

High Life

Grimsley High School

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Greensboro, NC 27408

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Out of the Blue

The annual Shakespeare recitation contest, sponsored by the English-Speaking Union of the United States, will be held on February 13 at Grimsley High School during 2nd period. 21 students are participating this year. Each will recite a monologue of his or her choice. Judges will select first, second, and third place winners. The first place winner will advance to the Guilford County Competition.

All juniors are eligible for the Princeton University Ten-Minute Play Contest. Applicants may only submit one play which will be judged by the Princeton University Theater and Dance faculty. Submissions must be postmarked by March 12, 1999. All English teachers have information about the contest.

ETC '99, Weaver's performing company, will present its version of the renowned movie and play "Steel Magnolias" on February 5 and 6. Tickets will be sold only at the door and will cost \$5.00. Curtain call is at 7:30pm.

IB Environmental Science and IB Philosophy are two new courses that are being added to Grimsley's curriculum. IB Environmental Science is a two hour course, and students must present a faculty recommendation for the IB Philosophy class. Students may register for these courses in February.

TWIRP will take place on February 27 this year at Bur-mil from 8:00pm to 12:00am. Tickets cost \$15.00 per person and will be sold during the week before the dance. This year's theme is "Lady in Red." TWIRP King self-nominations will be held during the first week of February.

N.H.S. competitive at GHS

By Nicole Rozelman
Reporter

The back of the National Honor Society Fall Induction flyer states, "Grimsley's chapter of the NHS has long honored the high and desirable qualities of man in his quest for knowledge." So why are so many students who have this quest for knowledge not permitted into the organization?

Grimsley National Honor Society, given a charter in 1922, may be the oldest one in the state, but many students feel resentment toward this club. Denise Singley, an IB diploma candidate says, "I feel I have an excellent resume, and I do not understand why I was unable to be inducted. I chose not to apply for the second acceptance this fall because I no longer want to be a part of this society, who obviously does not base their admittance on honor." Sarah Swink, who was also denied admittance last spring, did not apply a second time. "I just didn't see any point in pursuing it," she said.

In order to even be considered for this self-nominating organization, a student must have a 3.6 GPA and must show both leadership skills and service participation on and off campus.

Specifically, there are four main categories from which students in the spring of their junior year, or fall of their senior year, are chosen: academic, leadership, service, and character. However, students feel that the "character" aspect highly outweighs the other sections, because this section is strictly determined by the teacher's point-of-view.

Senior Scott Hackworth says, "I do not understand why academically inclined students like me, with a great deal of leadership skills and service projects, are not allowed to be a member. My fear is that future classes coming in will have the same trouble. The selection should not be based on popularity, introvert, extrovert, or whatever."

When a student submits his resume with his name on it, Mr. Cahall, the head of the committee, selects a panel of teachers and guidance councilors to look at not only their achievements, but also the opinions of the student's past teachers to make their ruling

decisions.

Michael Gould, a senior who has early acceptance to UNC, but was denied membership to the National Honor Society in his last two attempts says, "Many of my fellow students, myself included, feel that this group may get more respect if they had a better process of choosing who they will induct by leaving the names off the resumes, and not allowing the character references to apply in an unbalanced way to the application." He later stated, "There is some efficiency in the committee, but there is much to be done with the say teachers have in the selection process. The committee must decide whether it is more important to have good grades, plenty of extra-curricular activities, many leadership experiences, and an



Students gather at the spring '98 N.H.S. inductions. These students fulfilled the required criteria of the National Honor Society.

obvious college future, or how outgoing they may be in the classroom."

Students point to another problem with the selection process: It is difficult to log all the hours spent on some activities such as church, dance, or music. "The people who are deciding, don't know how much time we spend on activities," said Gould. Students noted the practice hours, performance hours, and leadership involved with music, and sense that the committee overlooks this area. "All of these really smart music people didn't get in, with a couple of exceptions," said one student.

Church is another area that requires extensive time commitment. "I spend so much time at church in leadership and service roles," said Swink.

A large majority of students feel that if students left their names off their resumes, and the committee did not account so much for the "character" reference, more students who deserve to

be a part of the club would be admitted. Mrs. Teague has the authority to over-rule any of the decisions the committee makes, but she says, "I feel that our faculty makes wise decisions with whom they admit into this association."

What recourse does the student rejected from N.H.S. have? 1) Disregard the rejection, 2) Speak to Mrs. Manahan, advisor of the club, or 3) Speak to Mrs. Teague. Three students did pursue answers about their rejection. "I asked Mrs. Manahan what was missing on my application. She pointed to a lack of leadership. I immediately pointed out my leadership in Girl Scouts and Exchangettes. She had trouble giving me a straight-forward answer," says Singley.

Gould and Hackworth made an appointment with Mrs. Teague. "We wanted to find out what we did wrong," said Hackworth. "She said all of the information in the process was confidential and that she supported the committee."

The students hope that the selection process changes to reflect more of a balance of the four areas and to reflect the "National" title. According to the students, if the N.H.S. is a national organization, then it should not be more difficult to enter the club at Grimsley than at any other U.S. high school.

Rejected Students:

- Student 1: GPA: 4.95
Flag Corps
Youth Group President
Governor's School
- Student 2: GPA: 4.46
Band Section Leader
Governor's School
Cross Country
- Student 3: Class Rank: 29
Assistant Soccer Coach
Urban Ministries Volunteer
- Student 4: GPA: 4.8
Junior Marshal
Girl Scout Silver Award
IB Diploma candidate

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