

Slackers, Senioritis evident on campus

By Simon Newman
Editorial Editor

An epidemic has hit Grimsley. It's worse than the Ebola virus. It's more contagious than a cold. So what is this horrible problem? SLACKERITIS.

Grimsley is full of slackers. Everyone just seems too lazy to do one thing or another, no matter whether it is homework or work at home. Many people seem to find better things to do than work. There are the excuses of T.V., radio, time with friends, etc.. Even those who really love to work find themselves slacking at one point or another.

At Grimsley, procrastination is a result of slacking. If a paper is

due on a Monday, then Sunday night at 11 o'clock seems to be the perfect time to start on it. Slackers can write an entire research paper the night before it is due. The excuse that there was just so much to do is often heard in this case. Many people affected with Slackeritis seem to know ways to write numerous pages of absolutely nothing (large type on computers helps achieve this).

Slackers are lazy. When there are dirty dishes or a full trash can, there always seems to be something else that you have to do. Anyway, isn't that what parents and siblings are for? In my case, definitely. Putting things off on other people is a natural result of Slackeritis.

Why take out the trash or mow the yard when your older brother is just as capable and they're not doing anything. It's fun sometimes to just do nothing.

Many students at Grimsley have been exposed to Slackeritis, and it is quickly spreading. Some freshmen have been diagnosed with it. They have found out that by giving the least effort necessary, they have a lot of time left over to do whatever it is that they really want to do. After three and a half years at Grimsley, I have seen Slackeritis steadily take over my neural system, hitting hardest this year. That is because I have attained Slackeritis to the umpteenth power. I have Senioritis.

Senioritis is the advanced form of Slackeritis. It results during your final year of high school, sometime around February when the college acceptances come rolling in. Hey, I know that I have a bad case of the disease. I've been accepted to college and I've sent in my housing contract. School just doesn't seem to have the same pizzazz that it used to. I feel that no matter how I do, Chapel Hill will be waiting for me just around the corner.

I'm not the only one with Senioritis. At least half of this year's graduating class sees the light and falls in with the slackest of all slack groups. What once was four hours of long, tedious homework quickly becomes two minutes of meaning-

less scribble. The minimum to get by has now gotten lower. Grades have lost all meaning. Any Senior will tell you just how bad Senioritis has hit. And they say that college is even more slack. I'm not sure that it is possible.

There is help for slackers, but you have to take the first step yourself by admitting that you have a problem. No twelve step course can help you on this one. You have to make the giant leap yourself. Slackeritis will always be evident in this world, but you can help cut it down. Remember, only you can prevent Slackeritis. I would keep writing but I'm too slack to continue. So to all you fellow slackers out there: There is hope.

Letter to the Editor

Book banning common in schools

Dear Editor,

There is ongoing controversy over censorship, or editing for content. Television, magazines, art, and movies have all been subject to censorship. Literature has become entangled in the ideology to cleanse all expression for "impurities." While I would not give *The Old Gringo* to an impressionable fifth grader to read, I do believe that high school students have the ability to make their own judgments about what they consider correct and incorrect. For this reason, I offer the argument that at the high school level, no literature should be banned.

Recently, the Pulitzer Prize-winning novel, *The Color Purple* by Alice Walker, came under attack from a family in the Guilford County School System. The parents of high school students objected to their son's reading of *The Color Purple* for an advanced placement class because of "offensive language" and "unnatural" sexual displays such as homosexuality, masturbation, and incest.

Parents do have the right to protest literature if they think the concepts that are displayed objectionable, but in the case of the parents objecting to *The Color Purple*, they were wrong when they attempted to have the book removed from the reading list for everyone. Opinions are subjective and should be respected, not forced, on others. Do these parents speak for all the parents of the students enrolled in the advanced placement classes?

A similar case arose earlier this year with *The Old Gringo* by Carlos Fuentes. The parents of a student in an International Baccalaureate literature class expressed much distaste for some sexually explicit scenes within the novel. Instead of going to the school for an alternative novel from the IB reading list, the parents went directly to a county school board committee and asked that the book be taken off the reading list permanently.

Again, does a single family's views have the right to dictate an entire school system's literature regulations? No. Do the beliefs of the parents in one family mirror the beliefs of parents in all of Guilford County's families? No.

The most important voices in this argument are often overlooked: the students themselves. Literature which is banned from our eyes hinders our learning. Being a student of the Guilford County school system, I am greatly influenced by the outcomes of all these cases.

Ironically, I read *The Old Gringo* for a Grimsley English class a few months before it was reviewed by the school board. No one else I talked to knew of the novel,



Duquette graphic

nor had ever heard of Carlos Fuentes. While reading, I noted the sexual content of the novel but I was old enough not to dwell on it. There is much more to this novel than the few lines which were objected to. *The Old Gringo* has some interesting themes and good symbolism, and I used this novel to compose a paper which I consider to be one of my best.

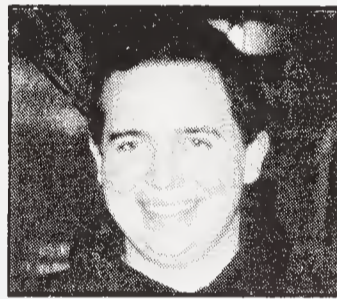
Undoubtedly, in the future other parents and students will object to literature which portray society's "evils." It is the responsibility of the Guilford County School System to offer alternative literature if someone finds assigned readings offensive. However, if single families continue to attempt to censor certain literature on the basis of their personal convictions, the price we pay will be great. The censorship of any literature threatens all literature.

Ben Peterson
Junior

Whirlies ...

Speak Out

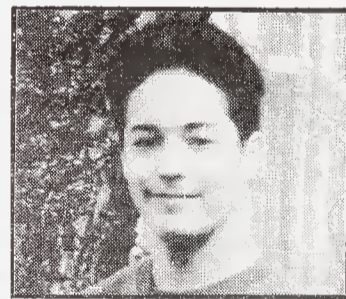
Have you ever experienced discrimination at Grimsley?



Ballen photo

"At the beginning of the year I was bald because I had cancer. People would call me Skinhead."
-Matt Fabish, Senior

"A lot of times, people associate my name with Taco Bell. They'll call me Bean Burrito, or assume I'm Mexican. I'm Puerto Rican."
-Jacob Perez, Junior



Ballen photo



Duquette photo

"The first thing they said to me in Guidance when I was registering was, 'Are you aware of the drug policy?'"
-Josh Johnson, Junior

"I've walked by certain people on campus who'd look at me and start the old 'ching-chung' routine."
-Sun Jun Park, Senior



Duquette Photo