

High Life

Grimsley High School

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Greensboro, NC 27408

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Out of the Blue

Coach Bob Sawyer and his wife traveled to Greenville, North Carolina on November 1. Coach Sawyer was honored with a \$50,000 endowment given in his name to East Carolina University. John Tudor, a former swimmer, honored Coach Sawyer with the endowment. Though Tudor graduated from Smith High School, he trained with Coach Sawyer outside of school for several years.

There will be ample opportunities to the Gold and Silver Madrigals perform between the Thanksgiving and Winter Holidays. During this period of time the two groups will be giving more than 20 performances to a wide variety of audiences. Currently the choral department is focusing its energy on preparing to perform a major modern classical work, the Pinkham Christmas Cantata with double brass choir and organ. The Gold and Silver Madrigals as well as the Advanced Chorus will perform this piece. Advanced Chorus is also working on a variety of folk carols from around the world.

The following seniors were inducted into Grimsley's chapter of the National Honor Society on November 20: Alex Anderson, Daniel Benjamin, Leon Bochkis, Peggy Burns, Ted Chen, Hester DeCasper, Meaghan Graves, Betsey Hirschfeld, David Lemon, Andrew Marin, Ben Messmer, Jill Murray, Simon Newman, Sunjun Park, Sarah Roberts, Elizabeth Sheffield, Dylan Thurston, Bryan Williams, Kelly Youngken, and Patty Yu.

The Grimsley Army JROTC will be having an open house on December 8 from 2:00-4:00 P.M. Cadets and parents will receive refreshments while they listen to cadet staff briefings and view informative displays. The Drill Team will perform both fancy and regulation drills.

Buczinsky leaves Grimsley and teaching profession

By Meganne Raines
Reporter

There has recently been a noticeable quiet emanating from room 201 of the main building. One of Grimsley's most dynamic teachers is gone.

Mr. Buczinsky, an English teacher at Grimsley, confirmed one month ago that he resigned from teaching. His official last day at Grimsley was November 22, 1996. Mr. Buczinsky moved to Chicago, Illinois, to live near his brother.

Mr. Buczinsky views his resignation as an opportunity to act decisively and to stand up for a personal belief. He feels that the Guilford County School System's motto "Children First," has been reduced to only a slogan by the indignities in the system. He claims that the school system does not encourage energy or creativity. Mr. Buczinsky said, "What they mean by teaching is not what I mean by teaching."

Recent controversy over "The Old Gringo" has added to Mr. Buczinsky's dismay with the school system. However, despite the countless hours he spent defending the novel, the opposition to the book was not a major factor in his decision. Mr. Buczinsky's resolution to leave was based on what he viewed as a lack of support demonstrated during the book review process and especially at the public hearing last month. This event sealed Mr. Buczinsky's decision to resign. The dispute about "The Old Gringo" began when Grimsley parents opposed the book. Mr. Buczinsky does not hold anything against these people; in fact, he expressed a strong respect for them.

The metaphor which Mr. Buczinsky chooses to describe his situation is that

of a dinghy. Teachers are in a dinghy boat, being pulled by a larger ship, the administration. When the central administration did not support Mr. Buczinsky, the dinghy was cut away, left to drift alone.

Mr. Buczinsky's departure for Chicago is a reunion of two brothers. He and his younger sibling plan to work together, blending business and creative writing.



Mr. Buczinsky responds to a discussion in an I.B. English 11 class.

Mr. Buczinsky wants to be a writer, an occupation that cannot share time with his teaching job. Mr. Buczinsky's new career will provide him with more time to himself, a valuable benefit that graduating endless stacks of student work does not provide.

Mr. Buczinsky will be free from tedious hours of paperwork, but his students will be left without a teacher whom many like and respect. The International Baccalaureate classes will most likely have

to face an instructor who has not had the necessary I.B. training.

While some students have recently learned of Mr. Buczinsky's resignation and others do not have a strong opinion, the overall student response to Mr. Buczinsky's departure is very remorseful. On the day Buczinsky announced his decision, students could be seen crying in the hallways. Freshman Emily Butler said, "I'm very sad because he's the best teacher I've ever had and I've learned more from him than from any other teacher." Issac Kuo, a junior in one of Mr. Buczinsky's I.B. classes, shares Butler's sadness. "Although I've only had him for a couple months I've learned a lot and I can really see that he cares about his students. I wish that he didn't have to leave," said Kuo.

However, many of Mr. Buczinsky's students expressed that they are happy for him and respect his decision. Morgan Laughlin, a junior enrolled in the I.B. class, said, "If he's going to be happy then I'd rather him leave than stay here and be miserable."

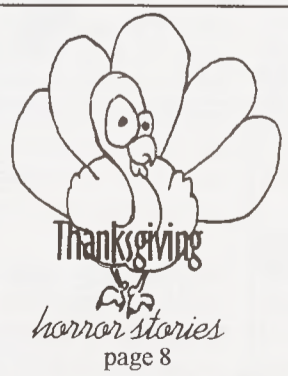
Another emotion expressed by Grimsley students is one of confusion. Jessica Fuller, a freshman, respects Mr. Buczinsky's passion for learning and teaching, but she questions his decision to resign. "He seems like he would be a great teacher, but leaving his students in the middle of the year seems to go against his zest for learning and his job as a teacher," said Fuller.

Mr. Buczinsky hopes his life in Chicago will be a time of great, new adventure. However, this adventure will not involve Mr. Buczinsky getting married. One rumor at Grimsley claims that he is already engaged. Another bit of hearsay that has reached students is that the administration forced Buczinsky to step down. Both of these rumors are completely false.

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