

THE BLACKBIRD

THE BLACKBIRD, published monthly by the journalism classes of Rocky Mount High School, Rocky Mount, North Carolina.

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HOW DO YOU STUDY?

How do you study? Do you have a definite place to study? Do you have a set time for studying? Do you review past work? Can you study in the study halls? Can you concentrate? Seventy-five students were asked these questions. You ask yourself. Out of these students only twenty-eight had a definite place to study. Fifty-seven studied in the family living room and the remaining eighteen studied anywhere they could.

Out of the seventy-five questioned only 28 per cent had a set time for studying and just 26 per cent stuck to the schedule. Fourteen people reviewed the past work and twelve credited themselves with the ability to concentrate.

The students were very emphatic about the study halls. Only 44 per cent were able to study in the study halls. Many reasons were given for this small percentage. Some said that they couldn't learn or memorize because there were too many people to talk to and too much else to do. Others stated that they couldn't concentrate because they had rather move around and the study hall had too many attractions. Some said that students and teacher walking around annoyed them considerably.

How do you study and how many excuses can you find for not studying?

LIBRARY ETIQUETTE

The thing that is wrong with the school library is the way the students use it, or rather, misuse it. Some students use the library as a social period and as a time to let themselves go. They use the library as a place in which to let that little inner self come out and show off at its worst.

The biggest fault is the abuse of the books. Pictures are cut out, pages torn and marked, and covers broken and ripped. The magazines are torn, trampled on the floor, thrown out of the windows, and even stolen from the shelves the minute they are placed there.

Then some students are so selfish that they won't allow others to study. They talk, walk around loudly, run, and hold light boxing and wrestling workouts every period.

There are besides these the show-offs. They like to attract attention, regardless of what it takes to do it. They hang out the windows, yelling at people passing on the street. Several students were so energetic that they climbed on top of the bookshelves and wrote their names on the ceiling, feeling sure that this noble effort would attract the attention due to them and would show their ability in the art of their ancestors.

The light shade is used as an ice bell and the chairs are tilted backward until they reach the breaking point with some innocent student in them.

Now that these revelations appear in print, perhaps the absurdity of the situation will be realized.

BEGIN RIGHT TO END RIGHT

All's well that ends well." But it's also true that everything that starts must have an ending.

Don't be satisfied if you were just pushed out the door before they shut it last semester. This is another beginning which in about four months will have to take inventory again and close shop. You want to make a profit this time, and you must have discovered by now that you can't keep borrowing from the register and put it all back the night before the check-up.

"Don't put off until tomorrow what you can do today," because "Tomorrow never comes." Maybe these two quotations were not meant to be associated, but their meaning in relation to each other is truer than many a laggard would like to believe.

Certainly a mind that is either incapable or unwilling to absorb information gradually does not have the capacity to take in four and a half months' work in one night or even a week.

This is the spring semester, you know, and it's much easier to study now than after the "fever" gets in your bones.

POEMS

THE VALENTINE

By Reece Thomas
All frilly and lacy the Valentine came
In a big white envelope without any name;
There were bows on each side and a rose in the middle
And a tiny pink cupid half-dressed and lily.

ALUMNI

George B. Culberth, sophomore at Duke University, won first place in the third annual beginners' public speaking contest. He spoke on the topic, "Do College Men Satisfy?"

Some well-known Rocky Mount High graduates:

- Kay Kyeer, nationally known orchestra leader
Bill Murray, coach at Children's Home, Winston-Salem
Joe Epstein, physician, Philadelphia
Arthur Lee Daughtridge, house physician, Rocky Mount sanitarium
Ben Thomas, judge of recorder's court, Rocky Mount
S. L. Arrington, attorney, Rocky Mount
Fred Hunt, dentist, Rocky Mount
Jack Murchison, attorney, Rocky Mount

Mason, a '37 graduate, who has played for many weddings, recently was married.

Mary Virginia Simerly '37 graduate, was recently initiated into the Tri Sigma sorority at East Radford College in Virginia. She was one of only nine freshmen taken into this society, which bases its members on scholarship and leadership.

EXAMS

Of all youth's problems and abominations,
One of the worst is examinations.
At the end of each term there is string intimation
That a million questions with no application
Are on their way to confuse education,
To publicize all lack of preparation.
To sweep out the corners of procrastination.
A maze of reckoning with such complication
That despite unraveling and explanation
They threaten and often postpone graduation.
However, they do compel imagination,
They also provide better conversation
Than five or six stitches in an operation.
But I'm sure one could find better recreation
Than learning the date of the "Declaration."
Or the wars during Jackson's administration.
Still for what must be there's no alteration,
When exam time comes, no solicitation.
Can put off the dreaded investigation.
And if under fire you escaped devastation,
You're a lucky guy in my estimation.
--CONSTANCE SWEENEY



In Tallahassee, Florida, a recent survey shows that three-fourths of the students and teachers that drive cars to school prefer Chevrolets or Fords.

Cold hot?
'Out to freeze.
Want my coat?
Just the sleeves.
Full or empty?
Full please.
The Pointer—High Point, N. C.

In Boone, North Carolina, the National Honor Society has established a lost and found department for the school.

As a feature of National Thrift week in Dulles, a citizen offered a \$200 university scholarship to the student who wrote the best essay on thrift.

Greenville High School has recently instituted a system of student self-government.

