

# ROTC WANTS YOU

As a new year at Grimsley unfolds, a major problem involving the ROTC unit here becomes critical.

The problem is a lack of members. At this time, there are only 75 cadets enrolled in the ROTC classes of Grimsley. In previous years there have been as many as 130 cadets.

Why has ROTC become unpopular here? According to the cadets and officers there is a lack of information available to students pertaining to enrolling in ROTC. Teachers and Counselors have encouraged very few students to join this course, or at least look into it, and some have hardly recognized it at all.

On September 20, the ROTC unit here was probated by the Marine Corps because they did not have at least 100 cadets enrolled. Since our unit is on probation, if by next August 100 students from junior high are not pre-registered into ROTC, then the program here will be canceled completely.

Last year the Marine Corps spent over \$25,000 on Grimsley's unit, yet the Greensboro school system spent only \$200. This money, plus the money the cadets raised through programs such as candy bar sales, has paid for all traveling and field trips, M-14 rifles, uniforms and audio-visual equipment. There is at least \$75,000 worth of equipment in the ROTC classroom, all of which will be removed if there is not a

## Attendance Policy

## Change For The Better

As is the case nearly every year at Grimsley, policies, constitutions, institutions, and bathroom floors are changed. But this year in particular brings up the issue of last year's controversial and spectacular new attendance policy. In the first year of application the policy was more a pleasant surprise sprung upon the students on school's opening day.

For years this attendance policy is what students have been asking for. Comparing our campus layout and students to "college" which has similar attendance systems, GHS finally got what it wanted. It was one year of a Big Fling. Naturally, the first year was purely experimental and the high number of absences for beach trips and long lunch hours were at last justified and not on notes eyed with suspicion by Mrs. Pethel. Ten allowable absences per semester seemed like a gracious plenty to most students. And the policy's goal appeared to be reached. 97% of the student body could be found on campus, in class during an ordinary school day. And a student was given the right to use his own judgment as to whether or not he could afford to miss a class. And students like that feel of independence. The attendance policy seemed worthwhile and in the eyes of usually skeptical high schoolers, "half decent."

But early last year protests already had risen. Green spray paint conveyed the feelings some wanted to get across who didn't appear very fond of the policy. Revisions were definitely in store, and we all learned something from the attendance policy. The crackdown this year on tardies

drastic action taken to increase membership. They have won countless awards and trophies (all of which have been won within recent years) for their superb performance in drill competition, yet it is sad that they cannot even get enough support from their school to survive.

An actual survey was taken by the instructors asking all cadets at Grimsley's ROTC unit if any counselors or teachers had recommended the course. The answer was no. They had either been encouraged by the ROTC or they joined of their own interest.

The ROTC course's main function is to promote leadership and teach how to deal with demanding situations. They also instruct in drills, target shooting, first aid and other useful skills.

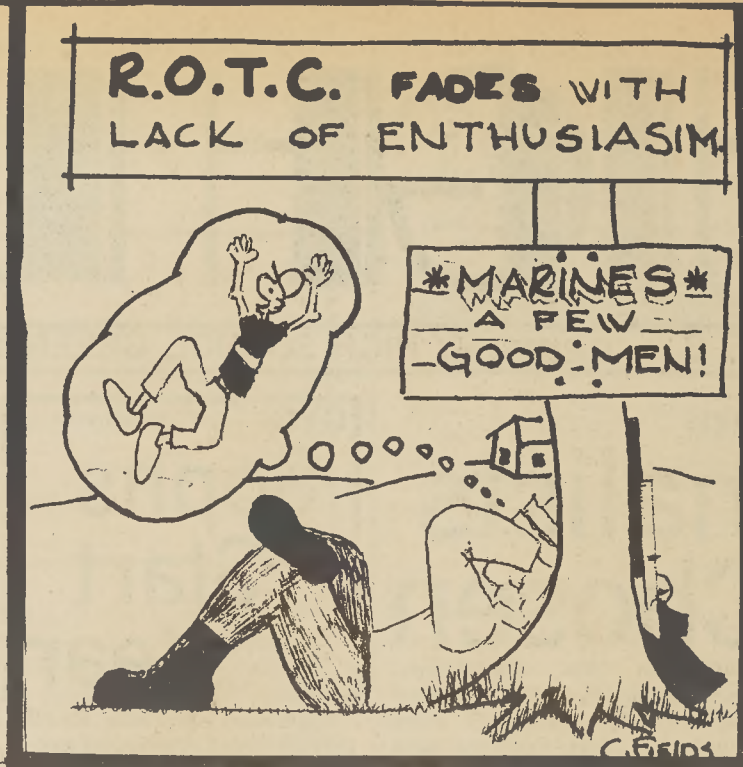
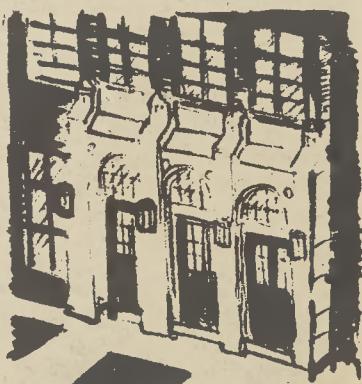
If we want Grimsley's unit to continue or even progress, then more faculty members should encourage membership or at least mention the program if for no other reason than fair representation of all school related clubs and functions. If there are any questions students care to ask pertaining to ROTC, they should contact Colonel Janssen, Sargent Hale or any one of the cadets. Give it a try!

Cheryl Luteman

was to be expected. Today six or more tardies may result in suspension from school, whereas last year's thirty allowable tardies sounded utopian. Those of us who rush back and forth between the Vocational and Old Science Buildings via a third floor main building locker will be the first to clear our throats when the policy gets into full swing and actual numbers start mounting up.

