

1Y - YEARBOOK CAPTION WRITING (24 points possible)

Write a caption for each of the photos as they might appear in your yearbook.

Background information and quotes for each picture have been provided.

Create a lead-in for each caption. Determine which information is relevant and important for each caption.

School Info

Name: Spirit High School

Location: Quaker City, PA

Enrollment: 1,800 (9-12)

Principal: Dr. Betty Bloom

Colors: Blue and Silver

Mascot: Groundhogs

Yearbook: The Album

PICTURES

PICTURE 1

Who: Senior Mark Richards

What: Performs his solo in the spring musical, Godspell.

When: Closing night performance on Saturday, April 2, 2016. The crew and cast opened on Thursday, March 30, 2016.

Where: On the high school auditorium stage.

Why: To entertain the school's first sell-out crowd in over four years and because Richards loves acting.

Quote: "This definitely was a different role for me. I usually play the villain like 'Hook' in shows like Peter Pan last year."

PICTURE 2

Who: Junior Mike Frost

What: Hits the jump he and his friends created in the middle of the back hill of sophomore Jason Huttle's farm.

When: Friday night, January 8, 2016.

Where: The Huttle Farm in Downeyville, PA.

Why: The area had no snow at all throughout winter until that weekend. 7 boys and 4 girls brought their sleds and snowboards.

Quote: "It was hilarious when Bones lost his sled at the bottom and ended up in the creek."

PICTURE 3

Who: Senior Danielle Young

What: Runs through her sousaphone part for the opener of the band's competition show, Animal Instinct.

When: Monday night, June 6, 2016 –the first night of early summer band camp.

Where: Under the oak trees near the baseball fields.

Why: The sousaphone section just learned 32 measures to complete the opener of the show. Danielle and the four other tuba players held a sectional to learn it before the end of practice.

Quote: "After losing the State Finals to Lionsdale last year by only .05, we are determined to beat them this year. Like Mr. Graham always says, 'It all starts on the practice field.'"

PICTURE 4

Who: Michelle Dubble (12), Janelle Swingholm (11), and Ashley Swift (9)

What: Practice drives at the Pine Meadows Golf Course to warm up for the Lancaster/Lebanon District Golf Tournament.

When: 9 AM on October 3, 2016

Where: On the practice driving range at Pine Meadows Golf Course. Each team had 10 minutes to warm up before the event.

Why: Pine Meadows has several holes with 300-yard drives or more. The top three teams advance to States. This was the first time in 15 years that the school entered a complete girls team. On other years, Dubble competed individually.

Quote: Dubble: "Coach Thompson focused on our mental toughness this season. I think it really helped my nerves in these high pressure situations. I thought Janelle and Ashley had nerves of steel."

PICTURE 5

Who: Kira Hart (12), Alissa Miller (12), Danielle Johnson (11), and Maria Copper (10)

What: 16 members of the the school's Envirothon teams tackle the 20-mile White Water Rafting trip on the Lehigh River near Jim Thorpe, PA.

When: April 10, 2015; Saturday morning at around 9 AM.

Where: Lehigh River at the Falling Rock Rapids

Why: All four school Envirothon teams worked together in separate rafts to navigate the river. Each team's Envirothon competition took place a month later at the Middle Creek Wildlife Refuge.

Quote: Hart said, "Alissa fell out of the raft after the Falling Rock Rapids. Fortunately, Danielle grabbed her life jacket, and we could pull her back inside the raft and not miss a beat. This was a highlight of my senior year."

2Y - YEARBOOK COPY WRITING (28 points possible)

Using the following facts and quotes, write a 250-300 word news story for your yearbook, The Album. The story will run with a photo feature.

The writer should determine which information is relevant and important to the story. The writer should also determine which quotes to use. Students need not use quotes in their entirety. The judges expect a headline and a subhead for the story.

