



# Features



EDITOR: ALEX OVERCASH

## Attendance Policy Creates Positive Attitude

There has been a lot of work done recently by school administrators throughout the nation to improve educational standards. North Carolina, especially, has initiated many programs, such as funding the PSAT and developing after-school programs for students who need help with their studies, designed to reform its educational system. These types of additions and changes are vital for this state to compete academically with other states as well as other nations. The Albemarle High School staff and school board are doing their part to improve the educational opportunities for Albemarle students by establishing an attendance policy. Many factors determine academic success—teachers, family life, and student attitudes, just to name a few. No matter how great teachers, family life, and student attitudes may be, significant educational achievement will not come without good, steady attendance.

A student cannot learn what is expected of him or her without attending classes regularly, so I am glad to see our high school develop a more effective system for attendance. By allowing fifteen class absences per semester before automatic failure, this policy's terms are more than fair. The school board and staff has also done a good job of preventing this means of failure by submitting a warning after eight absences and appointing a counselor to students with poor attendance records. A final clause that greatly increases the attendance policy's effectiveness is the rewarding of students with few absences. Prizes and recognition, along with exemption from exams, for students with outstanding attendance is a positive way to encourage students to be in school everyday. When your mom or dad wakes you up one morning, and you don't feel like coming to school, think about your options. Would you rather spend four more hours sleeping now or four hours sleeping June 5th, 6th, and 7th while your truant classmates study for their exams?

Albemarle High School's attendance policy is definitely a step in the right direction towards better education. I am glad that we are taking this step because a student cannot truly succeed academically without putting forth strong personal effort and maintaining a sincere desire to learn. I hope this policy will show to be extremely successful in overcoming the major educational obstacle of student absences while it helps students motivate themselves and give good efforts towards learning.

## Stop Abusing the Environment: Recycle

By Tom Stubbs

Ever since the dawn of time, man has been using the environment for his own personal gains: food and shelter. Through the years, though, this policy has gone from taking what one needs for himself to survive to exploiting the earth and raping its natural resources for fun and profit. This irresponsible behavior must stop before the earth becomes a barren wasteland.

Every year tons upon tons of nonbiodegradable material is produced and disposed of, causing mass fill-ups of landfills nationwide. If that weren't enough, at the rate timber is being cut and processed, in fifty years we will have destroyed all of our existing trees. This is not just a national problem. The entire planet is suffering because of the greed and exploitation of short-sighted governments and companies unconcerned with the earth's future.

All of this rambling probably has you wondering what one person can do about it. More than you think! Although Stanly County does have a collection center for glass and aluminum across from North Stanly High School, not many people seem to know it exists. In addition, the inconvenience is a deterrent for many people.

With the dawn of a new decade, this is a very important topic, socially as well as politically, with which everyone should become involved. In Charlotte, the city is testing curbside pick-ups of recyclable materials which could prove profitable and environmentally responsible.

Stanly County needs a centralized collection center for steel, aluminum, glass, and paper and should look into the option of curbside pick-up. If you or your families are interested in this topic, organize yourselves and write the mayor. The longer we wait, the worse things get.

## Cheers and Jeers

By Susan Grantier

**Cheers to:** The cleanliness of the halls and restrooms. (Seriously - this is the cleanest school I've ever been in.) There is no writing on the stall walls and almost no trash on the hall floors.

**Jeers to:** The ocean of red mud outside of the front doors. That area is a popular place where students hang out during lunch, and something should be done to improve those conditions.

**Cheers to:** Climate control. The air conditioning and heat system actually work (although some days, especially in the spring and in the fall, it seems like the air temperature can't make up its mind.)

**Jeers to:** The often overcrowded conditions in the cafeteria during our three lunch periods.

**Cheers to:** The payphone available to students in the student lounge. No permission needed.

**Jeers to:** The roaches!!!

**Cheers to:** The new attendance policy which gives students an option to be exempt from exams.

**Jeers to:** The faded parking lines.

As far as the physical appearance of Albemarle High School is concerned, there isn't much to complain about. Compared to most schools, this building is practically clinical. If it wasn't for the lockers, our school could probably be mistaken for a hospital. In a way, our building lacks character; however, when the students fill the halls, the school comes to life. As we move into the 1990's, let's keep up the cheers and work on the jeers.



Kevin Lawrence takes advantage of the new pay phone while others wait their turns.

## What's in a Name?

By Meonne Blalock and Shelly Austin

When someone yells "Jennifer!" or "John!" how many people actually turn to answer? With 20 girls at AHS named Jennifer and 20 guys named John it is easy for others with the same name to think you are talking to them when you're not. Jon and Jennifer Eddins probably get double the trouble in the name mixups. They have the same last name, the same birthday, and the most popular first names at school. Michael Todd Furr and Michael Todd Furr also have the same trouble when someone announces, "Will Mike Furr report to the office?" The two Leslie Morgans and the two Jonathan Bennetts are in the same predicament.



Will the real Michael Todd Furr please stand up?

### First Names - Most Popular

Jennifer	20
John, Jonathan	20
Christa, Christy	15
Michael, Mike	15
Chris	11
Brian, Daniel, Lynn	8
Kim, Melissa, David	7
Amy, Misty, Jeff, Tim	6
Kevin	5

### Last Names - Most Popular

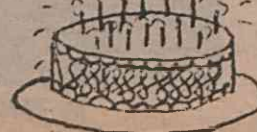
Smith	18
Morgan	8
Blalock	7
Brown	7
Lowder	6
Harris	5
Whitley	5
Lilly	5

### Birthdays

August	64
November	61
October	58
June	53
January, March, July	51
December	49
September	47
February, April	45
May	43

In case you were wondering, August 28 is the most popular birthday with 7 AHS students celebrating on that day. Tying for second place are Aug. 19 and November 9, with 6 students celebrating on each of these dates. Coming in third with 5 students each are January 30, October 6, October 8, and October 29.

HAPPY Birthdays John Jennifer



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