

# editorials

## Opportunities Abound

"This land is your land; this land is my land . . ." The popular folk song tells about this great land of ours and what opportunities we have.

There should be a song around that would go like this, "This school is your school; this school is my school . . ." It would tell of the pride that each student should have in this, our school, because of the many fine opportunities we have here. Within RMSH there are a great number of opportunities for every student. There are opportunities to learn skills in a trade as with the machine shop or the ICT program, there are opportunities for developing special interest as with public speaking, chorus or dramatics, and there are opportunities for developing mental processes as with English and mathematics in order to prepare for college.

Yes, within the walls of RMSH are opportunities still un-named. If a song were written as described above it might continue in this manner: "From the cafeteria to the auditorium, from the student parking lot to the many classrooms, this school was made for you and me."

But why should we have such a song? There is no reason to display school pride in this manner when other ways are so much better. Pride can be shown in each student's attitude, an attitude to want to make the best grades he can, an attitude to want to keep the school and grounds clean, an attitude of wanting to support every school function, be it athletics, a publication, or other activity.

This school may be full of golden opportunities for learning and development, but in order to have a great school there must be more. Every student must possess a love and pride in his alma mater along with a willingness to make it an example of excellence to all.

## Teen Drivers At Fault

Last year, 52,000 people died in automobile accidents. Hundreds of thousands were seriously injured. That is a grim thought, but you wonder what it has to do with RMSH. Well, drivers from 16 to 25, comprising less than one-sixth of the nation's licensed drivers, are involved in almost one-third of all accidents.

This points up one rather unpleasant fact: teenage drivers are a bad risk. Even worse, many teenage offenders are repeaters. This is especially regrettable because teenagers are potentially the best drivers, with better eyesight and hearing, quicker reactions than any other age group. They have a far better chance to have a good driving record. Yet time after time it is the teen who is at fault in an accident.

Why is this so? Teenagers are young and like speed, like to take risks, like temptations, like to feel the power they control. It is hard to stifle these desires when one is at such an impressionable age. However, when teens forget their responsibilities to others, it is ironically the others who usually pay.

The next time you get an urge to speed, to let go, to show off—think . . . and slow down!

### From The Editor

## Around The Campus

With the approach of the holiday season there comes a time when everyone wants to travel, whether it be one mile or a thousand miles. Since very heavy traffic is expected for the Christmas holiday season, much emphasis is placed on good driving habits.

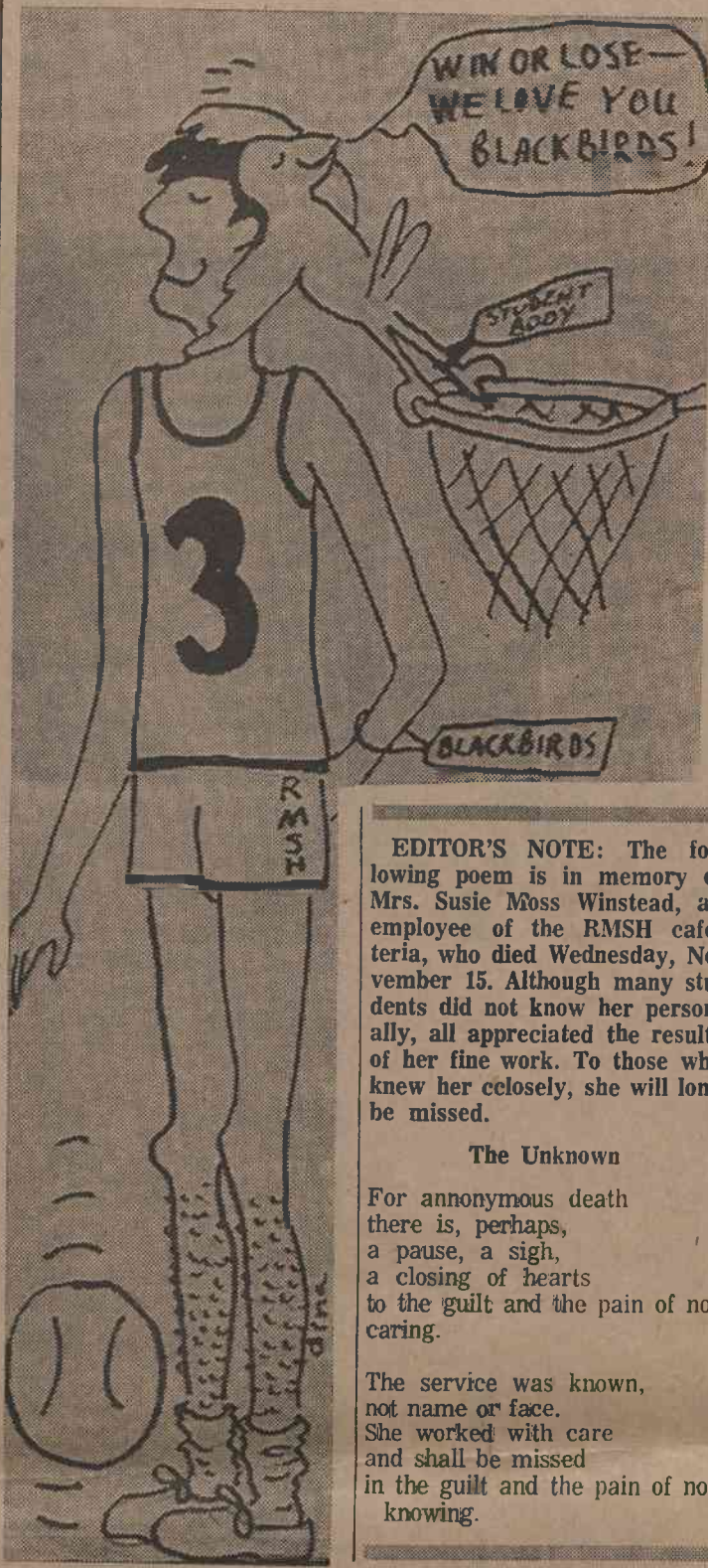
Lieutenant Kenneth Sutton, who has served 31 years on the Rocky Mount Police Force, said that having the proper attitude toward driving is the main safety factor. "Having compassion and respect for your fellow man is important in safe driving," he said.