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BACKGROUND

- The Spirit Groundhog Marching Band lost by .15 to Reynoldsville High School at the State Finals last October.
- Director George Graham and his staff spent many meetings throughout the winter to find an appropriate theme for this year's show.
- The Booster Organization introduced three new General Fundraisers, including a Mattress Sale.
- In an effort to save money, District administration mandated that the regiment attend only one away football game.
- The band beat Reynoldsville early in the competitive season at the Pine Lakes event.
- The band's show was entitled From Sea to Shining Sea and featured a flag the covered half the field at the end.
- Of eight of the band's planned events, it rained on six of them, sometimes torrentially.
- At the State Final held in Roseburg, PA, the band won Best Music and Best General Effect. Still, they lost to Reynoldsville by .05, the smallest difference possible.

QUOTES

- **Dr. Betty Bloom, principal:** "I actually attended two practices: one during Band Camp in August and one the week of the State Finals. It absolutely amazes me how Mr. Graham can bring so much talent out of our kids. When they unveiled the flag at the end of the show, it brought tears to my eyes."
- **Justin Cramer, junior trumpeter:** "When we won two of the three categories in Finals, we thought we had it. Losing two years in a row so closely crushed us all. I've got only one more year so we should start practicing a few weeks earlier."
- **Zack Briars, senior football cornerback:** "Even though we had a winning season, we all missed having the band at our away games. Scoring is always better with the Gopher Fight Song blaring in the stands."
- **George Graham, band director:** "The kids were simply amazing. I haven't had a more dedicated, rock-star crew like this one for about 10 years. I also think that the guard really stepped it up this year; the higher difficulty definitely paid off. We are already looking into next year's show. I have a few ideas in mind."
- **Lisa Sands, booster president:** "Nobody was more proud of our kids than the boosters and parents. The show lifted everyone's patriotic hearts every time they played it."
- **Tony DeCecco, senior math teacher:** "This was my son Angelo's first year in the band. He now knows the value of perseverance and practice. Carrying that big bass drum around for six months has done him some good. I could do without the constant tap-tap-tapping though."
- **Courtney Hammill, senior colorguard captain:** "We had four different flags, a rifle, and a red, white, or blue cube to carry out for every performance. That was a ton. Still, pulling out the big American flag at the end always brought the fans to their feet."

3Y - YEARBOOK SPORTS WRITING (28 points possible)

Using the following facts and quotes, write a 250-300 word story for your yearbook, *The Album*. Background information and quotes have been provided for you.

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BACKGROUND

- Spirit High School entered the football season with high expectations, but fell short of winning the Suburban One Conference title, falling to Jefferson Heights High School, 24-23.
- Spirit High School finished with a record of 9-3 on the season.
- Five players from the team won All-Conference Honors: junior wide-receiver Ryan Smith, senior quarterback David Ryman, junior cornerback Tyree Davis, senior kicker Ron Burkhardt, and senior center George Davison.
- Coach required the entire team to wear navy pants, a white-collared shirt, and the football tie to every home game. Players also had to wear the attire every Friday at school on game days.
- In the playoff game against Jefferson Heights, both teams played through torrential downpours.
- Four seniors have accepted scholarships and committed to various PA universities around the state.
- Coach Chad Kauffman retired after the season, his 22nd year coaching at the school.
- Spirit High School has reached the playoffs for the past 7 consecutive years and been in 4 of the last 5 Suburban One Conference Championships - winning 2 titles.
- The school has produced 6 NFL players and is regarded as one of the best football programs in the state of Pennsylvania.

QUOTES

- Coach Chad Kauffman: "This group was truly special. We overcame some injuries early in the season and pulled together to play extremely well down the stretch and into the playoffs. Even though I'm retired now, I'll still be around to make sure everything goes as it should."
- Coach Mike Simmons: "Sure, I'm disappointed we lost with such high hopes entering the year, but these kid's showed heart, and we lost to a solid team."
- Coach Peter Foster: "This senior class - they embodied everything we want of our students from Spirit. They are going to do great things in the future, even away from the field."
- Junior cornerback Josh Humphrey: "We had a blast, and though it didn't end the way we wanted it to, we lost to a tough opponent."
- Senior Matt Bowman: "We really wanted to send Coach Kauffman off with a another Conference title in his last year, but we fell a bit short. I do think he's proud of what we accomplished though, especially recovering from so many injuries."
- Senior kicker Ron Burkhardt: "It broke my heart at the end of the game knowing that I made that field goal kick in the pouring rain, and we still lost the game in the last 40 seconds."

