



The FULL MOON



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ALBEMARLE SENIOR HIGH NEWSPAPER
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To Smoke or Not to Smoke . . .

By ROB BYRUM

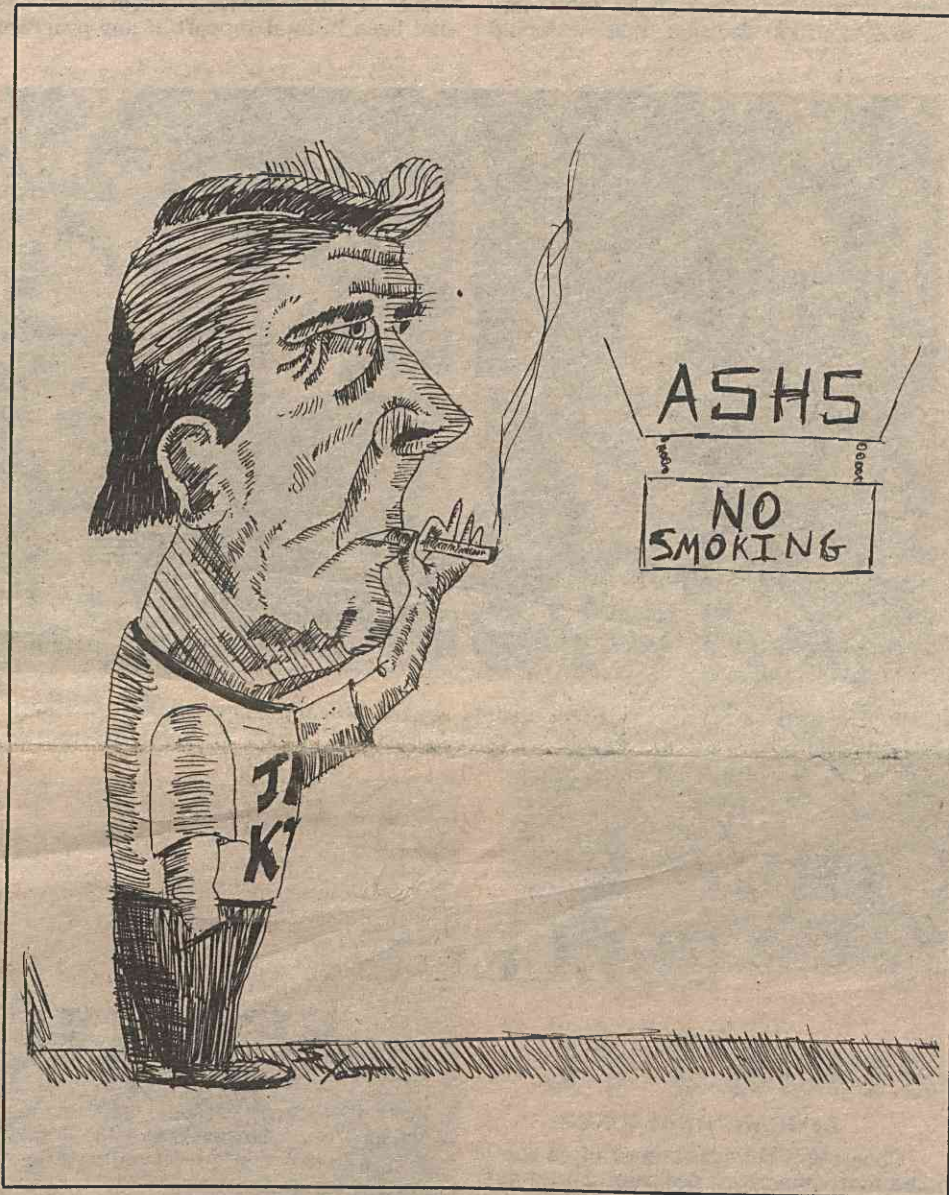
The Albemarle City School Board voted Thursday, January 10, 1985, to prohibit the use of chewing tobacco in any gym or any vehicle used by the Albemarle City Schools. The rule will be included in the Student Disciplinary Code and becomes effective immediately.

In addition, the School Board is planning to consider adopting a policy to ban the use of cigarettes or any other smoking products on school grounds. According to City Schools Superintendent Dr. Bill Brown, "The abolition plan is now just in the idea stage. The plan must be considered carefully. We will take it slowly at first."

Several local doctors have warned against the dangers of adolescent smoking. Dr. Claude Ballenger sent a letter to the board in support of the ban. Now the board must weigh all sides of the problem and make their decision accordingly. The process is expected to begin at the next board meeting on February 7, 1985. Already the idea is gaining supporters, including School Board member Mrs. Sandy Rogers. In a recent survey of Albemarle Senior High Students 32% favored a ban while 43% of the students surveyed said they would not be affected by the rule.

But what about the people who want to smoke at school? Of the students surveyed, 16% admitted to smoking, 11% at school. These will be the people most affected by the new rule, and their interests are also being considered by the board. An alternative to the abolition plan would be a policy for allowing smoking only in designated areas. Only 19% of students surveyed were in disagreement with this action, which could possibly be easier to enact than the total ban of smoking.

Dr. Brown says the board will "consider the situations of all involved, including students, faculty, and parents." Until February 8, Albemarle's smokers and non-smokers alike will just have to wait and see.



