

Your President Speaks

I want to thank the student body from the very bottom of my heart for responding so heartily to my plea on the opening day of school for support of your Student Organization. I thought the response by attending the football game and staying behind your team, even when the situation didn't look good, was simply great.

I want to publicly thank the cheerleaders and everyone else who had to do with selling the "Boost Rocky Mount" buttons, and I want to thank the people who bought them even more. The money went into your Student Organization treasury, where we need five hundred dollars to even start to operate, and to have your social functions such as the Christmas Dance and the Spring Dance.

Once again I want to ask your continued support. Without you, the Student Organization doesn't have a reason to exist. The Student Organization and the student body are one. On you, everything depends. Our pep rallies, our aims and the success of them for the school year, as I said, even our very existence is entirely in your hands.

At our age we are in a growing period where our horizons are broadened, our ideals and aims are formed and shaped. The things we do, think, and live today have a great deal to do with molding us into what we will be tomorrow.

This idea has to do with our concepts and beliefs of what God is, and His place in our lives. Whether you realize it or not, it also has to do with what we have come to generally call "school spirit". Give it your best. No one can ask for more. (R. N.)

You Were There!

Or Were You at The Pep Rally?

Setting? A dark field with only the stars for light . . . Characters? A crowd of enthusiastic people, rather silent, but waiting anxiously. Then when a flame burst forth, joyous yells could be heard around the field and everyone was happy and excited as they joined the leaders in cheers and chants for the season's first pep rally.

You were there Thursday night, September 4, for this occasion . . . or were you? If you were, you might have heard a student from out of town remark about the enthusiasm of everyone. You would have heard several graduates reminiscing about the past rallies and the fun they had had.

If you were present, you would have had fun and would have marveled at the beauty. Yes, even beauty had a part in the pep rally for as the fire burned, it sent smoke, dotted with tiny sparks, into the black sky. The cheerleaders, dressed in gold, black, and white, had a glory all their own.

As the cheers were offered, you would have been thrilled to be a part of it all. You, along with your friends, would have helped to boost the spirits of the team.

However, if you were not there you wouldn't have seen or heard those things. By not being there you missed out on the fun and good times everyone had. It lasted only a short while, but in that time a great deal was done. Not only would you have taken pride in your football team and cheerleaders, but also you would have made them proud of you. For they would know that you are behind them. (B. S.)

Seniors Cite Mistakes

As seniors look back over their high school days, they see many things that they would like to change; however, with only nine months left, there's little they can do except to hope that sophomores and juniors will profit from their mistakes.

Many, like Kay Beach, Dale Stevens, and Ann Godwin, wish they had studied harder. Some would like to have had better studying habits, as Mildred Landin, and many would change their grades as Zeno Williams.

A few feel the same way as Mary Brent Elmore does; she would have liked to have partic-

ipated in more school activities, and as Jane Sutton, who wishes she had taken on more responsibilities.

Gail Register sadly stated that she would have had that last credit needed for graduation could she do it over again, while Judy Boyd said that she would have tried to be more intelligent. Skippy Best said that he would have had more fun. Honey McIntyre exclaims, "I would have eaten more." But Barbara Pierce wouldn't change a thing for she has had fun.

Some would make changes and others wouldn't, but in the main, all have enjoyed these years.

Wise Pupil Sets, Keeps Study Habits

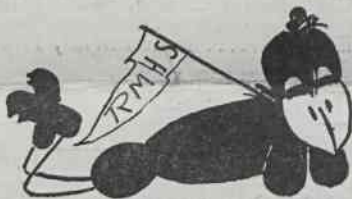
Throughout the nation and in Rocky Mount Senior High School today, there are students, normal teenagers in every respect, who are determined to make above average grades during the coming school year, and they start off reasonably enough to reach that goal.

These pupils have a regular time set aside for homework, a comfortable desk with sufficient light, and most important of all, consistent study habits.

Then comes the night when an exceptional movie is playing uptown. A good friend calls and the usually hard-working students say, "Heck, I can get my homework tomorrow in study hall. After all, what are study halls for?" This attitude may produce a condition that could become a deep-rooted habit. A marked dive in grades would then usually appear.

Lucky is the student who has a good schedule and the will power to stay with it, word for word, for this student's homework problem is alleviated. (H. A.)

