

## Addendum

### RE: Photography

During the three years (1996-8) that I edited the Grammarian, the magazine became a much more visual publication. In 1995 there were approximately 100 "action" photos published. In 1998, there were more than 350. Of those, I was the photographer for about 200, the remainder coming from John Hunt and others.

In 1998 I took close to one thousand photographs for various purposes. I supplied about one quarter of the photos for The Thistle, mostly covering House events that John Hunt didn't attend but also things like tennis, squash and cadets. This was in order to have sufficient photos to guarantee the quality I needed, as Dr Paterson had first choice of whatever shots either John Hunt or I took. Even Rex Ward has acknowledged, in writing, that the work I did on the Grammarian was outstanding and that the magazine was the equal or superior of any school magazine in the country. Such excellence took hard work and ruthless culling of inferior shots, as well as including visuals of previously omitted events, which required more time on photography. Furthermore, the most popular section of the magazine for the boys has always been the Faces in the Crowd, which were usually shots of students in informal situations.

The problem here is defining what are "appropriate" shots to take or include in such a magazine. The only instance that the Head has cited so far (the Thistle cover of April 1998) was neither taken nor published by me. The opinion of unnamed people who have not attempted to publish the magazine is irrelevant. Until they do it, they can't know how many are needed. For all the shots I took, if they were of reasonable quality, I passed on copies where available to the parents. In three years I never received a complaint that any shot was inappropriate; in fact I often received requests from parents that I take more shots of their sons.

The comments about my photography are based therefore on ignorance of the mechanics of publishing, unsupported personal opinion of propriety and false assumptions about whether I even took some shots. These claims must be dismissed.

