



The FULL MOON



Albemarle High School Newspaper

Volume 63, No. 5

311 Park Ridge Road Albemarle, N.C. 28001

982-3711

FEBRUARY 1998

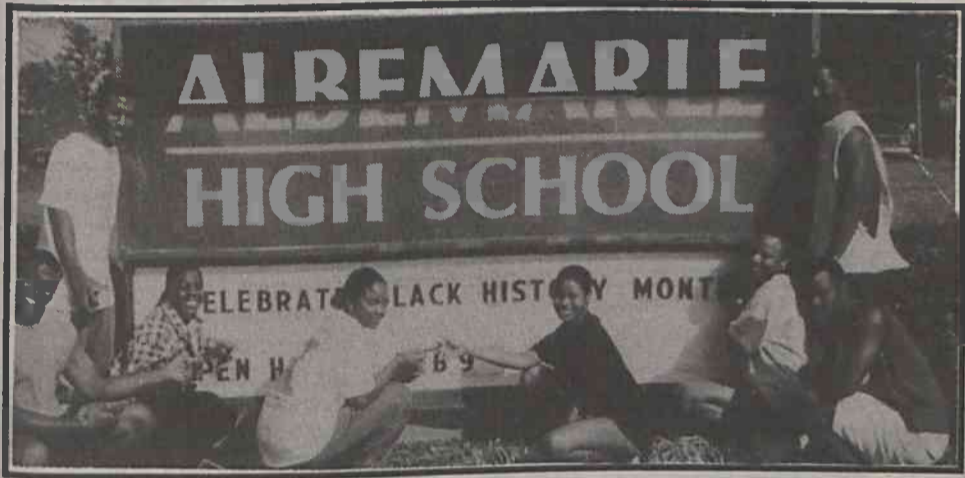
Celebrate Black History Month

by Emily Nance

Do the names Nat Turner, Crispus Attucks, W.E.B. Dubois, or Thurgood Marshall ring a bell? All four are significant figures in American History. All four are black. The accomplishments and contributions to our society of most minorities, be it African-American, Asian-American, Latin-American, or women, are skimmed over or omitted altogether in our textbooks.

For instance, scores of westerns have been filmed in this country. Clint Eastwood, Errol Flynn, and John Wayne had successful film careers settling the West and fighting the Apache and Sioux, but it was in fact usually the African-

American waging that war. Four out of every five cowboys were black. The first person killed in our country's fight for independence, Crispus Attucks, was a black man. Nat Turner waged a brief but valiant war against slavery in Virginia. W.E.B. Dubois fought discrimination in another way, forming the NAACP. Examples of the efforts of blacks and all other minorities throughout American and world history flood the historical plain but all too often are allowed to seep into the cracks unnoticed. This month, all teachers should do their part to incorporate history from our cultural landscape. Along with AHS, celebrate Black History Month!!



These students worked together to remind AHS to celebrate Black History Month.

The Building Blocks of School

by Emily Nance

Along with the opening of a new school year, AHS gained new teachers, new curriculum, a new freshman class, and a new scheduling system, the block. The projected benefits include lighter course preparation and opportunities to take more courses. However, the true question is how does block scheduling directly affect the students at AHS?

In a recent survey of over one-hundred AHS students, 70 percent said that block scheduling has proven beneficial for various reasons. Unfortunately, 30 percent responded with negative comments concerning the recent change.

Matt Lefler, a senior commented, "I have found block scheduling to be a vast improvement over the standard, six-subject school year. It allows our courses to be more intensive and focused, making learning easier. However, it can be taxing on the student to remain focused for such a length of time in an intensive environ-

ment. Also, the pressure is greater to cover material in the allotted time."

Tiffanie Eudy, David Coble, and Jarvis Copeland all agree that the ninety-minute classes are too long and the schedules do not always work out the way they were intended - two academic courses and two electives.

Student body president, Jonathan Dry, expressed his feelings concerning the subject: "Block scheduling has proved to be a beneficial improvement so far this year. I, for one, have been able to take a wider variety of classes that I could have not taken in past years. I believe students will have a better high school experience now that we are on the block scheduling system."

Block scheduling obviously has both positive and negative effects; however, I feel the overall tone is positive at AHS. Sit back and enjoy class.

New Exam Exemption Policy

Students with an academic average of 85 or above and 4 or fewer absences in a class may exempt the exam for that class. Any student with an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) must maintain an academic average of 75 or above and have 4 or fewer absences. Attendance will be counted through the day prior to the exam. Days missed due to school-initiated functions will not count toward the exemption policy as students are not to be marked absent on those days.

Students in classes with End of Course (EOC) or VOCATS exams will not be exempt as these tests are mandatory. Students who owe any school fees may not exempt an exam.

VICA News



The Vocational and Industrial Clubs of America (VICA) has worked diligently to improve Mrs. Saunders' SIMS office. She was in dire need of new furniture and several members crafted a new desk and counter for her. They would also like to extend their appreciation to Dealer Imports of Huntersville for their recent donation of plywood parts. The craftsmanship of this club is outstanding, and they are continuing their success.

WELCOME TO AHS

by Emily Nance

The new semester has not only brought new classes and new friends but also new teachers. AHS extends a welcome to three new additions to the staff. Mrs. Lowry, Ms. Tyson, and Mrs. Whittington have all gained Bulldog pride as they now spend their days teaching the students of Albemarle High School.

Mrs. Kelly Lowry, a first year teacher, earned her Associate degree in Business Administration from Stanly Community College and her Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Gardner-Webb University. Last semester, she

taught Computer Technology, Keyboarding, and Introduction to Business. When not working at AHS, Mrs. Lowry can be found water-skiing and spending time with her family. She is an active member of Aquadale Elementary School's PTA where she serves as vice-president. When asked about her goals for AHS, she responded, "I hope to continue to grow as an educator and apply my skills in the classroom." Mrs. Lowry has a husband, Tim, and two children, Cory and Tyler. Welcome to AHS!!

Ms. Tyson, who has taught for a year and a half at Stanly Community College, is new to the high school area. A 1995 graduate of Western Carolina University, Ms. Tyson earned her degrees in both English and Biology. Writing short stories, poetry, reading everything, interacting with children, and baking are a few of her numerous hobbies. When Ms. Tyson first ar-

rived at AHS, she was prepared to start high school. Graduating from AHS, Ms. Tyson commented on how happy she was to be back in Albemarle:

"AHS satisfied my thirst for knowledge. It's comforting to be back home again among the people that nurtured and further inspired my budding talents. Words will never express how much the faculty here means to me. Waves of nostalgia hit me as I walk the halls or swing by the library. To the students: When facing life's challenges, Be Determined. Be Focused. Be Obedient. Be Blessed with the Desires of your heart."

AHS would also like to welcome Mrs. Rachel Whittington to the AHS staff. As a retired math teacher, Mrs. Whittington is taking the place of Mr. Ramirez and plans to help

students at AHS develop math skills. A graduate of Lenoir Rhyne College, Mrs.

Whittington enjoys cross-stitch and travel. Perhaps at the conclusion of the school year, she will be able to find time to enjoy her inter-

ests. Happily married to her husband, Howard, Mrs. Whittington has two children, Russell and Kendra.

AHS is happy to welcome all of the new teachers. Hopefully, they too will gain Bulldog pride in our school!



Tyson



Whittington

Who's That Man?



??????????????

Mr. White was recently found acting out his favorite scene from the movie *Mary Poppins* on the rooftops of AHS. However, he danced with a broom instead of a chimney sweeper. Gotcha, Mr. White!!