

Seniors should be more selective with applications, make room for peers who know dream destinations

BY COURTNEY BROWN
Features Editor

As the first quarter draws to a close, one subject seems to press on seniors' minds: college admissions. Although the stress caused by selecting a university is often unbearable, I am tired of hearing from my peers who are applying to seven or more colleges; this practice is unfair, misrepresentative, and only increases the stress for those students who have one school in mind and yearn to be accepted there.

According to most college advisors, seniors should apply to five or six colleges: one to two as reach-schools; two "middle of the road" universities, and two fall-back schools. Students who apply to more are wasting their time and money.

"Some students apply to 10, 12, even 15 schools, thinking it increases their options. A fee is attached to each application, though, so this can get expensive. And it may just delay the process of narrowing your choices," according to "Choosing Your Future," an online website devoted to guiding students through the college selection process.

I consider this practice very unfair. First, applying to numerous schools often eliminates spots from people who sincerely hope to attend that school. Seniors who have their hearts set on a certain institution may find themselves on the waiting list because they lost their admission acceptance letter to a student who applied to the university as one of their numerous backup schools.

Interestingly enough, I have observed that most of my peers who have over two back-up schools are not the average students with the lesser chance of gaining admission into college, but rather the IB students who

boast high grades and greater chances. These particular seniors often like to complain and share their worries, but many more students have legitimate concerns regarding admission because they lack high SAT scores and perhaps do not carry high GPAs; therefore, the top 20 percent do not need four back-up schools.

I do understand that many of my peers apply to a myriad of schools because they are uncertain of what they want to major in or where they actually want to live away from home. Even so, applying to numerous colleges will not make this decision any easier. After all, they will still have to make decisions once they are accepted to schools offering a plethora of course studies in a variety of locations. Applying to so many colleges only intensifies the decision-making process.

What also annoys me is hearing of students applying to more than one school for early admission. Early admission is designed for the student who knows exactly what college or university he or she wants to attend, but because so many colleges do not make their early admission selections binding, some seniors are applying to more than one. Again, this practice is unfair for students who actually use the early admission option for its intended purpose; they may not gain admission since their peers are applying here, there, and everywhere for a guaranteed acceptance letter by October.

Applying to an excessive number of colleges leads to other misconceptions as well. Every year at the Senior Awards ceremony, students who received scholarships, including those they plan not to accept, walk across the



stage as a speaker announces the amount of scholarship money they earned. While earning hundreds of thousands of dollars is certainly a great accomplishment, the system is also very misrepresentative.

Students to whom universities or colleges award large sums do deserve recognition, but what the audience may not realize is how many different learning institutions provided the total.

If a student receives a scholarship from one school, he or she is likely to earn money from similar schools. When this stu-

dent begins to apply to numerous colleges, their scholarship amount accumulates. In contrast, a student might only apply to a few schools, and even if he or she receives scholarships, the sum of \$50,000 seems minimal in the company of classmates. While such an amount is a great accomplishment, it does not impress an audience when compared to the student who received \$400,000 from more schools.

What makes the circumstances so misleading is that the second student, if he or she had applied to more schools, prob-

ably would have boasted a more impressive total, too. Because a student knows where he or she wants to attend and gains acceptance with a scholarship, the announcement in his or her honor seems less spectacular.

I urge my fellow seniors to cut down their lists of potential colleges. Not only are these seniors creating problems for other students applying to the same colleges, but they are causing problems for themselves as well. Every senior who deserves a college education will earn one.

Traditions fade as few culprits ruin fun for students seeking to show their spirit

BY COURTNEY BROWN
Features Editor

Recently I was confronted by our School Resource Officer, Marc Ridgill. He and the faculty are concerned about the behavior and misconduct at Grimsley's home football games.

Apparently, students have been sneaking small 1.7 fluid ounce bottles of liquor, commonly known as "airplane bottles" or "mini bottles," into Jamieson Stadium. This violation of the law and school rules has jeopardized the spirit and privacy of the students.

After threatening to bring a portable breathalyzer in the stadium for every game, he bid fair warning to any students smelling and appearing to be under the influence of alcohol.

"I plan to stop any students who smell like liquor, have trouble with coordination, or have dilated pupils," were Ridgill's words. The consequences stated were "If a student under suspicion is asked to blow [into a breathalyzer], and he doesn't, I'll personally call his parents to come get 'em out of here. If he does, and it's over the legal

limit, he's going downtown [to the police station] with me. And I can guarantee he isn't going to walk at graduation either."

As a senior and a friend to my fellow students, I feel responsible to inform you of his requests. I understand his demands and will abide by them, but a different restriction stated is what bothers me most, and moreover, convinced me to write this letter to the editor.

A tradition has been terminated at Grimsley. Students are prohibited from standing on the white wall surrounding the inner perimeter of the stadium.

This mandate, thanks to many complaints from parents attending the games, is because of students under suspicion of being intoxicated. In my fourth and final year at Grimsley, I have seen every senior class (up until ours) utilize the wall for its vertical leverage. Seniors who are appointed to "get the crowd hype," or commence school spirit chants, stand on the wall in order to project their voices over a mass of talking people, but this tradition will no longer be practiced.

After failing to adhere to this new rule, I have been told on numerous occasions to "Get off

or get out!" I do not believe that the administration fully understands seniors' roles in football games, or any school events, for that matter. I hope this action is not the start of more traditions to become extinct at Grimsley.

Students, seniors especially, have decreased attendance to football games following our match against Northern Durham. This rule, strictly enforced by Officer Ridgill and Athletic Director Lewis Newman is a detriment to the crowd's spirit and possibly a namely cause to the team's overall performance.