



PHYLLIS GOFFNEY, circulation manager of *The Gryphon* and John Thorp, co-editor of the *Hi-Noc-Ar* were selected 1974-75 typical youths from Rocky Mount Senior High. (Photo by Bryant)

Mania Grips RM Students

"Clock Watchers" mania has infested Rocky Mount Senior High! Within the walls of every classroom, behind every desk in every office, ardent watchers stare at their clocks, catching each second as it ticks away.

Students at RMSH have organized a brand new club called "Clock Watchers." The club meets every Monday through Friday from 8:26 until 3:21. R. U. Bored, founder of the club said, "I'm extremely pleased with the enthusiastic response received by the whole school body."

The new club originated from a formerly established club called "Boredom Anonymous." This well-formed club prides itself in its record membership. Its last census showed that 99.75% of all students were bored in at least 5 out of 6 classes!

Although "Clock Watchers" is a brand new club, its membership has already reached astounding heights. From careful research, the club's originators have concluded that there is no student at RMSH who is not at least a part-time "Clock Watcher."

One watcher found that, "The club has introduced to me all kinds of things. For example, I have become quite precise at counting down the seconds until the bell rings." The major purpose of the club, however, is to occupy the empty thoughts and sleepy minds of disinterested high school students.

The "Clock Watchers" club seems to be very well organized. Thus far, it has only encountered one small discouraging draw-back. During the fifth hour, some disheartened students may lift their weary eyes to the clock to find that it is only 11:21 instead of 2:21. As R. U. stated, "Slow clocks make slow days which discourage enthusiastic "Clock Watchers!"

Mooring Wins

Susan Mooring, a senior at Rocky Mount Senior High, has received an Achievement Award in writing this year. This award is given by the National Council of English Teachers.

Last spring, the English teachers at Senior High selected some of their talented students to participate in competition for this award. The four students participating were Cathy Allen, Doug Henley, Phyllis Goffney, and Susan Mooring. Each had to submit three different examples of their skill: an example of their best work during the year, an impromptu theme, and a personal essay. Susan's best work was showing how William Faulkner's *Absalom Absalom* is parallel to the books of First

and Second Samuel in the Bible. Her personal essay discussed a trip she took into the mountains with her family. The impromptu theme was a theme that the students had to write in an hour. They had to write a letter to a character in a television show or to someone else.

All across the country, there were 6,200 entries. Out of these entries over 800 were winners. In North Carolina there were 21 winners. The Achievement Award in Writing is not a monetary award, but the winners' names are given to colleges and universities across the United States. These colleges and universities recommend these students for admission and for scholarships.

Susan was asked how she felt when she was picked as one of the winners of this award: "I felt flattered when I was chosen." She also added after receiving this award that she had obtained much information about colleges and universities all over the United States.

"Misery Is"

Mrs. Barbour, English teacher and counselor for the Gryphon staff, has written a new chapter for "Misery is..." titled "How to Fracture a Footbone Without Really Trying."

The indomitable Mrs. Barbour has become a familiar and pathetic sight here lately due to her cast, which is due to her accident, which is due to her search for her dog. While looking for Snoopy (the dog) shortly before the ill-fated Northern Nash Senior High football game, her foot slipped and a bone was fractured. Six days later she was back at Senior High with a cast, but this wasn't the end of the affair. During a small class disturbance, she fell, breaking the case and injuring an old arm "wound." Nevertheless, she returned several days afterward.

Despite those mishaps fate has thrown at her, Mrs. Barbour was eager to return to RMSH. The cast made an interesting conversation piece and was a monument to her dedication to our school.

Youths Selected

John Thorp and Phyllis Goffney were chosen as the Typical Youths from Rocky Mount Senior High for the 1974-75 school year. They were selected by a committee appointed by the student organization president, Nancy Davis. The committee consisted of six students and four faculty members.

The Optimist Club, which sponsors the Typical Youths, started the award to honor students who were most typical in school. Over the years, the Optimist Club has specified that the award is to honor the "typically fine" youths. The club has believed that students were only being criticized while they should have also been praised. Therefore, the Optimists decided to have a representative from each elementary and junior high school, and two from Senior High.

Phyllis Goffney, a senior, serves as circulation manager of *The Gryphon* and as a varsity cheerleader. She is a member of the President's Cabinet since she is co-chairman of the Social Committee. She belongs to the National Honor Society. During her three years at Senior High, Phyllis has served as a representative in the Student Representative Assembly, homeroom president, and co-head junior varsity cheerleader. Phyllis is also a past member of the Vingt-sur-Vingt Club, a French club for students who have made a perfect paper on any major French test. Phyllis is also a member of the T. A. C. Club and the Debutante Club, both of which are out-of-school organizations.

When asked what college she wanted to attend, Phyllis replied, "I'm undecided right now. However, I want to major in broadcast journalism." Some

of her friends said that she adores Walter Cronkite.

Phyllis named bowling as one of her hobbies. However, she spends most of her weekday afternoons practicing as a cheerleader or selling ads for *The Gryphon*.

John Thorp is also a member of the National Honor Society. This year, he is co-editor of the *Hi-noc-ar* staff, which takes up most of his time. Last year, he was active in sports.

When John was asked how he planned to further his education after high school, he answered, "I either want to go to UNC at Chapel Hill or join the Coast Guard if I can get in." If he goes to UNC, he plans to major in business administration.

As a hobby, John enjoys reading books. He is also a very good water skier. John also runs about five or six miles each night.

John and Phyllis attended a dinner, on November 14 at the YMCA. The dinner is held each year by the Optimist Club for all of the students who have been chosen as Typical Youths in Rocky Mount. When asked about their reaction to this honor, both John and Phyllis said there were happy and surprised that they had been chosen as Typical Youths.

The important thing to remember about the future is that it arrives one day at a time.

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