

# THE TRUTH ABOUT OUR LIBRARY

By Tom Dawson

Why is the library in such a "terrible" state? Armed with this question, Steve Grossman and I talked one afternoon with the librarian about the library, how the library relates to the students, why the kind of books we have are there, what could be done to further better relations between the library and the students, and what methods could be used to control the number of stolen library books.

The first topic of discussion was the type books in the library. Many students have complained that the library does not contain enough of the new "now" books. The reason for the lack of new books is not any fault of the librarians, but rather the fault of the federal government. Because of lack of an integration policy, suitable to HEW (Department of Health, Education, and Welfare) the Greensboro City Schools lost all federal money. It was government money that paid for a lot of our books and under something called ESEA Title 2 our library lost \$10,000 which would have bought new books. This has happened for the past two years. So an order that was written for \$10,000 worth of books was cancelled due the lack of money. At present, funds are not adequate to buy new books and at the same time replace many books which have been stolen.

Another problem of the library is in ordering books. All libraries have to order through a central ordering office. This office is for school libraries and it allows them to purchase books at wholesale prices. The only problem with this system is that it takes longer for the library to get these books.

To combat the problem we ask the students to donate books. The librarians stated that they would gladly accept any books as long as the books were on the *Standard Catalogue for High School Libraries* and other approved lists. To many people, this means many books would be censored. To my

surprise, I found the listings to be very liberal. The list included 1984, *Soul on Ice*, *The AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF MALCOLM X*, *THE STRAWBERRY STATEMENT*, and many other controversial books. Many clubs have indicated that they are going to buy books for the library, it would be wise for these clubs to check with the librarians to be sure that books are not duplicated.

The biggest problem in the library is the student body. There is a gross misunderstanding between the students and the library. I found it very easy to sit down and talk about the library's troubles. This problem concerns misinformation and lack of communication. A second problem is the theft of books. Last year alone, over 400 books were stolen. The estimated loss is somewhere between \$1,500 and \$5,000. If you wonder why there are so few books in the library, the reason is that they are stolen and have to be replaced. Students claim that the librarians yell and cause confusion in the library. With 400 books stolen every year, the antics some students "perform", in the library, and the understaffed working conditions in which they perform their jobs, won't you feel that they have the right to yell?

To bridge the gap between the students and librarians, I propose a library-advisory board. The board, to be independent of student council, would be composed of 6-10 students and would meet monthly with the librarians in an advisory capacity to suggest new books, figure out a way to curb theft of books, and work on a paperback library, report to students on library problems and promote better relations between the students and the librarians.

Miss Herring and Mrs. Bleakley said they would be glad to work with and receive suggestions from students.

The next step is yours.

# IMPORTANCE OF TIME

By Reid Phillips

Grimsley has much to offer its students. But at the same time this school fails to meet many of the demands that are a part of a good, complete education. Something is wrong — radically wrong — when high school seniors can graduate knowing what to think, but not *how* to think; when those same students can graduate without ever having heard of "ecology" or knowing the other issues of the day. The trouble is that much of the effort of faculty and students is misdirected hence, wasted.

The following are some of the most glaring example of this perverted use of time and energy on our campus.

1) The student council has failed to initiate anything more constructive than a feeble endorsement of a swimming pool. (Have you heard anyone *opposed* to the idea?) Worse yet, the council has laughed at a serious proposal put before it by a member of the student body. And still that body wonders why it is not taken seriously by the students.

2) The service clubs at Grimsley serve first to make their members feel important, and secondly as worthwhile organizations. Have you ever heard "There will be a very,

very important meeting of the \_\_\_\_\_ club at so-and-so's house to discuss . . . ." This makes one wonder whether the meeting is important because of what is to be discussed or because of the prestigious address.

3) Guidance counselors are not available for days because they are required to administer tests or change schedules. These should not be the purposes of counselors, and in fact, are not. They are forced to fulfill these functions because no one else can or will.

4) Teachers are required to spend valuable teaching hours in the completion of clerical work.

None of these wastes need exist. Student council should be told, and told today, to get busy on something more vital than the idle gossip in which they engage, or disband.

Each year service clubs should be asked to justify their continuation on the basis of the services performed in the preceding year.

Only those students with a reference slip or an honest desire to use the library should be permitted to use the facility. Anyone who

abuses this privilege should be barred from further use.

