

Spring Has Sprung

What strange malady has afflicted so many students in RMSHS lately? The boys and girls seem to have lost much of their former pep and vitality. Nobody hurries anywhere (on foot, that is.)

Students are observed sitting in their classrooms with vacant looks on their faces, and their thoughts are evidently far from the class and the lesson of the day. It is with great difficulty that students drag themselves to school each morning, and when they get there, they are present in body only.

Strange as it seems, there is hardly any noise in the study hall now. When one glances into the library, he sees most of the students bent low over their desks, as if they were doing some very exacting work. But, no, on closer examination one finds that these slumped-over students are asleep, or nearly so.

An old saying goes "In the spring a young man's fancy lightly turns to thoughts of love." Around here it looks as if they never heard of this, for their fancy has turned to thoughts of sleep.

This inertia which is so prevalent makes it extremely difficult for anybody to open a book, much less study. Has some strange oriental disease broken out in RMSHS or is there an epidemic of sleeping sickness, perhaps? No, it's just that old spring fever. . . .

Programs—Interesting and Informative

Isn't it natural that teenagers all over the world should want to be amused? It is for this reason that the assemblies are chosen on the basis of their merits for good entertainment. But is this the only quality upon which they are chosen?

Recently Harry and Chita Van Pelt from Holland entertained with their songs, dances, and jokes. This was, by far, the most enjoyable program presented here in a long time. This particular type of humor was delightfully fresh and appealed to the teenage mind. But was that the only thing the program accomplished?

Did you know that swimming was a required subject in Holland schools, since so many children drown in the many canals of that European country? Did you know that the Dutch have sports that correspond to football, basketball, and baseball? I didn't, but I know it now. Therein lies the other basic qualification for assemblies.

Truly a good assembly should meet the combined qualities of being entertaining and informative.

Why Did They Shoot?

Shots rang out, wild and frenzied; men dropped to the floor, blood spurting out!

No, this wasn't a scene from a Hollywood Grade B Western. This was real life in Washington, D. C., the nation's capitol! Five congressmen debating a bill on the floor of the House of Representatives fell wounded, one seriously.

The would-be assassins, two men and a woman, dropped their weapons and attempted to flee the visitors gallery but were quickly apprehended by guards. Why did they do this? Who were they? The three were members of the Puerto Rican Nationalists, a fanatical group that wants to break all Puerto Rican ties with the U. S.

This case is an example of individuals trying to gain power through mob action. Such should be fought and put down. Danger lies not in the fact that they would gain power, but the fact that dictatorship and communism follow closely behind them. This is another reason the U. S. should unite and show front to aggressors, for liberty should be kept alive in human hearts as well as in government.

WELCOME!

Greetings To The N. H. S. Delegates From The Staff Hope You Like Us!

Happy 'Conventioning'

Delegates to the North Carolina State National Honor Society convention, the *Blackbird* staff welcomes you. It is a distinct pleasure to have you in Rocky Mount High School. You are official representatives from the schools of North

April Fool!

A—all the teachers in our school
P—ut play before work, ain't that cool?
R—ecently they've served drinks in class,
I—n all the years, it's true at last.
L—ate for class? Oh, that's all right.
F—or we can stay out 'til two each night;
O—ne day skipped per week is fine.
O—n week nights, no homework, takes too much time.
L—ucky??? No, April Fool!!!

Carolina, and this in itself makes us proud to receive you.

This convention is the product of many weeks of hard work. The state officers have done an excellent job of co-ordinating their plans. It is no easy task to outline a convention with officers hundreds of miles apart.

The state adviser and the Rocky Mount chapter adviser are to be commended. Tirelessly they worked behind the scenes, helping—and sometimes pushing—the students, and at the same time doing their regular job of teaching.

But all has not been work. We're sure it's been fun. And now you can meet new people and see the friends that you made last summer. So make the most of it. Learn all you can and do all you can. "It only happens once a year."

Again we welcome you with the hope that you have a successful convention and that you will call on us if we can in anyway help to make your visit here more enjoyable—Happy "Conventioning"!

Seeswen

Since so many students have been patronizing the cafeteria, the cafeteria staff has decided to serve one free meal each week.

The school board has just ruled that on Friday, when seniors leave activity period five minutes early, they need not return to school until the following Monday morning. This, of course, does not apply to those students who feel they need to remain in school.

News In Names

"Names make news," the old saying goes and has been the policy of the *Blackbird* this year, to get in as many names in the news as possible.

It has also been its policy to print new names—names that haven't appeared over and over. To avoid repeating names is difficult at times, since the "doers" are the people whose names must be mentioned—whenever and opportunity has presented itself to use others unpublished names, the paper has jumped at the chance.

