

Senior Reflections...

Student Body President

Sarah Atkinson

As I attend the various graduation parties, teas, and end-of-the-year ceremonies, I am left with one question... "What the heck am I doing here?"

Even though I have put in the same amount of years in school as other people who have graduated before me, there is no way that I could possibly be as old as I thought the seniors were when I was a freshman (was I ever REALLY a freshman?). I can't decide if that feels like three years or three months ago. Where has all the time gone? As I sit here pondering that question, I can remember very little between freshmen orientation and what I ate for breakfast this morning.

"It's amazing what you can learn from the diversity on this campus."

-Sarah Atkinson

I remember myself following the Student Body President and Vice-President through so many halls and walkways that I became disoriented and scared of actually being in high school. I never would have guessed that these were the same halls that I would come to feel so familiar with and that would hold so many wonderful memories.

It probably wasn't until I became a senior that I could truly appreciate the time I have had at Grimsley. Maybe that is because I can actually see the end of the line as I have had to prepare for life after high school...if there is such a thing. That sounds so stupid to hear myself say but it's the only life I know and I have to admit that I'm scared to let it go. I guess that's a good thing, because if I absolutely could not wait to get away from here, that would mean that I had not had a good experience in the last four years of my life.

I can honestly say that the reason I can look back and feel satisfied about my high school career is because of all the things I got myself involved in. Without taking a chance and trying out for whatever sport or attending some random interest meeting for whatever club, there is no way that I would have made such a variety of friends at this school. I find it hard to have a conversation and walk down the hall at the same time because of all the people I feel the need to say hello to. It has been nice

to say that I wasn't part of any elite clique or that I limited myself to only being friends with certain people. As a ninth or tenth grader I would have loved to have felt like I fit in with a specific group, but as I am now older and wiser, I know that this was one of the greatest aspects of my life. I hope everyone finds the courage to open themselves up to people who are different than they are. It's amazing what you can learn from the diversity on this campus.



Whirligig photo

One thing I can say about my senior year is that it has turned into everything I thought it would be: a year of ruling the school and then watching movies for the last three weeks of May. After all the stress of choosing a college is out of the way, I have been able to sit back, relax, and enjoy just being with a class of people that I feel like I

have known forever. I am going to miss you guys so much. For some of you, I still have memories of learning our ABC's together. And others, we have come so close in a short amount of time that it is just as hard to say goodbye. When I first think about how we are pushed into leaving the people that are such a huge part of our lives, it makes me angry and frustrated. But then I realize that every bit of time we have spent together will

be cherished for the rest of our lives, and we will tell our children about "the good ol' days."

Once I realized, only a couple of months ago, how little time I have left with you all, I have been trying to jam pack every free second I have with quality time so that there will be some sort of closure on my childhood; that's what I feel like I am bidding farewell to. The day we walk across that stage is the day that we have to admit that our next step will be taken without mommy or daddy to hold our hand. To some of you that may be a relief. For me, I just want to relive it all: the football games, spirit weeks, dances, soccer practices, lunches in the grove, parties, and maybe even a few classes here and there (they haven't all been THAT bad).

Maybe I am having all these nostalgic thoughts because of the pride and ownership I feel in Grimsley. I have actually walked to first period from the parking lot saying to myself, "You own this school." I know that sounds a little bit psycho, but I do feel that way, especially after all the many hours of behind the scenes work I have put in. It's all been worth it though. It has given me reasons for being at school besides the fact that our attendance policy demands it. Now that's one thing I am looking forward to never dealing with again!

And as I write my final thoughts to you, I am asking myself if I have said everything that I have to say. I don't think I will ever be able to express in words how much of an impact these years have had on me, although I feel so lucky to be able to write this letter to you. I will miss everything about this school and the people who make it. You are all a part of me forever if you like it or not. I only hope the many stages of my life that are to follow will be as happy and memorable as being a Whirlie has been.

...four years as a Whirlie

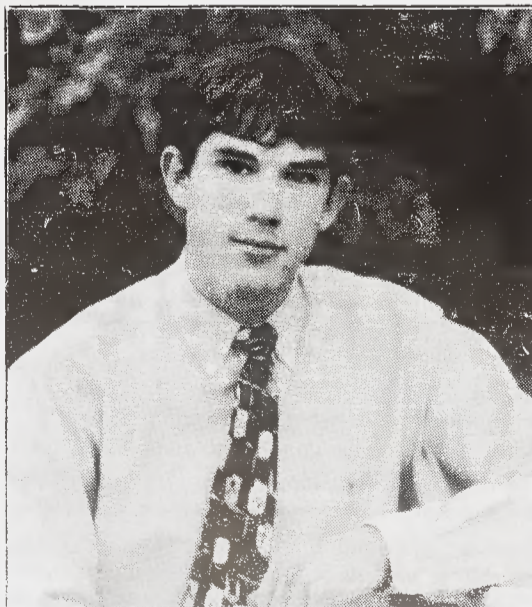
Senior Class President

Mark Stroupe

I'm going to graduate! I finally made it. As I look forward to graduation I think about things that I've learned, stuff I have enjoyed, and things that I will miss about high school. I learned that letting a fifteen year old girl drive your car is a big mistake. I learned that cutting school, although fun at the time, can be extremely addictive and lead to attendance problems resulting in countless hours of make-up time. In the classroom, I learned things such as how to solve quadratic equations, how to type, and how to count to ten in Spanish. I have learned that there are times to keep your mouth shut.

There are a lot of things I will miss about Grimsley. I will miss decorating my car for the Grimsley/Page football games. I'll miss getting big up on stage in the auditorium. I will miss pep rallies, assemblies, and Coach Franks' Sociology/psychology class discussions. What I will miss the most is all the friends that I have made during my years at Grimsley. My friends are loyal, happy, depressed, rich, poor, thuggish, mean, friendly, arrogant, shy, popular...in other words, all kinds. One of the best things about Grimsley is its diversity. In this respect Grimsley is good preparation for later life. I'll also

miss my special friends at McIver Education Center, where I was an intern this past semester. I loved working with those kids, especially during the Special Olympics. Another thing I'll miss



Whirligig photo

is talking junk with Coach Smouse and all the other guys in the weight room. I'll miss checking out the new freshmen girls at the beginning of each school year.

I remember having lots of fun at parties, football games, and bonfires. There are so many things I did in high school, but there are also some things that I never did that I now wish I had. Why didn't I play

"Have goals, make plans for the future, but also live in the present."

-Mark Stroupe

football? Why didn't I try out for the baseball team? Why didn't I ask out more girls? Why didn't I join more clubs, go to more classes, or take more time to sit down and study? But in the little time that I had, I could only do so much.

For the future my recommendations are to keep the spirit alive at Grimsley. Keep all the traditions going such as: senior clean-up day, the bonfires, the student/faculty basketball games, and the big turnout for the annual Grimsley/Page football game. Be sure to get involved and be friends with a lot of different types of people. In other words, be well-rounded. Have goals, make plans for the future, but also live in the present. Spend time with friends and have fun.