

The Gryphon will inform its readers of matters of school, community, and world interest and concern. All departments, activities, personalities, and organizations will be given full coverage in proportion to their interest and relative importance to the entire school.

The Gryphon will be student expression. However while exercising freedom of the press, The Gryphon will also assume the responsibilities of an ethical newspaper.

Letters from students, faculty, and other citizens are welcomed and may be sent to The Gryphon, room 110. However, the editor reserves the right to withhold libellous or profane material from publication.

# Tennis Requires Better Conditions

The four new tennis courts used by both the girls' and boys' tennis teams from Senior High have several problems.

These slanted courts were built to meet the ever increasing demand for tennis facilities from the general public as well as the high school. During the 1976-77 school year, the boys' tennis team moved to these courts so that Northern Nash could use those at Sunset Park.

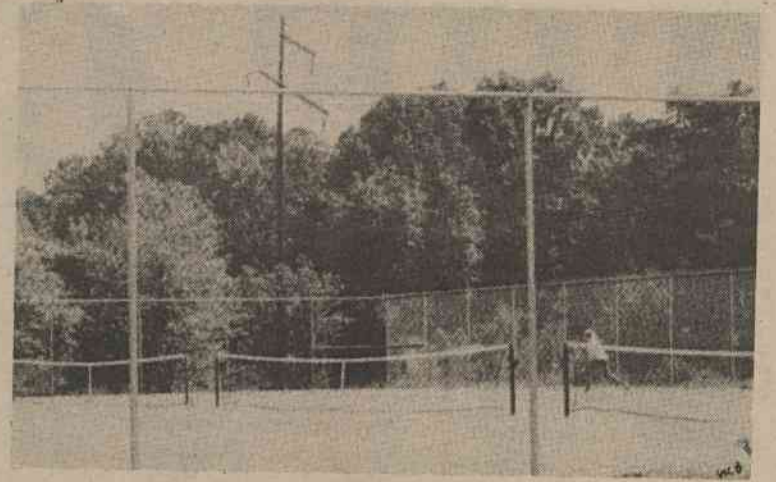
One of the biggest problems these new courts have is their positioning. These courts lie in an east-west position which causes the sun to be directly in one of the player's eyes almost all of the time. The sun makes the ball difficult to see, and could be an important factor in a crucial match.

A second problem with the courts is the number. A match requires that there be six single matches and three double matches. Thus four players compete at Sunset Park so the doubles may be played before darkness ensues.

Also, there is no backboard at the new courts. A backboard would allow players to practice their strokes during a workout. Some people take skateboards out on the courts, and the use of the skateboards causes rough spots which make the ball take funny bounces. These funny bounces can cause a player to lose a point.

The general public may only use these courts in daylight because there are no lights which would permit night play.

Little or nothing can be done to solve the problem concerning the positioning of the courts. However, if the city builds two more courts, surely they could lie north-south. If the two courts were added, a backboard would not be hard to install. A sign with a stiff warning to skateboarders should be placed at the new courts. Though these courts have problems, they are not the worst in the world and Senior High may have to use them for years to come.



COURTS HAVE PROBLEMS: The direction of the courts at Senior High causes the sun to shine directly in the eyes of tennis players and the slant causes the balls to bounce oddly. [Photo by Hutchisson.]

## Editor's Echo

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By KEITH KING

As some of the more consistent readers may have noticed, The Gryphon has a new look. This year's staff has been revised and the frequency of issues has been increased.

The staff has been organized in a more detailed fashion over that of last year's staff. This hopefully will instill a greater sense of responsibility and importance in each staff member. This improvement will result in a better overall publication.

The number of issues has been increased from nine, as published last year, to fourteen this year. It is our hope that this change will make our news fresher and more enjoyable to our readers. We have also extended our news source coverage to every teacher instead of just department heads. Future plans include extension to homeroom coverage. Each student is welcomed to inform The Gryphon staff of any event that the student thinks news worthy.

After all, the only way for us

to find out what you're doing is for you to tell us. Letters to the editor are welcomed and encouraged; however, all letters must comply with the standards set forth in the editorial policy printed on this page.

The Gryphon has also changed printers from last year. We now are working with the staff of the Nashville Graphic on the production of our paper. We hope that by switching from Benson, N. C. to Nashville we will be able to work with our printer closely in order to improve our product.

The staff itself has worked hard to bring you this issue of The Gryphon. The Gryphon staff members returned to school August 17th to start preparation for this school year. During school many have stayed hours after school and have spent vast amounts of time at home working on the paper.

We hope our efforts will be productive and our readers will enjoy a new interest in their school newspaper.

# Extended Lunch Period Receives Much Laudation

This year, students come back to school later from their lunch hours. No, they are not late; lunch is now a longer period.

No one should gripe because this period is longer. If it were Geometry, English, French, Chemistry or anything else that is understandable, but certainly not lunch. Students now have a few minutes more to eat and drive back to school.

When the 11:46 or 12:36 bell rings a wild rush stampedes for the cars, and if someone is slow he had better speed up or he's liable not to make it to lunch. Students are seen crowded into Bradley's, Hardee's, or even gas stations. A few head for home or the nearest relative. All is quiet until the last ten minutes of a lunch period and then everyone dashes back to school.

Even though wild rushes still exist at the beginning and end of lunch the extra minutes do help for those who need them. The smart ones return before the rush and get a little extra studying or homework in or just sit around and talk for a few minutes. Ten minutes may not sound like much but it is surprising how much can be done in that amount of time. With the extra time the tardies for lunch should be reduced this year, and so many corridor passes should not have to be written.

Mr. Elton Newbern, principal of Rocky Mount Senior High, and all the others responsible should see gratitude in their students' eyes. After all 45 minutes sounds better than 35 and it would be great to keep lunch this long.

# First Pep Rally Successful

Students displayed enthusiasm and school spirit at the first pep rally of the school year. The students reacted to the cheers and to the pep band. The school as a whole proved to be well behaved even when some students didn't know the words of the cheers. The pep band played exceptionally well for their first exhibition.

The cheerleaders performed gracefully and happily especially with such cheers as "Stomp'em," "Two Bits," "Gryphon Mumbo," and "Get Up-Get Down."

Perhaps the most striking feature of the rally was its inclusion of the Junior-Varsity Football Team and Cheerleaders as well as the Varsity Team and Cheerleaders. Hope Reese, who presided

over the rally, even mentioned the Girls Tennis Team. It was the finest effort to unite the entire school and to include all grade levels seen in memories of the seniors. However, friendly competition between the classes led to good humored expressions of each class's pride.

Hope commented on the pep rally. "As school-spirit committee chairman, I feel our first pep rally was successful. Most of the students and faculty made favorable remarks. I feel the class competition was also a success because all students united together in the end to cheer for the whole team. We hope all future pep rallies are as successful as the first one."

## THE GRYPHON

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