

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.

Community Aware Of Teen Problem

The subject of teenage pregnancy has often been a topic of discussion for social scientists and moralists.

Pregnancy in itself has been a topic for medical textbooks, medical specialists, and authors of children and childcare books.

Birth Control has been a subject of much public discussion and legislature debate.

When they does a high school newspaper think that it should involve itself with the topic. What new information does it propose that has not been covered?

The Gryphon Staff sought to explore community resources which deal with the problem.

The staff didn't try to write another textbook on birth control methods and devices. They didn't try to write another pregnancy guide for young mothers.

What was attempted was an effort to show just how involved the community is with the problem. It was learned that local citizens are working with

many local organizations to aid teenagers in family planning, making decisions about birth control, and coping with teenage pregnancy.

The staff also found that many community leaders involve themselves with their neighbors in discussing the topic. Several wise leaders work with their young people to find answers to questions related to pregnancy, sexuality and morality. All in all, the staff found that the community for the most part is very aware of the problems and questions that accompany teenage pregnancy. Furthermore, the community is taking steps to deal with the problem.

It is hoped that the Gryphon focus on the issue on teenage pregnancy will be taken in this attitude: as a study of Community awareness and the situations that arise as a result of teenage pregnancy.

If it is, the readers may gain some insight on the subject. If not, the meaning will be missed and the reader disappointed.

Many Seniors Complain About Abused Privileges

Most students at R.M.S.H. look forward to the day when they can finally become . . . Mighty Seniors. An advantage of becoming a senior is the privileges that only they can enjoy. These privileges are constructed by a committee of seniors who submit these proposed amendments to Principal Elton Newbern for approval. This list was drafted earlier in the school year. Most of the privileges are applicable for the second semester, a few for the entire year.

There are seven senior privileges for the 77-78 school year. Among these are the exemptions from exams by seniors who have a 90 or above average, the senior picnic at the end of the year, and the priority for seniors to park in the 2nd, 3rd and 4th rows within the parking lot.

There has been a great deal of controversy concerning the senior parking spaces in the parking lot and the senior bumper stickers. Only seniors are allowed to park in these spaces provided they

display a bumper sticker. Many underclassmen have taken these spaces. However, underclassmen neglecting to abide by the set priorities will receive a one hour detention. Many seniors have failed to display the sticker on their car causing them to also receive a detention.

A large number of seniors have been complaining about the appearance of the bumper sticker which was originally designed by the committee president, who allegedly failed to get the approval of the committee members. The design was then sent to the printer to be duplicated and sold to seniors for 50 cents each.

Since a controversy has arisen concerning these stickers, seniors are allowed to display only a portion of the sticker to identify their class rank.

In view of the disapproval of the bumper sticker, it appears that a new sticker could be designed to the satisfaction of those seniors involved.



According to most Seniors, anything's better than this year's Senior bumper sticker. (Photo by Hutchisson.)

Editor's Echo By KEITH KING

Often I've heard the pros and cons of the Equal Rights Amendment debated.

During such discussions I've heard the con side mention the possibility of coed bathrooms and women in combat or other such things if the Amendment is ratified.

Then the Pro side counters by saying such possibilities are ludicrous and that all the Amendment would do would be to insure equal job opportunities, legal rights, etc. for both sexes.

Whether a result of ERA or Women's Lib or some such, I don't know, but I do know that a situation that is "ludicrous" is developing in Rocky Mount.

It was brought to my attention by an English teacher the other day during a regular class session. The other members of the class and myself were being instructed on pronoun and antecedent agreement. We were instructed that when referring to an unknown person of an unknown sex, use the masculine pronoun in general reference, such as in the following sentence: "When buying a car, one should know exactly what type car he wants."

The teacher remarked that this all was for naught, since the textbooks were being re-written to include masculine and feminine pronouns as such: "... one . . . type of car he or she wants."

Also the course guides for the English Classes are being re-written and all references in the masculine pronoun form are being edited out or coupled with feminine pronoun references.

To me, such a waste of time, money and personnel services over such a frivolous matter is stupid.

This double reference will only lead to more complication and confusion on the part of the student.

As a writer, I can attest to the fact that the practice will be cumbersome and will probably end up disregarded by writers as a whole.

Maybe someone can invent a new pronoun to cover the need for such.

Anyway, all of this hassle just goes to prove that whether ERA is ratified or not, it will have an impact, whether good or bad, on our lives.

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Ode To Senior High



How do we love thee; let us count the ways.
We love thee for thy dull and tedious days,
And for thy many assemblies so filled with pep
With the Sophomores perched upon that last step.
We love thee for thy beloved cop
Who directs our traffic to a stop.
We love thee for that last nine weeks

Without the break that the student so seeks,
And for the delivery of junior class rings
A little late but the joy they still bring.
For the senior stickers in whose glory so bright
Look as though stricken with some unknown blight.
In spite of all these faults so apparent here,
We have, to this point, survived this year.