



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.

# Vigilantes Found?

This was going to be an editorial on the "evils" of the Citizens Crimewatch squad, but upon investigation, it was learned that the Crimewatch squad no longer exists.

Why attack a group with such a helpful purpose one may ask? One night a group of students from Senior High were stopped by a man who represented himself as a member of the Crimewatch squad although he showed no actual identification. He requested that the driver get out of the car and present his driver's license. After questioning the driver, the man whipped his flashlight inside the car and questioned the passengers with one insistent question, "Do you have any beer?" Each time the group answered a truthful "No." Finally the students were allowed to continue on their way as another "member of the squad" drove up. Supposedly the first man considered the student dangerous and contacted help on his CB radio. The men drove ordinary street cars, but the cars were equipped with sirens.

Feeling somewhat annoyed after hearing the story, the Gryphon staff decided to investigate the validity of such a group of "vigilantes." Some representatives of the staff questioned the former head of the now defunct Crimewatch Squad. The representatives told the official the story by the students, and he confirmed that all of the actions of the supposed officer were illegal.

Conclusion: there is a group of unlawful vigilantes patrolling the streets of Rocky Mount. No such group can be allowed to exist that dutifully infringes on the rights of high school students or any citizen as far as the matter goes.

In order to prevent such unlawful harassment each individual should know what rights he has when stopped by any law enforcement officer or any other individual. If stopped an individual is required to show his driver's license or some other ID. Unless being arrested, the individual doesn't have to answer any questions or sign anything. The officer cannot search the automobile without permission unless there is a probable cause that it may contain illegal material. An officer in full uniform does not have to show an ID card.

If everyone is aware of his rights, it will be virtually impossible for any group to harass the general public in an effective way.

## School Break Needed

After Christmas, students return to Senior High and begin to prepare for their semester exams. When these exams are over, the students get out for two days as teachers prepare semester averages.

Students return from these two days, and they begin their third nine weeks. The students face a period of 45 school days with the only vacation they receive being the weekends. During this period, many students seem to grow listless and some students' grades begin to drop a little.

Though the calendar is adopted months ahead of school opening, it is ridiculous for students to have to face this long third nine weeks each year. Next year's calendar is set, but students need not face this problem year after year.

This year's calendar has yet another problem. The problem is the very short spring break that has been allotted. This year students will receive three school days for spring break. If they must face the long third nine weeks, surely they deserve more than three days for Easter.

Spring break offers students and faculty a much needed vacation from school. Many students head for the beach when this time arrives. The number of days allotted for spring break this year is barely sufficient for either beach trips or family trips to visit relatives who live far away.

Although school did begin later this year than it did last year, many students would like to see the calendar worked so that a longer spring break can be realized. However, students do not want for school to continue into June any more than it does now. It is difficult for the school board to approve a calendar which will suit both students and teachers, however; it is not impossible. Surely both faculty and students must not face that long third nine weeks and the short spring break indefinitely.

## More Assemblies Help

The word "school" to the students at Senior High means classes and work. To learn attending classes is only to be expected but is there no other way of learning?

School assemblies can provide just as much learning for the students of Senior High as classes can. Assemblies bring students closer together and enable them to display their ideas and talents with one another. The problem here at school is that we do not have these opportunities. State requirements of being in class a certain number of hours prevent the students from being able to experience this kind of learning. Not being able to get the school together causes a lack of student participation and involvement. We wonder why there is a lack of school spirit at the ballgames and why students show a lack of interest in school activities such as the magazine campaign. Without a feeling of more unity, it is hard for many to show interest.

There should be more assemblies involving the officers of each class. If the students do not get to know their officers and what they are capable of doing, how will their class ever succeed? Debating assemblies would be helpful in choosing who would best represent the students.

In order to prepare themselves for the future, students need to be better informed about requirements for graduation and what they can look into for in the years ahead. It would be helpful to a great majority of students if there were assemblies concerning these things.



SPRING SPRINGS: Spring springs into action as is shown in this tree in bloom.

## EDITOR'S ECHO

Mrs. Doris Dupuy and Mrs. Vivian R. Anderson have earned secretarial certificates from the Professional Standards Program sponsored by the North Carolina Association of Educational Office Personnel. These dedicated secretaries have worked hard to earn these certificates of merit. They attended college courses at Edgecombe Tech along with several workshops.

Mrs. Anderson is the vice president of District II of the North Carolina Association of Educational Office Personnel as well as secretary to Mr. Elton Newbern. Mrs. Dupuy is the chapter treasurer and guidance secretary. Both women do a remarkable job in their field.

The NCAEOP is a self-improvement program for office personnel members. This year was the first year that participating members could be eligible for certificates.

Mrs. Dupuy seems to always keep the guidance office away from extreme chaos and disorder. She is willing to aid anyone without any hesitations, and she treats every student equally. She might give one an impression of a scatterbrained secretary, but Mrs. Dupuy has got everything under control.

Mrs. Anderson, a conscientious hard-working assistant to the principal doesn't take nonsense from anyone. She guards Mr. Newbern's office and handles his business like a mother protects her child. Mrs. Anderson handles all the bookkeeping for Senior High, including all the money from clubs and committees.

Both secretaries hold the school up with all the busy paper work they take care of. The trouble with all the work they do is that they never get recognition.

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

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