

New School-Day Plan

Six Periods-Three Advantages

If the proposed six-period school day plan is accepted by RMSHS, it will provide three advantages for next year's students.

(1) Students looking toward college life will readily recognize the fact that only the best prepared students are admitted to today's overcrowded colleges and universities.

With the influx of criticism of the modern American school has come a new awareness of the necessity of higher education. Jobs are scarce and money scarcer; the fittest will survive. Teenagers must have a college education, and a sixth period in the day will allow them to take another academic course, thereby improving their chances.

(2) Young people who are not planning for future commercial competition may use the extra period to round out their education with art, band or other interest courses that will provide enjoyment and pleasure the rest of their lives. High school years are the last time many people will have the opportunity to "learn" formally; the delights of later life are based on knowledge and interests accumulated in earlier years. If this plan is accepted, these fields will be open to many more students.

(3) What student hasn't heard his father or grandfather say, "When I was your age, I walked 12 miles to school every day, stayed there 10 hours a days for years and never missed an arithmetic problem." A sixth period will help a teenager protect his status as a hard-working slave to books.

Six periods per school day will serve three purposes: it will allow boys and girls to take another academic course, it will allow them to follow some interest in an elective course and it will help dam the flow of parental complaints that today's high-schoolers are underworked.

Dare To Be Different

It's high time Americans, young and old alike, climbed out of their rut of monotonous sameness and resumed some of the dignity of their nearly-lost individuality; it's time John Jones and Mary Smith began setting the pattern and stopped following it.

Today, the world is too full of people who are willing to let someone else lead them around by the nose. Too many puppets become the victims of their masters' will. There are many Hitler's and Stalin's and Mussolini's who have the talent of making monotonous, ignorant slaves of otherwise highly potential people; there are too few who are willing to break the chain that binds them to the dull, downtrodden masses.

There is no way to measure the breadth and depth of what a person might become would he first allow himself to be an individual. Great, important figures are great, not because they are some superhuman beings who are better than everybody else, but because they have the initiative and the foresight to take the lead.

Leading is not necessarily an inborn trait; rather, it would be called a cultivated art, nurtured by the power to live life as an individual, not as a blurred face in the crowd.

On the down-to-earth, realistic level a teenager's first responsibility is to himself. While it is important to be a part of the crowd and to enjoy the friendship of that group, it is disastrous to let a friendship, make of an individual a mental weakling who hasn't the backbone to follow his conscience, even if it does mean daring to be different.



Wanted! One 'Spero'

Wanted! One loyal football, basketball and baseball fan with an inexhaustible supply of sugar lumps and chewing gum, one devoted friend who is willing to go far beyond the call of duty in support of his adopted "boys."

Wanted! One expert "problem-solver" who has only to be asked to help and he will help no matter what the cost to himself.

Wanted! One dear, benevolent friend who is content with making others happy, one who seeks no fame or glory for himself and expects no recognition for his tireless devotion. He literally lives his life for others.

Wanted! One human dynamo of good will, brotherhood and friendship all rolled into one.

Wanted! One "Spero"!

Finding another to fill "Spero's" shoes would be like hunting for a needle in a haystack. To say in words all that he means to his adopted Rocky Mount and more specifically to high school students, would be next to impossible.

He's more like a living legend. The name "Spero" is a household word with the younger set. His last name isn't important. "Spero's" enough for his friends.

There's an old saying that important things come in small packages. Small in stature "Spero" has more heart, more love, and more understanding in his little finger than most people can muster in a lifetime.

"Spero's" secret to happiness could be easily expressed in four short words . . . his love for people! His cheerful smile and hearty welcome give evidence that he lives his philosophy of life everyday.

If there were such an award as "Best Friend," Spero Kou-noukolis, one of the best friends Senior High ever had, would be sure to get it.

The Day 'They' Almost Died

Exaggerated expressions such as "I almost died," "I wish I were dead," or "I just wish the floor would open up and swallow me" are commonplace.

One usually makes these ridiculous comments when he encounters an embarrassing incident, or finds himself face to face with a problem that seems to have no possible answer. These idle expressions are a part of the average vocabulary, not because of their appropriateness but because of lack of anything better to say.

This absurd ad libbing is a result, not of an attempt to add constructively to the conversation but of a feeling of uneasiness. Oddly enough, throwing in those few extra words, trite and hackneyed as they may be, sometimes helps to put the speaker at ease.

To say that these expressions have a place in life would be in error; to say that they will ever cease to exist would be far from the truth. If one seems to be addicted to triteness of this nature, let him confine it to the areas of life that do not demand his serious attention. Let him refrain from allowing the art of hyperbole become such a gripping habit that he finds himself resorting to its avenues of escape when more serious matters are abroad.

New Fads Blossom As Spring Enters

Spring turns a young man's fancy to one thing — girls, and turns a young lady's fancy to two thoughts — boys and fashions — and no exception are RMSHS teenagers who have blossomed out with the perennial interest in the opposite sex and with new fads in fashion.

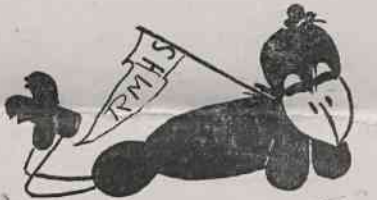
Dottie Lou Thorpe is in step with the modern taste for changing hair colors, as she sports her newly blond hair. Well, Dot, do "gentlemen prefer blondes?"

Colors flash by on every side. Nannie Hussey appears to have picked stray beams of sunshine when she wears her yellow, yellow, YELLOW dress! Janet Wynn, Mary Carol Cochran and Judi Weller picked up some sun, too, in an effort to get a sun tan; but they're not yellow, they're red!

Judy Taylor exemplifies the craze for pale lipsticks when she shows up in her white lipstick. The girls seem to like this "pale" look but, as some boys say, "It looks like death warmed over!" They'll get used to it.

For girls with spring fever who can't sleep, Sue Daughtridge suggests counting boys instead of sheep. It sounds like it'd produce results—the kind isn't guaranteed!

Ben Blackbird Sez



In the spring a young man's fancy, but a young woman's fancier.

Top Tunes Tell Sr. Prom Tale

Titles of top tunes could be used to express the feelings of those involved toward their "Enchanted" evening at the Junior-Senior Prom, as has been done in the story that follows:

"Venus" send me a girl to date to the Junior-Senior dance, and please make her a "Dream Lover." I've already wished upon "Three Stars" for their help in finding her.

"I Must Be Dreaming" "Because" when I asked "Donna" for a date, "She Say" yes! Please don't wake me now.

Tonight is the big night! "I Ran All The Way Home" from school to get dressed and ready for the dance. "Pink Shoelaces!" I definitely can't wear them tonight.

"Come To Me," "Donna," and let's be on our way to the dance for "It's Late."

What a dance! Such beautiful decorations and "Pretty Girls Everywhere." The band plays "So Fine." "Just Keep It Up" for I could dance on "Endlessly."

Everyone is having so much fun at this dance that "This Should Go On Forever," or either have a Junior-Senior Prom every night.

THE BLACKBIRD

Rocky Mount Senior High

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