

Right to choose chosen, taken with grain of salt?

The scene is the same each day. The on-campus lunch eaters sit down to each lunch. Before them are trays of food, perfect in most respects. But there is something missing from the lunches and the cafeteria tables — salt!

The absence of salt from the cafeteria tables is a change that is supposed to benefit students. It does because salt is a contributing factor to high blood pressure and its removal from the cafeteria tables will reduce the students' salt intake. But this benefit does not mean as much when the students are not given the right to choose for themselves what or what not they can put into their bodies.

The students of Senior High are young adults who should be able to make the decision on whether they want to continue

with their present salt intake, lower their salt intake, or cut salt completely out of their diet. This decision is not for the school systems to make. The final decision rests entirely on the individual student. What will be the school system's next move? Will it be other deletions from lunch or school upon which the students will not have a choice?

The removal of salt from the students' diets includes faculty members or does it? The cafeteria table that is set up for the faculty is lavished with salt and other seasoning goodies. Is this the price students have to pay for being students, sitting and watching with mouth-watering envy as the faculty garnishes their food with salt.



Bomb threat unpardonable

May I have your attention please . . . May I have your attention please . . . this is a priority one.

The previous account occurs in the event of a bomb threat. A bomb threat takes place when the school receives a phone call from someone claiming that there is a bomb in the school. After answering this call, the secretary leaves the phone off the hook and on another line calls the telephone company for a trace of the call. Following this action she calls the police and fire departments. Next "priority one" (code name for bomb threat) is announced over the intercom, and the students and faculty are evacuated from the building. All of this takes place within a few minutes of the call.

When the police and firemen arrive at school they search the building. After the search

the police tells the office that it is okay to bring the students back into the school and classes continue as usual.

Meanwhile, classes have been disrupted, valuable time has been wasted, students' attention has been diverted, and money has been spent to send policemen and firemen on a false alarm, keeping them from the other places where they are needed.

Is this really necessary? Making a bomb threat is a federal offense. Causing this much disruption goes beyond childish pranks and becomes an unpardonable act.

It is unfortunate that there are still some people who find this type of activity amusing. However, couldn't we, the students, prevent such occurrences in the future by reporting any knowledge of such calls?

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THE GRYPHON will inform its readers of school, community, and world issues and concerns. 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.



Editor
Kathryn
Vaughn

Dear Readers:

Welcome to the first issue of the 1980-81 edition of *The Gryphon*.

Because of earlier financial problems, the *Gryphon* was going to begin its new season with only eight pages. The possibility of this being a great disappointment to the staff encouraged them to make an extra effort to sell more ads. Luckily, however, enough of our sponsors bought ads for this issue thus enabling us to run 12 pages as we had hoped. Yet we are still in the process of raising money to continue having a 12 page paper throughout the rest of the year.

I am proud to be on the *Gryphon* staff because I feel it is a great service to the students and community. As editor I feel that it is my duty to direct the staff on informing the public of school, community and administrative activities which affect

Recession hits staff; sponsors come through

them and are of interest to them. I am also hopeful of increased student involvement and voice through this publication.

At this point, I would sincerely like to thank our advertisers for supporting our newspaper. Even though times are hard and businesses are cutting back their budgets to allow for other expenses many Rocky Mount merchants still found the money to support us. Advertising is important in our paper. Not only is it our sole source of income, but it is also another source of information for the readers, providing them with a guide to community resources.

We, the members of the *Gryphon* staff, appreciate your money and we hope that you shall be quite satisfied with our presentation of the news.

Thank you again!

Sincerely,
Kathryn



Managing
Editor
Michele
Swearingen

Editor emphasizes need for southern hospitality

The American Field Service Club, commonly known as the AFS, has blessed us this year with the presence of four foreign exchange students. In years past, we have had students from all over the world visit Senior High. This year we have students from Portugal, Germany, Australia and Thailand.

The AFS experience is a remarkable one that will remain in the minds of the students as well as their host families and friends. Coming to a strange place, living with a strange family, going to a different school, speaking a strange language and having to cope with a sometimes very different way of life. This all leads to a very difficult time at the beginning.

It is very important that we all do our best to make the new students feel at home. We should try to make their stay with us as pleasant as possible.

For the first time, the AFS has allowed a family with only one small child to host an exchange student. The occasion is a rare one in that there is not a family member who can attend school with the new student. In this specific situation it helps to have friends at school who can show him around and let him get acquainted with his new way of life. It is imperative we make him feel at home.

Language can be a great barrier in the lives of the student and host family. Communication is of vital importance in the beginning. Understanding each other makes a big difference as to whether the student enjoys his stay in the United States or not.

The AFS students will always remember and be remembered at Senior High. We must all do our very best to make sure the experience is a pleasant one.