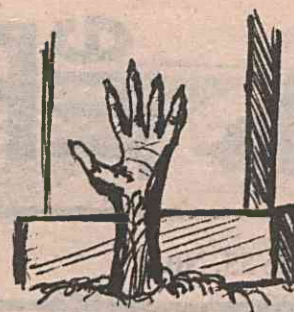




Features

EDITOR: ALEX OVERCASH



Education Is Key For U. S. Survival in Technological World

As you all know, education has been a topic of much concern recently. Although critics have scorned low SAT scores and high drop out rates in N.C., education, or the lack of it, is a major problem facing America today. Addressing this issue, President George Bush held an educational summit in Charlottesville, VA, in late September. He invited the nation's governors to take part in an unprecedented gathering to discuss education and to look for any reforms that could improve the U.S. educational system. As bold, or as liberal as this type of an idea may seem, it is an extremely necessary step towards raising U.S. educational standards to a desirable, competitive level. Lack of education affects Americans of all types in many different ways.

One major problem facing America today is the astounding number of illiterate people. People must be literate for American society to function. All citizens need to be responsible and concerned in order to elect good leaders, and they should be intelligent enough to get jobs and support themselves. Illiteracy strikes people in all walks of life, from the homeless to professional athletes. A distressing, yet inspirational story of a man's battle against illiteracy is that of Dexter Manley, a defensive lineman for the NFL's Washington Redskins. In 1987, it was revealed that Dexter was illiterate. Here was a person who had graduated from high school and college without having learned the basic skills of a second grader! With his career after football in mind, Dexter attended night school and can now read on a ninth grade level. Dexter then went before national representatives urging them to establish more educational programs and to stress the importance of education to young people. In a recent television interview, I saw Dexter Manley, a 280-pound strongman, crying as he talked about his experience. I guess that shows just how powerful education really is.

On the other end of the educational spectrum, "well-educated" Americans are having to work very hard to even compete with successful foreign markets and, thereby, maintain a stable U.S. economy. On the average, people from foreign countries such as Japan and Germany are academically and, therefore, technologically superior to Americans. Most foreigners are able to speak two or more languages fluently, and they attain very high levels of knowledge in their schooling. One reason for this is the long amount of time spent in schools in foreign countries. Another reason for foreign academic excellence, and America's best possible solution to its education crises, is higher quality teaching in schools. In most foreign countries teaching is a prestigious, well-paid profession, while in America, teaching is an undignified low paying career. America's higher level students of today must be encouraged to enter the teaching profession and this can only be done by raising teachers' salaries to an attractive level. All teachers should be paid well and admired, because no one would be educated or successful without them.

The U.S. educational system is facing many problems in the present age. Illiteracy must be dealt with promptly and effectively, and encouraging incentives must be established to attract high quality students into the teaching profession. Education in America cannot be taken for granted. It must constantly be evaluated and upgraded. Amidst all the revolutionary technological advancement of today's world, we must not overlook the incredible value of a well-developed American mind.

Student Leaders Plan for '89-'90

The student council of the 1989-90 school year is already hard at work. They have sponsored a successful candy sale and a great homecoming dance. They are also busy sponsoring a radio show held each month on WABZ, featuring special events and activities going on at AHS. Upcoming plans of the student council for this school year include the annual talent show, the blood drive, the special olympics, and, hopefully, another dance. By initiating all of these programs, the student council is showing their effort to make this school year at AHS great.

Student council officers for this year are Tim Burris, president; Regina Crowell, vice-president; Keely Francis, secretary; and Brett Richards, treasurer. Leading the senior class are Tommy Lockamy, president; Diane Brooks, vice-president; Holli Brafford, secretary; and Beth Childress, treasurer. Junior class leaders are Lori Maiden, president; Ward Surratt, vice-president; Jennifer Cook, secretary; and Pate Butler, treasurer. Leading the sophomore class are Kristi Johnson, president; Chassity Speight, vice-president; Alicia Swanner, secretary; Jill Huneycutt, treasurer. Officers for the freshman class are Mimi Austin, president; Kim Smith, vice-president; Karen Morton, secretary; and Courtney Owens, treasurer.

These students will work hard to make this year a huge success. Regina Crowell sums up the goals of this year's student council by saying: "The other officers and I have lots of ideas and are very enthusiastic about what needs to be accomplished. All we need now is opinions, approvals, and lots of school spirit!"