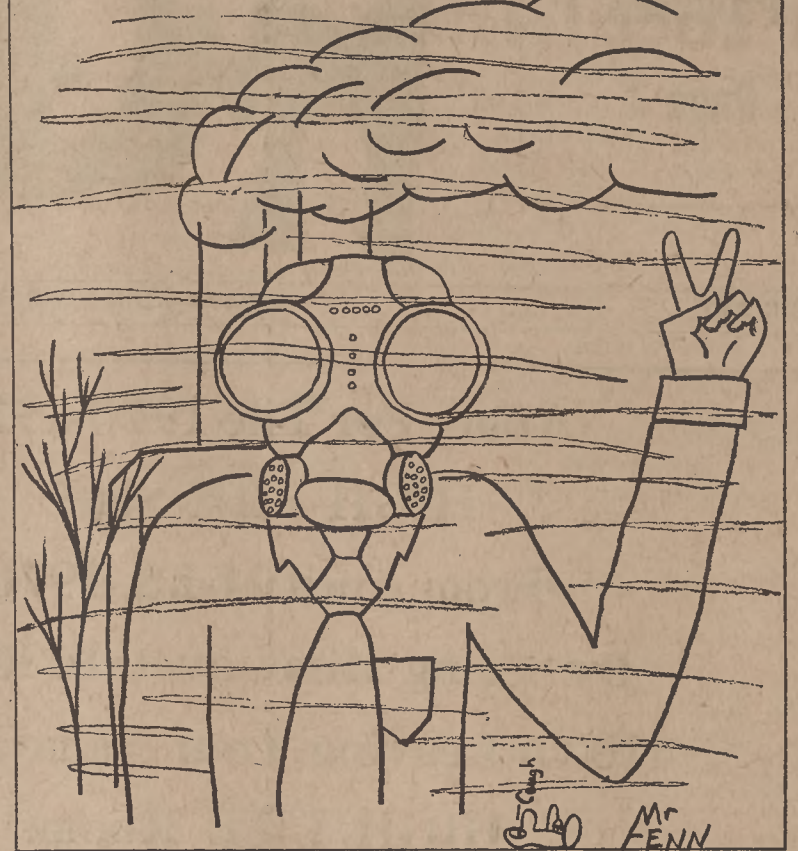
A position should be created for the administration of tests and the planning of schedules. Let the guidance counselors provide counsel—not tests and schedule cards.

The possibility of optional attendance should be explored to free teachers of role taking and the signing of sick slips. If this is not possible, have the dean's office compile and post lists of excused absences for any teacher doubting the status of an absence.

The first two proposals should rest in the hands of the student body. The last three require administration action. The point of all is that when such wastes are abolished, the administration and faculty as well as the students will have more time to serve, learn, and teach according to the roles each fulfills. Maybe then we can all get to know each other a little better and we can take time to learn how to think, what ecology is, etc.

As a final note let me add that I greatly respect my guidance counselor, the administration (including librarians and the dean of students), my teachers and many of those students in service clubs and on student council. I am not attacking the individuals but rather, advocating reform of the institutions of which they are a part.

SPRINGTIME — When every young man's fancy turns to thoughts of...



## Council's Challenge For Next Year

Now that elections are over and our new council members are elected we sincerely hope that they will not become lazy and take on a "wait until next year" attitude. The new members should work with this past year's members and learn from them so the 1970-71 school year is not started off "cold." This year's Student Council, while not thought of as the best we have ever had, did know how to do their duty. Next year's members can and should learn from current mistakes.

Many things need to be accomplished in this school by the students. These can be done. The faculty and administration can be worked with if only the students would try. Remember, it is not up to the administration to initiate

change—although they say—it is still up to the student body to work with its governing council in bringing about any necessary change.

Even as *High Life* has not had the most confidence in Student Council this year, we feel its errors are trying to be conquered from within. Student Council, during the past year has been plagued with laziness (we know of one home-room who has not had a council report in nearly six weeks) and incompatibility. Some members of Council cannot get along with each other's ideas. It is a simple case of non-agreement which has led to arguments which accomplished little. These "do-nothing" arguments must be avoided in the coming term.

However, because Student Council was unable to accomplish much this year, it is up to next year's Council members to renew their faith in the Council and expand it. Thus, *High Life* renews its request to support Council and make it work next year instead of speaking about how ban it is without trying to help. We have tried. It is now up to you!

## HIGH LIFE

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