

# High Life

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Grimsley High School

October 31, 1994

## Out of the Blue

North Carolina Governor Jim Hunt



Officer Steve Roberts  
Pendergraft photo

visited Grimsley on Friday, October 14, to kick off his anti-violence program throughout North Carolina schools. His visit became a center of atten-

tion when Nick Atkinson shot assistant principal Mr. Whites and then shot himself.

Hunt visited the Students Against Violence Everywhere (S.A.V.E.) rally which was being held as a response to the incidents of the preceding days. Hunt said that he was saddened by the events and that we should all work together to end violence everywhere. Said Hunt, "There are a lot of things we can do to help. But you need also to learn to be willing to give some time to learn some skills (in peer counseling)."

Athletic Director Coach Bob Sawyer won an award as the Piedmont's premier Athletic Director. Coach Sawyer received this award at a banquet last Saturday night. Look for more information about Sawyer's accomplishment in the next issue. Congratulations Coach Sawyer!

The Holiday Market will be held next Saturday, November 5 and Sunday November 6. Many great stocking stuffers and other Christmas (and Hanukah) gifts will be on sale. The fair is being held in the Greensboro Coliseum's Special Events Center. Check it out.

## Prayer divides Grimsley, community

By Sarah Pendergraft  
and Anna West  
Reporters

"I am disturbed that this issue came before this body in the first place...Stay out of it," said David Moff. Applause echoed in the almost full County Commissioners meeting. "We've kind of slipped away from our morals," said W.A.

Kirkman, a few moments later. Even louder applause and a few "Amen's" followed.

On Thursday, October 6, Guilford County Commissioner Steve Arnold's resolution for prayer in school came to a vote by the Guilford County Commissioners. Commissioner Arnold's resolution called for voluntary, non-sectarian prayer to a "supreme moral being." It is part of a grassroots effort across the United States to reinstate prayer. Started by a mayor in Texas, the resolution has already been adopted in over 19 North Carolina counties, including Randolph, Rockingham and Yancey.

The vote came after over an hour of speeches by Guilford County residents, both for and against the resolution. Grimsley's Chan Glazman, a senior, was among the speakers present.

Glazman said, "This (prayer in school) will just lead to more problems."

Sophomore Jessie Grandon read a letter written by Katherine Schafer, also a sophomore. "Students will be greatly affected by this, and they are not being asked," Grandon quoted.

Ninth grader Rebecca Fox and tenth grader Hillary Glazman also gave speeches.

Commissioner Skip Alston, who voted against the resolution, said, "I would be for a resolution if it could demand that prayer be put back in the homes...I'm saying leave it alone."

Commissioner Joe Wood also opposed prayer in schools. He said, "Some of you in this room have stated that you don't want teachers teaching your children some aspects of sex education, yet you want them to teach your children to pray. This mystifies me."

On the other side of the issue was Com-

missioner Robert Moores. "It (Commissioner Arnold's resolution) allows this board of commissioners...to send a message to the schools, "We want God's values taught in America," said Moores. He also said, "There are no Hebrew values not embraced in the teachings of Jesus Christ."

Commissioner Joe Bostic also voted for the resolution.

board has been quite comfortable in acting within the limits set by the courts."

As these battlelines for and against prayer in the public schools were being drawn, heated debates erupted at Grimsley. Two groups became a focal point, "See You at the Flagpole" and a group of students petitioning against Steve Arnold's resolution.

"See You At the Flagpole" an annual, na-



Students gather around the flagpole for a prayer session on September 21.

News and Record Photo

"If voluntary prayer works so well, why don't we teach it to our children?" said Mr. Bostic.

Mr. Arnold's resolution was defeated seven to four.

Commissioner Margaret Arbuckle praised the efforts of Grimsley students on the prayer in school issue, especially their speeches at the Commissioners' meeting. "I really think that this is a beacon of hope for the future...I felt very proud of you (Grimsley). I am very excited about it," said Mrs. Arbuckle.

The Guilford County School Board supports the Commissioners' decision. Chairman John Kernodle said, "The public schools have an obligation to permit the free exercise of religion and to support the separation of church and state. Students and faculty are permitted to engage in silent meditation now,...as long as it doesn't interfere with other students at the location... The

tionwide event where students and adults gather and pray for their school, themselves, and the problems students face. Senior Jason Boone, who was at the Grimsley flagpole at 7 a.m. on September 21, said, "At school it's hard to be a Christian because there are so many different people trying to pull you away from it...Now there are so many problems at school that need to be prayed for." There has been talk of making this morning prayer session a daily event, but so far nothing has happened.

Many students share this belief that prayer is important. Tony Davis, a sophomore, said, "I think we should have it (prayer in school)...it would set people out on the right foot."

Ben Peterson, a freshman, said, "I think that God's presence should be in schools."

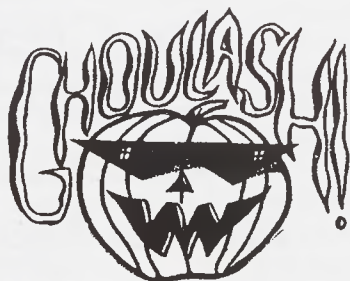
Rebecca Fox holds a different view. "I think (prayer in school) is unconstitutional, and also that a moment of silence a few minutes a day for 180 days takes away from our education," said Fox as she passed around a petition opposing prayer in public schools.

Chan Glazman and Ryan Robinson, seniors, and juniors Michael Shuman and David Hyman started the petitions in an attempt to sway the county commissioners vote. Four hundred and eighty four signatures were collected to aid their effort. The four also organized a rally at

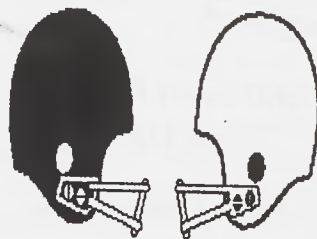
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