4Y - YEARBOOK SPREAD DESIGN (24 points possible)

Using a pencil and ruler, you will choose one of the Design Sets below and hand-draw a layout for a student life spread entitled The Great Outdoors. You should designate space for headline and subheadline packages. You should demonstrate knowledge of rails of white space, grid-design, eyelines, and internal/external levels of white space. You must provide a caption block for each candid, but you need not create actual captions for the pictures.

Make sure you incorporate all of the items listed in your Design Set choice into your creation. Pay special attention to the Details section requirements for the assignment.

Refer to the School Info section for information on the school name, location, yearbook name, and theme.

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DETAILS

- **Photo/Candid:** Indicate these with an X. If you want an odd shape, draw the shape, and place an X inside it. If you want to communicate a special effect or special treatment to the judge, feel free to apply that information inside the photo box. (For example—"Photo is a kayaking shot, and we will make it appear in black and white.")
- **Headlines/Subheadlines:** Sketch these in your desired position. Also, make sure that they appear in your intended size relative to the story. While not necessary, actual headlines and subheads are encouraged rather than just head/subhead placeholders.
- **Body/Caption Copy:** Again, you need not actually write stories or captions. Still, be careful to correctly reflect your design intent for each. (For example—If you want your story to appear in three columns, draw three columns and not just one collective block for the whole thing.)
- **Thematic Art/Graphics:** While not necessary, we encourage you to create any graphics and/or artwork that would reflect aspects of an overall book theme on your spread.
- **Modules/Sidebars:** Make sure that your intent for each comes across well. Draw them out as they would appear in the book. Also, if they involve pictures, make sure you include X'd out photo blocks and copy blocks where they should go.
- **Folio package:** You can place your folio package anywhere you wish. Additionally, it can be as simple as a number—a number and copy—or a number, copy, and photo/art.

DESIGN SETS

Design 1

- Horizontal dominant picture
- 1 photo collection with long caption
- 1 candid shot with caption
- Story block with headline and subheadline packages
- 2 module types of your choice
- Interesting folio package

Design 2

- Vertical dominant picture
- 2 candid shots with captions
- Story block with headline and subheadline packages
- 3 module types of your choice
- Interesting folio package

Design 3

- Horizontal dominant picture
- 1 cut-out photo with quote
- 3 candid shots with captions
- 1 module type of your choice
- Story block with headline and subheadline packages
- Interesting folio package

5N - NEWSPAPER NEWS WRITING (28 points possible)

Using the following facts and quotes, write a 250-300 word news story for your newspaper, *The Liberty Bell*.

The writer should determine which information is relevant and important to the story. The writer should also determine which quotes to use and whether to use quotes in their entirety.

Write your name on your entry.

Use neat handwriting so that judges can read it.

Background

Due to PA state budget shortfalls, all electives in English and history have been eliminated from the Spirit High curriculum for the year.

The district laid off two high school teachers just prior to the school year start.

Students who compete in sports now must pay a \$25 participation fee, and all extra-curricular activities must totally self-fund through various fundraisers.

Joleen Byers, the new English department chair hopes to continue the school newspaper as part of English curriculum, even though its entire budget was cut.

For the first time in school history, the band will not travel to away games, all in an attempt to curb costs for the year.

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For all field trips, bus transportation costs must now be incurred by the students and/or the club or group that request the trip.

At one point, Superintendent Nicolas Bodard requested that local state legislators attend the next school board meeting to witness the impact of no state budget on the district.

Student Council planned a community tailgate party at the Homecoming Game to raise money for school assemblies for the year.

Charlie James, Assistant High School Principal:

"This has been a tough process to get our bills paid and to provide quality education for our students. We are joining forces with the community to help fill the gaps. Our kids deserve the best opportunities, and sometimes those do not take much money. We can do this."

Molly Simpson, Senior Class President:

"I am pretty bummed that this happened during our senior year, but we are a great class, and we will make the best of this situation. The best part is that we have ideas on how to save money."