By ROB BYRUM

The results of our recent Smoking Survey have been tabulated, and they present us with some interesting facts about our school. In response to the question "Do you smoke?", 16% of the participating students answered yes, and 11% said that they smoked at school. Thus a large number of students (11%) will be affected by the possible smoking ban on school grounds. A more immediate effect is taking place on the 13% of our students who use some other type of tobacco. From now on, chewing tobacco of any type is not allowed in the gym or on school vehicles. These students will have to go elsewhere.

Concerning the proposed abolition, the majority of those who took a stand on the issue were against the ban. 39% do not approve, while 13% are in favor of the idea, and 48% feel they will not be affected. On the other hand, 45% of those questioned are in favor of smoking allowed only in a designated area. This seemed to be the most appreciated idea.

A number of comments were received along with the survey. The majority of those in favor of the ban said they "... disliked walking through other people's smoke," and that "... cigarette butts all over the ground are messy and unattractive." People against the abolition argued that "... it is an individual's decision whether or not he smokes," and that "... if they were going to ban smoking, then they should have never allowed it in the first place."

These comments and percentages will be considered by the School Board in their decision about a smoking plan. If anyone has any comments about the idea that is not published in this paper, the Board wants to know! Just notify a member of the Journalism Staff or come by Mr. Todd McGuire's room during sixth period and your comment will be forwarded to the School Board.

Improvements Made At ASHS

By HANK CARPENTER
And JOHNNY REID

The Albemarle City School Board has been working hard this year to create a more pleasant atmosphere for the students and for the faculty members at Albemarle Senior High School.

Many improvements have been made already this school year. One of the most appreciated improvements was the installation of fifty-two ceiling fans. A total of two fans per classroom along with four fans in the cafeteria were installed. The fans were installed during the summer so that students did not have to give up any learning time in the classroom. \$10,400 was spent by the Albemarle City School Board for the fans and installation. The fans are very popular among students and faculty members. One student was quoted as saying, "It feels great sitting in class with a cool breeze stirring through the room!"

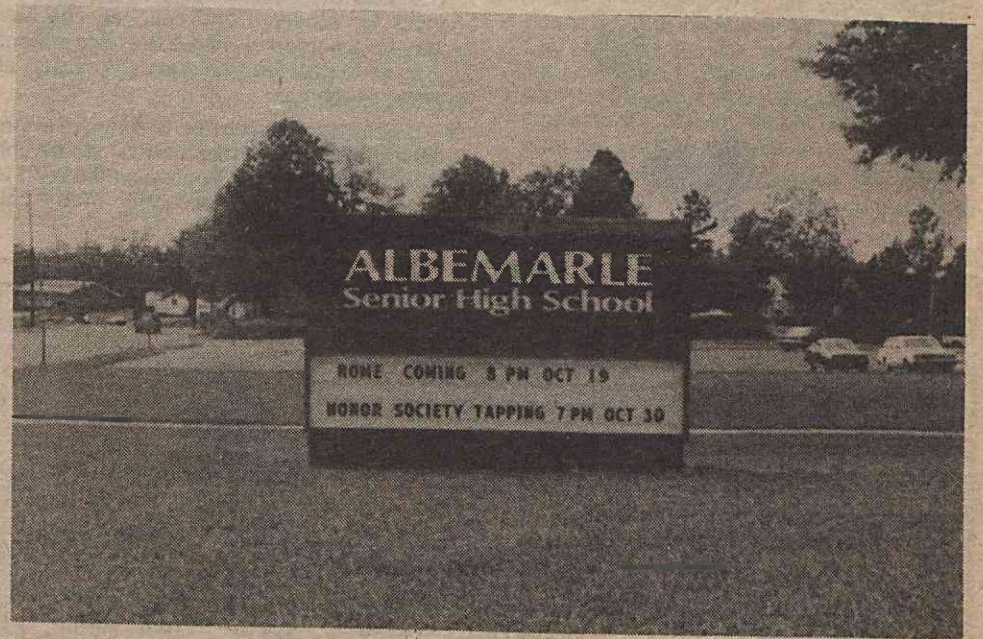
The most expensive improvement tackled by the Albemarle City School Board was the repavement of the lower parking lot. This parking lot is used by the VICA and DECA students, faculty members, and visitors. After the parking lot was repaved, it was repainted and new speed bumps were added. A total of \$33,500 was spent for the improvement of the parking lot.

The next step was the repairing of the lockers. \$10,000 was spent on the repairing of all the lockers that needed some attention. Handles, hinges, and numbers were replaced on the old lockers. The blue lockers were then painted grey to match all the other lockers lining the hallways.

New restroom facilities were constructed next to the weightroom on the home side of the football field. With this addition, fans of the Albemarle athletic groups will not have to walk around to the visitors' side to use the restroom. To add to the comfort of our fans, \$4,000 was spent on repairing the bleachers. The bleachers were checked and worn parts were either repaired or replaced.

To enhance the appearance of Albemarle Senior High School, a large sign was placed in front of the school. The sign is "Albemarle blue and white" and it displays the name of our school. It also has room at the bottom to post announcements. At night, the passers-by cannot help but notice the bright blue and white lights. The sign really brightens up the Albemarle Senior High campus, according to appreciative students.

Other important improvements include the repairing of the roof, the painting of the cafeteria and the vocational building, the construction of new sidewalks where buses



load and unload, and the purchase of a dust collector in the wood shop.

Brandon Newton, president of Albemarle Senior High School, and the Student Council would like to thank Dr. Brown and Mr. R. L. Cranford, director of maintenance, along with the Albemarle City School Board, for helping make Albemarle Senior High School a better educational opportunity!

FYI

The next local testing of the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) will be May 4. The deadline for applying to take the May test is March 29.