

The Soapbox

# Manners Needed

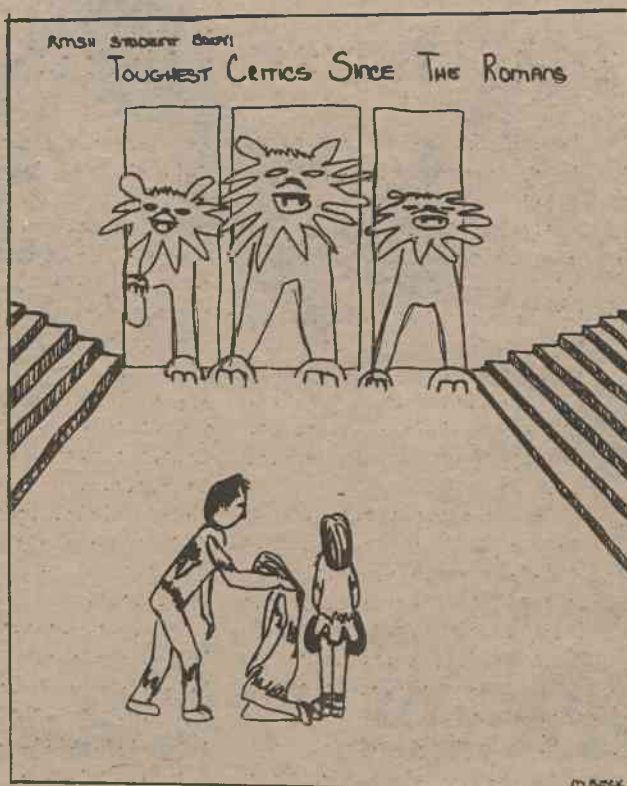
Speaking or performing in front of a disorderly, thoughtless, and just plain rude group of students is embarrassing both for the speakers or performers and the students and faculty members who do know how to act.

First let it be understood that this editorial was initiated by concerned students without any coercion from what some students may term "uncool" faculty members. Also the staff here realizes that any students who read this far into an editorial is serious-minded enough to already be aware of decorum in public affairs; however, it is our desire to upgrade assembly conduct in any way possible.

It is no problem to support the allegation that many students lack the common courtesy and respect that is necessary for any assembly. The previous National Honor Society tapping, and all before it, is a case of point. It seemed as if half the school had some unknown coughing disease. Coughing is not only the most irritating prank to pull, but it is also a terrible hindrance to the speaker and to those occasional students who, believe it or not, actually like to listen to the program. Also it is noteworthy that only juniors and seniors attended this assembly.

Students were laughing at incidents that just were not funny. We would not tell anyone how to behave with just the reason that this is the way it has to be. We would however, ask someone to behave out of simple, common courtesy.

Granted there have been a few, a very few, instances



where the student body conducted themselves in a manner becoming this school. It's time those instances were more frequent. If students get in the mood where they feel disruptive, they should think of the people in the program. They're on the stage, not the students. Give them a chance.

# Tenure: Is It Helpful Or Harmful?

A teacher must be given timely notice that his dismissal is contemplated, he must be given a specific statement of charges which are being made against him; he must be afforded the right to a fair hearing. Such are the requirements for dismissing a teacher who has obtained tenure status. Tenure, in relation to teaching, is awarded to a teacher after three years of respectable service and insures the teacher of a teaching position (if one is available) despite his political beliefs, age, etc.

Tenure, in theory, appears to be very fair and just law passed to protect teachers from discrimination. In practice, it serves this purpose very well; however, it has one basic weak point. The rigidity of requirements for teachers dismissal is so extreme that those persons who are not

energetically working at or capable of holding their teaching positions are not usually dismissed. The process is so complicated and tedious that it is rarely utilized. The existence of even a few poor teachers is ridiculous as competition in the teaching field is certainly stiff.

Even though tenure has accomplished what it set out to do, it has proven to be a dismal failure as it serves to over protect some persons. Again its foible lies in the cumbersome process of teacher dismissal. These requirements should be altered so that it is more possible to check incompetency in our educational institutions. It is ironic that tenure which was originally established to safeguard fairness in reality, stifles it.

# EDITOR'S ECHO

By Terri Gardner

The Twin County Student Committee held its first meeting Monday evening, Dec. 1. The committee was formed as a direct result of the recent Human Relations Workshop held at Wesleyan College; it

involves West Edgecombe, Rocky Mount Academy, Northern Nash, and Rocky Mount Senior High Schools. The purpose of the committee as outlined when set up at the workshop is to bring the four schools together to solve common problems.

At the present the committee is made up of two student representatives, the student assembly president, the principal, and one teacher from each school.

If the committee survives the initial planning and organization necessary to smooth functioning, it could prove itself to be invaluable. Schools have long exchanged ideas in other areas; by their working together on problem situations the benefits could be even more extensive. Objective outside consideration adds new insights which may otherwise have escaped attention. There is also the added dividend of knowing that one's problems are shared by others.

Another point in the committee's credit is the fact that students are playing a major role in determining the committee's ground rules. As of December 11, the student members hope to have decided on a means of selecting the student members in the future.

The idea is a marvelous one; the efforts being made are tremendous. Let us hope the results will be equally successful.

**THE GRYPHON**  
 Rocky Mount Senior High School  
 308 South Tillery Street  
 Rocky Mount, N. C. 27801  
 Member of Columbia Press Association  
 Member of Quill and Scroll

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

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The 1976 Presidential election is shaping up as a melange of candidates, many of whom are virtually unknown except in their home states. The following are those candidates who have at this time declared their intention to run.

**Republican**

Gerald Ford as the incumbent president, even though not elected to that position, has a natural edge over the rest of the field. With the removal of present Vice-President Nelson Rockefeller from the 1976 vice-presidential slot, Ford may gain back some of the right-wing support he had lost to his major opponent for the GOP nomination, former California Governor Ronald Reagan. Reagan, strong in conservative support, had not as of this writing formally announced his candidacy. Even so, campaign tactics are being discussed; the plan is for Reagan to take the early primaries, to get quietly delegates in non-primary states, and to win big in California.

**Democratic**

The Democrats have no leading man as of yet; the result is a mass of favorite sons who

are squabbling over a possible "dark horse" nomination. Senator Edward Kennedy has firmly denied all rumors that '76 is his year; brother-in-law Sargent Shriver has stepped in as the family's replacement. George Wallace is still racing, but a rash of former politicians from the South, like former governors Terry Sanford of North Carolina and Jimmy Carter of Florida, may cost him Southern votes. Adlai Stevenson III of Illinois, a strong advocate of aid to New York City, is being pushed by Chicago's Mayor Richard Daley to enter the race. Senator Birch Evans Bayh, Jr. of Indiana, author of three constitutional amendments, Fred Harris, Senator Morris Udall, Senator Hubert Humphrey, Senator Henry "Scoop" Jackson, and Senator Edmund Muskie all have a foot in the mud.

The race is wide open on all fronts. Regardless of who captures the Democratic nomination, Ford will have his competition. It will be a first for the political record keepers, a test of just how well the American people trust an appointed president.