

GRYPHON EDITORIALS

Possible Merger Voted Down

The Rocky Mount and Nash County School Boards met in Nashville, on Nov. 12 to discuss the survey of Nash Co. schools done by the Division of School Planning of the Department of Public Instruction. This survey suggested three possible courses of action for Nash County. 1) Merger with Edgecombe, Rocky Mount, and Tarboro Systems. 2) Merger with Rocky Mount system. 3) Additional input of current expense funding for Nash County.

All of a sudden the Rocky Mount School Board was faced with a decision that would affect the education of thousands of students in Rocky Mount. Meetings followed, and a committee to study the matter was formed. A lot of pressure was put on Rocky Mount Board Members, and by no means did they take their job lightly.

At the Nov. 12 joint meeting of the two systems there was no mention of merger. The meeting was in fact to only plan and discuss courses of action that should be taken. The Rocky

Mount per-pupil expenditure is extremely higher than Nash County's and both systems are trying to resolve this problem. So, even though merger was never formally discussed, naturally there was tension in finding a solution.

Rocky Mount Board members reacted well under the pressure and on Nov. 19 voted unanimously not to consider the merger of the Rocky Mount City School System in the near future. Dr. Currin stated, "We have nothing to gain by merging." This was a very wise decision. For a while it appeared that Rocky Mount, already busting at the seams with the building of new facilities to handle the rising amount of students entering their public schools, might falter under the pressure and give in.

The decision not to consider merger, though, reassured many students and parents in Rocky Mount that their school board does have their best interest at heart.

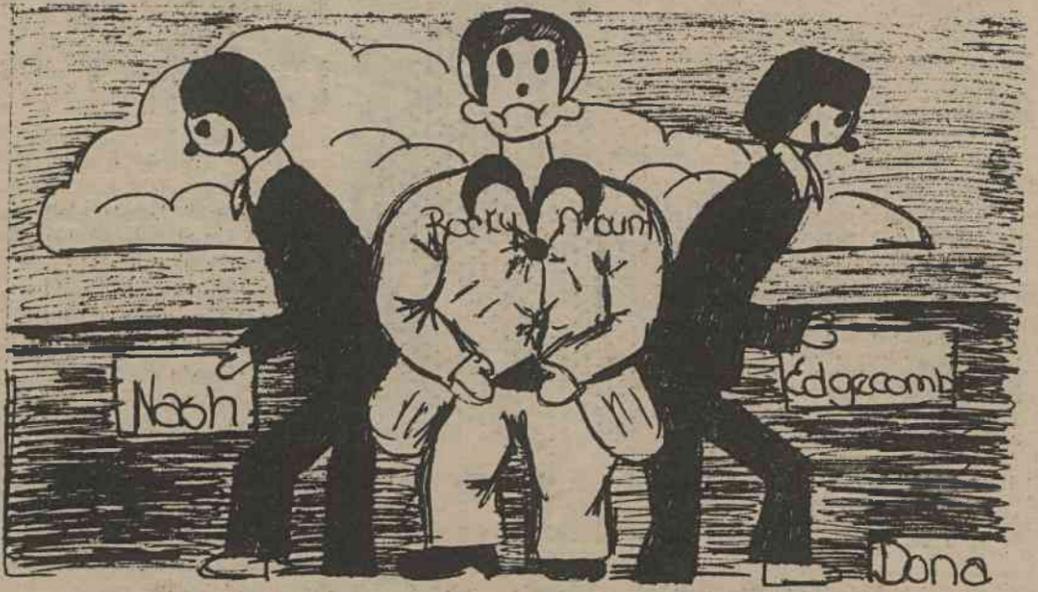
Awards Procedure Questioned

"It seems that the same people get all the awards all the time, and I'm just wondering if something can't be done about that..." And so were the words of a observant member of the SRA stated at the December 2 meeting. Quite a bit of discussion took place, and specific examples were mentioned. But in answer to the statement, yes, something can be done about that.

Mr. Newbern selects the Rotary Couple and Kiwanis Boy or Girl on a monthly basis. It is apparent that the Student Organization officers, along with class officer, and Cabinet members are chosen first. It was stated in the meeting that Mr. Newbern doesn't know the students well enough to pick them, so he picks the ones he does know. The truth of the matter is that the Civic clubs

want the students who hold positions and prestige among their peers and in their community. So, what it amounts to is that the students selected to receive honors for their positions are the same students elected by the students to hold the position. When a student votes for any officer at RMSH, he is as good as nominating him to receive one of the Civic awards.

