

Christmas is an unusual time of year. As stores begin to bring out their Christmas decorations and people start making gift-lists, a whole new atmosphere descends upon the globe.

Little kids are the ones who get Christmas fever the worst of all. Toy catalogs provide mothers with a few extra moments of quiet as the little one breathlessly searches page after page for the ideal Christmas gift. The moment of triumph comes when he spots it--the one thing that he wants more than anything else in the world--at least on that particular page. These little ones have heard about the meaning of Christmas--about the kid born in a manger with a bunch of animals around. But, of course, the kids cannot grasp the religious significance of the holiday--they're just too young.

The young person is caught in the middle when it comes to Christmas activities. For some, the joy of receiving still dominates the emotions; for others, they have found the true joy in giving. Some like I said, have found the joy in giving but they still wait in nervous expectation for their many presents--I guess it's just natural.

Part of the joy of Christmas comes with the religious activity that plays such a major role in the holiday lives of many people. One man--and he was born on this day. His life, his words serving as the purpose for existence for those who have heeded a call.

People are worth thinking about. During this Christmas season, break into a new life, one of joy, concern, hope and love. May Peace be with you and have a Merry Christmas.

### The Crazy Campus

By TIM BRINN

For weeks now, rumors have been floating around about trips to Florida, Canada, Sharpsburg, Soul City, and other winter "hotspots". Some students, the real individualists, are even planning to stay in the "All-America City"! Wonder of wonders! Everybody seems to be going to at least one of those wild Christmas parties. Yes, the future--the next two weeks--looks very promising (except for this newspaper, which will probably end up lighting somebody's fireplace.)

This Christmas let's all try to help out someone. Make Christmas a little merrier--give yourself.

Wonder how?

You've already started. Students everywhere are showing more interest in the world outside the classroom. Getting committed and involved to help others is really great.

Have fun this holiday season, and take your well-deserved break from the school routine. Just do something to make it count. These next few weeks will be just as empty and meaningless as you make them.

Christmas should mean something to everyone besides spiked eggnog or coming home late after a party. The next sixteen days will be a great time to make a special effort to help somebody, somewhere. Help yourself, too--go to church. Christmas is the one time of the year when you can go and not feel guilty about not attending Sunday school for the past six months. Do it right--make it a Yuletide yearly habit.

But whatever you do in the next 304 hours, make it count. Mankind, starting with you, can use all of the Christmas Spirit it can get!

MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM THE GRYPHON STAFF!

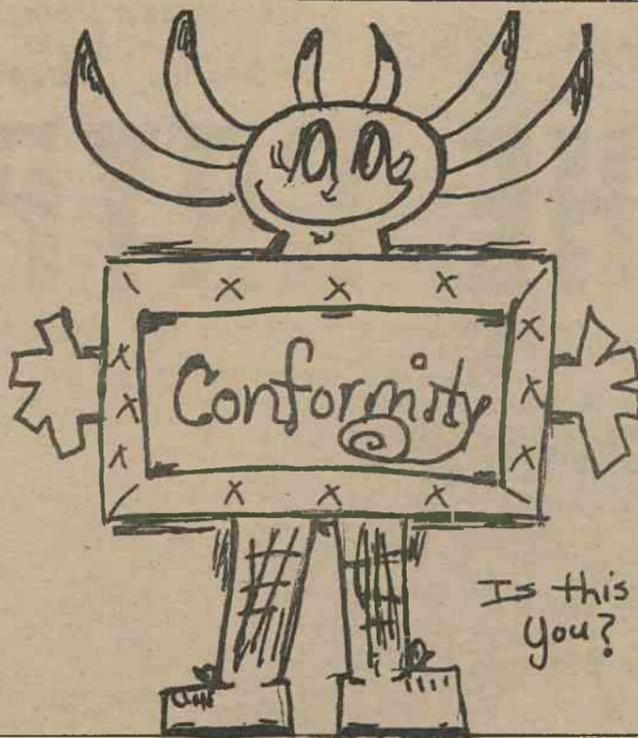


### A Learning Process

Report cards came out several weeks ago and, as usual some students made the "A" or "B" honor roll and others didn't. Maybe a few students made all A's other than one C plus. Of course this student had learned a great deal more than one on the B honor roll that had compiled all B's--but, the requirement for the honor roll is all A's or B's. So statistics go on. Class ranks are given, achievement test scores recorded--one could go on forever listing the statistics compiled every day on each student at RMSH.