Mark Brown, Athletic Director:

"Sports is key to our community spirit, and I know that the folks in this community will not let the shortfalls in the state budget allocations hinder what we do in this district. They will rise to meet the challenge. Already, we have received more than \$3,000 to pay for transportation of athletes to away games. A local manufacturer even gave our band a flatbed trailer to transport band instruments to all away games and competitions. They are even providing a driver and equipment to haul it."

Julian Markewitz, senior:

"We are in hard times, and I will really miss my wrestling coach who was laid off from his math job, but he is still volunteering to coach us. I was hoping to have him for calculus this year."

Danielle Gregory, Percussion Section Leader:

"It really ticked me off when everyone thought that it was the band's idea to not attend the away games."

Dr. Betty Bloom, principal:

"Our goal during this budget crisis is to provide the best possible education with the funds we have available. We are working closely with parent groups and community members to help make this happen. Our students deserve the best. We could whine about the problems, but we have chosen to take the high road and be positive. I have met with student leaders, and they are doing a great job to keep up the positive spirits and work with us since so many of their electives have been cut and some of their teachers have been furloughed. This has been extremely difficult, but this gives us a chance to all pull together and show that we are a great school, no matter the problems we face."

6N - NEWSPAPER FEATURE WRITING (28 points possible)

Using the following facts and quotes, write a 250-300 word feature story for your newspaper, *The Liberty Bell*.

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Write your name on your entry.

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Background

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Director George Graham and his staff spent many meetings throughout the winter to find an appropriate theme for this year's show.

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In an effort to save money, District administration mandated that the regiment attend only one away football game.

Quotes

- **Dr. Betty Bloom, principal:** "I actually attended two practices: one during Band Camp in August and one the week of the State Finals. It absolutely amazes me how Mr. Graham can bring so much talent out of our kids. When they unveiled the flag at the end of the show, it brought tears to my eyes."
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7N - NEWSPAPER SPORTS WRITING (28 points possible)

Using the following facts and quotes, write a 250-300 word sports story for your newspaper, *The Liberty Bell*.

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- Senior kicker Ron Burkhardt: "It broke my heart at the end of the game knowing that I made that field goal kick in the pouring rain, and we still lost the game in the last 40 seconds."

8E - EDITORIAL CARTOON (32 points possible)

You are to create an editorial cartoon using the story below which will run in the next issue of your paper, *The Liberty Bell*. Your cartoon will run on the editorial page with an opinion piece about the controversy.

Write your name on your entry. You may use any dry media art supplies (pencils, pens, markers, etc.) that you brought with you.

Students are dealing with increased class sizes and lack of electives after 2 teachers and all electives in English and social studies have been eliminated at Spirit High School.

Quaker City School District took measures to tighten its belt when state legislatures cut funding to all public schools for the 2016-2017 school year.

All study halls have been eliminated so students have been given the opportunity for work release, and they may participate in Dual Enrollment at the local branch campus of State University.

Freshman Zoey Jordan said, "This is so hard because we cannot go on work release or to college campus to take classes because you have to be 16 to get a work permit, and you have to be a junior to enroll in college classes. I am really bored because we don't have as many art classes or English electives as other students used to have."

Senior Mark Jamison said, "We have an A/B block schedule so you have to take four classes each day. I got a work release to go to work at Ace Hardware after second period at 11:00. I only need three more classes to graduate so it was a good fit for me. Now, I can earn money for college and take four classes in the morning periods. My brother is a freshman and hates that there are not many electives. Still, for me, it's great."

Junior Ella Johnson was able to add creative writing and psychology to her schedule for fall semester as a dual enrollment student at the local branch campus of State University. "This has really helped me because I can take two college courses first semester and two second semester. I will also take four courses next year at State. I will take two summer courses after I graduate so I will be a sophomore when I enroll in the fall of 2018. It will get me through college quicker and into the workplace sooner."

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To help ease the lack of electives at the high school, the school district and State University worked to develop a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the University providing lower tuition courses and some online courses at a lower rate for students at Spirit High.

