

## SOAPBOX

By CLIFTON BARNES

Many people have asked me what the word "soapbox" means. I'd like to clean it up.

Yes, it is a container in which soap is packed, but that's not the meaning that THE GRYPHON originally intended. As everyone knows, in the English language there is often more than one definition to a word. Also slang terms have appeared over the years.

Well, our meaning of soapbox is not actually slang, but it is taken out of context from the second and final noun definition from Webster—Soapbox: "an empty box or other improvised platform for making an informal, impromptu, or unofficial speech, especially on a public street."

This corner is a platform for opinions that are of school and public interest. I hope it's not just an empty box, though. In the past, these informal writings have caused controversy and with that, change. But there have been and always will be journalistic and social merit. One student wrote me a letter and questioned my sources. I appreciate and want letters written to me, but please if you don't have the nerve to sign your name don't write. By the way, I did have sources that I won't reveal.

Incidentally, the word soapbox can be found in Roget's New Thesaurus as another word for "opinion." Finally we come down to my definition. Soapbox: A newspaper column used as an outlet for the specific writer to express his opinion on a certain subject of his choice. The purpose is to explain, entertain, inform, voice views and solutions, and initiate some action towards the alleviation of a problem.

This soapbox will hopefully cover all of these qualities after I make a statement that I feel all students will agree with. Our basketball players and coaches want, need, and truly deserve pep rallies—as many as we can possibly give them.



Jana Lucas, Gaye Shearin, and Kaye Batts model fashionable outfits at Tress Chic by Jane at Oakwood. (Photo by Hutchisson.)

## Visit Tress Chic At Oakwood For Quality Junior Fashions

By LINDA ROBERSON

Although we are still fighting the cold and icy winds of winter, we all anticipate the many signs of the coming of Spring. Thoughts of blooming flowers, green grass and best of all, the new spring fashions, fill our heads.

To get a head start on your spring wardrobe, I suggest you visit Tress Chic by Jane at Oakwood Plaza. Unlike the Tress Chic by Jane located at West End Plaza, which caters mostly to the missy customers, the store at Oakwood is mainly concerned with junior fashions. The store opened in October. Tress Chic at Oakwood Plaza is stocked with such names as

"Sweet Baby Jane" a very popular manufacturer which is hard to find around Rocky Mount. They also have "Plain Jane," "City Fox" and "City

Girl." The prices for these clothes are unbelievably reasonable.

Mrs. Jane Page, owner of the store stated, "I buy for quality not for the name." When you visit Tress Chic, I'm sure you'll agree that Mrs. Page has done a great job of combining quality and price together in a way that will be great for your pocketbook, and great for your looks.

Mrs. Page has filled her store with fabulous Spring coordinates. One of the most fashionable looks for this spring is the Blouson top with a light weight cowl neck underneath as modeled by Jana Lucas. Also, many coordinates by "That's Me" (Once named Old Town) can be found at Tress Chic by Jane. The colors for this spring's wardrobe are bright yellows and oranges and deep royal blues.

If you are a skirt lover, Mrs. Page has what she calls "Ruffles and Ridges." They are skirts with lots of layers and ruffles, which also have matching tops to accompany them.

The material for spring? You'll be seeing a lot of terry cloth and cotton. Also, Chalis and Kiania for the dressier look. For the "Baby Innocent Look" there are tops in dusty pastel colors trimmed in lace, especially eyelet lace, which will be the look for both Spring and Summer.

Tress Chic by Jane at Oakwood Plaza also carries a great variety of accessories. If you want to look your very best this spring, without spending a fortune, please go by Tress Chic, and take a look at the fashions and the prices.

## Letters To The Editor

Dear Editor:

We as cheerleaders are very proud of our school and our athletic teams but we are not always proud of our students, especially during this basketball season. Most people who come to a game want to see some great shots, cheer and have a good time. But some seem to come just to show off.

They are disrespectful to the officials, the opposing team, and parents and friends of the school who have also paid their money to come to the game. By crowding the side lines, throwing debris on the court, leaving early, and going on the court during the game they show

disrespect to the team they claim they have come to support. We don't want people to

say we have a high-class team but low-class students.

The Varsity Cheerleaders  
Beth Hutchisson  
Renee Freeman  
Kathy Callahan  
Jana Lucas  
Dorothy Brown  
Beth Berry  
Gloria Barnes  
Pam Hudgins  
Lindi Fields  
Jenny Mitchell  
Cynthia Lloyd  
Lisa McCullough  
Sheri Vines

Dear Editor,

On behalf of my team mates and myself, I would just like to thank all of you for coming to support us Friday night, Jan. 27. It was a great win for us and everybody there played a big part. It's becoming a well-known fact that playing Rocky Mount at home is very difficult because of the big fan turnout, and Friday night definitely proved it. Thank you for your support, and my team mates and I hope to keep winning for you.

Oie Osterkamp

## Counselor's Corner

By EDYTHE TWEEDY

### NEW GUIDE TELLS STUDENTS WHERE MAJORS ARE OFFERED

Students desiring information about what colleges offer majors in such subjects as environmental design or forensic science may find *The College Handbook Index of Majors* very helpful. This publication has just been added to the many others in the Guidance Department. The information was provided by over 2,000 colleges and universities and the Index is organized on a state-by-state basis that lists more than 350 curriculums and the colleges that currently offer majors in each.

### VISIT THE GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT TALK WITH ONE OF THE COUNSELORS

Laura Watts  
Harold Dearing

Edythe Tweedy  
William Hutchisson

### QUESTIONS COMMONLY ASKED ON FINANCIAL AID

The financial aid application process and schedule have changed this year to allow families to use only one form, instead of two or three, to apply for aid from several sources. The following questions and answers will be very helpful to a student applying for financial aid.

**Question #1—WHAT SHOULD STUDENTS AND PARENTS WHO USE THE FINANCIAL AID FORM DO TO FIND OUT IF THEY'RE ELIGIBLE FOR A BASIC GRANT AS WELL AS FOR MONEY AWARDED BY COLLEGES?**

Any family that wants to apply for a Basic Grant may do so now, since the earliest filing date—January 1, 1978—has passed. It is not necessary to wait until 1977 income tax forms are filed. Families using the Financial Aid Form should pay special attention to the section about the Basic Educational Opportunity Grant Program on the back cover of the form.

On the FAF itself, students and parents must check "yes" to item 83 if they want CSS to release information to the Basic Grant program. If item 83 is blank, or marked "no" CSS will not be able to forward their FAF date to the Basic Grant program.

Also, the BEOG program requires students to provide their social security number on the form.

**Question #2—HOW DO FAMILIES KNOW WHETHER THEY SHOULD APPLY FOR A BASIC GRANT OR WHETHER THEY'LL BE ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE AN AWARD?**

The CSS has the same advice for BEOG applicants as for others who are unsure whether they would qualify for aid: **WHEN IN DOUBT, APPLY.** Most colleges will require families to apply for a Basic Grant, and there is no extra charge to use the FAF for this purpose. It's a good idea to apply for as many forms of aid as possible when completing the Financial Aid Form.

Although there is no income cut-off level for Basic Grant eligibility, families with incomes under \$15,000 have a better chance to qualify. Those with higher incomes may also qualify, depending on such factors as unusual expenses, family size and assets.