Freshman Luck

It was ten minutes before the bell would ring in study hall. Freddy Freshman shut his notebook with a "bang" and turned to show his friend the fine picture he had drawn of an aeroplane. They were discussing this matter when Teacher Sharp-Eyes "cut in." She informed Freddy that if he didn't keep his books open until the end of the period, he would keep them open after school that evening. Somewhat disinclined, he turned to his books, but not to study. For a while he amused himself by making faces at a boy across the room. He gave this up immediately when he caught the teacher's eye upon him in the midst of what he considered, his very worst grimace. "Only one minute," observed Freddy. "What makes that old clock so slow, anyhow? Won't the bell ever ring? Maybe the hands are stuck." Freddy's thoughts were broken by the bell, and he was the first person out of the room when he reached the end of the hall, he had to turn back. He had forgotten his books.

Valentine Verses

My poor heart goes "pit-a-pat"
When I think about you;
If I could make your heart do that,
'T would thrill me through and through.
In honor of that good old Saint
Whose birthday we now celebrate
I send my love as lovers do
And all of it belongs to you.
You are the flower of my heart
And so of course it's true
When thinking of a Valentine
I really want—just you.
I'd be happy as a king
My eyes with love would shine
If you would only do one thing
That's—be my Valentine.
Here's my heart,
Oh, won't you take it?
If you don't
You'll surely break it.

Escort To The Door

Devices for escaping study halls, like the poor, are "always with us." Some students make a run for it while the teacher is not looking; others sneak out behind a little scrap of paper with a doubtful signature on it. One way that seldom misses is to leave all one's books in his locker and then assume the attitude of an irresponsibly studious intent (few teachers can resist a well directed scholastic appeal). Intentional preparation in many cases will do the trick. A call from home or a stoop planted outside the door usually dispels all suspicion. Martin Bailey has a new technique if it works. The other day one of his fellow-sufferers had somehow wangled permission to leave study hall, and Martin calmly rose and proceeded to go with him. "Martin, where are you going?" demanded Miss Ledbetter. "Going to let him out," replied Martin. Ah! Just one more foot and he would have been free. But not one ounce of sympathy did he receive from his unfeeling superior. "Go sit down over there," ordered Miss Ledbetter, "and I don't want to hear a squeak out of you!"

PRYING PERCY

The obnoxious bird is advertising for the identity of "Percy Seecall." He evidently is a man about school. And he's clever in his ability to gather news of no one's concern. I'll pass on to you what he has found out. Here it is: Sa "raye" B. holds the spotlight in the acting class—Shrimp is a liberal guy with gum where "Blondie" Doder is concerned—Miss Hardy prefers blondes too—Hilda H. is the only female member of the large and fast-growing "Snaggle Tooth Club"—One teacher thinks Val M. and Eddie M. could make swellgent debaters (not for the benefit of the debate coaches) Billy Rawls, budding playwright, does a one-act dramma entitled "The Moonlight Murder on Mugwam Mountain." The instructor suggested the title. Billy Young thinks he is a senior—he actually has the nerve to march out of the auditorium with the dignitaries (watch your step, Billy). Does John Adams have the got or did a cow step on his feet? "Scrappy Gay" still likes the Wilson town—there isn't much more for Professor Easterling to know—he'd better read his horoscope—I think it reads "trouble in his path"—thanks Percy.

The seniors wanted some steps; They cried, nagged and wailed. The seniors got their steps. But now they might as well be jailed—

For use them they will not. Everyday on the steps you see Juniors, Sophs, and Freshies. And the Seniors, if you ask me Are seniors to be the bring gym steps. (Moral: What's a privilege anyhow?)

A new innovation in the stage crew—Junior crew with some girls in it. Why? To inspire what? Work? The scenery? The boys? Uncle Will thinks they're a nuisance—Carl Atkins says it's o. k.

J. D. Fisher isn't chagrined when reminded by a teacher that he belongs in a cage—oh, no! He laughs and keeps on singing about the broken-down merry-go-round. He contributes gladly to a recitation. When the name Pluto was mentioned, he quickly contributed "Why he's Mickey Mouse's dog."

Book of The Month

By Joyce Powell
THE NILE
Emil Ludwig's latest biographical contribution to literature, "The Nile," is considered one of the greatest undertakings attempted by any writer of biographies. Mr. Ludwig calls himself a painter of portraits and has the ability to paint glowingly pictures and scenes of history which are often drably and uninterestingly offered by other biographers. At the age of fifteen Mr. Ludwig began his writing career with a play in verse. For some fifteen years Emil Ludwig contributed the dramatic form of writing, but at the age of thirty he abandoned this and began the writings which have made him the most widely-read biographer of modern times. A score of his works such as "Napoleon," "Bismark," "Roosevelt," have been translated into many foreign languages.

Upon seeing the Great Dam at Aswan in 1924, Ludwig first obtained the idea of a biography of the Nile, the greatest river in history, written as a parable. For six thousand years the stories of Solomon and the Queen of Sheba; of Alexander the Great; of the Ptolemies; of the Abyssinian slave markets; of Caesar, Anthony, and Cleopatra; of Stanley's heroic discovery of Livingston and the Congo; of Bonaparte; and innumerable other heroes, adventures, and madmen who have made up the glittering spectacle which attended the Nile.

Ludwig's volume, in spite of the vast number of historic scenes which are covered, is not weighed down with dates or places. Lewis Gannett of the New York Herald-Tribune says of it, "What a river! What a life story! Neither the Ganges nor the Yangtze, the Amazon or our Mississippi carries such a flood of story with its water—The Nile is, I think, Emil Ludwig's best book."

BONERS

A period is a dot at the end of sentence. Period costumes are dresses all covered with dots. Milton wrote "Paradise Lost"; then his wife died and he wrote "Paradise Regained." Name three tragedies written by Shakespeare, "Macbeth," "King Lear," and "Twelve Nights in a Bar Room." A mountain range is a cooking stove used at high altitudes. A cat is a quadruped, the legs, as usual, being at the four corners. The plural of ox is oxygen.