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you can, I advise you to do so (immediately). That article was the worst this year. I don't think your opinion was from a neutral view point.

"Chocolate Funk" didn't ask to play; they were asked by the school. I think that there was a better way of criticizing. Do you have to recognize music to dance to it? No, because if the music is good and you feel like dancing, dance, and don't think about the color of the band. If you wish to continue to be an editor, I would suggest that you be more neutral. Your picture of "Chocolate Funk" was a disgrace. You have never seen afros look like that. To sum it up, you need a course in criticism and art.

Thank you,
Joseph Stanley William
P.S. Smile and be happy.

Dear Editor,

I am writing about your opinion of the band which is a very bad one. But of course everyone has a right to his or her own opinion. But to think that such filth such as that about the band would be seen in the *Gryphon* is what gets me. In my own opinion, I think the band was pretty good, but the way you express it emphasizes the whites. You act as if the whites' opinion was so superior. I also think who ever articulated such filth about a band such as that particular band is very ignorant. If they didn't like the band they should have stayed home and watched television or something. And as of right now, the whole *Gryphon* staff should be ashamed for letting such a bad choice of words be printed in the *Gryphon*. I also don't think Chocolate Funk asked to come back to RMSH. I don't think they need your support, because they have ours. I hope your band on prom night will be better, if not, I will be looking forward to your next Editorial, because this one stinks!
--David Parker

Dear Editor,

Many seniors, those who had a part in planning the 1975 Junior-Senior, were upset by the article that appeared in "The Editor's Echo" in the April 8 edition of the *Gryphon*. I am sure the article was an attempt to commend this year's Junior-Senior Committees, but it more effectively criticized last year's committees.

Granted, the planning of last year's prom was not as smooth as

Letters to the Editor

the junior class would have liked. However, much hard work and lots of worry went into the selection of the band. Neither group of students on the band committee, meaning the blacks and the whites, was willing to compromise. In the end, through using somewhat unorthodox tactics, the group of students supporting the selection of Chocolate Funk won the tug-of-war. (And I might add that at the final voting meeting, many students showed up to vote for Chocolate Funk who had not attended the original meetings).

There was much discord on the committee, but it is unfair to characterize the entire planning of the Junior-Senior as "slipshod" and "high-handed." They gym was decorated beautifully, and in spite of the sorry band, the prom was a success.

Those who organized and attended the other Junior-Senior also enjoyed themselves. It was their perfect right to have their own prom if they were not satisfied with the school's. After all, the Junior-Senior is for the students.

I also commend the Class of 1977 for their efforts. I only hope the prom goes over better than your editorial did.

--Pam Dickerson

To the Editor:

As a concerned reader of the *Gryphon*, I would like to know how you came about the idea that Chocolate Funk was not liked by the people who attended the Twirp Dance. I feel that you criticized the band in the wrong way. You made fun of the band by using that cartoon. I don't recall a poll being taken about the performance of the band. I liked Chocolate Funk, and I feel that you can dance to any kind of music regardless of the type of music they play. From what I observed at the dance, the whites and blacks seemed to enjoy themselves. If your editor attended the Twirp Dance, she should criticize in private; not by using the *Gryphon*. I don't feel it was fair to say the band was not good because a lot of other people enjoyed themselves.

Thank you very much for your time. If I have offended the editor, I'm sorry; that was not my intention.

Signed:
--Debbie Bynum

To the Editor:

I read the article (which wasn't very nice) printed about Chocolate Funk. You noted that the article might endear many people, but it seems that you really didn't care about the people at RMSH or you wouldn't have printed the article. The article didn't please many people. You could have noted this to the Social Committee instead of making a headline out of it. It really did embarrass a lot of people, mainly blacks. You act as though the Social Committee was tricked into inviting Chocolate Funk, which they were not. You also said that there were rumbles, especially from the whites, as though what they say goes. But remember we have feelings too. I really think the rumbles were heard because the band was black. I really think if the band had been white great comments would have been written toward the band. Well, you said the band failed to play recognizable songs. The real reason was because the whites are not familiar with the black songs. Now how can something you're not familiar with be recognized? If there was a white band the blacks would have the same problem. You said it was often impossible to dance to. But music you never have heard before, sure it's impossible. You haven't been listening to black music. I guess it really was a problem. Remember you train yourself to the music that you are used to. The same for the blacks if we don't listen to the whites' music and train ourselves to adjust to it. Then it is impossible for us. Will you please look at the picture on page 11 and see if it looks so impossible to you. If you look closely at the faces, it looks like they are really having a good time. You could have at least thanked the band for coming; but you didn't say one kind word about them. I really think we should thank the band for coming, not only the Chocolate Funk, but any other band that comes for Senior High because they really can play at clubs and will receive better pay. There may come a time when we really need a band, and they all may be tied up except Chocolate Funk. With such articles as these, I don't think that they will ever come back, and I don't blame them. Think about the way that they would feel if they read the article. My honest opinion is to get a band



something like the Army band that played familiar white songs and familiar black songs. That way everybody would be happy. And the problem towards a band would be solved.

--Annetta Parker

Dear Editor:

I was greatly disturbed by the elections committee's bulletin on leadership qualities and the "common" person. The "4 I's," intelligence, etc. I agree with fully, but the bulletin's cruel reference to common people was unwarranted. I have composed my own "4 I's" for those who instigated the bulletin and those who agree with it.

1. Idiocy — only a complete idiot would let such a thing be printed. Have they become so wrapped up in their superiority complexes that they cannot see how degrading the article really was? We do need good leaders, but who is it to say what type of people possess leadership qualities? The uncommon people mentioned in the article were Washington, Franklin, and Jefferson. These were great men, but only because their self-interest did not cloud out the needs of their fellow man. There are not great leaders today because people don't have the gumption to change their views even though the "uncommon" man has. Most are egotistical, corrupt men, but they have been labeled with the "4 I's" just because they have made a name for themselves. Only an idiot would acknowledge a man possess-

Cut 'em Slack

(Continued from page two) certainly wasn't on our public bus system, for the aisles won't accommodate wheeled persons and it is even difficult for a person using a double caned walker to maneuver down the crowded bus. If the handicapped person is able to drive, he usually cannot find a parking place. Not one out of a hundred parking spaces is reserved for the handicapped. How many sidewalks provide negotiations over the curb once the handicapped person is out of his car?

So, year after year, businesses are losing valuable customers, but most of all through being inconsiderate they lose friends.

ing these qualities only because he is "uncommon."

2. Inhuman — Who would condemn people because of their way of life, tell them they are stupid and should be ashamed? The only people who can help the oppressed are those who have been oppressed and not the oppressor. The article was another crushing blow to a struggling people, trying to find their places in the world. How can a person destroy a man's dream by labeling him "uncommon?"

3. Indiscreet — The people behind the article are so overwhelmed in themselves that even their judgment was impaired to such a point that they would attack the people that feed the fires of their ego. Are they so sure of their superiority that they have their fun in torturing those not as fortunate as them?

4. Insensate — There is no reason the bulletin should have been published. School is a place to born and develop a feeling of duty towards the human race. Instead we are taught the real uncommon people are encouraged to break their ties with society and become a semi-god and those who will become the backbone of our country are harassed and put down. It is just not right.

--John Gilmore

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