

# Clean Up The Cans

By Lisa McDowell

Due to the lack of student participation of "letters to the Editor," I have taken it upon myself to begin a series of columns written in an informal manner in which I will complain about everything I can think of pertaining to needed school improvements.

As irrelevant as it may seem to some people the students' bathrooms are not fit for dogs. Unfortunately though, most human beings, during some part of the day must perform the duty of releasing urine from their bladder and other necessary activities. I cannot speak personally for the males' bathrooms but most of the girls' bathrooms don't have but one or two rolls of toilet paper to supply six stalls or more. The reason for this is because the stalls don't have racks on which to place the paper. If you think it's bad now wait until the end of the year when the janitorial staff uses the paper sparingly because of low supply. Near the end of last year I went to five different bathrooms before finding one lousy roll. Teachers that don't like to excuse students during class

to go to the bathroom tell you to go between classes. Then when you are late they think you are crazy when you explain honestly, "I had to wait for the roll!"

Another paper problem is concerning paper towels. Those are the things you dry your hands with after washing them. Since I have been here at Grimsley I have yet to see a paper towel holder holding paper towels. Usually they contain two rolls of the stiff toilet paper. I am sure some people don't wash their hands at all because of no paper towels with which to dry them. Again this may sound a little irrelevant but germs do cause sicknesses and with everyone sitting in different desks throughout the day many germs of different origin are probably picked up.

Have you ever tried to brush your hair by looking at your distorted head in the paper towel holder? The amount of distortion depends of course upon the condition of the holders' surface. That's right, there are no mirrors in some bathrooms, just a brighter paint job and clasps marking

where they used to be. It should be illegal for any public bathroom to deprive a young woman from trying to look her best.

Many of the complaints mentioned above are of no importance to those who would rather hold it in than try to use the bathroom (halfway standing up of course) and hold the door shut at the same time. You see, in trying to mask the filth the bathrooms were painted a couple of years ago and the latches also got painted -- stuck.

If you are one of the lucky people in the world with big, strong bladders, good for you. If not, perhaps you would like to join me in my crusade to "Clean Up The Cans!" Petitions will be going around today. If you are not interested in carrying one, please do the small bladdered people a favor and at least sign one. This is my example on how to get things done. Now it's your turn and right here on this page is the place to start. Bring your letters and comments to room 868. We are here to help you help yourself and others.

# Attendance Policy?

"Last year's policy made me feel more responsible. Now I'm a senior and I feel like a little kid."

By Joe Morris

What is the function of an "attendance policy?" Is it to encourage school attendance, to reduce absenteeism to a minimum? Let us examine the case of the high schools of Greensboro.

Two years ago, the Greensboro Board of Education adopted a radical new attendance policy. It gave students ten absences per semester in each class, which they could use in any way they pleased. After the eleventh absence in a class, a student could not receive credit, unless the absence was "waived" for a medical or other legitimate reason.

This policy was made necessary by the inadequacy of the system used in previous years. Under this system, notes from parents were required to give reasons for absences. By forging notes, some students had found it simple to miss as many days of class as they attended.

But along came the new "ten absence" policy, and it was almost immediately hailed as a great success.

Students were glad to at last have full responsibility for their attendance. And education officials delighted over full classes, citing up to 75% increases in attendance.

Now, here it is 1978, and the School Board has proposed another revision in the policy -- basically a change back to the old system. What happened?

Actually, the attendance policy of the last two years was never given a chance, because it was not enforced. There were students who were kicked out of school, but generally they had accumulated well over eleven absences. These were the chronic absentees who will skip class under any policy. Last spring, many Grimsley students finished the school year with absences numbering in the teens. To them, the attendance policy was a mere threat. Obviously, something had to be done.

But why a reversion to the old policy? It failed in the past. What reason is there to believe it will succeed now? Perhaps the School Board

feels that students now have more integrity than those in 1975 and before, and that they will not turn to forgery in order to miss school. Or maybe there are plans to verify all notes through telephone calls home. Administratively, this will become impossible as more and more students will dare to scribble their parents' signatures to stay out of class.

This editorial does not promote forgery or truancy. On the contrary, it calls for the reinstatement and enforcement of the "ten absence" policy, which would best minimize absenteeism while preventing the use of forgery.

One final comment on the proposed policy: High school is supposedly a time of preparation for the future. This preparation includes accepting responsibility for one's actions. I enjoyed having the responsibility of making my own decisions concerning school attendance, and I resent having to bring a note from home to explain absence from class.

# PCP -

# Don't Be A Fool

This will not be a long lecture about how you shouldn't fool around with drugs, but just an informative report about a drug that has been rising in popularity lately. PCP, technical name, Phencyclidine. This drug is a tranquilizer for sub-human primates such as horses and other large mammals.

The main problem with this drug is that it is misrepresented as being other things. It is also easily and cheaply made which helps keep it on the market. The drug has been getting a reputation as producing unpredictable reactions. The user appears to be awake when under the influence of PCP yet he cannot remember anything when the trip is over. The user has no sense of pain or of what he is doing at the time. Even with low doses the user of this drug experiences a feeling of well-being and lucid thought. Visual distortion is also a reaction from PCP.

PCP has also been known to produce such effects as

intense excitement, panic or extreme depression as it is to produce euphoria. Some uncomfortable physical reactions include muscular rigidity, numbness in some areas and nausea. A bum trip on PCP is very difficult to 'talk down.' This is because PCP seems to 'disconnect the body from the mind. Intense feelings of isolation, paranoia and hysteria are very possible and will eventually lead to violence. A trip will usually last 4-6 hours depending upon dosage. Traces of the drug sometimes will show up in the urine a week or so after the experience. Some users have experienced lack of memory and lack of concentration.

The point should be clear -- don't mess around with PCP. There are so many pushers that are out to get a buck. They could sell it to you as something else and before you realize it, you are hooked, having to have a little bit more each time. Don't be a fool.

Lisa McDowell

Editor's note: All editorials that do not have a byline are expressing the views of the entire HIGH LIFE staff.

## HIGH LIFE

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