

ON THE HOME FRONT

It has been said, over and over this year, that Ruffin High is not a safe school and that the students are prone to violence. The school itself, this year as compared to previous years, has been the site of an excessive amount of violence aimed at either persons or property. The fact of the matter is, however, that for the most part the unrest we have experienced has been caused by people who are not students at our school and had no business being on our campus. Because of events which occurred in another county in the spring of 1990 we are now forced to be extra careful about where we park our cars, who we allow on campus and what activities we plan for the evenings, especially after games.

We are not trying to give you the impression that we think our students are angels, because they are not. We have had to expel five students so far this year because of senseless violence or poor behavior. What we are trying to do is get people to see some of the positive things at Ruffin, not always the negative. We would like for people to know that at Ruffin High we have a greater percentage of students passing the exit exam than the percentage of students doing the same at Walterboro High.

TOP LEFT - Coaches Ryant, Smith and Mackey help watch over students from the eight yard line.

TOP RIGHT - An empty hallway at the height of the lunch hour.

CENTER LEFT - Police officers going from room to room checking for evidence of a bomb.

CENTER RIGHT - Students use this time to catch up on some reading and to catch some rays.

THE PRESS AND STANDARD, WED., NOVEMBER 21, 1990

Discipline Problems At RHS Deplored

By ROBERT E. NOVIT
Associate Editor

A former Board of Education member says that something needs to be done about discipline problems at Ruffin High School.

Ben Steward told the board last week that fights on campus must be stopped, along with preventing non-students from coming on campus.

Students are getting cut up on campus and there is fighting daily," says Steward. "Somebody has to be in charge."

Principal John Stephens said

in a subsequent interview that fights are not a daily occurrence and that discipline has improved overall. Stephens noted that Steward can make his accusations without having to supply any data. But Stephens acknowledges that there have been problems this year.

Most of it, he said, stems from a fight that took place in the Hampton area before school started. The fight has carried over at times at the school. Three students have been expelled in connection with the most serious incidents.

School Board Report

"The center of the problem is at home," said Stephens. "We try to provide a climate of learning. I can't take the place of the parents. The students are in a home environment most of the day and have to learn and be taught discipline there. Parents are going to have assume greater responsibility."

Considering the number of teen mothers and fathers at Ruffin, said Stephens. "We're doing a good job. Learning is not their priority."

In other business at the Nov. 13 board meeting:

— The trustees agreed that a school bus could pick up the child of Nell Rivers in Lakeshore subdivision. The elementary school student had been walking on the road to a bus stop.

Bus stops are supposed to be no closer than two-tenths of a mile apart, said Superintendent of Education A.L. Smoak. But Mrs. Rivers argued that a se-

We will have to admit that there have been a few very tense, very strange moments that were brought on by our own students. When asked what event this year the students felt was the most bizarre or unbelievable, they voted (almost unanimously) for the bomb threat. The

students and teachers who were prepared to go to the mid-day meal were shocked to find out that they had to go to the football field. We have tried to capture for you the essence of that day. Picture that.

BOTTOM LEFT - Students, getting hungry and restless, are ready for this to end.

BOTTOM RIGHT - Faculty members keeping watch around the corners.