"This is a win-win situation for us," said Quaker City superintendent Carla Sandberg regarding the MOU. "The school board was very supportive of this partnership, and it will benefit our students as they have an opportunity to gain college credits at a reduced rate. The university has some great classes students can take which we do not offer like criminal justice and sports management."

"Several of our furloughed teachers are now adjuncts at the local branch campus so our students will still be taking classes from some of their former high school teachers," Sandberg said.

School Board president Jennifer Stetson views the MOU as a step into the 21st century. The Board approved the MOU with an 8-1 vote, with Mark Geraci voting no.

Geraci acknowledges that he likes that students can take college classes, but is "not happy that we are offering online classes. Students are already living in an anti-social world, and taking classes online isolates them even more," Geraci said.

Guidance counselor Andrew Maines who works with students who take dual enrollment and online courses believes this is a trend that is coming to many high schools. "We were behind other school districts in the area who are already offering dual enrollment and online options for junior and senior students. We can now offer these because of the MOU in our regular scheduling process," Maines said.

9E - EDITORIAL WRITING (24 points possible)

Write a 200-word editorial on the controversy outlined in the story below. It will run in the next edition of *The Liberty Bell*, your school paper.

The writer should determine which information is relevant and important to your editorial. Students may use their own dictionary, thesaurus, stylebook, or personal hand-held devices.

Students are dealing with increased class sizes and lack of electives after 2 teachers and all electives in English and social studies have been eliminated at Spirit High School.

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10L - LITERARY MAGAZINE POETRY (24 points possible)

You must write an original poem of no more than 32 lines on the theme, "Off the Edge."

NOTE: This should NOT be the title of your poem. Refer to the School Info for information on the school name, location and publication name.

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Magazine: Reflections

HINTS

- Brainstorm and create a rough draft of your poem on the provided scratch paper.
- This poem must be written line for line with indentation for continuation (a continuation is counted as one line in the poem). Indicate stanzas when spacing.
- Include a title for the poem.
- Use originality and creativity in developing the theme.
- Consider compactness.
- Use figurative language, imagery, and emotion.
- Use correct spelling and punctuation.

11L - LITERARY MAGAZINE STAND-ALONE ARTWORK

(24 points possible)

Design an illustration that will accompany the following poem for your school's literary magazine, Reflections.

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Untitled

Time really does fly.
In a few years
we will leave this town,
(well some of us)
and we'll take these memories
of running around the football fields
and our first dances during prom
with us when we drive away.

My rearview mirror
will replay all these moments
we swore we would always
hold onto tightly but
things will change
and maybe come that day
we will forget
each others' names.

— Ming D. Liu

12B - BROADCAST WRITING (36 points possible)

Write a 90-second script (give or take 5 seconds) using the following five stories.

Consider how you will stack the show (placing most important to least important; pairing similar types of stories.)

Include a greeting and a sign out (Your Name for The Towne Crier).

Pay attention to:

- paraphrasing any quotes you use – quotes are necessary
- writing in broadcast style: short and conversational
- adhering to rules of broadcast writing in terms of placement of attribution, titles, sentence structure
- reading silently and timing yourself

STORIES

#1

While the Spirit baseball teams have enjoyed dugouts for the past 7 years, the softball teams will soon get their own shade from the field sun. In cooperation with the Lower Mountain Vocational Technology school, Spirit students will spend half of their school days on the back field instead of in class down the road.

"When Coach Henry approached me with the idea, we had to follow up on it. It's nice knowing that our students will get to show their incredible talents while improving our own facility here in Quaker City," Dr. Betty Bloom said.

One veteran softball team member showed her enthusiasm and appreciation for the improvement.

Senior Varsity Catcher Adrienne Bowers said, "Nobody knows how hot it gets playing in the late spring. We will finally have a place to go to cool off between innings."

Creation of the dugouts required numerous technical skills of the vo-tech students.

"It's going to be great to be able to actually put something that we learned in class to use in the real world where it will make a difference," masonry junior Nick Starks said. "The guys are pumped up to do a great job."

