

## Topic: I've got nothing to do!

Ever hear this from one of your yearbook staff? For some reason about this time of the year, I start to have advisers asking me what to do with students who had pages on the first deadline and don't have any due on the second. Those students not only are bored but they will often get in the way of the folks who are still working on production materials by being a distraction in the yearbook room.

Let's take a look at some things those people could be doing to help keep them busy and move the rest of the staff toward meeting their deadlines.



Tell them they aren't done with the book until the whole book is done!

That means that even though their pages are complete, their job isn't until the entire book is finished. So what do they do? They become little worker bees for the others who are still working. Think of all the things they can do to help; finding names of people in pictures, typing idents (the long list of names under group shots), following up on interviews to make sure all the quotes are right, taking pictures of those people interviewed for QuickReads and so much more.

The biggest thing you have to overcome with them is the attitude that "I did my pages. I'm done." No one is done until we are all done. It's a team effort.

### Here are some other ideas advisers have sent me:

- They could look in other school's yearbooks for great quick read ideas, great copy treatment, great headlines.
- They could think up good interview questions for quotes for their next page assignments.
- They could experiment with InDesign or YTO to improve their skills.
- They could clean out drawers, cupboards and the rest of the yearbook room.
- They could go from teacher to teacher to find out what photo worthy events are coming up in their classrooms in the weeks to come.
- They could check names and spelling on pages (the more time a page gets looked at the better). Have them initial after they proof.
- Taking pictures—the more the better—even if they are random. Have them concentrate on improving coverage of those not already in the book more than once or not at all.

