

## Letters To The Editor

Dear Editor,

There was an editorial in the first issue of The Gryphon concerning a tradition that some people believe is dying. This is the basis of my editorial.

As was stated in the previous editorial: "This year's sophomores were, to use a slang term, very "slack" in their debut," is not a true statement in my opinion. There were many sophomores who showed their class spirit; however, like in every class, there are those who are not too enthusiastic. Many of us sophomores did not know about the banners which proves that we are not totally used to Senior High.

I certainly hope the Sophomore Initiation Week is held this year as it has been in the past. I'm all for school spirit and I know many sophomores who will be excited and will fully participate if the tradition continues.

I respect everyone's opinion and I hope mine, too, is respected. Give us a chance to show that we've got spirit. I've got faith in my classmates and I hope they won't let me down.

Kim Murrill

Senior High went bananas over "Bananas." Few pep rallies have stirred up as much enthusiasm as did the talented members of the Southern Educational Theatre group that presented a Vaudeville show for the students. The Dramatics I and II students gained something extra from "Bananas." Under the leadership of Ronlin Foreman, the actor who played the adorable clown, dramatics students participated in and learned from creative dramatic exercises and from a pantomime lecture-demonstration workshop. Mr. Foreman demonstrated several mime techniques and performed three concert mime pieces for the students.

Senior High could benefit from more performances of the same caliber as Bananas. Good, educational performances of this kind reach students with a type of knowledge that books sometimes cannot provide. The Dramatics I and II students would like to encourage the administration to make more educational performances available to Senior High. We appreciate "Bananas" performance and we hope the administration will let "the show go on" by bringing quality performances and workshops to Senior High.

Sincerely,

Dramatics I and II Students

[Editors Note: Two students requested that we run the following letter to the Editor and an excerpt from Dear Abby.]

"The reason Mark and I want this article printed is because there are a lot of sophomores and juniors who are just getting their driver's license. And another important reason is that just recently a student by the name of Cheryl House was unexpectedly taken away from

us. So I really want to stress the importance of the article for the new and old drivers."

Mark Arrington 117  
Wallace R. Glover 102

Dear Abby: Last summer you wrote something that virtually saved my life and maybe the lives of many others. I had just gotten my driver's license and that column really opened my eyes. I think about it every year for those kids who may have missed it.

Loves Life at 18

Dear Loves: Seldom has a column made such an impact as the one to which you refer. I shall repeat it with pleasure:

**PLEASE GOD, I'M ONLY 17**

The day I died was an ordinary school day. How I wish I had taken the bus! But I was too cool for the bus. I remember how I wheeled the car out of Mom. "Special favor," I pleaded, "all the kids drive." When the 2:50 bell rang, I threw all my books in the locker. I was free until 8:40 tomorrow morning! I ran to the parking lot, excited at the thought of driving a car and being my own boss. Free!

It doesn't matter how the accident happened. I was goofing off—going too fast. Taking crazy chances. But I was enjoying my freedom and having fun. The last thing I remember was passing an old lady who seemed to be going awfully slow. I heard the deafening crash and felt a terrific jolt. Glass and steel flew everywhere. My whole body seemed to be turning inside out. I heard myself scream.

Suddenly I awakened; it was very quiet. A police officer was standing over me. Then I saw a doctor. My body was mangled, I was saturated with blood. Pieces of jagged glass were sticking out all over. Strange that I

couldn't feel anything.

Hey, don't pull that sheet over my head. I can't be dead. I'm only 17, I've got a date tonight. I am supposed to grow up and have a wonderful life. I haven't lived yet. I can't be dead.

Later I was placed in a drawer. My folks had to identify me. Why did they have to see me like this? Why did I have to look at Mom's eyes when she faced the most terrible ordeal of her life? Dad suddenly looked like an old man. He told the man in charge, "Yes, he is my son."

The funeral was a weird experience. I saw all my relatives and friends walk toward the casket. They passed by, one by one, and looked at me with the saddest eyes I've ever seen. Some of my buddies were crying. A few of the girls touched my hand and sobbed as they walked away.

Please . . . somebody . . . wake me up! Get me out of here. I can't bear to see my Mom and Dad so broken up. My grandparents are so racked with grief they can barely walk. My brother and sisters are like zombies. In a daze, everybody! No one can believe this. And I can't believe it, either.

Please don't bury me! I have a lot of living to do! I want to laugh and run again. I want to sing and dance. Please don't put me in the ground. I promise if you give me just one more chance, God, I'll be the most careful driver in the whole world. All I want is one more chance.

Please, God, I'm only 17!

Editor's Note: THE GRYPHON expresses its regrets to Debbie Bulluck, whose name did not appear in the tennis team article. Debbie is seeded number seven.



TONI WILLIAMS AND BARBARA COGGINS MODELS: Toni Williams, left, models a peasant style dress in a challis print. Barbara Coggins looks great in the layered look topped off with a plaid shawl. Fashions from Serotta's, Tarrytown Mall. (Photo by J. Joyner.)

## Elegant New Fashions For Fall Discovered

By LINDA ROBERSON

Fall bursts into a panorama of fashionable looks with the introduction of Challis, tweeds, shawls, and A-line skirts.

The layered-look will be popular again this fall, however, new accessories such as plaid shawls, and clutch bags in leather and suede have been incorporated into the look.

Challis has been initiated into the fashion realm this fall to give the peasant style dress a more soft and feminine appearance, in rich romantic prints. The hair will be pulled away from the face with bright colored hair combs.

The western look has been revised this year with the arrival of short leather boots. These boots teamed together with the European straight-leg pants create an outfit sure to dazzle the eye, or topped off with a full flowing skirt for a sporty, yet feminine, look.

Evening wear takes on a more sophisticated look with the rebirth of the float-style gown polished up in a gold chiffon, and pulled together with the right accessories such as rhine-stone studded earrings and gold bracelets.

## SOAPBOX

By CLIFTON BARNES

Standards for education have gone down in the past few years to accommodate the needs of poor students, women, and minorities.

This conclusion came from a board studying the downward trend of Scholastic Aptitude Test scores.

According to the board, "There is no evidence that the quality of teaching is worse than it used to be." Of course, the study did not investigate individual personalities.

The report says that the tolerance of increased absenteeism, automatic grade promotions, and the reduction of homework assignment, among other things, demonstrates the low educational standards. I agree with all of these except one. Guess which one? I have plenty of homework, thank you.

Why should one group suffer because of another? Smarter students will be handicapped and less educated people will be lifted to a point where each is equally stupid. Everyone should be educated to his full potential, but by lowering standards this cannot be done.

The board did not offer any suggestions for solving the dilemma of declining SAT scores. Schools should get back to basic academics but still leave room for innovations.

In the 1960's too many new academic concepts came up at once. Perhaps now the new concepts will start to settle down and SAT scores will rise.



MEMBERS INITIATED: Mary Bullard, left, and Beth Berry dress up for The Phalanx Club Initiation Day.

(Photo by J. Joyner.)