

## RIDICULE, A SIGN OF ENVY

Screeeeech! Brakes slam, a child screams, but it is too late! There in the middle of the road lies the limp body of a small child, its mother running frantically to its side. The child is dead! The reason — drunken driving!

Although no such incident has happened to a member of our student body, young people are still faced with the problem of drinking.

Many feel they must drink to be "sociable" and "show their age." How silly and juvenile is this conclusion! In the first place young people are ruining their health at a time when they should be taking special care of their bodies. Nervous disorder and diabetes are only two of the results of too much drinking. Secondly, one is throwing away the respect that others have had for him when he accepts a drink, and he is decreasing the respect that he has for himself. Most important though he may take just one small drink another who sees him do this may end up a chronic alcoholic.

There are not many teenagers who drink for pleasure. They are just showing immaturity and how foolishly young they are.

Those who have strongly and rightfully withdrawn from the juvenile practice of drinking may be ridiculed and called "chicken", but those who do this are only envious that they haven't the will power and the grit to stand up for what they believe is right.

## JUST AROUND THE CORNER

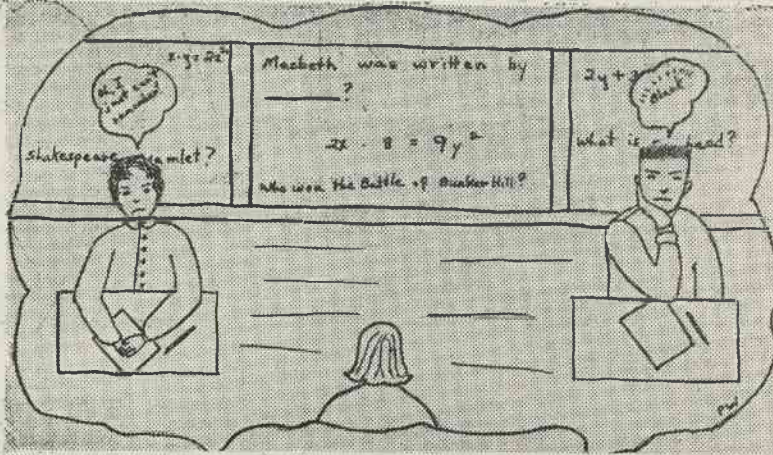
With midterm just around the corner, students are beginning to form different attitudes regarding semester tests.

There is prevalent among most students a general fear of these exams. What is it that causes this attitude?

Students often mistake the purpose of an exam. The teacher does not give a test to revenge those who have not studied as they should, nor is she trying to keep a student with her another year by popping a test that might cause one to fail. The true purpose of a test is to point out to the student what he is expected to have gained from a course. If one fails, he learns what to look for in other subjects he will study.

Cramming is of little value to the individual. True, it may make a few extra points on the exam, but what will a student remember from the facts that he crammed in a few hours before the test?

Knowledge, not the grade, is what really counts!



## Lucky Srs. Not So Lucky

"I just wish I had some idea of what they were like," say those few seniors who will find exam a new experience this semester.

They are the lucky students who have been smart enough to rate an exemption from all their previous subject tests. However, this semester all seniors are required to complete an exam in each of their subjects so that they will not have to "break the ice" on a college examination.

This month *The Blackbird* has selected as its personalities two of these seniors who have been so fortunate and so smart.

## JANE HATCHETT:

An asset to everyone! Jane is friendly, vivacious, and has a sparkling personality as well as an outstanding scholar. This auburn-haired, green-eyed girl loves fruit cake and coffee but hates to study! Her happiest moment in Rocky Mount Senior High School was the day she was inducted into the National Honor Society. While in school, she has distinguished herself in many fields and might be called one of our most versatile girls. She has served on the Elections Committee, as secretary of the junior class, as president of the Service Club and as the secretary of the National Honor Society. Having been elected one of the outstanding seniors, it can be said that the honor that is hers is well-deserved.

## BOBBY SAVAGE:

Our dignitary! Bobby is the only student in RMSHS that has the distinction of having met the president of the United States! This brown-haired, hazel-eyed boy has excelled in many fields along with his scholastic endeavors. In 1951, he was one of twelve Boy Scouts in the nation to meet President Eisenhower during National Boy Scout week. The way to this man's heart is with spaghetti and cheese. He loves it! As president of the sophomore class, a commencement marshal and president of the National Honor Society, Bobby has distinguished himself among his classmates. Elected an outstanding senior, he could well be called "the student most likely to succeed."

## Meeting Obligations, Rewarding

Once upon a time there lived in Catsville a small cat named Joseph. Joseph dressed in a flashy fashion and spent most of his time shining his fur.

Tim, his brother, was always busy at self-appointed tasks while Joseph always managed to find some excess to get out of his obligations.

Every year the members of Catsville had a picnic. Tim was appointed head of the food committee and Joseph the transportation committee. This committee was responsible for getting every cat to the picnic.

As the picnic drew near everyone was working hard except of course Joseph. He just admired all that cheese!

The day of the picnic came

with everyone up before dawn, except Joseph. He overslept!

Joseph was supposed to take his car and pick up those who lived too far to walk. When he finally started his first trip he fell asleep in the car.

Tim realizing Joseph was not making any trips went to find him. The next thing that Joseph knew he was driving like mad to complete the trips. He lost all record of time and as the trip was completed he walked exhausted to the food tables to get a nice piece of cheese. There was none!

Tim went to Joseph and said, "I hope this teaches you a lesson. If you are given a job to do, do it and you will always have good things happen to you!"

Moral: Meet your obligations and reap the rewards.

## This Is What Just Popped Up

Missing anything? Sure, two pages of the paper! Well here's what happened. This you are reading is our exam — that is, the second year student's exam. Since there are only six of us, we have compiled only these four exams, Oh, I mean pages, as evidence of our ability to put out a paper. We hope you like it — that goes for you, too, teacher!

Here's just the thing for those of you that complain about the short lunch period's not providing the necessary time to enjoy your meal. Use the new pills guaranteed to "fill you up." They save you time as well as the task of living!

With the sounds of whistles, shouts, and bells we sadly said goodbye to 1954 and joyfully welcomed 1955 on New Year's Eve. Just think, seniors, it was only three and a half years ago that we were roaming these halls for the first time, and there are only four more months to go! What a life! Next year we'll have to start over. Wonder what it will be like being a freshman again?

I'm almost scared to find out what the next fad will be! Now that the fads have worked their way down to the feet what is there left to dress up? First it was the cat cuts involving the hair; then it went to the neck in the form of long beads; then the shirts were de-sleeved and colored pink; then all pants were pegged; and now the feet are being adorned with long red socks! What could be next? My only guess is individual socks for the toes or rings for the nose! Everything else has already been dressed by fads!

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