



# Features

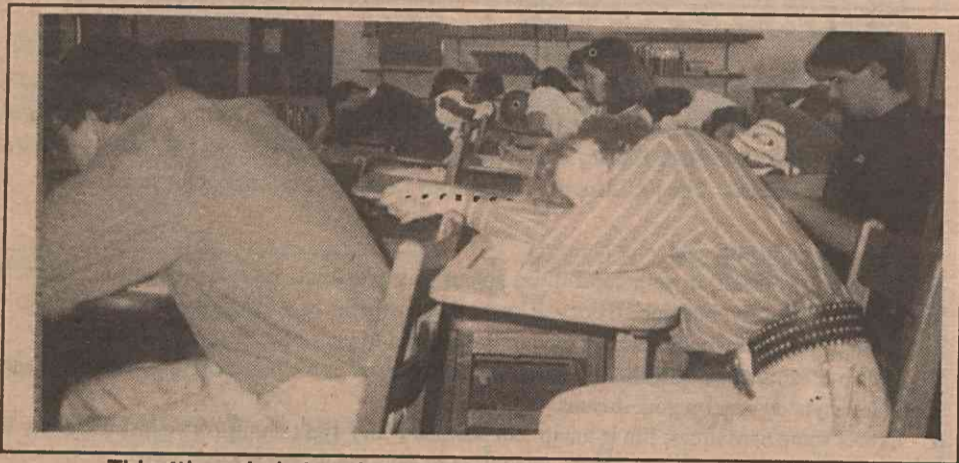


EDITOR: ALEX OVERCASH

## Seniors Susceptible to Slump

We've all finished mid-term exams and the school year is more than half over. Everyone is relieved to have gotten this close to the end of the year, but no one is more excited than the senior class. With each passing day seniors' thoughts are focused less and less on school while they anxiously await their long-anticipated beach trips and carefully planned escape from Albemarle. Undoubtedly, Myrtle Beach is a lot of fun and an experience no one should miss, but, seniors, you must keep these last four months of school in mind.

It's a natural fact that seniors are going to become apathetic towards the end of the school year. Classes seem to last two or three hours each, and those books seem to get a little too heavy to carry home. As summer and graduation steadily approach, seniors, as well as all other students, find it difficult to stay tuned in to school. This time is important to all students because next year's lessons will be taught according to what you learn this year, and exams will be waiting for all those who become a little "absent"-minded. Collegebound seniors, especially, need to keep working hard until the end of the year because of final reports to colleges. Some colleges require a report of prospective students' achievements through their last semester of high school. Although there are a lot of distractions during this time of year, students must try their hardest to keep up with their classes. Remember that summer and all the fun that comes with that season will only last a few months, while an education lasts a lifetime.



This 4th period class has already developed the "senior slump."

## First Offenders Deserve a Second Chance

The judicial system here in North Carolina has been the topic of relevant concern lately. Some AHS students have found themselves in unfortunate situations recently because of their bad judgement or simply bad luck. A few of these students have faced arrest, prosecution, and punishment from the court. Most of the young people in this type of predicament are generally decent students as well as law-abiding citizens who have just been in the wrong places at the wrong times due to a momentary lack of judgement.

Everyone who breaks the law, undoubtedly, deserves to be punished, but no one should have to keep paying for one minor, hasty mistake for the rest of their lives. For this reason, a First Offender's Program has been established in Wake, Chatam, and one other county. When accepted as a First Offender, a person's record will not be permanent. Under the conditions, once the convicted person serves his or her punishment (community service, parole) and pays his or her damages, the charges are erased. If the punishment is not served or if the person is arrested again, the charges remain intact.

