

Guess who came to Hyde breakfast?

By JAMES KILEY
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BATH — Students at Hyde School had some unusual company for breakfast Tuesday.

A camera crew from NBC's Today Show began filming a typical, early spring day at the private school campus for a five-minute feature to air on the morning news/talk show sometime in the next several weeks.

The Today Show is attempting to capture the spirit of founder Joseph W. Gault's novel educational experiment and compare it with its visit here in 1975. The crew's three-day stay will peak at an 8 p.m. performance of the musical America's Spirit tonight at Pickard Theater at Bowdoin College in Brunswick.

"It's as if they've been carrying the Bicentennial spirit for three years," said Paul Cunningham, a Today Show reporter who just left the position of NBC's London correspondent.

"I was here four years ago," Cunningham said. "There have been a lot of changes, but the basic thinking seems to be the same. The key word up here is commitment."

"The students learn about a commitment to care for others and to care for themselves. This commitment is what I want to portray in the segment," Cunningham said.

To do this Cunningham has his crew of three filming the school's breakfast discussions, private conversations among students, and round table discussions among parents, students and school officials.

"Of course I'll also have interviews with Joe Gault and (headmaster) Ed Legg," Cunningham said. "But what I'm interested in is to explore how the kids feel they've changed by going to school here."

Some of the students who spoke to Cunningham were aware of his intentions and thought about the image they'd like to present of Hyde. "I've been thinking about what I'd like to say to the country about the school," said Doug Pray, an 18-year-old senior from Madison, Wis., who was filmed while quietly speaking to 13-year-old Scott Paine. Pray is Paine's big brother in a program designed to improve relationships between senior and junior school students.

"They've been filming everything going on on campus, so it's not like we'll try to hide something from them. But we are interested in showing the country what's going on here," Pray said.

Eighteen-year-old Kelly Wynn, a postgraduate leadership student from Washington, agreed with Pray. "My reaction to them being here is a combination of both excitement and nervousness. I've been here four years and I think it's important they come away with the right impression of how I feel about the school," Wynn said.

Paine is from Raymond and was filmed with 18-year-old Steven Leonard of Concord, Mass. Tuesday. Both are enrolled in Hyde's new junior school program. "I've never been on national TV before and it's exciting to know that I will be in a few weeks," Paine said.

The camera crew will set up in Pickard Theater tonight to film "America's Spirit," which at the most will involve only 30 seconds of the Today Show segment. However, to Cunningham it could be the most important part of his visit to Hyde.

"It's my impression that this Spirit show is based on the whole philosophy or commitment that the kids are taught at the school," he said.

Cunningham expects to edit the Hyde films next week and have the segment ready for airing in two weeks. Tickets for the 8 p.m. America's Spirit performance are still available.

HYDE SCHOOL. BATH.

NBC cameramen are at the Hyde School
in Bath filming a typical day
to be used on the Today Show in
the near future.

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