Die Laughing

By Susan Grantier

This is the perfect weather for a new hobby, and I have the perfect hobby for this perfect weather. Some may say it's morbid, some may say it's just plain weird. But I say it's fun. It's grave reading. No, not 'grave' as in serious, but grave as in cold, hard, and leaning tombstones.

It's amazing what one can find written on a tombstone. Sometimes you can learn a lot about the deceased person from a few words carved in stone. Here are some interesting and humorous actual epitaphs, courtesy of *Grave Humor* by Alonzo C. Hall

Chest

Here lies one Chest within another;
The one of wood
Was very good,
We can't say so much for t'other

In Memory of Captain Underwood,
Who was drowned.

Here lies free from blood and slaughter,
Once Underwood - now Underwater.

One angry soul decided to have the last word and caused the following line to be inscribed on the tombstone:

"I told you I was sick!"

Anna Wallace

The children of Israel wanted bread
And the Lord sent them manna,
Old clerk Wallace wanted a wife,
And the Devil sent him Anna.

In Memory of Anna Hopewell

Here lies the body of our Anna
Done to death by a banana
It wasn't the fruit that laid her low
But the skin of the thing that made her go.

Ellen Shannon
Aged 26 years

Who was Fatally Burned
March 21st 1870

By the Explosion of a Lamp
Filled with "R.E. Danforth's
Non-Explosive Burning Fluid."

Some epitaphs portray sarcastic humor:
(over the grave of one executed by the State:)
"Murdered by the State of North
Carolina"

I came into this world
Without my consent
And left in the same manner.

In an attempt to find out if Stanly County had any dead comedians, I was sent on an assignment to cruise the local cemeteries. Fellow journalist Tom Stubbs and I were greatly disappointed to find that the most original thing the deceased had to say was, "Gone but not forgotten." Tom summed it up when he wittingly remarked, "I guess no one funny has died yet." Perhaps my search wasn't thorough enough (forty-five minutes in one graveyard). Maybe you can do better. So get out there and find out what the "no longer living" people of Stanly County have (or rather, had) to say.

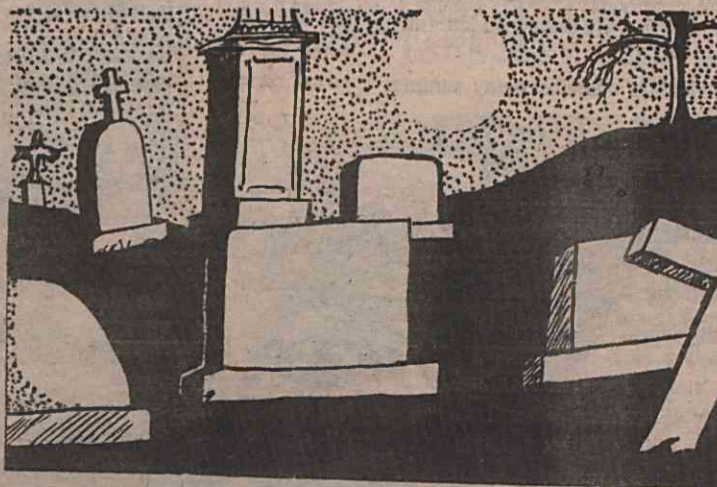
Now I leave you with a quote from the song "Cemetery Gates" by The Smiths.

"So we go inside, and we gravely read the stones,

All those people, all those lives -
Where are they now?

With loves, and hates, and passions just
like mine.

They were born, and then they lived, and
then they died."



"In-Style" Is Your Style

By Shelly Austin

Cash those pay checks, pilfer through the house, and be extra nice to mom, all in hopes for a little extra shopping money. Fall is here and the world of "fad and fashion" is broadening. Definitely in style this year are vests in all colors and styles. Both guys and girls are wearing them with either a very casual outfit consisting of an unbuttoned cotton vest with a pair of old jeans and a T-shirt, or fancier dress with a fitted suede or silk vest that stops at the waist and a long pleated skirt that blows in the wind. Either way you wear it, a vest will hit the spot!

Remember when you would never wear gold earrings if your belt buckle was silver? But does

it really look that bad? Metal is metal, and different colors of it look good together. Not only is there silver and gold, but antique (as they are called) silver and gold, which aren't as shiny. Tricolored gold is also a hit in braided bracelets and necklaces. There are many choices in accessories, but why be so picky? Wear what you want to wear, but remember, no rule says you have to wear gold with gold and silver with silver. Fads and fashions will always be changing, and it is hard to keep up with what's in or out. Individualized styles make fashion more interesting and without unique people styles would not change.

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