

NL author takes suggestions from NL students

Joe Coughlin
Editor

Norm Cowie is currently writing a book about being a teenage vampire. Since this was his first time writing for a strictly teenage audience, Cowie wanted suggestions and he went to the perfect place.

"I'll be able to use a lot of what he said...He mentioned writing a lot of drafts and we'll be doing narratives soon."

- Mary Jo Allison

Cowie sat down with the seventh and eighth-graders at Martino Junior High all day on Tuesday, Sept. 25, to gather suggestions and critiques of the first four chapters of "Not a Typical

Vampire Story."

The book is about a teenage vampire and her family and friends. The teenager passes out at the sight of blood and has braces, which make for some humorous situations.

The kids in Kim Runion's and Mary Jo Allison's classes spent the past couple weeks reading the chapters and coming up with questions and suggestions for Cowie.

"They hit on everything," Cowie said. "All the suggestions had the same theme. I think it was successful on what I need to do with this book."

Before the students started spouting off questions, Cowie explained some of his background. He would give some insight into the book and then go off on a tangent about an observation he made in the lunch room that day to keep the students entertained.

Cowie also spent a lot of his day in the junior high observing the teenagers. He said it is the habits of these students that influ-

ence characters in the book.

But in the classroom the humor writer was able to collect solid ideas from the students. The students seemed to think that Cowie jumped around too much in the book and he should resolve more of a situation before moving to a new one.

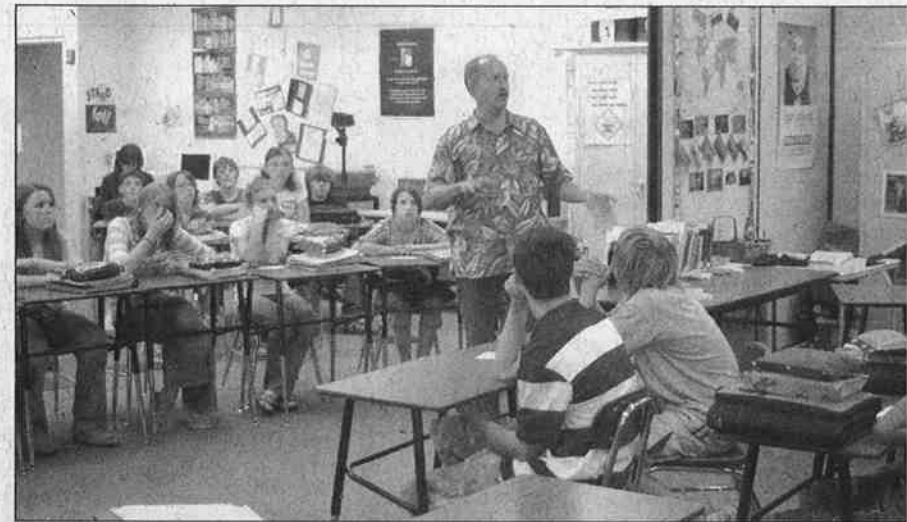
The experience was not only helpful for the author, but for the teachers and their classes.

"I'll be able to use a lot of what he said," Allison said. "He mentioned writing a lot of drafts and we'll be doing narratives soon."

"He doesn't make writing intimidating."

Cowie is the author of two books that have been published, "The Adventures of Guy," and "The Next Adventures of Guy...More Wackiness." He uses humor to express a lot of everyday situations and people, like lawyers and telemarketers just to name a few.

Cowie plans on finishing "Not a Typical Vampire Story," and he hopes it gets published. If so, he wants to make it a series and add



more tales of a teenage vampire and her friends.

Also, Cowie found the suggestions from the students so helpful that he plans, if the book gets sold, to put everyone of the students' names (first name and last initial) in the dedication portion. Including all three sessions and both classes, that is more than 160 students.

Norm Cowie gives a presentation about his new books to students.