



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.

# Jobs Show Effect

The recent GRYPHON survey on student employment revealed many interesting things. About 30% of those responding have jobs with the majority of their earnings being spent on clothes, gas, tapes and records. But beyond the facts and figures, what effect does student employment have on education?

Most of the students polled worked between 15 and 30 hours a week. This is a lot of time considering 35 hours a week is spent in school. What does the student give up to work? Where does the time spent on the job come from? Study time is the greatest victim. This is evident in the steady decline of Scholastic Aptitude Test scores.

Student jobs, because of the time they consume, are the biggest factor contributing to the drop of SAT scores. A person who is working has less time to read, study and do homework carefully. Because this valuable time is lost, reading comprehension as well as knowledge of basic verbal and mathematical fundamentals is lowered.

Grades also suffer because of student jobs. Decreased study time leaves many students ill-prepared for tests or projects. Another by-product of student employment, lack of sleep, also hampers grades. A student may work late or stay up late trying to catch up with time lost in an afternoon job. Many such students spend their days in school like zombies, or are so exhausted they fall asleep. It is obvious, how this affects grades. How can a person do well in something he hasn't learned in the first place?

Yet besides their monetary value, jobs have an educational value. Through jobs students learn to inter-relate with people, apply concepts taught in schools, and to live in the "grown-up" world. Jobs play an important role in the development of young people. However, jobs are only one phase of a student's life; they should be put in their proper place.

# Young Music Enthusiasts Recognized By Gryphon Staff

Most clubs at Rocky Mount High receive much publicity. Most of them, but not all of them. Have you ever heard of the Music Club? The Music Club is a group of students who appreciate different kinds of music, classical, folk, jazz and rock.

Two years ago Alison Biggs and Babs Brown started the club and asked Mr. Larry Gupton to be their advisor. Later, when Mr. Al Baldwin came to Rocky Mount, he became their co-sponsor. Alison Biggs said, "Our major aim is to make the students at Senior High aware of the many different kinds of music and to inform them of local musical opportunities." She also mentioned that they stressed behavior at musical events noting that some people talk too much.

The music club enjoys going to many concerts. They've heard violinist Eugene Fodor perform with the N. C. Symphony several times in the last few years. Last year, along with ushering for "The Messiah," performed by the Senior High Concert Band, and The Bicentennial Program, they went to hear Joni Mitchell in concert.

They plan for an even busier and better program. They plan to attend the Maynard Ferguson concert, and a concert featuring folk singer Judy Collins. They also intend to have guest artists perform at meetings. Their two biggest projects for this year are a planned trip to New York and a craft fair, both in the spring. The craft fair will be a fund-raising event for the trip.

The Music Club at Senior High has long been overlooked! During the two years it has functioned it has never had a place in the publications with the other clubs. The GRYPHON feels the time has come to give them the recognition they deserve and will in the future promote their activities.

# Males Turn To Cheers

Attention Girls! Now you have a good reason for attending football and basketball games. Have you ever had to suffer at a game while your date hungrily stared at the cheerleader of his choice? Now you can join in this popular pastime yourself.

No, you don't have to stare at the girl cheerleaders. Now, two boys are on the varsity cheerleading squad. Kenny Edgerton and Alton Edwards are the two cheerleaders with the long pants and the low voices you've been hearing at the Pep Rallies. They help the girls do stunts and cheers. Although you girls don't have as big a selection as the guys do, you can now, for the first time in years, idolize a male cheerleader.

You've always heard about the macho-captain of the football team type going with the feminine-head cheerleader type. Now the captain of the girls basketball team can go out with a cheerleader.

These two guys perform their duties faithfully. Instead of waving pom poms, they yell through megaphones to urge the crowds into a frenzy in support of the Gryphons. But most important of all, when the game gets dull, and the cheerleaders become the main center of attraction, the girls can now join in the fun, too.



STUDENTS IN THE MUSIC CLUB: Shown here are the members of the Music Club before a meeting. It is not one of the better known clubs at our school. [Photo by Bulluck]

# EDITOR'S ECHO

By Billy Carroll

The question of capital punishment has been passionately debated by the American people for many years. In June of 1972 the United States Supreme Court abolished the death penalty as it was then imposed under present statutes. The nation's courts concluded that a constitutional ban on all executions was implied. However, in March, 1976 the Supreme Court expanded its 1972 decision to sanction specific laws with mandatory death sentences for certain crimes. Since then confusion and controversy have arisen as to what state laws on capital punishment are constitutional.

I shall attempt here only to clarify the two basic arguments which are derived from legal and philosophical thinking. It is the opinion of the practical faction that capital punishment is a necessary deterrent accessible to the convicted is not enough to prevent the crime. A recent article in the American

Economic Review claimed that, "an additional execution per year may have resulted on the average in seven or eight fewer murders." Many feel that if capital punishment was to be virtually invalidated, human life would be cheapened. Since the crime that takes a life is irrevocable, so must be the punishment.

Those taking a more humanitarian view of the issue denounce the right of any man to put to death another by legal methods which are imperfect. Some argue that only God has the right over life and death, that human life is too valuable.

Perhaps the arguments are only of objective and subjective natures. Louis B. Schwartz, Professor of law at the University of Pennsylvania stated, "If you take a poll, you find people overwhelmingly in favor of the death penalty. But when you ask a person to sit on a jury and vote to execute a defendant, you find a great reluctance."

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

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