

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Assembly Topics

Dear Editor:

In reference to the letters on religious assemblies in the last two issues of HIGH LIFE, I must agree with the initial argument. However, my reasons differ from the original statement.

In the assembly on the Fellowship of Christian Athletes I was very shocked by the method used to show the Christianity of a football player. The player tries to "kill" the opposition, then returns to the fallen player and helps him up. Of course, so claimed the speaker, this act made the player a Christian. If this statement is true then I believe that Christianity needs some new rules on violence.

In the Thanksgiving assembly I was again dismayed by the wrong usage of Christianity. One of the speaker said that "we ought to be thankful for luxuries, such as fine clothes, a modern home, a new car, etc." I hate to think what the poorer people have to be thankful for. In the first place being thankful for luxuries is very un-Christian. What we all ought to be thankful for is the gift of life, and not such material objects, as those mentioned above.

I am now referring to another assembly during which the speaker talked about the poor woman who, no matter how little she had, always said a blessing before she ate. It is wonderful that a person in her state would still have faith in God. However, it ruins the complete effect when that statement causes some of our students to be moved emotionally to tears.

Taking all this into mind I am wondering what is the purpose of Sunday. I am hopeful that we will not need two Sundays every week, and that the religion taught in our school on Tuesday-Sunday will be shifted back to the church. If however, these religious assemblies do continue, then I hope that the ideals of Christianity will be presented in their correct and true form.

David Walz

Assembly Conduct

Dear Editor:

I would like this letter to be published to let everyone know that the conduct of the campaign assembly was bad. The assembly was bad from the standpoint of the sideline noises.

The sound that has recently started where a person makes a kissing sound with his lips was sickening.

If a person doesn't like someone he doesn't need to voice his opinion in such a vulgar way. I mean vulgar from the sense that it is vulgar to use in the assembly. I believe that a person can keep what he thinks to himself if he can't express his feelings in a better way.

I am a boy and a senior and I think that the conduct was appalling.

Sickened Senior

Dear Editor:

As a candidate in the recent election I was given a front line review of the splendid conduct during the assembly. I was both ashamed and appalled at the actions displayed by supposedly mature students in a high school. As our school is usually commended in its fine achievements I would have been even more embarrassed if

anyone from outside the student body had seen this display.

If such conduct continues our school will soon lose its usually fine reputation and lose its assemblies as well.

I regret to see this happening and hope that the students of GHS will realize the seriousness of the situation before it is too late.

Name withheld by request (junior)

The Editor Sounds Off

"There's nothing to read in HIGH LIFE. The news is old. Even the jokes aren't funny."

These comments are gleaned from GHS readers at each publication of HIGH LIFE. I will be the first person to recognize the faults that the paper has, but its critics are often people who have no knowledge of journalistic functions and practices.

HIGH LIFE is a good paper. The Columbia Scholastic Press Association awarded it a first place medal in the annual competition of 1800 newspapers from throughout the country.

Many of the papers in this rating program are published by colleges, but all are judged on an equal basis; yet the paper's score was 932 out of a possible 1000 points.

Still, HIGH LIFE is written and edited by only 1.3 per cent of the student body. The other 98.7 per cent involves itself in other activities, but they feel qualified to justifiably criticize the paper.

These people are quite right in their criticisms. The paper belongs to them not just to those who prepare it.

Student participation through actual staff work suggestions on means of improvement, letters to the editor, and the purchase of subscriptions can do more to make HIGH LIFE the best than anything else.

Grimsley is a big school, with many different groups who tend to operate in an isolated manner. To unite these groups is one of the school's major aim; and HIGH LIFE can help initiate this.

What About Assembly Behavior

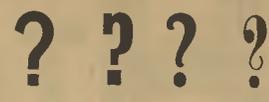
The behavior of GHS students at assembly programs is no longer merely irksome; it has become unfortunate and deplorable.

At recent assemblies, especially the latest election program, certain students acted in a vulgar manner, expressing their disapproval in a crude reaction. This conduct is no longer humorous. It is an indication of extremely bad taste and disregard for common decency. The actions of a small minority have succeeded in embarrassing faculty and the majority of students, and speakers.

Rude heckling has already produced one result: the Convention, which has been a tradition at GHS for years, will not be held. Unless this type of behavior ceases there will no doubt be other actions taken. The future of assembly programs, therefore, is the responsibility of the students.

We must effectively control our vocal minority. The individual student can cease such conduct himself, and urge others to do likewise. Also, those who are dissatisfied with programs can learn that there are civilized and decent methods of demonstrating their opinion; one can, for instance, write a letter to HIGH LIFE (if he is not able to write, there are several literate people around who can help him.) If we fail to stop this rudeness, we can expect fewer assemblies and more restrictions.

Valid criticism is not wrong; it serves a useful and beneficial purpose if properly used and understood. Rudeness, however, is inexcusable, and even cowardly. The person on our stage is not up there for his own benefit, and, whether one approves of the program or not, the speaker at least has the courage to address 1500 students, not all of whom epitomize good behaviour. The heckler, hidden safely in the audience, is showing no such bravery, only stupidity and bad taste.



In the past several weeks, the subject of assemblies has been brought to the attention of HIGH LIFE. In a letter to the editor, Candy Sauer voiced a negative view on the religious topics which have been presented to the students. In an answering letter, Hallie Austin voiced a negative view of Candy's letter.

HIGH LIFE decided to go to the sophomores, juniors, and seniors at GHS. When asked about the quality of the assemblies and the religious topics presented, the students answered:

"Each member of the student body is entitled to his own religious beliefs. The religious assemblies presented this year have not interfered with or attempted to influence anyone's religious beliefs in any way.

"The clergymen and other people affiliated with religious groups have been especially careful to keep their discussion on topics which are common to all religions, such as brotherhood, and moral virtues such as honesty.

"These are topics from which everyone can benefit no matter what his religion. I cannot agree with anyone who says that we are having religion crammed down our throats."

Barbara Horney ('66)

"I think they ought to eliminate all religious propaganda in assemblies. School is no place for an evangelical service."

Joseph Montgomery ('65)

"Religious topics play only a part in our assemblies. The trouble is that the programs are often just plain boring."

A Junior

"I don't know."
Suzy Sophomore ('67)

"Yawn . . ."
Joe Junior ('66)

"None of my business. I sleep anyway . . ."
Sam Senior ('65)

So went the opinions of our students and the statements by Suzy, Joe, and Sam, which were, by far, the most common. Maybe we ought to stop fussing over religious assemblies and be concerned over whether any assembly will penetrate the snores anyway.

HIGH LIFE

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