"Drive as if your life depended upon it," the police lieutenant suggests, "because it does." With the holiday traf-

fic being as heavy as expected, Lt. Sutton said that it was a good idea not to drive unless it is necessary.

"On a long trip, leave early to prevent the need for speeding and on long trips do not drive if you are fatigued," he asserted. "At least every 100 miles, stop and get out of the car for a breath of fresh air," he said, "since it is especially easy to get drowsy in winter in a warm car."

"When asked about teenagers who race, Lt. Sutton stated, "I think that racing is about the stupidest thing they can do. It involves the lives of so many people." He said that he "would rather be a living chicken than a dead bird."



**EDITOR'S NOTE:** The following poem is in memory of Mrs. Susie Moss Winstead, an employee of the RMSH cafeteria, who died Wednesday, November 15. Although many students did not know her personally, all appreciated the results of her fine work. To those who knew her closely, she will long be missed.

### The Unknown

For anonymous death there is, perhaps, a pause, a sigh, a closing of hearts to the guilt and the pain of not caring.

The service was known, not name or face. She worked with care and shall be missed in the guilt and the pain of not knowing.



A communist East Berlin policeman told a Western photographer he could not take pictures in East Berlin. "This is Free Berlin," he said "and taking pictures is not allowed here."

On a Chicago billboard: "Now you can borrow enough to get completely out of debt."

"There are two ways to get to the top of an oak tree — you can climb it or you can sit on an acorn." —Frank Brown

"Shallow men believe in luck" —Emerson

"It is a mark of the inexperienced man not to believe in luck." —Joseph Conrad

"Nothing is easier than fault-finding; no talent, no self-denial, no brains, are required to set up in the grumbling business." —Robert West

"Lord, grant that I may always desire more than I accomplish." —Michelangelo

"Obesity is a condition which proves that the Lord does not help those who help themselves and help themselves and help themselves" —Julian Brown

"Gullibility is the key to all adventures. The greenhorn is

the ultimate victor; it is he who gets the most out of life."

"People say 'I got over this, I got over that.' They are a lot of fools, the people who say you get over your loves and your heroes. I never do." —Robert Frost

"Nobody is more infuriating, frustrating and embarrassing than an ally who happens to be on our side for the wrong reasons." —Sidney Harris

"With the stones we throw at them, geniuses build new roads for us." —Paul Eldridge

# letters

Dear Editor,

Each year Rocky Mount Senior High School faces the same trashy problem — litter on the school grounds. Over and over again the faculty, administration and Student Organization has appealed and pleaded to the student body to give up littering.

Littering comes from laziness and absentmindedness. Students, each one of us, would use too much energy to walk ten feet to deposit litter in a trash barrel; each individual lacks the pride and conscientiousness to be aware that every piece of trash defaces, degrades and dishonors us, our school, and our heritage.

The conclusion from this is that there is no excuse or reason for thoughtless and pointless and pointless littering.

We showed ourselves capable of controlling and destroying this litter problem; when the ultimatum from Dr. Fields came to us. No more eating in the parking lot, if trash was going to be thrown on the campus. Well, almost immediately the parking lot became spotless. With this kind of conscious attitude, the student body could easily make depositing trash in barrels a subconscious habit.

This problem should not exist, but it does. Let's clean it up.

Mike Dixon  
Senior

# poetry

## My Bedroom

By Samoj

Smells of perfume and powder and such,  
Sorta' small yet holding much,  
Stuffed bears, pennants and pictures  
Decorate my wall with lectures.

Curlers, combs, and brushes,  
Left when I'm in rushes,  
Rouge, lipstick and powder —  
The noise can't get any louder.

My canopied bed  
Is left unmade.  
The floor is strewn.  
And I'm windblown,  
And all this makes  
Up my bedroom!

"Nothing was ever achieved without enthusiasm." —Emerson

# THE BLACKBIRD

Members of Columbia Scholastic Press Association

- EDITOR ..... Bob Chapman
- ADVERTISING MANAGER ..... Pat Stussie
- BUSINESS MANAGER ..... Betsy Heady
- CIRCULATION MANAGER ..... Betsy Elmore
- PAGE EDITORS:
- Page 1 ..... Betsy Mann
- Page 2 ..... Dina Wilde
- Page 3 ..... Dickie Bradshaw
- Page 4 ..... Carolyn Bryant, Kathy Matthews
- Page 5 ..... Bob Chapman
- Page 6 ..... Diane Whitfield

ADVISOR: Mrs. Margaret Williams  
PRINCIPAL: Mr. V. J. Colombo