Some members of the staff made a count of the names that have appeared in the paper so far this year to check their repetition.

Peggy Searcy led the score with her name having appeared eleven times. George Knight comes up with a close second of ten. "Smoky" Lancaster and Elizabeth Vann tie with eight counts. Gordon Wilkinson has been published seven times, Kay Congleton and Patsy Pearce scored six times. Jimmy Lancaster, Bobby Patterson, Kay Sanders, and Baxter Savage have seen their "John Henry's" in print five times each. Julian Aldridge, Dave Barnes, Val McMillan, Bart Ritner, and Elise Williams hit the news four times.

From the entire student body, 173 names have been printed so far. That leaves approximately 427 more to go. Get hep, cats, here's your big chance to become known. You don't have to steal anything or kill anyone, just do something and get your name in the *Blackbird*.

School's Out?

Ah, theres good news today! All of the "reds" have been kicked out of the country. Taxes are to be taken off all goods in the next week. Major companies are raising the worker's wages. News stands are going to give free comic books to all children—large or small.

School is to be let out for a whole week—When school is in operation again, there will be no homework.

If you are good humored, you will appreciate this; but if you are not good humored, you will consider this goofy—April Fool's Day to all!

If The Shoe Fits, Do Something About It!

Dear Editor

Why should the early lunch privilege be taken away from "all" seniors?

It is true that some seniors took advantage of this privilege and sneaked out to go home when they should have stayed in their classes until the bell rang. But these are the ones who should be punished instead of the whole class.

There are people who always try to get away with anything they can. Even when they have something good, they can't recognize it and therefore lose it by taking advantage of the situation. These people are very poor sports and don't deserve to have anything good. They are the ones who have grown selfish and immature. They think only of themselves and have no respect whatsoever for the other person, or for the rules of discipline.

The majority of the seniors re-

Lent Signifies Faith

On the third morning, following the crucifixion of their Lord, three women came to the grave. Being unhappy about His death, they grieved. Upon the arrival at the sepulcher they found it open, the stone had been rolled away. They were afraid, but an angel spoke and told them not to be afraid, for Christ had arisen.

In the lives of people today, things happen to make them as happy as these women were, but their minds are more centered on material things than spiritual.

If in the world today, people would take their minds off bombs, war, and crime and think more of heavenly and spiritual ideas there would be no reason to fear. Fear causes worry and discontentment, but faith leads to an understanding world.

Certain churches in the Christian world today are now engaged in the season known as Lent, a period of abstinence and meditation before Easter.

Lent signifies the forty days that Christ spent in meditations in the wilderness before the crucifixion. There satan tempted Christ three times, but He overcame each temptation. Man is often faced by similar temptations and during Lent many Christians seek forgiveness through abstinence and meditation. Such abstinences are good for the soul.

pect this privilege and have been upholding it. Maybe if each member of the senior class would appoint himself a committee of one to remedy the breaking of regulations, these "eager beavers" could be caught and rightfully punished.
A Worried Senior

Dear Editors,

Since the lunchroom has opened many students have taken on a "you-better-get - out-of-my-way-or-I'll-push-you-down" attitude. This is unfair to other students and creates an unfavorable impression of our school.

Now that we are in senior high, it's time that we begin to act like adults. There seems to be plenty of food left even if one is at the end of the line. I hope that *The Blackbird* will publish this letter, and I hope that some students will be a little more restrained.

Someone who has been pushed out of the way

THE BLACKBIRD

Official Publication of

Rocky Mount Senior High

Member of the
Columbia Scholastic Press Association

EDITORIAL STAFF

- Co-Editors Patsy Pearce, Valentine McMillan
- News Editor Mary Lee Fountain
- Sports Editors Gerry Gardner, Flaye Hammond
- Feature Editor Lucinda Oliver
- Exchange Editor Anne Proctor
- Literary Editor Woodrow West
- Columnists Kay Sanders, Julian Aldridge
- Staff Artist Sarah Moore
- Staff Writers Martha Bradley, Joy Ann Hayes, Eddie Felts, Charles Bateman, Myrna Kay Bell, Jean Stephenson

BUSINESS STAFF

- Business Manager George Knight
- Assistant Business Manager Carole Morgan
- Advertising Manager Ruth Farmer
- Assistant Advertising Manager Betty Sue Cash
- Circulation Manager Peggy Searcy

FACULTY ADVISER

Mrs. T. D. Young

Published nine times during the year by the Journalism Class of Rocky Mount Senior High School.

Subscription Rate \$1.00

