

The Gryphon will inform its readers of matters of school, community, and world interest and concern. All departments, activities, personalities, and organizations will be given full coverage in proportion to their interest and relative importance to the entire school.

The Gryphon will be student expression. However while exercising freedom of the press, The Gryphon will also assume the responsibilities of an ethical newspaper.

Letters from students, faculty, and other citizens are welcomed and may be sent to The Gryphon, room 110. However, the editor reserves the right to withhold libelous or profane material from publication.

Many Teachers Neglect Homeroom Responsibility

Staff members of THE GRYPHON recently surveyed representatives of Senior High concerning homeroom teachers who may be failing to fulfill their responsibilities.

The results of this survey varied. Some students stated that the teachers are concerned about their students welfare and that the homeroom displayed enthusiasm provoked by the teacher. However, others complained that teachers did not know the names of students they have had for two years, and the teachers are apathetic.

Principal Elton Newbern told THE GRYPHON that the duty of a homeroom teacher is to act as a counselor by helping her students with problems concerning school. If this is not possible, the teacher should refer the student to a guidance

counselor. Mr. Newbern said that homeroom teachers should be cheerleaders for school spirit. A display of enthusiasm and school spirit by the teacher would probably be mirrored by the students. He stated that the homeroom teacher should convey all information regarding school activities to the students. When there is a club to join or a scholastic event to sign up for, students should be able to rest assured that what they are interested in receives attention.

Although it was apparent from the survey that some teachers displayed qualities of leadership and guidance, it was equally apparent from a majority of the students surveyed that there was room for improvement.

Policemen Control Wild School Traffic

Many of the students at Senior High have been curious why the police are here everyday before school, during lunch, and after school.

Assistant principal, Robert Miller said the police have been assigned to work at Senior High to control the traffic situation. The police are patrolling near the school since many of the students have been careless when leaving in the afternoons and have created serious problems. Students could easily hit an innocent pedestrian or cause an automobile accident. Since the students have not been "safety minded" while driving, the police are attempting to prevent any such mishap. Along with traffic direction, the police have tried to

reduce the speed of most drivers.

The results from this traffic control have been good in organizing the traffic in an orderly fashion and decreasing the speed of most drivers to a safer speed limit says Mr. Miller. However, the police will continue throughout the year or until unnecessary.

Students have no reason for any complaints since the traffic direction is only an effort to help the students. Students cannot complain of "police harrassment" when their driving brings the police to school. Furthermore, the police will gladly return to other duties if the students will drive safely.



POLICE WORK: Police have directed traffic to prevent traffic jams since school began. (Photo by Hutchisson.)

Editors Echo Echo Echo

By KEITH KING

It seems to be the vogue as of late for people to blame the press and the media in general for their problems, I'm talking about people who have not been given "favorable" coverage by the media.

The latest instance arose during the Bert Lance affair. It seemed that the ethics of the media became a major question, rather than the ethics of Mr. Lance.

When Lance went back to Calhoun, Georgia last week amidst bands playing fanfares and cheering crowds, citizens displayed signs asking "News media, who's next?" The press was charged with using "lynch mob tactics" to bring about Mr. Lance's downfall. House Speaker Thomas (Tip) O'Neill suggested that the Director of the Office of Management and Budget had been hounded out of office, and Senator James Allen (Alabama) argued that the media had "gotten his scalp" and pondered "I am wondering if that is going to be the fate of others."

True, there are some overzealous news people out there, hoping for a big story by jumping on the investigative "Watergate" bandwagon, each hoping to be the next Bob Woodward or Carl Bernstein. Mr. Woodward's and Mr. Bernstein's works came about from endless and exhausting research, not aimless badgering. They did not prosecute or sentence any public official.

Only an official's personal actions can damage his career. The news media only reports these actions. Most news people recognize this and exercise high ethical standards; they do not crop up charges for the sake of a story.

Contrary to what some may think, the media did not jump on Mr. Lance all at once. Stories about Mr. Lance's financial affairs were published before his confirmation last January in the New York Times and The Washington Post. Quite a few reporters cited evidence of Mr. Lance's financial faults. The careful editors did not emblazon their pages with stories of scandal, rather, they kept the stories in perspective. Says William Thomas, editor of The Los Angeles Times, "We didn't want to appear as the quick-on-the-trigger hipsters that some people have pictured us to be."

A statement from Newsweek magazine best captures the essence of the media's role in this episode: "As with the Watergate case, the media played the role of watchdog, barking loud and long enough to arouse the caretakers of government." Let us hope that the media will continue in the "watchdog" role, for that is the only way our democratic society will survive, by having all questionable issues brought forth for public analysis and discussion.

Smoking Areas Needed To Eradicate Fumes

During the past years, smoking in the bathroom has been a big problem.

Not only is it against school policy, but also it is offensive to many people, smokers and non-smokers. The bathrooms at Senior High aren't properly ventilated to withdraw large amounts of smoke.

However, students that smoke feel they have a right to smoke and they do. The one smoking area on Nash Street is not adequate for all students. It is

located out of the way, not near the majority of classrooms. Not all students have time between classes to go to the smoking area. Therefore, they head to the bathrooms.

This could be eliminated if more smoking areas are added. Setting them up along Hammond and Tillery Streets would prevent a lot of people from smoking in the bathrooms. The new smoking areas would be convenient for more students, thus eliminating most of the smoking in the bathrooms.

Carter Values Human Rights

The Carter Administration has stated that one of its top priorities will be concern for human rights around the world. This is a noble gesture on the part of the administration and the United States should take a stand on the issue, being the democratic nation and world leader that it is. Certain aspects of this stance and its effects must be examined, however, concerning the reactions of other countries to the pressure from the United States.

The United States must pro-

ceed cautiously on this matter. In its endeavor to insure human rights for citizens around the world, the United States must avoid alienating other governments by coming on too strong with criticism. Some countries may be offended by a hard-sale approach and may impose restrictions upon its citizens that it otherwise would not have. Some Soviet dissidents have indicated that recent crack-downs directed at them by the Soviet government may have resulted directly from human

rights violations protests from the United States.

Secretary-of-State Cyrus Vance has recognized this need to proceed with caution. "It (the United States) also must judge whether its criticism will make things worse, and it must keep the issue in perspective," says Vance. Vance also cautions against taking drastic steps against nations because of a government's policies because the actions may penalize innocent, hungry and poor citizens of the nations.

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