Ben Blackbird Sez



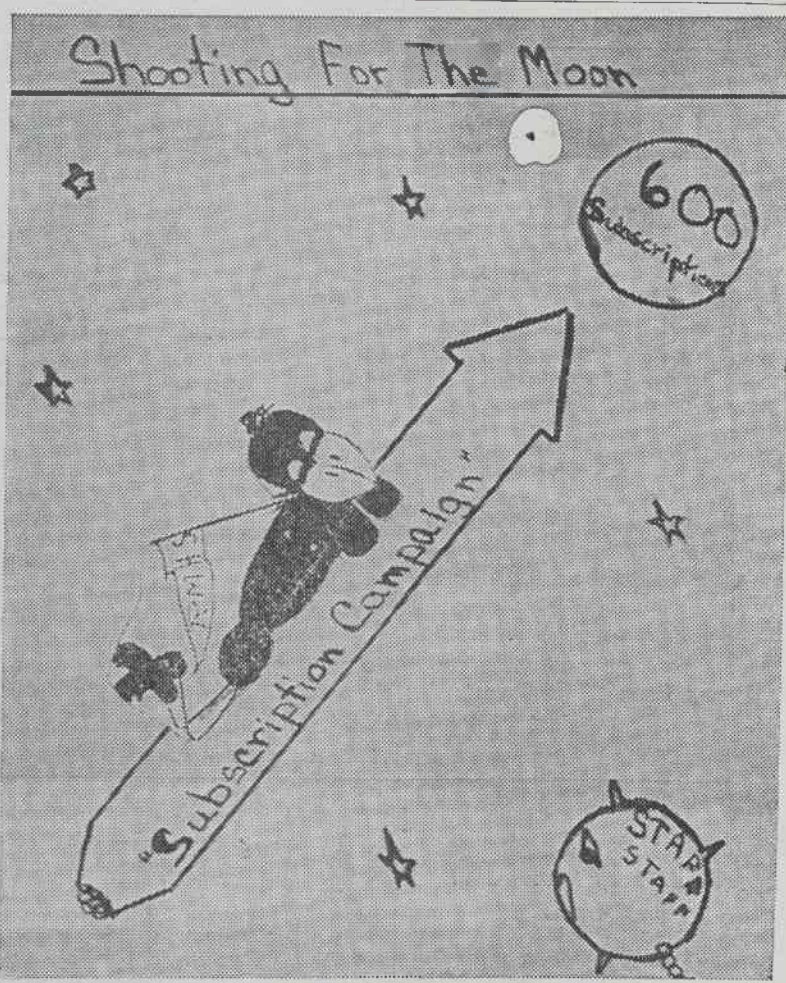
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Faculty Sketches

Always ready to repeat any question even if she's said it a trillion times . . . rattling off an unknown dialogue of Spanish to a bewildered group of recruits . . . owner of the orangiest orange skirt in Rocky Mount . . . never caught without a joke on the tip of her tongue or a crazy antidote up her sleeve . . . willing to help anybody, and there are certainly plenty who need it . . . Guess who? The colorful little senora herself, Mrs. Mary Cuthrell.

Ready to teach anybody how to type . . . a pretty little bundle of joy tied up with a great big smile . . . forever telling the girls not to forget to cut their finger nails before they get too long . . . always happy when everybody makes above average on the time test . . . proud owner of one very loud time clock . . . Who else could this be but Mrs. Nellie Winstead?

Laughs almost all the time . . . has a smile for everybody . . . happy to get as many grasshoppers as possible . . . knows just about all there is to know about biology . . . a wonderful personality . . . a friend to everybody . . . That's Mrs. Ora VanBuskirk.



Letter From Annie

'I Was So Homesick'

To Clint Andrews

Editor's Note: Following are excerpts from a letter to Mr. Clinton Andrews from Senior High's 1958 foreign exchange student, Annie Lechevalier.

Dear Clint,

One week has already gone since I arrived here and I'm real ashamed not to have written before. The reason I didn't write is that I tried real hard to readapt myself to a new way of life and I didn't want to think too much about Rocky Mount. Now, I'm all right, I guess.

It was a very enriching experience to see other parts of the states, live with new families, and to see a different aspect of life in America. I especially enjoyed visiting New York and seeing the AFS office. It's just delightful, and I would love to work there with all those wonderful people who have such a strong faith in the AFS.

I was real excited to see my family from the boat in Le Harve. But Sunday night, I was ready to go back to Rocky Mount. I was so homesick. I felt that I didn't be-

long here and it was the saddest feeling. Although my family was real patient with me, I thought I would have to take the next boat going to the U. S. Now I am more reasonable and I have decided that after all, I can be just as happy without a TV, a dishwasher, American cars, etc.

I get a lot of mail from Rocky Mount and know everything that's going on there. Anna writes a lot and she says she might come next summer. I would give anything to be still with her and Harriet and the whole family. I love them so.

I guess Penny is about to arrive by now. Lucky dog!! I hope she'll be as happy as I was.

Thank you for the very sweet telegram. I was the luckiest one because I got two telegrams. It was real nice of you to think of my going away and I certainly appreciate it.

Take care of yourself, dear Clint.

That's all I see now, it seems so strange. Everything seems to have shrunk; it's so small.

Thank you again for everything.
I am yours very truly,
Annie



THE BLACKBIRD

Rocky Mount Senior High

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