Construction on the project will commence as soon as the supplies arrive to the school.

#2

Introduced by two avid senior kayakers, John Adams and Rob Grainer, the duo approached Dr. Betty Bloom with the idea for a kayaking club at the end of last year.

Adams had genuine reasons to allow for the new organization. "Even though we have the Susquehanna, there a lot of smaller creeks that offer up some great whitewater around the area.

Since we had a very dry summer and spring, the dam controllers that control the water won't raise the levels easily.

Still, most will if a group of 10 kayakers or more wants to float. Having a club network will help to make that happen," Adams said.

School Info

Name: Spirit High School

Location: Quaker City, PA

Enrollment: 1,800 (9-12)

Principal: Dr. Betty Bloom

Colors: Blue and Silver

Mascot: Groundhogs

Morning Show: The Towne Crier

"Sometimes it's just hard to kayak because it takes a pick-up, sometimes with a trailer. We don't own one at home, so I'm hoping that this will allow me to hit the rivers more often," Grainer said.

#3

Six area high schools will gather not to compete, but to unite in a celebratory night of performances during the 27th annual Central Keystone Show Choir Festival on Nov. 12.

The evening will shine the spotlight on show choirs from six area high schools: Downeytown, Maplewood, Spirit, Maysfield, Lake Valley, and Jefferson Heights.

The schools rotate hosting the annual event with Maysfield's Showstoppers Show Choir welcoming guests this season in its school auditorium.

Showstoppers' 38 performers will entertain with a medley from two popular Broadway musicals: "Newsies" and "Hamilton."

The Downeytown Junior/Senior High School Show Choir is a new addition to the lineup this year with 20 students performing songs from the popular musicals "Little Shop of Horrors" and "Hairspray."

"We have been trying to join the Central Keystone Festival for a couple of years now, but the timing was never good for us," said Beth Minda, choir director at Downeytown. "This year, we decided to try and make an actual separate group (choir) – we were never a formal group before."

"There is a great camaraderie among our area high schools, and each year we are growing our participation," Kathy Grabigel, Lake Valley's choir director, said. "Last year, we had an audience of more than 500, and it was a packed house."

A veteran to the event, John Dalton, choir director at Jefferson Heights, said, "I was singing 20 years ago in this same festival, so it is nice to be on the other side of things now and helping to keep this alive with a show choir of my own. It is fun to see how the tradition continues," Dalton said.

Spirit High's Full Spirit Show Choir has 37 students, and their theme is "Any Way the Wind Blows" which features the works of Queen.

#4

Operation Gratitude annually sends 250,000+ care packages filled with snacks, entertainment, hygiene products, handmade items, plus personal letters of appreciation to new recruits, veterans, first responders, individually-named U.S. service members deployed overseas, wounded heroes, and their caregivers. The Spirit High Key Club joined in and created 28 packages to send out.

"Our mission was to lift the spirits and meet the evolving needs of our first responder, active duty, and veteran communities," Key Club President Mary Ann Hrivnak said. "We also sought to provide volunteer opportunities for our student body to express their appreciation for these heroes."

Since its inception in 2003, Operation Gratitude volunteers have shipped more than 1,500,000 care packages.

Each package contains donated products valued at \$75-100, and costs about \$15 to assemble and ship.

#5

If you happen to cross a groundhog wandering the aisles of the grocery store or trying to make a deposit at the bank, you may want to alert the authorities.

Quaker City Police are on the hunt for the thief who stole Spirit High School's large, brown woodchuck mascot costume last year and is currently parading it around town.

Before going missing, "George" was last seen at a Halloween party in October of 2015. Police thought they may never see the groundhog again, until the @wheresgeorge Twitter account popped up last month with pictures of the mascot travelling the city, enjoying bus rides, and wandering around Reynoldsville Mall.

"We thought maybe it was gone for good, but then someone started the Twitter account," Sheriff Mark Evans told the Quaker City Times. He added, "We have a number of students who are following the account, and they may have some information on who has the mascot."

Despite a plea for help from students, police have had little success locating the costume. According to the Times, police believe several people may be rotating possession of the mascot to avoid a bust.