



THE GRYPHON

"The purpose of the Gryphon is to examine events in the school, the community and the world which affect the lives of the students of RMSH. It is the Gryphon's aim to stimulate awareness of issues, to promote a better understanding of others, and to bring about positive action where change is needed.



A Case Of Abuse

Crouched over the seemingly endless floor, arm flapping like a piston, the rusted putty knife flashed as the janitor scraped. The smooth movement over the floor until the blade met the crusty resistance of dried gum hummed in the otherwise quiet hall.

There were other things to do, things more important than the scrape-bump monotony of his present task, things far less demeaning. A load of books might need moving, if floors were not swept teachers would be complaining, trash cans would be overflowing, and the students would be raging about the lack of toilet tissue in the restrooms. It was a waste of time, a waste of money, a waste of manpower.

But he stayed bent over, scraping, scraping until all traces of the gum were gone. Slowly he rose, placing his hand against the tightness in his back, and shuffled on to other jobs.

A minute later the bell clanged, releasing a cacophony of sounds and students, and highlighted by the dull plod of a student's unwanted gum on the floor.

Parking Lot Not Safe For Parking

In 1976 people seem to like the old battered look instead of the new look in the things they buy. Brand new tennis shoes aren't considered any good until they've been worn and gotten dirty and torn. A pair of blue jeans isn't satisfactory until they're old and faded. Simple washing and wearing will qualify shoes and jeans, but for a car, just drive to school and park in Senior High's parking lot.

Unlike aging tennis shoes the battered look in cars can be a quick procedure; one day will do the job. By the end of school or better yet after second lunch, you will discover numerous scrapes and scratches on your car doors and bumpers. If you choose to drive on an exceptionally lucky day, you may even receive a dented fender. All damages done to your car probably will not be the result of careless driving or the senseless act of opening car doors into motionless vehicles. Instead many scratches and dents may be the result of the negligent tossing of bottles and drink cans which quite often do not land in the trash cans. Instead these flying articles meet their destination on top of another student's car, resulting in unnecessary damage.

After a day in the parking lot, if your car's new appearance pleases you, you need only to thank your careless fellow students.



Demeaning, Needless Labor

The Soapbox

Gag Orders Need Revision

A recent mass murder in Nebraska has called national attention to the increasing use of gag orders on the press by judges trying criminal cases.

The reason for gag orders seems to be that a suspect's right to a trial untainted by prejudicial publicity supersedes the freedom of the press. Constitutional experts point out that gag orders often create more problems than they solve. Gossip and misinformation can just as easily create a

pre-judicial threat to defendants as news accounts can. Gags can impede or compromise the public's access to information it has a right to have. Gag laws could cut into the press's function as watchdog of the judicial system.

Representatives of the media have asked the Supreme Court to bar lower courts from imposing such orders. The court will hopefully break its recent streak of anti-civil liberties decisions with this one.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor:

I am writing this to comment on what was said in the editorial of the last issue of our school newspaper referring to Chocolate Funk.

Chocolate Funk is a young Black group that has made a name for itself through music. They are a group of people who are very intelligent and relate their music to their people. They were asked to play at our Twirp Dance, and they did a marvelous job, even though they didn't get off like they usually do. Chocolate Funk could be called professionals, and they're not going to change their style because of the white people at RMSH.

It was stated in the editorial that the white kids couldn't understand the music. I've understood it, just like back in slavery days, the black man used to sing all the time. All the songs had a message his people understood. The white man just said "those niggers are really singing." He didn't have sense enough to know what was going on. That's the way soul music is today. Black people can relate and understand the music. White people, you don't jam by understanding the music, but by moving with the beat. You say you couldn't understand, Chocolate Funk. You don't understand your own music, jumping up and down, bumping off the beat. White people let me school you. Before you can cut down any black bands you've got to learn to dance!

Last year there was a white band at the Twirp. I know because I was there, and we Black kids jammed to

their tired music, but did we cut your white band down? Not at all, but just as soon as we have something we like, you stick out your lips and turn red in the face. If we can control ourselves you all should learn also.

This band that will play at the Prom, "Fudge Ripple" sounds like ice-cream with wine poured over it, but we Black people will be at the Prom, and we're gonna have a good time. We don't care who the band is. We can get out in the parking lot and beat the trash cans and jam all night long.

Just because some of you say you don't like something, it's supposed to change everything, right? Well guess again, it might seem to be as if we don't know what's happening at RMSH, but we are well aware of the happenings.

I know I've stepped on a lot of toes and a lot of people, but so did the person that wrote the editorial. To those who are innocent, this does not relate to you. But you others, you took our school and sent us over here. Well we're here, and we're not going anywhere. So, slide over white people. We're here to stay.

--William Jones
H.R. 216
12th grade

Dear Editor,

Your article on "Chocolate Funk" was terrible. Not because you criticized them, but you did it in the wrong way. You might be able to get a criticism course somewhere, and if

(Continued on page three)

Compromise Called For

It can be done. A group of county school students took a complaint about exam policy to their school board and were rewarded with the establishment of a committee containing students to re-examine the policy.

However, while those students were granted a study committee, the students who were selected by the administration to serve on it were unwilling to compromise. One made the unreasonable demand that all students or no students be eligible for exemption. This adamant stand defeated the students' original purpose.

Attention can be drawn to a cause. The teachers lobbying in Raleigh for a 16% pay hike have attracted statewide news coverage. But it is doubtful whether or not they have attracted statewide support. Perhaps they could learn from the experience of the students mentioned above.

It is the feeling of this writer that the state's teachers are being unreasonable in their request for a 16% pay hike during a time of deficit spending. Granted, the 4% increase which was offered is poor compromise; but teachers must be willing to bargain, too.

Cut 'em Slack

By Boon McGee

Apparently, to the business world the segment of our population consisting of handicapped persons is not a large enough factor consumer-wise to demand changes in the architectural structure of most shops.

Without close scrutiny one can readily see physical barriers to stores down our own Main Street as well as in the colossal shopping malls of our capital city. One can also detect the half-hearted attempts made at disguising them. Glass doorways beckoning to the average to large size person are a boon to the appearance of department store but to the wheelchair victim they are too heavy and cumbersome to open and even harder to squeeze the width of a rolling chair through.

Once through these doors there is a maze of obstacles from which to choose. There are more narrow doorways (into dressing rooms), steep flights of stairs, and let's not forget the tear-rendering escalators which harbor the wheelchair consumer of the first floor.

In some stores there are the drafty and dirty freight elevators that enable the handicapped individual to have some liberty in shopping. Why should any customer, regardless of physique be discriminated against in this degrading manner.

Oh yes, one must not forget how this special customer got to the shopping area! It most (Continued on page three)

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

Editor-in-Chief
Managing Editor
Advertising Manager
Business and
Circulation Manager
Senior Staff Writers



Terri Gardner
Teresa Mosley
Biff White

Junior Staff Writers

Boon McGee
Virginia Culpepper
Corbi Bulluck, Thomasina Pollard
Margaret Beck, Trey Bulluck
Wimberly Burton, Billy Carroll, Debbie Denson
Arlene Harper, Allen Hayes, Jackie Fulcher
Cathy Kilpatrick, Debbie Mosley, Donna Odom
Jackie Wilde, Sandy Wilgus, Fleet Woodley
Andy Bryant, Kevin Maurer

Photography Staff

Corbi Bulluck, Sandy Wilgus
Trey Bulluck Fleet Woodley, Billy Carroll

Advisor

Mrs. Henrietta Barbour

Principal

Mr. Elton Newbern

Assistant Principals

Mr. Robert Miller
Mr. Charles Davis