



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.

# Increases Needed In Supplements

"All . . . are equal but some are more equal than others." This statement from Orwell's "Animal Farm" aptly describes the supplement system in Rocky Mount.

Additional money to the local annual supplement is given to some people in the school system in recognition of the extra work which they put in. However, the regular supplement and additional supplements paid may not adequately reimburse anybody since the normal teacher puts in more hours involved with schoolwork than the general public realizes.

Furthermore, if additional local supplements are to be made, then the additional supplements should be increased for a select group. The cheerleader advisor's supplement, which is \$150, should definitely be increased. This person has several responsibilities. She must plan cheers, and she must occasionally attend practice. She must also attend every away game in order to chaperone the cheerleaders.

The Department heads in Rocky Mount Schools also deserve an increase in local supplement. These people spend many hours after school coordinating department planning and materials. They must also attend meetings held out of school. These are in addition to the hours they spend grading papers turned in by their students and planning lessons.

Some teachers, having special duties, are not given an additional supplement. These teachers should be given an added supplement above that of the regular teacher. Elementary school teachers must stay in constant contact with their students. They must eat lunch with them, and frequently at the beginning and at the end of the day, they must serve bus duty.

Advisors to clubs also deserve an addition to the local supplement. These people must attend club meetings, which are held after school. They must also supervise club functions such as the mini-parade sponsored by the Service Club and attend events outside of school hours such as the breakfast near Easter sponsored by the Kudos Club.

The publication advisors also deserve an addition to the local supplement. These two people begin work on the next year's publication before school is out. This work goes on through the summer. They must also teach classes and grade papers like any other teacher does.

Let us hope that next year the proposed budget contains supplement increases and is presented to the city council in time to allow adequate discussion of the supplement problem. At least two city council members do not approve of the manner in which supplements are awarded. One city council member feels that the present supplements were slanted in favor of administrators.

# Sportsworld; A Teenager's Haven For Pleasure At Last

Sportsworld has come to provide a much needed service to Rocky Mount, a place where young people can go and enjoy themselves. It seems to be a godsend, but at first glance many questions arise about its rules and location. They seem to be disadvantages.

By using a little common sense, the rules can be looked upon differently. Sportsworld is a family recreational facility, and the rules follow from the management's desire to keep it that way.

The dress rules are not outrageous. Nobody will die if he can't wear a tank shirt or go in without shoes on, and who wants to look at someone with obscene writing on his clothes? Some of the rules are for safety's sake. Hats and sunglasses could cause trouble by hindering vision. The answer: have rules against them.

The conduct code is just good manners. If a person can't survive without smoking while he's at Sportsworld, he should stay home. Public drunkenness and profanity violate social codes anyway. Complying with these rules should be no trouble. There is a five mph speed limit in the parking lot, but who needs to "scratch off?" A child may step out from behind a car, and then it's too late. These rules are not unbearable; they are necessary to maintain order.

Perhaps an even larger problem lies in an apparent lack of safe, easy access to Sportsworld. Highway 301 is not exactly Hammond Street, and driving conditions can be extremely frustrating and dangerous. To make facilities more accessible, Sportsworld, not Rocky Mount, is building a road to connect with Highway 43 which then runs into Falls Road. This route is much calmer and safer than 301.

Sportsworld offers the young of Rocky Mount a place to go to enjoy themselves. It provides excellent facilities and asks only for cooperation. They have gone so far as to build a road to make it safer to get there and back. With all they have done to provide a recreational facility, everyone should give them a chance, even if it means leaving cigarettes and shades at home.



TEENAGERS PREPARE TO SKATE: Several teenagers rent skates at Sportsworld to enjoy its various facilities.

## EDITOR'S ECHO ECHO ECHO ECHO

By Jackie Wilde

As long as I can remember, I have been taught reading, writing, arithmetic, the three basic skills a child must master. I could accept this easily through junior high. But after my sophomore year at Senior High, I felt "learned" about addition and subtraction, "Sleepy Hollow" and punctuation, though the faculty said I didn't know my participles and theorems. I wanted something to add variety to my six hours at school.

My first choice was journalism. This course is not an ordinary class. It is an experience. Besides learning to overcome panic, working on a newspaper gave me a new concept of group work. In junior high history, classes would divide in groups and correspondingly develop a result. But, invariably someone always slumped down in his seat, refused to participate, but always received the group grade. Journalism is completely the opposite. Everyone has his own responsibilities to take care of, and if the responsibilities

aren't reached the blame doesn't go to the group, it goes to the individual.

Dramatics cannot be compared to journalism as the content of the courses is so different. But certainly a person can gain as much knowledge to maintain him in "real life" from this course as in math. Even though I'm not totally involved in dramatics I have gained very rational and complete information. I have reached the antithesis of embarrassment and awkwardness. It is very seldom that I feel silly and shy around a group. Dramatics is truly an art which is constructed by concentration, creativity and sense of self.

An added benefit of such "frosting" courses as journalism and dramatics is that I am forced to rely on material that I should have mastered in basic "reading, writing, and arithmetic." It isn't so bad to misspell or mispronounce a word in English class; however, it is disaster to print one or to make an idiot of oneself in a performance.

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