But, all in all the attendance policy appears to be at least one successful method in which the caring of the administration is evident. Where else in the world is such a lenient absence schedule posted for high school students. HIGH LIFE would be interested in finding out about any other unique high school attendance policies. And for now, we wholeheartedly back it. We realize that its intent is aimed at our benefit...our education. And we are pleased to be appreciated that much. And around the end of May, the little bit of devil in us might slip off to the beach for a day or two. Keep those policies coming. The most successful is bound to have paved the way for more to come.

Hank Howard



## Letter From The Editor

From the editor's seat in Room 868 (wherever one can find a seat) it is the day before registration and this editor is thinking about what the coming year will bring. While this is being written most Grimsley Whirlies or soon-to-be Grimsley Whirlies are still basking in the sun and splashing around in the neighborhood swimming pool. But all this has changed by now, and everyone will probably have buckled down for a serious year of study. At least that is the usual assumption about high school.

Seniors this year will want to boost their class above all other previous classes, while juniors will be glad to finally be in high school, until they realize the consequences of being a member of the sophomore set.

But overall, the year looks to be like so many others before it here at Grimsley. Unique issues and trends will surface as always. And they will greatly affect the opinions, beliefs, lifestyles, and even the looks of the students here. This is why we at HIGH LIFE are trying diligently to make this newspaper and in particular this editorial section a student melting pot or forum for student opinion. Now more than ever before HIGH LIFE wishes to extend an arm to the individual student and not only allow these students to air their views, but to help them along with other follow-up features, editorials, and opinion features. We, the staff, realize that this undertaking is a two-way street. In other words, we need you. Your participation is every bit as vital as ours. We provide the channel of communication and you provide the thought, the content of the paper.

Thus, we are asking you for your support. Without the student body, this newspaper's purpose should be declared null and void. (So much for the preaching section of the letter...)

Actually the HIGH LIFE staff is much smaller this year. Hopefully this year will prove to be a time for the bridging of a wide gap between staff and students. This space, these very inches which I take up with long-winded strokes of the Paper-mate will hereafter be dedicated to you the student. Whatever is on your mind will not have to build up inside you. Here we provide an outlet. The rest is up to you.

For many of you who do not know the editor of HIGH LIFE this year, I am Hank Howard, a

senior here at our fair alma mater. And I am aware that this is a great undertaking. But here again I ask the student body to let me know what is own their minds. This year we will accept all letters-to-the-editor, guest editorials, and guest opinion features. It would disturb us greatly to take Grimsley's newspaper and only air the staff's views, for we are but a fraction of the student body.

Finally I'll say that this newspaper, while run by the staff, is essentially our newspaper. We decided on this free first issue concept to make the student aware of this. All 1700 of you are welcome to become a part of HIGH LIFE. In a way we are just the operating staff and you are the larger staff. You will determine the content of this paper. We will cover you. And we want to hear from you very often. The \$2.00 fee for operating this paper is only essential for the printed word and page. You will be getting 12 issues in all (one free) and from 80-85 pages. The thought will all be from you, and the paper will be yours. I welcome you to the editorial page, and hope you will enjoy your paper this year. Remember...this is your section, and your school paper. Take pride in it. Show the other high schools in the city what a good thing we have going. We want to be an example that they will try to emulate. Good luck with your newspaper.

Hank Howard

## Books Never Written

**Trash, Trash, and more Trash** by Kathi Sroog 13 pages, Publishers: High Life & Co. **Trash, Trash, and more Trash** is the exciting thirteen page drama of the high and low points of Ms. Sroog's teaching career at Grimsley High School.

Her thrilling career all began the day she landed the job of teaching English at Grimsley. Little did she know that she was also being given the honor of the advisory position at HIGH LIFE. To make a long story short, thus ended her dream of an ideal class.

Over and over she was to ask herself why SHE could not have normal students, who did as they were told, instead of the wild animals that ran about the classroom telling her what to do.

There was never a rough copy deadline that went by that she did not stand around howling, "Copy! I want to see copy! Here is my desk, but why do I not see any ROUGH COPY? WHERE IS IT?!"

After threatening grade cuts, among other dire consequences, the newspaper would finally come out on time...just barely. By this time Ms. Sroog would be nursing a sore throat from yelling, an ulcer from worrying, and several lashes across her back from the school's principal, as soon as he had read the obscene personals, editorials cutting down the student government, and the unreadable sports column that never seemed to touch on sports at all (at least not school-related sports.)

This delightful little book does end on a high note for poor Ms. Sroog. School ends at last to give her a few months of recuperation before facing the same ordeal again the next school year.

This is most definitely a book to be read, especially by journalism teachers all over, if not for a good laugh, then to let them know they are not the only ones with problems.

**Classified... FOR SALE**  
1973 MGB  
Fiberglass  
hard top. Contact  
Ms. Sroog for details

**HIGH LIFE**  
Published Monthly  
Grimsley Senior High School  
801 Westover Terrace  
Greensboro, N.C. 27408

HIGH LIFE is a member of Quill and Scroll and The National Scholastic Press Association. The cost is \$1.50 per semester, \$2.00 per year.

**EDITOR:** Hank Howard  
**NEWS EDITOR:** Sara Gramley  
**NEWS STAFF:** Ellen Mitchell, Leigh Cagle, Anna Poulos, Jill Utter, Sandy Pleasants  
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**PHOTOGRAPHERS:** Kathy McEachern, Bryn Pike  
**SUBSCRIPTIONS:** Ellen Mitchell  
**ADVISOR:** Ms. Kathi Sroog