

GRYPHON EDITORIALS

The Opportunity

1973 - a year which is now history. A year full of parties, tests, fun, and worries. A year not to be forgotten but to be remembered and used as a basis for a new beginning for a new year - 1974.

1974 will offer many opportunities for everyone. But to take advantage of these opportunities one needs to plan - plan for today, tomorrow, and next year. One needs to examine himself and decide his goals, his morals, and most important, his capabilities.

For many, 1974 will mean graduation. One more semester to go and it will be all over. But these upcoming graduates need to remember it is not over yet and these last four months can be very important to them. One's high school years can be cherished memories and should not be tarnished by some foolish act.

For graduates of future years, this new year offers them a chance to better prepare themselves for graduation and their future. With mid-term exams over, one may begin with a fresh, new start to make this new year the best yet.

The past cannot be changed. What lies ahead is what is most important. A new year is a perfect beginning for improvement. With a new set of New Year's Resolutions, one has a chance to make 1974 the best year yet. It sure is worth a try, isn't it?

Voting Pays Off

A couple of months ago RMSH received a very important honor. In fact, it was the highest honor in the state a school could be given - The Louise Hunter Award. RMSH received this honor because we have the best student council in North Carolina.

RMSH students worked hard for this honor. A tremendous amount of school spirit, school activity, and school unity enabled us to be labeled No. 1.

As students of a No. 1 school, RMSH students are supposed to be the best. It is up to them to uphold the dignity of this honor. Recently they didn't uphold the dignity of the honor as they should have.

Students did not show the amount of interest in class elections that should have been shown. Numerous students were either too busy or too lazy to go vote. This may be noticed by the percentages of students who voted in the first election - 52 percent, 38 percent, and 31 percent. The runoff percentages were even worse - 39 percent, 30 percent, and 25 percent.

The above figures are a bad indication of interest in our school's government. It is a duty of each student to vote. If apathy is this bad in school elections, imagine how bad it could be when today's students become the leaders of tomorrow's society. Civic elections are often bad today and if students do not develop the interest in government now they will become worse in the future.

Our forefathers fought long and hard so that we would have a freedom of choice in our government and a chance to vote for what we believe in. We must guard and use this privilege.

RMSH students will become the leaders of tomorrow. Who knows, maybe even yourself? All leaders need support so why not start giving them your attention and interest now, while they are young. It can pay off!

State of the Organization

By: Bill Roebuck, President

It has been said that there are three kinds of people in the world; the Will's, the Won'ts, and the Can'ts. The first accomplish everything. The Second oppose everything. The Third fail in everything.

Looking back on the work accomplished during the first semester of this school year, I sincerely hope that members of our Student Organization can be classified with the first of the above groups - those with the wills and desires to accomplish everything! As your president I have worked closely with the President's Cabinet and the SRA.

The cabinet is composed of your other three S. O. officers; Jeff Collins, Paula Murrill, and Shirley Bulluck, and also eleven appointed committee chairmen. These people worked very hard, both collectively and individually. Before school ever started we met and set some goals for the upcoming year.

Basically, the three goals were as follows:

1. Vitalize the S. O. committees to perform their duties and involve as many people as possible in their activities.

2. Vitalize the SRA and give the students a voice in the administrative policies of the school.

3. Seek to gain respect for the Student Organization and the work it accomplishes for students, teachers, and administration.

Each of you, as members of our Student Organization can judge for yourselves whether or not we have accomplished these goals after the evidence is examined.

The committees of the S. O. were very active first semester. One of the busiest and more familiar committees was the School Spirit Committee. Patricia Edwards, as chairman, had an article published in the school

newspaper about the origin of the Gryphon. Thank-yougrams were sent to many students for varied outstanding achievements. Homecoming football activities included a breakfast, a float in the parade, and assistance with the pep-rallies. This committee also sold season football tickets for the Sportsman's Club.

Ronnie Farmer, head of the Fire Drill Committee, planned an assembly program for Fire Prevention Week with his committee, and has held fire drills once a month.

The Student Store Committee with Renee Wilkens as chairman, was open every morning, something new this year, and besides selling regular school supplies, sold Gryphon T-shirts.

The Publications Committee, headed by Evangeline Simmons, prepared and distributed the "Gryphon" folders.

Pam Costen and her Lost and Found Committee worked to sort out lost articles and helped students recover their misplaced items.

The Publicity Committee was very busy. Tina Staton and her committee planned countless displays on the bulletin boards, constructed an outstanding float for the mini-parade, had a weekly article about RMSH activities put in the Evening Telegram, and had spots on the local radio news. This committee also drew the large exhibit used for the National Student Government Day Assembly.

The Human Relations Committee was originally set up to be a grievance committee for racial problems, student-teacher problems, and other personal-type conflicts. I encourage the students to utilize this committee when complaints arise. Grace Dortch is the chairman of this committee.

Robert Thompson and the House and Grounds Committee had a barrel of laughs picking up trash and old posters left by irresponsible students. They also cleaned out the rock garden beside the main office, and tried to get the school sign fixed.

The Social Committee, with Jamie Council as chairman, planned a Hey Day for all new students and teachers. They welcomed all the teachers the first day of school with an apple and a poem. The committee served as marshals for the visitors on College Day. Bigger, more exciting things are yet to come, with a second semester dance coming up soon.

The Elections Committee, chaired by Pat Watkins, held Sophomore registration (74 percent registered) and conducted second semester class elections.

Whew!!! What a job these chairmen have done! Have we vitalized committee work? Yes _____ No _____

The second basic goal was to vitalize the SRA. I must say here that the SRA can only be a vital tool when you use it. The SRA made ten official requests to the administration concerning such things as disciplinary procedures, honor roll changes, student basketball season tickets, and a host of others. Five requests were answered affirmatively by Mr. Newbern. Two were tabled for further investigation, and three requests were denied. The SRA could have done so much more if you the students would involve yourselves and express your opinion on school matters. Don't be opinionless nobodies! Express yourself!

After reading the article and witnessing the work done by your Student Organization do you respect the work it has done and will continue to do?

Finally, the S. O. is presently working to get a foreign exchange student for next year and also working to get a student representative on the School Board.

"Progress is unique in as much as it must have a beginning but it need never have an ending. You are either on the way or in the way! The World will not wait. We dare not look back on great yesterdays. We must look forward to great tomorrows."

Around the Campus

By Debbie Harvey

Second semester is now the thought of many RMSH students. First semester with all its exams is now over and students are now wondering about second semester and what it will have in store for them.

If RMSH organizations and clubs are as active and take as many honors as they did first semester - the 1973-74 school year will really be something! Already we have experienced the honors of a No. 1 Band, No. 1 Student Council, and a great football team. I wonder what will be next?

RMSH students sure enjoyed the long break after their exams were over. Congratulations to all those Seniors who were exempt from their exams. It sure seemed nice to get a few hours extra sleep and forget all the hustle and bustle here at school. One nice thing for RMSH students was to be able to wake up with light shining in their windows - not the pitch darkness we have experienced lately.

The SRA recently set up a new committee to work on evaluating and possibly revising our present system of giving detention slips as a means of punishment. This

committee is labeled as the Committee on Discipline Procedures. Tony Brabham is the chairman of this committee. He and his committee are investigating the methods of discipline other schools use and their effectiveness. They would welcome any ideas

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