



FOOL MOON



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Longer Days Ahead for AHS

By Bill Snyder

The educational system in America has been criticized recently for its inability to produce competent, successful students. Government officials and other knowledgeable groups have been offering solutions to this problem for many years, but more recently the suggestions have become more serious due to the increasing competition posed by foreign nations such as Japan and Germany. Especially here in North Carolina education has been the object of much scrutiny because our SAT scores were the lowest in the nation last year. One of the most commonly suggested solutions to America's education crisis is increasing the amount of time students spend in class.

As a result, governmental boards in North Carolina have derived a tentative plan to lengthen school days and overall school years. The Regional Selection Committee, appointed by Governor Jim Martin, has chosen the Albemarle City School System, along with eleven NC public school systems, to field-test the state's new educational objective. The state's arrangement will

Saturdays for Snow Days

By Alex Overcash

A new policy on make-up days has recently been passed by the Albemarle Board of Education. Starting next year, all snow days will be made up on Saturday. In the past these "snow days" have been made up either during spring break or at the end of the year. This has caused too many problems with graduation plans, and also original family plans for spring break. These makeup days will be determined by the board at least one month prior to the event. School will begin at the regular time, 8:00 A.M., and will end at 3:40 P.M. (next year's hours), with buses running their regular routes. Although this new policy may be unpopular, it will help the school keep original plans and schedules accurate. Graduation will be a week later next year because of this new plan. Spring break will be several days longer, since no snow days will have to be scheduled into the calendar.



Marcus revels in the glory of graduation while underclassmen contemplate the long days ahead.

employ a seven and 3/4 hour school day beginning at 8:00 A.M. and dismissing at 3:40 P.M. This schedule, as opposed to our six-hour and 45 minute school day, will create enough time for an extra class period. This will also increase the number of credits required for graduation from

22 to 26. Aside from adding an hour to each school day, the state is planning to add nearly a month to the school year. The 1990-91 school year will begin August 1 and summer vacation will begin June 14. Christmas vacation, spring break, and other school holidays will remain the

same, but a 3-day fall break will be implemented to give students a little extra time away from school.

All the fine details and up-dated schedules have not been totally completed. Athletic schedules, grading periods, and other such listings are yet to be arranged on the agenda. These details, along with other explanations and expectations, will be discussed by Lt. Governor Bob Jordan at graduation June 7. Lt. Governor Jordan, along with most other government administrators, have high hopes for the revamped system. Albemarle High School has been chosen to conduct this program for two main reasons. First, AHS is ranked in the bottom 1/3 of all public educational facilities in NC. The state prefers a middle to low-ranking school system so any positive results of their program will be easily noticed. Most importantly, AHS has been chosen because we have air conditioning throughout the school. This will prevent early dismissals of the students due to heat, and it will also make for a more comfortable environment in which to work.



Students protest Saturday make-up days.

Things "Brewing" For Albemarle

By Susan Grantier

The quiet, small city we know as Albemarle is in for many huge and surprising changes. As of this writing, Albemarle has been chosen as the future site for Southern Dixie Brewery and Distributors. This business will bring jobs and much economic profit to Albemarle. The plant is to be located in southeast Albemarle, on a large tract of land close to the new Stanly County Fairgrounds.

Besides creating new jobs, the new beer distributor will also purchase all of its aluminum for cans from ALCOA, which is expected to lead to an expansion in ALCOA's size and productive capabilities.

With a new beer distributor to be located within our own city, local beer drinkers are organizing a referendum to repeal the law forbidding the sale of alcoholic beverages. They are

also hoping the new brewery will have an outlet store and a tasting shop.

Other new shops, businesses, and athletic events are sure to follow the new brewery to Stanly County. A professional soccer team is already looking at the area as a possible home to a professional team, because it is situated so conveniently to Charlotte and other surrounding areas. The team will probably be called the Albemarle Polyatomic Ions, as Mr. Blalock is expected to become general manager of the team.

If you're used to the quiet living of Albemarle and don't like change, you may want to look for a new residence. During the next 5 years, Albemarle will face new and exciting changes. With Charlotte expanding to the east, we will eventually be absorbed by that city!

Chemical Warfare on the Gridiron

By Tom Stubbs

Recently in the news, much bad publicity has been given to the dilemma of how and where to store long-term, low-level hazardous waste. While the state decides where to put the bulk of our waste, the Solite Corporation in Aquadale, on a daily basis, burns hazardous waste to form an aggregate material used in building. Until recently, the plant was considered extremely safe in its practices, but now a few shocking truths become painfully evident. It seems that a little over a decade ago, when the high school stadium was being built, some extra materials for filler were needed. The filler material that was used, as it turns out, was the extremely toxic by-product given off by the incinerator as it burns the raw waste.

This shocking discovery was made six weeks ago, when a representative from the ACME Lawn Care Corporation came to survey the football field for future repairs. Noticing the poor condition of the field, he took a soil sample, which ACME's chemists and later the EPA tested. Both sets of test results yielded the same conclusion. The soil from the football field came back positive for three deadly toxins.

Mr. Blalock is assembling a team of chemists to come and assess the damage already caused by years of exposure to the chemicals. He has compiled a list of possible reactions and effects the chemicals may have on humans. Topping the list is apathy, followed by lack of coordination, nerve damage, hair loss, and in severe cases complete nervous breakdown. If you or anyone you know has experienced any of these symptoms, you need to file a report with the school and get a physician referral from Mr. Blalock.



Mr. Edwards and concerned students test the football field for radiation.