

Teachers teaching bad habits

By Michael Shuman

Grimsley's teaching staff certainly shares their wide variety of knowledge with us in the classroom, but they also inadvertently introduce us to their bad habits.

Webster's dictionary defines teaching as, "to instruct by precept, example, or experience." Grimsley has a long history of academic excellence. We usually credit such success to the teachers. The teachers at Grimsley are the "cream of the crop" in the newly consolidated Guilford County School

System. We learn much through the lectures of our teachers and their other forms of teaching, but do they know that we also learn from their actions and the examples they set?

As teenagers we develop the habits we are going to possess throughout a lifetime; consequently, the teachers we spend almost eight hours a day with are some of the most influential people in our lives.

Is it right that these powerful figures in our lives are able to smoke in the place where we are supposed to learn to be a

healthy person? Some people might say that it is okay if it goes on behind closed doors, but to get to the Mac Lab journalism students used to have to fight the smoke leaking out of the teachers lounge. A simple passerby in the New Science can breathe in the smoke at peak times during the day. We now know that smoking is harmful to our health, so why are our educators able to smoke on campus? Smoking is banned for students, so it should be banned for the teachers.

Overall, teachers set a pretty good ex-

ample for the students here at Grimsley High School, but their few bad habits should be addressed. Smoking is a big problem for students as well as teachers at Grimsley and it is looked down upon by society. But who should we believe, society which deems smoking unhealthy and harmful to others or our teachers who show us by their actions that it is okay? The teenage years are the most vulnerable years in life and we should not be lead in the wrong direction by a role model such as a teacher who smokes.

Students troubled with stress and high expectations of college

By Kelly James

Are you feeling overwhelmed? Are you stressed out? This seems to be the feeling of many Grimsley students.

Today, colleges expect students to be superhumans--president of every club at school, star athlete, involved in the commu-

nity, and on top of all this, make straight A's in all honors and AP classes.

In order to fulfill these requirements, students often forego many activities outside of academics that they find enjoyable such as attending school plays and athletic functions. In the extreme, some students even cut down on the amount of sleep they get.

Underclassmen, especially juniors, work twice as hard, looking forward to their senior year where they can relax and have fun. But this year I have noticed that many seniors are more stressed than the underclassmen.

In addition to all the work required during the previous three years, seniors have

the added pressure and anxiety of college applications. During our spare time (where exactly does this time come from, anyway?) we have to fill out applications and do essays, all the while maintaining our regular school work, not to mention that colleges want to see a challenging senior schedule which only adds more pressure.

It's not that I don't understand the college's thinking. They want to separate the students who are willing to go the extra mile from the ones who cannot make that commitment. But what cost do we have to pay to get accepted to a good college? Are we, as students, expected to completely give up our social lives and other extracurricu-

lar activities we enjoy?

These activities contribute to both a student's personality and learning experience as much as the actual academics of daily school life do.

I realize that life in and of itself is very stressful and that high school may actually be preparing us to deal with the stress we will inevitably feel when we leave. But perhaps we need to reevaluate our goals in life and concentrate on those goals rather than being first in the class and having a thousand extracurricular activities.

Let's face it, we can only do so much and be so many places at once, no matter what the colleges feel.

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Grimsley High School
801 Westover Terrace
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High Life

"Voice of the Whirlies"

New smoking ordinance to protect the health of nonsmokers

By Kelly James

The new smoking rules voted into Guilford County have caused an uproar among smokers and nonsmokers alike. These rules would place a ban on smoking in restaurants and all other public areas inside Guilford County. Originally, the new regulations were to go into immediate enforcement, but in order to soothe public protests the Guilford County Board of Health voted to phase in the new regulations over a one year period of time. This "phase in" process was in response to complaints that immediate enforcement of the rules would not allow for an adequate adjustment period. But most opponents are upset about the regulations in general, not the way the regulations are being implemented. In order to preserve the rights of all Guilford County citizens, the smoking ban must be enacted.

One argument of the opponents of the smoking ban is the belief that the regulations will cause a decrease in the restaurant business in Greensboro. This same argument was made a few years ago when the regulations providing a mandatory non-smoking area in Greensboro restaurants went into effect and these worries went unsubstantiated. But even if smokers do boy-

cott Greensboro restaurants because of the rules, many non-smokers will come to Greensboro in order to dine in a smoke-free environment.

Opponents also argue that in the future, many Piedmont area jobs will be lost because similar bans may go into effect nationwide. "How can the home town of many tobacco businesses place a ban on the state's leading cash crop?" I'm sorry, but the fact is that smoking is bad for your health and will eventually kill you. If recognition of this proven fact causes a loss in jobs for some, there's not much anyone can do about it. It still doesn't change the fact that smoking always leads to health problems and that these problems are just as apt to appear from effects of second hand smoke.

This leads into the biggest controversy over the new regulations- the invasion of people's rights. The fact is, the new rules do not ban smoking; they only regulate where one is allowed to smoke. Smokers still retain the right to smoke, but they do not retain the right to smoke where they can expose other people to the harmful effects of smoke. It has been proven that the inhalation of second hand smoke is nearly as lethal as actually inhaling the smoke directly into your lungs. A person's rights end when they infringe upon the rights of others. It

is a nonsmoker's right to be able to go and eat in a restaurant and not choke on smoke between each bite.

For centuries, doctors have quarantined persons with infectious diseases so that they don't spread the disease to others. Is it their civil right to break the quarantine and, in turn, inflict others with their disease? Smoking is just like an infectious disease. If people are forced to contain their smoking habit to their own homes or places that have adequate ventilation systems, the disease will not spread. If smokers are not forced to contain their habit, the disease will thrive, not only killing the smoker, but killing innocent victims as well.

Letters to the Editor

In order to make High Life a true forum for the students of Grimsley High School, input from the entire student body is essential. If you are interested in having your opinion printed in your newspaper, drop your letter by Room 203 in Main Building.