First Offenders is an extremely worthwhile program which should be implemented in more counties of NC. It is successful because it gives people a second chance to prove themselves as morally upright and law-abiding citizens. Without a First Offender's Program, many people could have all their future rights and opportunities limited by a past mistake. A permanent conviction can lessen chances for a good education and job, and it carries a negative influence into all aspects of life. Mistakes are part of human nature, and everyone is human (although some are more human than others). The First Offender's Program helps convicted people by giving them a second chance to prove their judgement and moral character, but it also helps the community by giving these people a chance to succeed as trustworthy citizens instead of struggling as a criminal.



Cindy prefers Golden Corral . . .



But Holli loves Pizza Hut!

## U 'Filler Up

By Alex Overcash

As we all know, Albemarle is not the greatest place for dining and entertainment. However, through the years, the situation has improved, and some favorites have developed. Whether you're a fast-food fan or the type that likes to actually see what goes into your mouth, Albemarle can provide some suitable places to get your tummy filled. Some are healthy places, and others, well... you may be better off eating in our school cafeteria! A poll was taken among AHS students to decide which place is the all-time favorite. Here are the results:

- Pizza Hut 30%
- Golden Corral 15%
- Taco Bell 11%
- Golden Dragon 7%
- Western Steer 7%
- Burger King 4%
- McDonald's 4%
- Hardee's 3%
- Domino's Pizza 3%
- Joe's Donut Dinette 3%
- Steak 'n' Hoagie 3%
- Central Lunch 3%
- Jay's Seafood 1.5%
- Little Caesar's 1.5%
- Yadkin Valley Steakhouse 1%
- Whispering Pines 1%

## It Could Have Happened . . . But Didn't

By Susan Grantier

Every year, around January, something amazing happens. "Psychics" around the world send their predictions to the highly-respectable tabloids, such as *The National Enquirer*, or *The Sun*. Have you ever wondered if their predictions will come true? But then you put the magazine back on the rack and promptly forget about it as you move ahead in the express lane. It's not hard to figure out why those trash mags don't do a follow-up on the predictions, a year later. Most of the time those incredibly accurate insights of the future don't come true. (Burt and Loni die in bizarre double-suicide cocaine brawl. Get real.)

When researching for this article, I attempted to find the January 1989 *National Enquirer* that listed "Jeane Dixon's predictions for 1989" just to see if any of them came true. Unfortunately, the library doesn't carry the *National Enquirer*. Instead I found a book entitled *Predictions*, by Joe Fisher (with Peter Commins). The copyright was 1980, but I decided to give it a shot anyway.

Here are some actual past predictions about the 1980's.

\*Some form of nuclear war will break out within ten years. (Unless I slept through it... well, you get the idea.)

\*A United States President will die in office in the 1980's. (As you know, Ronnie is still alive, though some people tried their hardest to kill him.) Please Lord, don't let Bush die. Think about what would happen.

\*New York will be destroyed. (Nope-David Letterman is still on T.V.)

\*An oncoming ice age will be "very evident" by 1983 and fully upon us by 1989. (Spring break '90: Life's a Beach! No-Life's a... Snowdrift??)

A serum that prevents hardening of the arteries and reverses senility and the aging process will become available in 1980's. By 2000, average life expectancy will be increased to 120 years. (120 years??? So I guess you hit middle

age around... 85-90.)

\*By 1990 a device will have been invented to enable us to communicate with plants. A computer analyzer will translate a plant's vibrations into human voice. (No more need for 976-DATE. Now, if you're lonely, just flirt with your fern.)

\*The Japanese economy will break down between 1980 and 1984. (I'm sure the Japanese are having a good chuckle over THAT one.)

\*By 1990, all major cities will have banned private cars. (I almost wish that were true-then I wouldn't have the problem of feeling embarrassed driving my lovely blue steamship, the S.S. Grantier.)

Hopefully you aren't yawning by now. And I apologize for the stupid comments after each prediction. And now I'll leave you with my own itty-bitty prediction:

Mrs. Hathcock will ignore the fact that this article is three days late, and instead praise me for my astonishing writing skills; that praise being in the form of an A-plus.



Kevin Muse finally meets his #1 - the plant of his dreams.

### FULL MOON

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