

TV Host Says Hyde School Approach Works--For Hyde

By FRANK SLEEPER

Staff Writer

The Hyde School of Bath appeared on the "Today" TV show at 7:45 a.m. this morning and reporter Paul Cunningham, who covered the story for Today, said the Hyde philosophy "certainly works for a certain type of child".

But Cunningham questioned whether every teacher can handle the Hyde philosophy that character building is more important than good grades.

NOTING THE emotion that took place during the Hyde graduation (shown earlier on the program), Cunningham said he feels the technique can only be handled by "a special type of teacher, a special kind of faculty."

Host Jim Hartz pointed out that Headmaster Joseph Gault feels the technique can work in any school and may, indeed, spread to public school systems in time.

"It's a very emotional process," Cunningham said. "I think it must be handled very well. The technique, I think, could be dangerous in the hands of the wrong kind of teacher."

Hostess Betty Furness said that the graduation appeared to her "like a giant therapy session."

Cunningham agreed that was true to some extent but that the Hyde technique appears to get the students away from being self-centered while therapy of-

ten turns toward the self.

"The Hyde philosophy, I think, shows the students that each has a unique potential of his or her own," the Today reporter continued. "It shows them that others have the same problems they do. Perhaps character is really more important than anything else."

"THESE STUDENTS aren't all there on their own. And, of the 191 who were there last year, 26 dropped out. Nine of

those who dropped out will probably be back again. The kids come from all over the country -- and this is a school that will give you your money back if you think it hasn't worked satisfactorily with your child," he said.

"Now, that's really something different," said Miss Furness of the money back guarantee.

The hosts and reporter Cunningham were obviously interested in the Hyde concept and the school itself. Their com-

mentary about the school took almost as long as the filmed portions about it.

Those portions started right out with excerpts from the graduation. "If you're not developed enough as a person, you don't get a diploma" was some of Cunningham's commentary over the film. "Grades aren't enough. The idea is to develop self-confidence, self-awareness and maturity."

Several students are shown giving examples of the thesis in

the school that students should talk about their problems, should give papers on their lives and problems.

ONE STUDENT said he was the smallest boy in his class. "They used to beat me up all the time. They hated me and I hated them," he declared.

A session was shown with a

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'Today' Show Films Hyde's Techniques

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girl who was thought not quite ready to graduate. She didn't have enough self-confidence it was felt. But, after giving her statement about herself, she proved herself and was allowed to graduate.

Gauld was shown giving his interpretation of the Hyde philosophy — but not to any great length.

The filmed portion centered mostly on the Hyde students, at the graduation and in interviews:

"I don't know why you can do so well on the athletic field and so poorly in other places," one said.

"I couldn't believe it when I came here. Everybody said they cared for me. I learned here that I care, that I'm capable of loving," another said.

A THIRD said she'd been in a mental hospital even though there was nothing mentally wrong with her. She said she and her father were "always at each other's throats."

Gauld said for his and Hyde's philosophy to expand into public schools it would probably be necessary to "get the kids" to help" as they often do at Hyde.

The filmed portion ended with a dramatic scene from the graduation with a boy breaking into tears as he tells of his love for his family.

"My life is just beginning," he said.

HYDE SCHOOL. BATH.

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Portland Press Herald.

June 20, 1975. P. 1, 14

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