

High Life

Grimsley High School

801 Westover Terrace
Greensboro, NC 27408

Volume 72 No. 7

May 6, 1996

Out of the Blue

Grimsley competed in the Knowledge Master's Open on April 17. With a total score of 1623 out of 2000, Grimsley placed 2nd in the state, 43 in the United States, and 43 in the world. The students competing were Mark Bochkis, Jonathan Nikfarjam, Irina Bochkis, Leon Bochkis, SunJun Park, Sarah Pendergraft, Keith Taylor, James Williams, Anna DeCasper, James Khanlarian, Maia Kaplan, Patrick Kinlaw, Jimmy Nehlsen, and Mamadou Niang. The team is coached by Mr. Whisenant and Mr. Williamson.

Grimsley's Sax Ensemble received a "Superior" rating at the East Davidson competition on Tuesday, April 23. The ensemble members are Cesar Alvarez, Greg Barbee, Jessica Brown, Andy Roberts, Rachel Rosenthal, Matt Schwarz, Justin Smith, and Mike Votta.

The Orchestra, directed by Ms. Dianne Barbee, competed in the Western Region Orchestra Festival at Wake Forest on April 17. The 30 students, led by Concertmaster Mike Ferry, received the highest possible rating, "Superior," from all three judges. The concert was sponsored by the North Carolina Music Educators Association.

The Gold Madrigals have been announced for the 1996-1997 school year. The new members are Amanda Ball, Christina Chenault, Avery Lutz, Amanda Sumrall, Jil Murray, Sarah Carpenter, Eric Cannon, Chris Grayson, Sean Murphy, Tim Stanley, Tom Earp, Chad McMurray, and James Woods.

On the recent National Latin Exam, the first Grimsley has participated in in over 5 years, seniors Patrick Kinlaw, Torben Kohler, Anne Beatty, Jennifer Oxenfeld, David Hyman, Catherine Owens, and Rebecca Rolnick, received Cum Laude or higher on the Latin 5 exam. Freshman Sam Cone had a perfect score on the Latin 2 exam, one of only 815 in the nation.

Senior celebration fun, safe

By Brian Schiller
Staff Writer

As the 1995-96 school year moves into its final months students are eagerly eyeing the burst of activity that accompanies the end of school. One of these events is Project Graduation, an all-night party on the night of graduation for the whole senior class.

As Project Graduation shapes up for its sixth consecutive year, it is now established as a tradition here at Grimsley, and as something that underclassmen can look forward to. The idea for Grimsley's Project Graduation originated in 1990 with the arrival of Mrs. Judy Jay, who had been involved in a similar graduation party in another state. When she came to Greensboro Mrs. Jay saw the need for something like she had worked on before she moved so she volunteered

to work on the project which was to be undertaken with the approval of the PTA. A small group of parents then began to get Project Graduation on its feet by writing letters asking for the support of local businesses, clubs, and government organizations. To expand on the original seed money given by the PTA a grant of \$2000 was secured from the N.C. Department of Highway Safety.

The group found businesses willing to sponsor the event because it was a new and popular idea in Greensboro. Before the start of Project Graduation several of the high schools in the city had graduation parties including Grimsley. Because these parties weren't open to the entire senior class, many people were excluded or forced to decide between different groups of friends.

"The most important aspect is that it (Project Graduation) is open to every graduating senior," said Mrs. Charlene Barham who was one of the event's originators.

Another important aspect of Project Graduation was that it was intended to give seniors a place to go where they wouldn't feel the need to drink and would be safe for the night.

The issue of alcohol was the reason that a town in New England organized the first party like Project Graduation and encouraged other towns to do the same. Many students here at Grimsley know people that have been hurt or

parent volunteers. Activities at the party include bingo, music, karaoke, dancing, fortune-telling, manicures, basketball, volleyball, casino games, contests, and more. Prizes varying from cash to merchandise from local stores are given away in great quantity for the whole duration of the evening.

Mrs. Kidd, who has been a part of project graduation since its inception, said, "Graduates arrive in a festive mood, ready to relax, have fun, and celebrate with the rest of their class. The casino room and door prize areas attract the biggest crowds."

The drawback of so many activities and the lavish decorations for the event is that they come at a cost. The \$5 seniors pay for a ticket to the event covers a small fraction of the cost per student. Organizers spend countless hours contacting local businesses for donations of cash and prizes.

"Funding for the party is a yearly problem. The ticket price covers only a small fraction of the cost, making parent donations vital to the continuing success of Project Graduation," said Mrs. Schiller.

The organizers of the 1996 Project Graduation have extremely high hopes for the event they have been working on since last year, and the class of 1996 is depending on those parents to make Project Graduation a fitting end to their high school careers. If the seniors make it a point to turn out in record numbers the party will be a huge success for everyone.

"I am excited," said Will Clark, a senior. "I am looking forward to a safe and fun night with my friends."



Students look on as doorprizes are raffled off at the 1993 Project Graduation celebration. Doorprizes are one of the most popular events. Kidd photo

killed in accidents involving drunk drivers, and these students also acknowledge that Prom and Graduation were two nights on which teenagers traditionally go out and get drunk.

The organizers hoped to avoid tragedies that had struck other cities as whole groups of seniors were killed on the most important day of their teenage years.

In years past 90% of Grimsley graduates have come to the Central YMCA for the night.

Seniors will arrive at the Central Y between 11:00 P.M. and midnight on Monday June 3, and the party lasts until 5:00 A.M. Although seniors are allowed to leave before 5 o'clock, few do as they forfeit all door prizes and are not allowed to return.

The start of the party is delayed until 11 P.M. so that graduates can change clothes and see their families.

Upon entering the Y, students have a huge array of activities to choose from in rooms that have been decorated beyond recognition by

Featured Inside

 Pictures from

Lunch on
the lawn

page 8



JROTC commended
page 2

Project Graduation

When: June 3, 1996

11pm - 5am

Where: Central
Y.M.C.A.

How Much: \$5

Tickets go on sale May 20, and it is recommended that they are purchased in advance to avoid lines at the door.