

Editorial Policy Explained

Chris Chanlett's letter to the editor demands a clarification of the *Proconian's* editorial policy.

Contrary to the letter's assumption, the journalism class has a great deal of freedom. It does exist as a class, however, and, like any other class, can not have unlimited freedom because it has a teacher.

The only real "censorship" which is imposed on the editorials, however, is applied by the editor herself in line with our policy of not criticizing the administration for something it can not or will not change.

Such criticism would be senseless and purposeless and might even have an adverse effect on the administration. A few years ago the school annuals arrived late from the printer. The administration decided, for several reasons, not to distribute the yearbook until final exams were over.

Enraged students marched up and down the halls with posters, a demonstration which ended any chance they had of getting their annuals early.

The student body may have its own smoking lounge and parking lot next year, not because it has petitioned the administration or staged demonstrations or because of anything which the *Proconian* has or could have said, but because the facilities for these privileges may be available for the first time next year if the students are willing to accept their part of the responsibility.

We have had editorials on the smoking lounge and parking lot which stressed the point that students must be willing to show maturely their desire for these privileges by accepting the responsibilities of the privileges which they already have, such as the school store and snack shack, as well as those which will occur with these two new privileges.

The *Proconian*, we hope, has been living up to its name. We have tried, in our news, feature, and editorial coverage, to successfully present an enlightened and responsible interpretation of all aspects—both pro and con—of life at CHHS.

We urge students to write letters or to speak to the editors about any suggestions or criticisms which they have.

How Alive Is This School?

The letter to the editor which appears on this page emphasizes two major needs of a student body—encouragement and unity.

The letter mentions that the main source of this encouragement is the guidance counselor, who fortunately will be hired full-time next year—at the expense of another teacher in the system.

We think that the teachers themselves are also a source of encouragement. The fact that they are "paid little for their services" and still teach could mean one of two things.

They want to teach and enjoy it, or else they can not do anything else. We seriously doubt this last possibility. CHHS is fortunate in having an excellent, well-qualified faculty.

All this amounts to the fact that these teachers must enjoy their work and be willing to help their students as much as they can.

The encouragement is there, but it is up to the students to recognize it and to accept it.

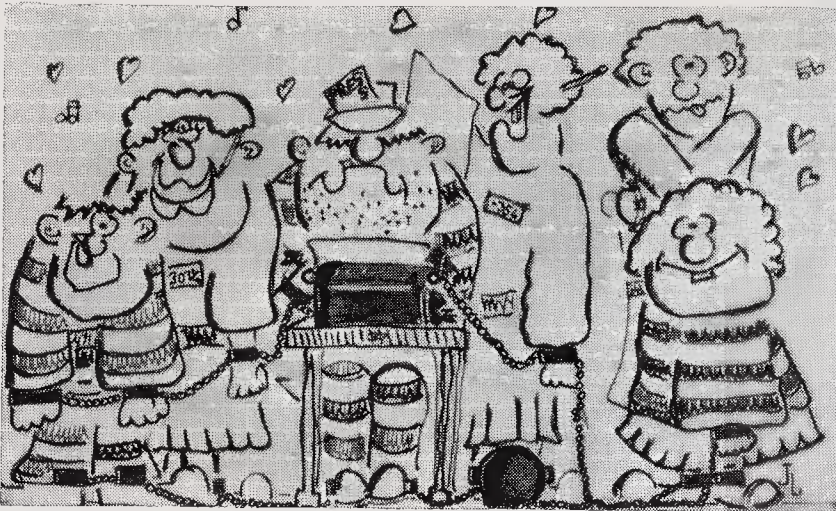
Unity is the other key word in the letter. A strong bond between students, students and faculty, students and school could give the student a real feeling of belonging in the school.

This unity must be achieved, however, and there are several ways of doing it, such as strengthening clubs and class activities.

We think that it is too much to hope that these activities will completely remedy drop-out problem and other special problems which exist because of some lack in the curriculum, but CHHSers need to put forth the effort to see if they will work.

As the superintendent said earlier this year: "When you have pride and spirit, you're pretty hard to defeat."

Teachers Receive Crazy Valentines



HAPPY VALENTINE from the Gang on the Proconian Staff!

Valentines to teachers found their way into the *Proconian* mailbox this week.

To Miss Wilkin:
Just a little Valentine hello
From your friend at Monticello.
It I'd bellow—'cept I'm yellow—
"I want to be your fellow!"
Hoping you'll listen to what I say,
Your boyfriend true—Tommy J.

To my unparalleled Mrs. Horn:
This is a real number—straight from my heart.
Not handing you a line—that wouldn't be smart.
In the interior of my soul, there's no point but you;
If I don't have the right angle, what shall I do?
Happy Valentine,
Pythagorus

To Mrs. Crockett:
I'm in a dreadful spot—o-spasm,
Again you've upset my protoplasm.
You've said I'm thin-skinned: alack and alas!
—A heartless, simple, shapeless mass.
Is it my fault I'm uncouth and incomplete?
Yet, fool that I be—I'm forever thine.
This is my plea—be my Valentine!
Devotion evermore,
A faithful protozoa

My inescapable Mrs. Peacock:
You fuss at me terribly when I come in late,
Knowing a "confused" friend forgot the date.
Yet once I'm home, out again I'm sent—
Don't mind my confusion, though; I'm quite content.
With your ambiguous behavior, I'm always decamped.
But you've got me covered, banded, and stamped!
Loving but shook,
An overdue book

To Mrs. Shepard:
You're my ever-true guiding light,
My consoler when in a fright,
Advising me about scores on SAT
Or aiding with a lovers' spat.
Always chasing the beam of knowledge,
You help me find the best college,
Or from a good-for-nothing slob,
You lead me to an honest job.
You've taught me to tread the straight and narrow line;
Now—won't you be my Valentine?
A grateful citation
From the lost generation

Drop-Outs Create Large Problem; Students Must Have More Spirit

Dear Editor:
I sincerely believe it is time to do something about the increased number of drop-outs, immature marriages, and other unfortunate situations at CHHS.

