



The purpose of the Gryphon is to examine events in the school, the community and the world which affect the lives of the students of RMSH. It is the Gryphon's aim to stimulate awareness of issues, to promote a better understanding of others, and to bring about positive action where change is needed. Student, faculty and community response is welcomed and may be sent to the Gryphon, room 110; however, the editor reserves the right to withhold libelous or profane letters.

Focus Explained!

This issue focuses on alcohol, its effects on people, and reform programs for alcoholics. These stories are meant to relay the cold hard facts about alcohol and its effects to the reader. The "Gryphon" is not forming a temperance movement; however, the articles on pages six and seven may lead to a re-examination of the purpose of drinking. The articles present the answers to many questions about the use of alcohol but leave the choice of "to drink or not to drink" solely with the reader.

The "drug scare" of the 60's and 70's has led to a decreasing awareness of the problems caused by the excessive drinking of alcohol. More deaths are attributed to alcohol than to other drugs each year, more accidents are caused by alcohol than by other drugs each year, and more money is spent on the purchasing of alcohol and the treatment of alcoholics than on the buying of other drugs and treatment of addicts. The excessive drinking of alcohol can be just as dangerous as taking of drugs.

Alcoholism can strain or destroy family ties. The sufferings an alcoholic parent can inflict upon the children are mental and physical. Children can suffer from permanent mental scars inflicted by a delirious alcoholic parent. The physical sufferings range from lack of necessities, such as food (because too much money is spent on alcohol) to beatings from a violently drunken parent.

The excessive drinking of alcohol presents many severe problems which require real help. Alcoholics Anonymous and other associations offer help to those who want it. The articles on pages six and seven attempt to show these problems and the organizations which deal with them. The question of morality is not discussed; only the facts concerning the physical and mental dangers are recorded.

Suspension Not An Answer

The word truant comes from the Old French word meaning a beggar, but begging is hardly the connotation it gets at Senior High. Anyone would enjoy a three day pass or so to go home, rest up and return to spend a day, or half a day at school, to go home for three or four days to come back, to go home, to rest up and . . . you get the idea. That's exactly the treat (I dare not say punishment) one gets for being truant at the best high school in Eastern North Carolina — Senior High. At least, a student can get suspended up to five times in some cases before permanent expulsion.

Of course, if you'll pardon the cliché, "one can't have his cake and eat it too," for the truant student does receive a zero mark for tests and assignments graded while he isn't present; but if a student "skips" he can't be that interested in grades anyway.

A new system of punishment for trancies should be enacted at Senior High. A classroom should be set up for those students who love to be away from school. Teachers would send assignments to them in the special classroom. The students couldn't go to the restrooms with other students or eat lunch with them, a type of isolation in the midst of the other students would prevail. Students could get back into the regular classrooms only after the supervising teacher's, guidance counselor's, parent's consent, and the student's agreement to conform to the rules of the school. Through this new method the student could continue to get a good education but be punished through lack of privileges. Other schools are practicing the new program. If enough schools enter into this new concept, then the state might pick up the added expense. The new system might cut down trancies instead of the present punishment of allowing students' extra vacations.

'Twas An Interesting Occurrence Before Break

'Twas the week fore Christmas and all through the school
 Students were talking and breaking every rule.
 The teachers were nestled right snug in their chair
 With visions of students emerging from their hair.
 When outside the school there was a sudden clatter
 I sprang from my desk to see what was the matter.
 And resting right there on the school's front lawn
 Was the wreck of a sled pulled by eight fawns
 The driver was no longer lively and quick
 And I knew from the start it was tipsy St. Nick.
 His eyes they just blinked. His smile so merry
 From indulgence his nose was red as a cherry.
 The police soon arrived and put him in grief.
 No longer could be seen his big white false teeth.
 Drunken driving was the charge the police made.
 St. Nick came out with a knot on his big "haid."
 Now you may be driving drunk one night
 And the wreck you have may be more of a fright.
 So refrain from excessive spirits this long Christmas break
 If tipsy no driving just for my sake.
 MERRY CHRISTMAS!



MARQUEE ANNOUNCES FUTURE EVENTS: The marquee found outside the student commons is a gift donated by the graduated senior class of 1976. It is used to announce events such as band and chorus concerts, athletic events, and social activities. Money raised from the selling of magazines by seniors is used each year to present a gift to the school in their remembrance.

EDITOR'S ECHO

By Jackie Wilde

Just recently Gary Gilmore savagely murdered two men that he didn't know. He even admits that they didn't deserve to die. The only reason he so violently murdered the two innocent men was to fulfill his anger and hostility he felt because of his girl friend Nicole Barrett.

This type of crime happens every day, and the "offender" is usually charged with murder and sent to life in prison. But Gary Gilmore is different.

Gilmore is 35 years old, has spent 23 years in trouble, and 18 in prison. He boasts of paralyzing a man; organizing a suicide collective, which he didn't participate wholly in; and holding up business. He seems like the average con-man, who has only one thing on his mind, but this convict has sensitivity. He writes very romantic poetry, mostly to his girlfriend, draws and paints very descriptively, and very obviously believes in

life after death. Surely he is an interesting person to read about, but not to meet, especially when he is in a fit of fury.

Gary wants a grotesque death by firing squad. He should receive it. This criminal is definitely a psychopath, conscious of only his needs and desires. If the law keeps standing in his way, he will die eventually, either by suicide or by a cell-mate defending his own life.

His childhood days will prove his character today. His family was unsteady and despondent. Somewhere from his mother's family he adopted the idea that if he gives his life voluntarily, it will pay the price.

Gilmore seems to be very sincere about his death wish, and he even seems to regret the wicked tricks he has pulled, although he knows he is incapable of restraining them in a passion. The law charged him and gave him a choice, so he deserves his rights.

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