But, are all of these statistics of value or are we placing too much emphasis upon whether or not Joe makes 63 or 94 on a math test? A person cannot be accurately judged for value according to his test grades alone. A total evaluation of a student's abilities, use of abilities, common sense and personality giving a well-rounded report is possibly a more sensible approach to the grading system. It may be that the old A, B, C, D, E grading system is just worn out. To some students, making an A is the goal. As a few teachers have emphasized, it's not the final grade that counts, but the amount of knowledge learned and the applicability of this knowledge that comes first in education.

To relieve the pressures upon students and teachers and to place more value on the actual learning process, maybe a change in our grading system to a pass-fail system is necessary. Anyway if not this type system, a re-evaluation of our grading system by the administration could be the first step. It just might be that someone wants to hear again, "Hey, guess what I LEARNED in school today?!"



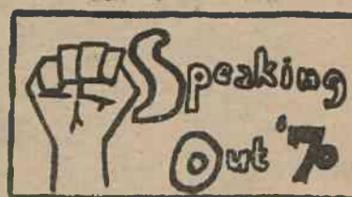
### Progress In Action

The lunch room stinks. People ought to be able to eat lunch away from school without their parents. Senior privileges are being ignored. The student body is apathetic. Some teachers can't teach well.

If you have a complaint, voice your opinion. Every two weeks, the SRA meets. There is homeroom representatives are able to voice or relay a point they would like discussed. The Human Relations Committee operates a complaint department. All one has to do to get a complaint out in the open is to fill out a complaint blank found in the Guidance Office and turn it back in then attend the monthly meeting where the complaints are brought before the committee. Another means of getting a problem out in the open is through letters to the Editor of this newspaper. Many people read the letters and it is a way to get some support. A final approach, which is used many times as a last resort by most students, is to talk to a member of the Administration. An appointment can usually be made with one of the principals with very little difficulty and the Guidance Office is open all day... just walk in (with corridor pass, that is.)

Progress begins with individual action. Problems can only be solved if they are known to be problems. Individual action for progress has to start somewhere--why not with you?

No peeping, SOIHS!



Dear Editor,

This world is filthy! This country is filthy! This state is filthy! This city is filthy! This school is filthy!

When is it going to affect us? When are we going to realize that it is affecting--when we need a shovel to tunnel to the mailbox--when the water is so thick with scum that we can walk across it--when we go to the river get our cars filled up with oil--when we have a gas mask to match every outfit in our wardrobes?

It doesn't have to be this way. It's up to us to change it. Something needs to be done.

The Publicity Committee of the Ecology Club

To the Editor:

In my opinion, the most uncalled for rule of all is the one which restricts where a student can, and cannot, eat lunch. As it now stands, we (the students) have three choices of where to eat lunch: (1) at school, (2) at home, or (3) at a restaurant--if accompanied by a parent. As you can see, this rule makes it illegal for a student to go to a restaurant for lunch if he is not accompanied by a parent. This rule seems a bit unreasonable. The school could lift the previously mentioned restriction and, at the same time, release itself from all responsibility for the student while he is away from school for lunch by issuing a parental permission permit for the parents of the student to sign.

The other rule which seems highly unreasonable is the smoking rule. We are now entering winter and, for the second year, people who smoke during lunch are expected to do so outside in the cold and rain or snow. Why, instead, can't an area be blocked off in the Student Commons for smoking purposes?

Because of the presence of these overly restrictive and, I feel, trivial regulations, RMSH assumes the air of a penal institution. Of course, this is not the first protest against these rules, but I feel that persistent complaint will hopefully result in eventual change.

Very respectfully,  
Bill Young

## THE GRYPHON

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