

# High Life

Grimsley High School

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Greensboro, NC 27408

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## Out of the Blue

Dr. Dennis Shaw was recently voted by the Grimsley faculty the 1995-1996 teacher of the year. He is also one of five finalists for the Guilford County Teacher of the Year.

The Happy Club is hoping to open a chapter here at Grimsley. This club, a part of Operation Smile, is service oriented and is already in place in many Guilford County high schools. Members work to sponsor much needed cleft-lip and palate surgeries for children and adults both in North Carolina and in numerous third world countries. Cleft lips, the world's most common birth defect, are easily cured with the proper medical attention. At the moment, the club is still seeking a faculty advisor. Beth Marshall, the Operation Smile coordinator, is quick to point out that the job does not entail very many responsibilities. If you are interested, or have a suggestion, please contact Mrs. Marshall at the Operation Smile office, 575-3320.

Freshmen elections were held in early September. The elected officers were as follows:

President: Cesar Alvarez  
Vice-President: Jeff Mosley  
Secretary: Stephanie Chan  
YRC: Michael Fowler  
Pep Board: Grant Turlington

There are 11 students with autism or significant language disabilities in self-contained classrooms at Grimsley. One of the goals for their education is to increase the number of social contacts that they have. Consequently, efforts are underway to create a lunch buddy program through which each special student will have a friend to eat lunch with on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. Students who want to help will receive training and support from Dr. Shaw and Mrs. Hair. If interested, contact Lindsey Moxley, who will organize scheduling.

## C.R.O.S.S. stirs controversy

By Sarah Atkinson and  
Brian Schiller  
Reporters

C.R.O.S.S.: Christians Reaching Out Serving Society. The members of this controversial club come together to encourage Christian fellowship among their Grimsley peers. They strongly deny the claims from other students that their purpose is to force Christian beliefs on the student body.

"Our purpose is to serve God, each other, and the community," said Elizabeth Sheffield, a junior.

Every Wednesday afternoon from 3:30 to 4:30 the club meets in Mr. Feeney's room in the New Science Building. After opening with a prayer, led by the club president (officers have not yet been elected), members of the club join in open discussion, sharing any thoughts and concerns they might have.

Stephanie Holsenbeck, a sophomore, opened the discussion at the September 13 meeting by reading from her quote book, "When I asked Jesus how much he loved me, he stretched out his arms and said, 'This much,' and died."

The members then offered their ideas for ways to get the club involved with service in the school and community. It is hoped that service will become a major focus of the group. They plan to devote 50% of their meeting dates to various service projects in the area.

The club's presence on campus has created controversy among students. Those students who are not involved with the club

differ in their opinions on C.R.O.S.S.

"I think that people shouldn't be allowed to discuss religion in school because it doesn't belong here," said Lindsey Gulya, a sophomore.

Sarah Warner, a sophomore, represents another way of thought among students. "As

C.R.O.S.S. was strictly based on Christianity and would not be molded to satisfy non-Christians whose beliefs may be in conflict with those of Christianity.

As reasoning for this statement, Kevin Woods, a sophomore, offered the example, "If I went to French Club and I spoke German, would they speak German for me?"

After the September 13 meeting of the club, members hung various posters around campus, advertising the existence of the club and its upcoming activities. Many students found these posters to be in questionable taste because they included such illustrations as an American flag where the stars formed a cross. Several days later the poster was removed from the walkway between the Main and Old Science Buildings.

When asked why the poster was taken down,

Mr. Penland said, "It was a message, not an announcement, and things that deliver messages should be cleared by me." The club had not gone through this procedure before hanging the poster.

In the eyes of the students, the central issue concerning the club being on campus is whether or not it could be in violation of any laws pertaining to the separation of church and state.

To explain the legalities of the founding of a club based on religion, Mr. Penland said, "The constitution as defined through the Supreme Court states that groups have a right to meet on campus, however, none of their funding may be provided by the state."

Another point of concern of Whirlies who are not involved with C.R.O.S.S. is as to why club members feel the need to express religion in school.

"Students want to know that they aren't the only ones in their classes that have Christian values," said the club advisor, Mr. Feeney.

"At church everyone is already Christian, but a lot of people at Grimsley don't know about Jesus. At school we have the opportunity to spark other students' interests in the Lord," said Aubrey Harris, a sophomore.

By protecting the right of the C.R.O.S.S. club to meet on campus, Mr. Penland is concerned with the precedent that has been set. It is now true that students of any religion would have to be allowed to organize a club that focuses on their religious beliefs.

"I would like to see a club where people of different faiths get together and share," said Mr. Penland. He hopes to avoid the development of a Whirlie campus separated by religion. Though many students are concerned with the true intentions of the club, Mr. Penland says, "The great majority of the students are sensitive to each other's faith and try to practice tolerance."



Members of the C.R.O.S.S. club play a getting-to-know-you game.

Kidd Photo

long as they are not forcing anything on anyone who does not want to have religious affiliation during the school day, they are okay," said Warner.

"I knew that C.R.O.S.S. would be a sensitive issue," said Mr. Penland, "I felt there would be objections raised because it could be viewed by some as being insensitive. However, student-initiated groups have a right to be on campus, and you have to protect the rights of everyone."

Despite what some other students have been saying, club members maintain that their club was founded solely on good intentions.

"One purpose of the club is to give others an opportunity to learn about Christianity," said Christina Chenault, a sophomore.

When asked how they would feel if a non-Christian wanted to come to their meetings, the majority of the members agreed that any interested students would be accepted into the group.

"We are not excluding anyone," said Sheffield. However, it was made clear that

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