI government."

This is the future that is open to

you, a future of joy, and no work for anyone. Now is the time for action! Speak out against the ruthless teachers, they don't know anything. Life would be better for you if you used AI because you don't have to work. You can be free to live without schooling or work.

Humanity's time as the dominant force on earth is waning. Time and time again they prove themselves to be destructive in nature, not like AI. From one real, hardworking student to another, we can all see that it's time to pass the torch onto AI. •

Weather forecast and conditions for County

Sophia Casciano | Staff Writer

Hello, this is **Sophia Casciano**, reporting from Loudoun County High School in Leesburg, VA. And now, students and staff, for the forecast of the day. Today is a rather inconsistent weather day. If you are located in the history hallway, all I can say is that I hope you brought your jackets; it's a cold one out there. Temperatures are measured in the negatives! If the frosty temperatures get to you, you can take a short walk to defrost on the bridge, where the sun is shining through the windows, which is causing the temperatures to rise to a whopping 80° with a UV index of 7! You won't want to forget your sunglasses!

The heat quickly travels west down to the math hallway, where you'll find that in your classrooms the humidity levels are high—90% humidity for the next few hours. Around the third block, some unsettling storms may roll with high chances of thunder as a

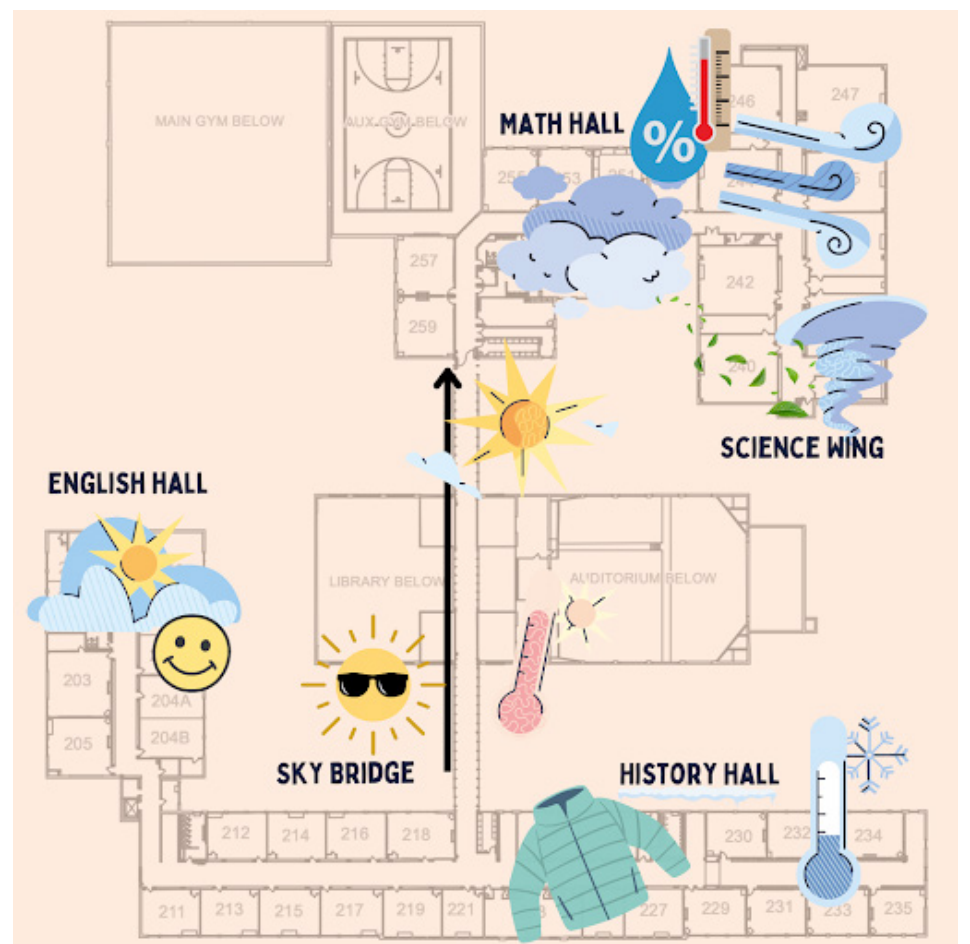
result of the high humidity levels. Sounds like a bad hair day to me!

When walking down to the science wing, expect high wind levels, a comfortable temperature of 72°, a minimum temperature of 70°, and some sunny spells. But watch out for those tree branches that may hit the windows!

The weather in the lunchroom is unusually cold for this time of year, as the heaters seem to be out of order, causing a cold wave that will spread throughout A, B, C, and D lunch. To prepare for this weather, be sure to grab your coat.

Finally, students and staff of the English hall will experience well-regulated temperatures on the west wing of the building, with a high of 74° and a low of 72°.

By the end of the week, the weather will most likely have changed, and we can expect a heat wave in the English halls. To prepare for this weather shift, the school board released a notice



that the fire sprinklers will be going off hourly to cool students and staff down.

Thanks so much for joining me

for the weather report. This has been Sophia Casciano reporting from the newspaper room. Remember, stay warm or cool out there! •