Students Need Counselor
Students should be strongly advised to visit the counselor their sophomore year. There should be a college day with representatives from colleges and perhaps a career day so that students can try to prepare for the world when they leave school.

Doors Open for College-Bound
For the students who make good grades, know how to study, and are college-bound, there are few problems. There is every opportunity and advantage open to them. For those who have problems—well, they have to work them out alone. Some can—some can't. Aren't their lives important?

The students complain the school has closed in on them, refused them smoking privileges, band, a phys. ed. program, cut out any other but college classes, and clamped down on their continually rising resentment and any feeble attempt to change things.

They complain and crawl into their little groups and wait till they can get out of school. Class meetings are so few that a class loses its unity. Interest in clubs has fallen off. The greatest asset for ever gaining anything is lost—unity.

The last bond, school athletics, which in the past years has been the only tie between the students, is dying out.

Lack of Unity Sad
How truly sad that some people will never know the feeling of standing in a crowd where no one notices who is the top student, or who is wearing weejuns, London Fog, and madras, or what a person's father does. They will never know what it is to be a group of people yelling and cheering for a cause—together.

It does no good to complain and gripe and build resentment up inside of you. The only thing to do is to drop your groups and build an interest in a goal—with every single person in the school behind it. Without interest and most of all, spirit, you are lost.

If you could get behind your clubs and build them up to something worthy of recognition from your school super-

visors and town, there is no limit to what can be accomplished.

The very best thing you could possibly do is to get behind the recreation tax and support it in every way you can. The rec program is something everyone could participate in, and surely nothing could benefit a person more.

If you really want some-

thing and are capable of working for it, get out and prove it to the school and to the townspeople.

I know most of you feel that because you are a senior or soon will be, you could care less about what happens to CHHS. But there are some of us who will never stop caring.

Judy Jernigan

Chanlett Blasts Editorials, Says Censorship Present

Dear Editor:
The recent *Proconian* editorial about the student of the month was poor because it was a huge distortion of the facts. But in a way it was good. Good, for finally the *Proconian* had taken a real stand on something besides petty subjects like fall and fire drills.

From conversations with staff members there seem to be two reasons. One, there hasn't been anyone willing to take the time or brain strain to do it. And second, there has been censorship by the administration or certainty that there would be.

The *Proconian* is reputed to be an excellent paper, but where is a paper that doesn't even have the freedom to write what it feels?

What awesome catastrophe can result from a student body paper expressing the student body's feelings in printed form?

How can the student body ever forcefully convey some of the things it wants, like a smoking lounge and a parking lot?

When is the *Proconian* going to be able to start living up to its name?

The most precious and greatest value of a newspaper is editorial freedom, and here at CHHS our paper is denied it.

Sincerely,
Chris Chanlett

(Editor's Note: For an explanation of the *Proconian's* editorial policy see editorial this page.)

Students of the Month

SCA Honors Bill Demeritt, Danny Leigh

Senior Bill Demeritt and sophomore Danny Leigh have been selected by the Student Council as February Students of the Month.

They were picked for the

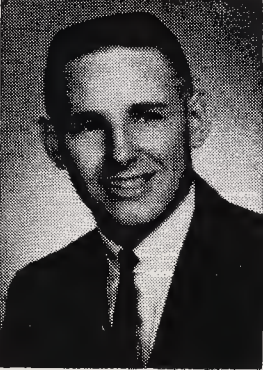
honor because of their "good job of monitoring during the lunch periods," states Jayne Cottingham, chairman of the nominating committee.

To remove the imposition placed on the teachers during hall duty, student monitoring was initiated. Bill and Danny volunteered their services during their study halls which coincided with the lunch periods.

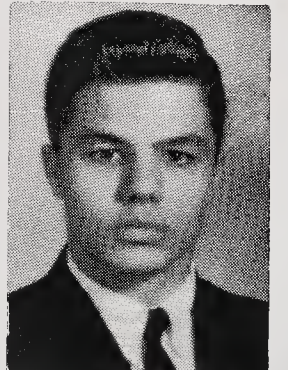
Since they have been stationed in front of the library, much of the confusion has been cleared.

These boys also hold other important positions. Bill is currently president of the Monogram Club, which has been active under his leadership, and Danny serves as vice-president of the sophomore class. He worked especially hard on the making and selling of the sophomore cal-

endar.
They alternated the quarterback position on the Wildcat football team this past season, leading the team to several victories.



BILL DEMERITT



DANNY LEIGH

PROCONIAN
Published for the students by the students of CHHS twice a month. Chapel Hill, N. C.

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