



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. Student, faculty and community response is welcomed and may be sent to

the Gryphon, room 110; however, the editor reserves the right to withhold libelous or profane letters.

Student Assembly Governed By Students Or Advisors?

Who is really in charge of "Student organizations," the students or the faculty advisors? This question and similar ones have concerned a number of students and teachers for several years.

The students complain that teachers and/or advisers take over supposedly student organizations. The students strive to do things "their way" according to the wants and needs of their peers. When they attempt to do this, they feel that they are being restricted by the advisor in planning projects and procedures. Although they may want to rebel against these restrictions, they feel pressured to do things the advisor's way for fear of reprisals.

The teachers and advisors strive to maintain previously high standards, and they also want to create and maintain pride in their organizations or clubs. Occasional conflicts within the questioned groups are caused by differences in mores and moral standards. The teachers have to uphold legal standards and the objectives of the administration, the school board, and the superintendent. Therefore, in some situations the advisers are not "taking over," only trying to maintain the standards. Also, one of the biggest complaints the teachers have is that students fail to meet and uphold responsibility fully and promptly.

Solutions to the problems may center around advance planning. If students or faculty members have a new idea, they should present it in writing in detail explaining why it is workable. Then the adviser has an opportunity to consider and consult with others before the meeting and the actual discussion. After discussion is completed, there should be a written deadline schedule designating the different jobs and obligations that should be performed.

Many times the communication between students and advisors is inefficient. Perhaps this may be solved by a careful study of the organization's constitution. One of the most important things to remember is to have an understanding from both groups that the other is human and that everyone, even students and faculty, make mistakes. Finally, everyone should try to have a sense of humor. Laughter at oneself and with each other leads to better relations!

Senior Selection Questioned

Just what is it that makes for an outstanding Senior?

Nobody knows.

The selection of outstanding seniors is sponsored by the Hi-Noc-Ar staff. It works this way. Each senior casts 20 votes for the students of his choice, 10 blacks and 10 whites. This is to assure that those students chosen are considered to be "outstanding" by a large portion of the senior class. To aid in their selection the Hi-Noc-Ar staff encourages the senior class to vote only for students they would desire to represent them.

Such a method is inadequate. It has failed to define the word "outstanding" and to stipulate specific qualifications which should be fulfilled by those students being considered.

Too often students vote for persons they like rather than those who have made outstanding contributions to the school or excelled in some area.

Could a more equitable selection process be established? Could a committee of S. R. A. representatives, faculty members, coaches, and administrators nominate 20 blacks and 20 whites. These nominees, along with their qualifications, could then be listed on the ballot, and seniors could vote for ten members of each race.

Sophs Order Articles

Editor's Note: On Sophomore Invitation Day at Rocky Mount Senior High School, sophomores are sometimes required to dress to represent their age, like babies. The opinion of THE GRYPHON is expressed in the following letter.

Squirts & Squabble Baby Co.

1111 Sesame St.

New York, N. Y.

Dear Sirs:

Our school is planning a Sophomore Initiation Day on October 1. On this day, sophomores are to dress up as babies, and I, as Sophomore class president, am in charge of ordering the necessary articles.

I would like for you to send 500 daytime Pampers along with 250 baby bottles. We will need 300 tricycles to transport students to and from classes. We also need 400 bibs to keep any food spills off of us at lunch. Please send 50 Sesame Street records and 30 Electric Company records so that we can enlarge our present library.

With your prompt response, I am sure that we will be able to have a successful initiation. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,
Herman Grabowski
Sophomore Class President



COMMITTEE ENCOURAGES ENTHUSIASM FOR GRYPHONS: The School Spirit Committee makes banners for car antennas. Janet Winstead, DeLaine Kea, and Jamie Landis, president, are pictured cutting, stamping, and stapling. They also plan the pep rallies and ring the victory bell at football games. [photo by B. Hutchisson]

EDITOR'S ECHO

By Billy Carroll

Recently, Director Clarence M. Kelly of the Federal Bureau of Investigation stated, "If there is an institution in our society with power that approaches unlimited power, that institution is the news media."

The American Press has achieved a level of seemingly unchallenged power which many of its critics feel will prove to be hazardous to the rights of the individual. In recent reporting concerned with Washington sex scandals, the press has implicated various Congressmen in a torrent of stories which often lacked verification. Reporting which was frequently based on speculation alone was rampant during the kidnapping of Patty Hearst and her activities following the incident.

Last winter, Daniel Schorr of the Columbia Broadcasting System, obtained a highly secretive copy of a Congressional report on U.S. Intelligence. He passed the document on to the Village Voice, a weekly New York City newspaper, for publication despite its classified nature.

Such violation of ethics is

resulting in very little court action although a congressional committee is investigating.

Power of the press is also becoming a threat to the public. Growth of T.V. networks, news magazines, and daily newspapers is resulting in a "National Press." Such daily publications as the New York Times, Washington Post, Chicago Tribune, and the Los Angeles Times wield influence which extends far beyond the areas which they directly serve. News gathered by staffs which comb the globe are distributed to hundreds of smaller papers across the nation. The result is of course a news presentation dominated by a few papers.

In June of 1976 the power of the press was further increased. The Supreme Court limited "gag" orders through which judges attempt to prevent excessive or inflammatory publicity which might hinder a defendant's right to a fair trial.

If such abuse of freedom of the press is allowed to continue, the individual and thus the public will have to face a loss of many of their rights.

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