

THE GRYPHON

September 22, 1977

Rocky Mount Senior High School, Rocky Mount, N. C. 27801

Vol. 4, No. 1

High Enrollment Breaks Previous School Record

Senior High opened its doors on August 27 to the largest number of students to ever attend. This is due to the large number of students in each of the three classes.

Major problems could arise due to the large enrollment, but according to principal Elton Newbern there have been none as of yet and none are anticipated here in the future. The teaching staff increased slightly this year, but many of the new teachers replaced others that left at the end of last year.

The increase in teachers did not rely on the numbers of students coming to Senior High.

The attendance, which was 1607 on August 28, took an expected surge to 1655 students after Labor Day weekend, because students were coming back from vacation and new students were transferring into the school. At the present time there are 586 Sophomores, 603 Juniors, and 466 Seniors. The enrollment will decrease later in the year due to students dropping out of school for various reasons.



President's Cabinet Expects Very Busy, Organized Year

The Student Organization (known as the Student Representative Assembly last year) will consist of 14 committees for the upcoming school year.

The Finance Committee

The Finance Committee, whose chairman Bruce Hayden is also the treasurer of the organization, handles the finances of the Student Organization. The committee makes a budget from which committees will be authorized to spend money, and can invite the chairman of any other committee to help on the deliberation of any specified project.

The Assembly Committee

Stephen Phillips, the vice-president of the organization, also chairs the Assembly Committee. This committee arranges a schedule of assemblies to be held throughout the year. The Social Committee, with Janet Kitts and Jana Lucas as co-chairmen, promotes a feeling of friendship among the students and receives all visitors who come to the school.

The Traffic Committee

Chris Howell and Kevin Beairsto are the co-chairmen of the Traffic Committee. This committee supervises traffic movement through the halls.

It also registers motor vehicles so they can be parked in the parking lot.

The Elections Committee

The Elections Committee, with Clarence Wiggins and

Kaye Batts as co-chairmen, handles all school elections.

The Publications Committee

The Publications Committee directs the use of all publications received by the Student Organization. Audrey Cooper is the chairman of this committee. The Student Store Committee manages the student store and transfers the store's profits to the organization treasury. Toni La Grange is the chairman of this committee.

The Publicity Committee

Steve Ratchford and Sheri Vines co-head the Publicity Committee, which publicizes the work of the organization and maintains all general bulletin boards plus the marquee on the front lawn. The Fire Drill Committee, co-chaired by Gloria Pittman and Mark Pearsall, plans, supervises, and holds fire drills once a month. It also conducts Fire Prevention Week activities as decided on by the committee.

Lost and Found Committee

The Lost and Found Committee takes charge of all lost articles and attempts to return them to their owners. If none of these articles are claimed, then they are disposed of and any profit resulting from this act would go to the Student Organization Treasury. Starletta Wiggins is the chairman.

House and Grounds Committee

The House and Grounds Committee has the duty of suggesting to the Student Organization action and work to improve the neatness and general appearance of the school. Karl Bestwick is the chairman of this committee.

School Spirit Committee

The duty of the School Spirit Committee is to help create an atmosphere of school unity, pride and dignity. The committee also helps with the activities of homecoming week and organizes and carries out the pep rallies throughout the year. Hope Reese is the chairman of this committee.

Human Relations Committee

The Human Relations Committee encourages students of different backgrounds to discuss openly common problems that all students face. Drew Peterson and Toni Williams co-chair this committee, which tries to create a climate where intergroup problems can be openly discussed and dealt with. Sessions are held often so grievances held by students can be brought into the open. The committee also tries to develop better human relations.

The American Field Service

Beth Hutchisson is the chairman of the American Field Service, which arranges the visits of foreign exchange students and holds a talent show each year.

Regina Compares Home, Rocky Mount, America

Sixteen year old, German speaking Regina Perler, this years Foreign Exchange Student from Switzerland, is living with Barbara Wujciak, a junior at Rocky Mount Senior High. She will be in the United States for a year.

Regina explained that she was interested in coming to the United States for several reasons. First of all Regina wants to become more familiar with the English language. She also said she wanted to meet American people and make many new friends. Even though Regina just arrived in this country on the 15th of August she has already gotten a good insight on American life. Regina says Switzerland and the United States are alike in many ways but at the same time very different. She explains that there is much difference between the American way of life at home compared with the Swiss. The woman of the house makes more of the food herself in Switzerland than does the American woman who depends on the grocery store.

When asked about the schools in her country Regina says that the teachers switch classes instead of the students. The Swiss schools also do not have the same classes each day. The students attend different classes everyday.



FOREIGN EXCHANGE STUDENT ARRIVES: Regina Perler, a native of Switzerland, takes a break from a busy day at Senior High with her American sister, Barbara Wujciak. [Photo by Hutchisson.]

Their sports, she adds, are much like the ones played here. Among the most popular are soccer, volleyball, basketball, and of course the most famous one, skiing.

If one should happen to ask Regina what she enjoys doing here in the United States one will most likely get an answer of "I like to eat peanut butter."

Three Semifinalists Selected

Tim Browning, David Goff, and Toni Strickland have been chosen semifinalists in the 1978 National Merit Award Scholarship Program.

Semifinalists are named from over 1 million students enrolled in 17,500 high schools who entered the 1978 Merit Program by taking the 1976 Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT). Semifinalists are the highest scoring students in each state; the number named

in the state is proportional to that state's percentage of the nation's total graduating senior class. The semifinalists, most of whom will complete high school and enter college in 1978, represent the top half of one per cent of the nation's most academically talented young people.

Approximately 15,000 students have been named semifinalists in the twenty-third annual National Merit Scholarship Program. These academically

talented students will have an opportunity to continue in the competition for about 3,900 Merit Scholarships to be awarded in the spring of 1978.

Tim remarked about the honor, "I was excited when I heard I was chosen as a semifinalist. I hope I'm good enough to become a winner."

David said, "I was happy when I heard I was selected a semifinalist. I hope to continue in the competition."

Toni states, "I'm glad to have a chance and I'm very excited."



SEMIFINALISTS CHOSEN—National Merit Award semifinalists from Senior High are Toni Strickland, Tim Browning, and David Goff. Seated is Senior consultant Mr. William Hutchisson. [Photo by Hutchisson.]