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GRIMSLEY HIGH LIFE

"Voice of the Whirlies"

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Teen Alcoholism: Are you a candidate?

by Hope Tarantelli

"As society plunges deeper into the '80's," states a pamphlet from Alamance County's Adolescent Care Unit, "there's still a generation waiting to be labeled. In the past, there has been the Beat Generation, the Flower Children, the Flappers, the products of the Post-War Baby Boom, the Peaceniks, and soon." And now, a likely label for the '80's might be drawn from the growing number of teenage heavy drinkers and alcoholics.

Teen alcoholism and heavy drinking are two different problems of today's society; yet, in retrospect, one problem stems directly from the other. HIGH LIFE, in an effort to inform - not lecture - the reader, has visited a number of alcohol information centers in Greensboro and a branch of the national Adolescent Care Unit in Burlington, N.C.

One of the first questions brought to mind in respect to teen drinking is, "What is the difference between an alcoholic and a heavy drinker?" The Guilford County Alcohol Information

Center provided the answer. A heavy drinker is not an alcoholic - it is only a possible sign of alcoholism. The teen drinker needs increasing amounts of alcohol to feel the same "kick" experience after one first begins drinking. And a heavy drinker's weekend turns into a barage of drinking parties with friends unlike the alcoholic's solitary drinking sprees.

Although heavy drinking is serious, teenage alcoholism is becoming more prevalent in society. Not only is teen alcoholism dangerous - it can be fatal if undetected by family or friends. Alcoholism is an illness although it is usually associated with "older" people and adults. But like most other illnesses - heart disease, TB, cancer - it can strike people of any age, even teenagers.

One may question exactly how alcoholism begins. There is one concrete feeling about this disease, "Alcoholism develops at different rates in different people." Yet, there is no agreed upon model of how alcoholism begins.

A number of circumstances can contribute to the beginnings of a possible alcoholic: "An individual who (1) responds to alcohol be experiencing intense relief and relaxation, and who (2) has certain personality characteristics such as difficulty in dealing with and overcoming depression, anxiety and frustration, and who (3) is a member of a culture in which there is a pressure to drink."

Like any illness, there are many observable warning signs of alcoholism such as isolation from family and friends, increasing rebelliousness and resentment, and the recurrence of the smell of alcohol on breath. An alcoholic also passes through three distinct stages with noticeable symptoms of the illness. In the first stage, it is difficult to distinguish the heavy social drinker from the alcoholic. The symptoms range from increased alcohol tolerance and increased drinking to personality changes and forgetfulness.

In stage two, the middle stage, guilt and isolation erupt. "Eye



openers," in the morning, work problems and drinking out of necessity result in this cycle. Finally, the third stage, disintegration of family/friend life and obvious uncontrolled drinking occur. "Drinking becomes the driving force of

life," as stated in a pamphlet from the Alcohol Information Center.

As one can see, alcoholism is a progressive illness in both teens and adults. As long as an alcoholic keeps drinking, the illness will grow progressively (continued on page 8)

New Snow policy in effect

	1985-6	1986-7	1987-8	1988-9
Students begin	Aug 26	Aug 25	Aug 26	Aug 24
Thanksgiving	Nov 28,29	Nov 27,28	Nov 26,27	Nov 24,25
Winter Break	Dec23/Jan 1	Dec 22/Jan2	Dec 21/Jan 1	Dec22/Jan2
Spring Break	Mar28/Apr1	Apr 17-21	Apr 1-5	March24-28
180 th Day	May 30	June 2	June 2	May 30

Calendar adopted for next 4 years by School Board.

by Carrie Milgrim

Snow. During the winter, students pray for snow, but when the summer comes, the days are not remembered and regrets come.

Over the past few weeks, there have been rumors as to how these six days, more than any other year in Dr. Newbold's 7-year career in the Public School System, will be made up. According to Board of Education policy-AE, adopted December 20, 1983, the first five days missed, due to snow, will be made up at the end of the year. No days will be subtracted from Winter Break, Spring Break, or teacher workdays. The following five days will be forgiven. If by

remote chance, more than these ten days are missed for snow, each day after number ten will be made up. The days missed for snow this school year were January 21, 22, 28, 29, 30 and February 5.

The process of deciding whether or not school will be in session begins at 4 a.m. Four of Newbold's staff members ride streets, that in history, have been critical in inclement weather. They meet at 5 a.m. at the main office at N. Eugene Street. These members call the highway patrol, the sheriffs office, and finally Dr. Newbold at 5:30.

The three school system superintendents, High Point City, Guilford County, and Greensboro

City, try to agree as much as possible. But, if in disagreement, the final decision is up to teach, individual superintendent.

There is only a remote possibility that seniors will make up the days lost to snow. Because the coliseum has to be booked in advance, and the unavailability of the complex, it is difficult to change the dates secured for graduation. The decision to change the graduation date depends upon Dr. Newbold and each principal. Dr. Newbold leans toward not changing the date of graduation stating "no senior ever died from missing 6 days of school."

The 5 days will be made up the week of June 3-7.

Fuller awarded Morehead

by Brian Gay

Possibly the most prestigious award or honor to be received at Grimsley this year is the Morehead Scholarship awarded to Billy Fuller. The last time the award was awarded to a Grimsley student was in 1978 and went to Cliff Abels. It is unbelievable that of all North Carolina seniors, approximately 90,000, only 35 persons have been awarded one of the scholarships.



The Morehead Scholarships grants a four year education at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and summer traveling programs to build leadership skills. The whole package is worth over \$30,000. Although the benefits of the scholarship are outstanding, one does not receive the award for getting out of bed; but for many years of admirable work.

The process toward receiving the award began at Grimsley with the first interview. It continued to county, district, and the final interview at Carolina. At each stage, students are eliminated. The final interview was at Chapel Hill on February 23-26 which consisted of the inter-

views, banquets, and learning about the program. The good news came March 1 when Fuller received the word he was part of the elite group of recipients of the Morehead Scholarship. "Excited to say the least," stated Fuller

after receiving the honor. "As far as suspense, I was relieved and some decisions as far as school

were made for me. It is quite an honor and gives me opportunities to do things I wouldn't have had a chance to do otherwise."