The awards given at the end of the year more directly involve the students. The highly coveted Carol Mortimer Award is given to the senior girl selected from a list of girls nominated by the Student Body. The D.A.R. award, given to a junior girl, is based solely on the girls nominated by the Junior Class. The SRA also gives an award to a student who gives unsparingly of his time and services to the



Rocky Mount caught in the squeeze

All Conference, Only Two?

Ever since the announcement of the 1974 All-Conference team, a sometimes silent and sometimes not so silent question has run through the minds of many RMSH students... "Why only two?" Without question, the two who were chosen, Jarvis Moore and Doug Henley, were excellent choices. But why weren't there more?

To be selected for the All-Conference team, the player must be nominated by the coaches of the Conference teams. These coaches met in Greenville this year at the end of the football season and nominated those young men whom the coaches thought deserved it. The coaches went down the list of offensive and defensive positions and players were discussed and voted on. The purpose of the selection is to choose a team consisting of the best players in the conference and recognize them publicly.

Though the system appears

school, but at the same time has received no other honors.

Before a student says that he's sick and tired of seeing the same faces in the newspaper or the same pair of legs march up to receive an award at the end of the year, he should remember that he had or could have had a great deal to do with that selection.

fair enough, there are still many unanswered questions. How can a team which ended the season with a 5-5 record and tied for second place in the conference end up with only two players on the All-Conference team? How is it that players receiving All-Conference honors last year were overlooked during the selection this year? Why do teams that RMSH beat this year have twice as many All-Conference team members as RMSH does? And why are there no honorable mentions named, even though the coach alone makes this decision with no regard to vote or opinion of other conference coaches?

A lot of these questions can never be answered, but they must be raised and as many of the facts presented as possible. The first fact should be that RMSH's head football coach was not present at the All-Conference meeting in Greenville. Therefore, all nominations made for the Gryphs were made by other coaches. One can see how these coaches would select Jarvis and Doug without the presence of their coach. Jarvis and Doug, in addition to being outstanding players, received a great deal of newspaper publicity. However, those receiving All-Conference honors last year surely felt the sting of a personal let-down when left unrewarded this year.

What they possibly lacked was the support of an absent coach.

No one can honestly and sincerely say that the RMSH Gryphons had only two outstanding players on their team. The team's size was considerably smaller than their opponents', but their determination and spirit was real and seen by all teams they faced. But should and does the size difference account for the difference in the number of selected All-Conference players at RMSH and other schools. If the absence of Coach Wiggins kept boys from being on the team, could honorable mentions have been named. The coach doesn't even have to attend the meeting to choose the players; for it is done entirely by the coach himself, without the approval of the other Conference coaches. It appears ridiculous for one coach to nominate almost his entire team for honorable mention, yet it seems equally ridiculous for RMSH to have no honorable mentions.

Players Speak Out

For some, the selection of All-Conference may seem trivial and unimportant. But it would not if they only realized that RMSH's football team began practice early in August and worked almost nonstop for three months. It's important to the players, for they gave their heart and soul to Gryphon football and received less than what they considered fair reward.

Some of the players also spoke out on the matter. Marvin Dancy had this to say about the selection of the All-Conference team. "When I first found out that a lot of the team didn't make any kind of All-Conference honor, I was shocked. When I found out why, I was terribly upset."

"I wasn't so upset that I didn't make it, but because some of my teammates didn't who I thought should have," says Senior Earl Lawrence.

Split end Richard Lea told the GRYPHON, "What made me mad was that Northern Nash had ten honorable mentions and they came in last in the conference. We tied for second and had only two."

It's too late now to go back and choose more members. Whether more players would

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The Soapbox

Being President of any nation is not an easy task. Being President of the United States is even more difficult. The American press and public expect superhuman quality and action.

Gerald Ford is trying. But it seems to have become a national pastime to "get the president." At every step he takes, Ford finds press and public waiting to pounce on him like a dog attacks a bone.

It's not easy to be president. The hours are demanding, the decisions are tremendous, and the pressures are enough to upset the health of a star athlete. There are dangers, and consequently little privacy.

Tension surrounds every move the president makes. If Ford sticks to domestic problems, he finds a press

outraged by his lack of concern for foreign policy. If he travels abroad to promote better diplomatic relations, he is accused of deserting a crisis economic situation at home.

In connection with a recent effort to cut the national budget, Ford was hammered with the accusation that he was ignoring the defense budget to carve the meat away from HEW spending. What his accusers failed to realize was that Congress had already cut defense spending to the minimum before Ford ever received the budget for further cutting.

It's not easy to be president, with the tremendous lack of support a president receives. If press and public continue to demand perfection, they may go to the polls one day to find they have no candidate.

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Member of Columbia Press Association
Member of Quill and Scroll

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