

# Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor:

As a teacher of Rocky Mount Senior High I would like to express my appreciation for the good behavior and great cooperativeness of students in trying to make this school the best.

They do not sit on the floor or congregate in the halls to hinder people from passing.

These students stay after school to keep put on the projects.

They are quiet, not loud and you will find them studying very much to prepare themselves to become positive citizens in the future.

Nobody rings a bell when these students pass, but they are great assets of our school.

Mrs. Emmanuel Thompson

Dear Editor,

As co-editors of the yearbook, we are very pleased with your suggestions concerning the selection of outstanding seniors. The HI-NOC-AR Staff has never been completely satisfied with the method of selecting outstanding seniors, and we are pleased with your concern, however, you did have one mistake on your editorial. The HI-NOC-AR Staff does not have the students select ten black and ten white seniors but rather the top ten boys and girls in the class. Thank you again for your interest and concern.

Sincerely,  
Teresa Bulluck  
Martha Cash

Dear Editor,

In expressing an idea or opinion I think it's only fair that John Gilmore give both parties involved a negative and positive view. I know that you can give your opinion in an editorial but he (John Gilmore) really put



Jimmy Carter down to the ground. President Ford seems to be your choice of president but you didn't give any negatives on his part, but as for Jimmy Carter you didn't do anything positive. Regardless of him shaking hands with blacks, you shouldn't include it in your article because it's part of his campaign. Since you've already publicly (schoolwise) expressed your opinion. I see no need in commenting on the matter further.

Sincerely,  
C. Knight  
Homeroom 422

P.S. I'm pulling for Peanuts!

Dear Editor,

I'm a concerned junior and I have a somewhat small, but helpful suggestion of warning for our class of sophomores. When in study hall you are asked not to talk; beware of this warning because detention hall is a lonely place. I've been there once and it's a total waste of time. Beware the cautions made by the teachers because the penalty isn't a very good way to spend an afternoon. If you are daring, be my guest. Spend an afternoon of no-talking, no-interruptions, and no-nothing. Have fun in this never punishment.

A Concerned re-run,  
Janet Wright

# SOAPBOX

By Billy Carroll

Scholastic Aptitude Test or high school academic performance are utilized by college admissions boards as the two basic methods to assess the individual student's knowledge and to indicate his performance in college. The majority of colleges review both test scores and transcripts of grades while each usually stresses one or the other based on its own experiences with students. Which method is more adequate?

Stephen Jackson, a former student of Western High School in Washington, D. C., has made this question more clearly heard by many educators. His performance in secondary school was one of stability and serious application. He graduated first in his class. However, on his Scholastic Aptitude Test, he scored 320 in verbal ability, placing him in the bottom 13 percent of college-board students, and 280 in math, the bottom two percent. He was refused admission to George Washington University.

This chasm between grades and scores produced two widely varied responses. Joseph Ruth, dean of admissions at George Washington, felt that, "He's (Stephen) been deluded into thinking he's gotten an education." Superintendent Vincent E. Reed of the Washington School system replied that colleges have placed too much emphasis on standardized tests and that classroom performance is much more representative of the student's aptitude.

Certainly this case of performance vs test scores is extreme but it cries out for changes in our educational institution.

## Student Turns Professional

Walking down the hall it gives a casual empty smile to a friendly admirer. A question directed to it brings a matter-of-fact, often snobby reply. It acts disappointed with an A. It acts imposed upon when asked to do something.

The "it" mentioned above is a sub-human form of student, suffering from a chronic case of big headedness, the professional student. It is sad to say that there are a few of these contemptuous creatures walking the halls at Rocky Mount Senior High disguised as mild-manner students.

The professional student is a pitiful sight. However, it was not always that way. It once could laugh at itself and at its friends without sarcasm. It was once actually a human being! How could that be you ask? Let me explain.

There was once a time when this beast was human. But through the process of educational evolution, the professional student became a victim of its teachers. It always did well in school. It was always ahead of the others. This alone, however, did not prompt its retrogression. The teachers and parents always drooled over it and told it they expected good things from it. Awards came to it by the handful. As soon as it was made class monitor, the transformation was complete. It now believed it was superior.

But as years went by other students caught up and inevitably surpassed it. But it didn't have to worry. It had made a name for itself. It knew that everything would be handed to it on a silver platter, while others worked twice as hard for the recognition it received. Fabricated success impressed its classmates, and they too believed it was superior. Also, teachers who lacked imagination or daring bestowed honors upon it as an easy way out. But as it and those around it grew, some could see through its act. Some of these professional students are really nice people, while out of school. But as soon as that 8:30 bell rings the transformation from Dr. Jeckle to Mr. Hyde begins. There is no known cure for this malignant infestation of its mind except time. But often then it is too late. Perhaps a Professional Students Anonymous will spring up somewhere. But their greatest chance for cure is self-admittance and understanding.

## Federal Grant To Finance Rocky Mount Bikeway Plan

A proposal for a universal bikeway system in Rocky Mount is on its way to the City Council. "The plan two years ago would have cost \$107,000 but now because of inflation will be estimated between \$130,000 to \$140,000" Jack Gilmore, a biking enthusiast, told the City Council.

### Federal Grant

Mr. Gilmore told the council that there is a new federal pilot grant that will fund 80% of the cost of the project, and he urged the council to submit an application as soon as possible. Although no final action has been taken, several council members seem to be in support of the plan.

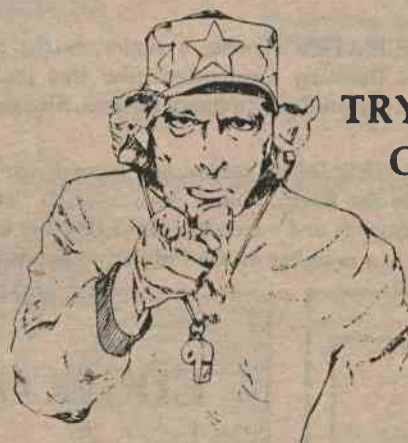
Under the plan, the bikeway will run down the median of Sunset Avenue, across 301 bypass on a special bridge, then will run down the side of Sunset Avenue at May Drive, crossing the dry bed and the Tar River

with special bridges. It will run around the City Lake and then east on Western Avenue to Church Street. The plan also calls for special barriers to protect the bike riders.

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Sgt. Phillip Howard  
201 Dominick Dr.