

## Featured Inside:

Football Schedule	p.2
Speak Out	p.3
Locker Editorial	p.4

# HIGH LIFE

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Grimsley High School Greensboro, N.C.

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## Gillespie's closing forces students to adjust



by Steven Shuman

With the start of the 1992-1993 school year, Greensboro City Schools will experience some change. This past April, students of the Gillespie Alternative Education Program were informed that they would be attending their original school in the fall because of their current school's closing.

According to Greensboro Secondary School System Director Bennie Higgins, the closing was caused by a combination of reasons. First, the program was causing a significant financial loss. The school board received drastic budget cuts causing monetary strain, stated Higgins. Secondly, on the whole, the program had proved to be unsuccessful. After reviewing records, the board came to the conclusion that the attendance and behavior had worsened at Gillespie.

However, this closing is not an isolated case. An alternative program, much like that of Gillespie's, in Wilmington, N.C. closed down for similar reasons. Mr. Higgins commented that while this may not be a national trend, this closing should not seem uncommon.

To compare Grimsley to Gillespie, Gillespie offered fewer courses allowing for more flexible scheduling. Gillespie also had fewer students, which gave them more opportunity for one-on-one teaching

and counseling. Normally there were seven to eight students per class which gave the teacher the ability to be more creative with her lesson plan, stated Higgins. Teachers often tried to give the subject matter practical value by applying the course content to the outside world and field trips were often planned allowing the students to apply their knowledge.

Other differences were in regards to discipline and its enforcement. There was also a fully equipped clinic which had a full-time nurse, doctor and social worker. This clinic has now moved to the Home-Economics Building here at Grimsley and the nursery was moved to Brooks School.

The success of the Gillespie students is a major concern of Mr. Higgins. "We need positive role models." Mr. Higgins said in reference to the interaction between former Gillespie students and students of other schools. He feels that it is important and will be a positive experience for them to "rub shoulders" with students such as junior marshalls or honor roll students. Higgins also feels that creative teaching will be a key in helping these students in making a successful transition. While "they marched to a different drum" at Gillespie, Higgins feels that they will fit in well at their new school.

## Changes felt on campus

By Brent Bulla

When browsing through your closet looking for tomorrow's attire, don't even think about the Budweiser or Corona shirts. "Clothing which advertises or depicts alcohol, drugs, sex, or violence is strictly prohibited."

This rule, and others, have been added to Grimsley's code of conduct. A one hour after-school detention has replaced one day ISS for six unexcused tardies to a class. If a person accumulates these six unexcused tardies, he or she gets one day prior notice to his or her detention. Also, all buildings but the Old and New Science are closed until 8:20am on school days.

Some rules have been modified. Fighting was a frequent event last year and now has a stricter punishment. Last year, a person caught fighting was given two days OSS. This year, there is direct police involvement. The most enjoyed, and brief, modification to a rule was 11b, which said: "Students in the 11th and 12th grades must have written permission from a parent or legal guardian to leave campus for lunch." Apparently, this was a misprint and was soon corrected.

Ryan Robinson contributed to this article.

## Welcome Back Whirlies!

By Brian Dimmick

When most students think about the high school football season, images of tailgate parties and long touchdown passes come to mind. Gunshots and metal detectors usually are not a part of these images.

Unfortunately, when students talk about the football season that has just started, they are as likely to be thinking of violence and security as of offensive and defensive plays. On August 28, the first night of the new season, a gunshot interrupted the football game between Smith and Dudley, and the results have been felt throughout the city schools.

The Smith-Dudley game had to be suspended in the third quarter after a gun was fired in the stands. One spectator was shot in the thumb. Police later arrested a man charged with firing the gun. Neither the man charged with

## Shooting prompts increased security

shooting the gun nor the victim were high school students.

After the shooting, city school officials adopted several measures in an attempt to improve security at the remaining football games. Metal detectors were installed and were used at the September 4 game between Smith and Grimsley. Everyone entering the stands walked through the metal detectors,

which are much like those used at airports. Also, new lights were installed around the stadium area to improve security. Police officers and volunteers were also in the stands to monitor the crowd. With these added security measures in place and scheduled to remain for the duration of the season, school officials hope that future sporting events will be free of violence.

## A Message To Our Readers...

*High Life* will have a new look this year. However, at the present time, our staff is overcoming financial and technical difficulties. This issue is the final conventional newspaper. For the remainder of the year, look forward to color, a new layout, and a wide variety of student-interest articles.

We appreciate your support,  
*High Life* editors