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Guidance and students have communication problem

by Janice Braswell
Business Manager

Guidance department personnel feel that in order to function more efficiently they need to improve communications with the students.

"What we are really doing and what the students perceive we are doing — if they are not the same thing — then, we've got to change students' perceptions," guidance counselor Phyllis Jacobs said. Mrs. Jacobs, Counselor Edith Tweedy, and Counselor William Hutchisson all agree that there is a definite communication problem between the guidance office and the student body.

Counselors say they worked with "using the homeroom as a vehicle for that communication," but found that

the students are not receiving the information they put out. Mrs. Tweedy says she believes possible reasons for this are that either the daily bulletins are not being read aloud or the information from the guidance office is not being posted as requested.

"I really was terribly disappointed in college night," said Mrs. Tweedy. "We had 54 representatives of colleges here, and at 8:30 one of the representatives said, 'It looks like no one else is coming,' and began preparing to leave." Mr. Hutchisson added that if it were not the communication problem that caused the bad turnout, then "my guess is the students felt they could make their own decisions without help."

However, counselors note that many

students are concerned about their applications to colleges. Mrs. Tweedy requests that the students be a little more patient. Mrs. Jacobs said she did not think the students were criticizing the work, but that it was the communications problem that caused some unrest. "The students want to know what is happening with their applications," she said. The counselors agree that the seniors can help the situation by using the most recent application form accompanied by a check and any picture, essay, or reference requested before turning the application form into the guidance office.

Another major concern of the guidance personnel is the tremendous amount of work expected from the

secretary, Mrs. Doris Dupuy. "The guidance department at Senior High possibly needs more clerical help. We have four counselors and one secretary being pulled in four different directions," said Mrs. Jacobs.

Mr. Hutchisson agreed on the need for more clerical help, noting that "the school is outgrowing the guidance department." He added that the physical layout is another hindrance, since it cannot support the number of students that occupy it every day.

All of the counselors request that the students remember they deal not only with those people going to college. "I should hope that there isn't a student in the school that doesn't feel welcome or good service in the guidance department," said Mrs. Tweedy.

Watts attacks toking here

"Authorities have stepped up measures to prevent drug and alcohol use because of an increase in public inquiry," Principal Doug Watts says.

In so far as the faculty can ascertain there has been no increase in student drug and alcohol use, and Mr. Watts said that whatever problem there is concerning drugs here "will be eradicated."

Mr. Watts says that the faculty has stepped up measures to prevent the problem, and that he hasn't found that much drug traffic here. "The vast majority of students here are not involved in any type of drug activity," Mr. Watts said.

School authorities have taken certain measures to prevent drug traffic. One of these precautions is increasing the adult supervision in certain areas of and near the school, including the bathrooms, the parking lot on the Nash Street side, and lumber company parking area on the Hammond Street side. Mr. Doll said that there have been more policemen patrolling around the parking lots and the lumber yard than in the past.



THE MARCHING BAND practices their show for the National Band Competition held November 7 in Johnson City, Tennessee. Juniors Kelly Teeter and Elmina Johnson perfect

their rifle skills in preparation for the competition. The band won eleventh place out of approximately 50 other bands. (Photo by Roger Winstead.)

"I promise I won't do it again' or 'please give me another chance' is the widely used excuse when a student marijuana is an automatic 10-day suspension. Trying to buy or sell marijuana also results in a 10-day suspension. The second offense of any of these acts would result in expulsion. These rules were not made by the school

authorities but were fixed by state law. Rule six in the Policies, Rules, and Procedures Relative to Student Conduct in the Rocky Mount City Schools states that "a student shall not knowingly buy, sell, possess, use, transmit or be under the influences of any narcotic drug, hallucinogenic drug, amphetamine, barbituate, marijuana,

alcoholic beverage or intoxicant of any kind (1) on any school grounds during and immediately before and immediately after school hours; (2) on any school grounds or at any other time when the school is being used for a school function or by any school group; or (3) off school grounds at a school activity, function, or event; or (4) on any school bus."

Teachers feel individuals must make choice

Charles Harrison
Managing Editor

Several teachers say that whether an individual joins any teachers' association is a personal choice. These teachers have diverse affiliations. Some belong to the North Carolina Association of Educators, some to the Professional Educators of North Carolina, and one has no affiliation with either.

"We should look at the organizations provided and make our own decisions based on our own beliefs and knowledge," said NCAE local president Nancy Jones.

English teacher Jo Ann Poole said, "The decision should be a personal choice."

"I just do what I think best. It was a personal decision," said history teacher Deborah Wilson. Mrs. Wilson is not affiliated with any organization.

The issue of which organization to join became an issue here after teachers divided over a collective bargaining resolution that was passed at the NCAE convention last April. The resolution said: "The NCAE shall support and work for the passage of collective bargaining legislation by the North Carolina General Assembly and the

United States Congress."

"Collective bargaining is a priority of the Association and the NCAE Board of Directors is directed to support collective bargaining efforts."

Several teachers felt they had no say in the decision. Seminar teacher Barbara Taylor says the rank and file had no input.

"I think a lot of teachers are concerned with the monolithic structure of a professional organization that does get the rank and file heard," Mrs. Taylor said. "However, I have the utmost respect for Nancy Jones."

Ninety-eight per cent of the

issues were not known beforehand. I don't know whether there was subterfuge, but I am not willing to have the actions of a group within the organization determine my participation in the organization," Mrs. Jones said.

Because of their dissatisfaction with NCAE, some teachers have turned to PENC.

"At this point, I'm not sure PENC satisfies my desires for such an organization, but NCAE doesn't," said Mrs. Poole.

The teachers are unified in their concern for the students.