

# editorials

## Susan Spotless Says . . .

Rocky Mount Senior High is supposedly filled with mature, young adults. Recently, however, these young ladies and gentlemen have reverted to their childhood days, and the rest evidently never left them.

Remember how you used to play in mud piles and rummage through the garbage. The street curb was a carnival and the city dump, a paradise. Grubby little hands sorted thousands of filthy articles, each one a treasure. By now, you should have grown up. Why haven't you?

RMHS is thickly carpeted with used candy-wrappers, and streaked from Hammond to Tillery with ink, melted pop-sicles, and other assorted goodies. The parking lot is a trashman's delight. Classes are being held in a honeycombed Dempster Dumpster, containing a full variety of debris. Soon the city will have to provide us with "No Dumping" signs.

However, without seeming a little childish and perhaps too inane, let's see if we can't recall a few of our instincts for cleanliness and try to restore RMHS to its position of neat, orderly grandeur.

## Do You Wanna Drag?

Dragstrip, U.S.A. This term is synonymous with RMHS parking lot. Everyday, exactly one minute after the final bell rings in the afternoon, students race for their cars and rev up the motors. The running of the Southern 500 on Nash Street would probably be safer for both drivers and pedestrians.

Students complain about their high insurance rate and the efforts of the local police department to control their driving with "stupid" things like speed limits and stop signs.

How about students controlling their driving?

# Baysden Stresses Organization

The Student Organization of Rocky Mount Senior High School is an executive body which is composed of elected members from each of our thirty-five homerooms. Informing each individual of the purpose and the work carried out by the Student Organization is, to me, the largest problem which we face at this time. As your Student Organization President, I intend to

inform you, as often as possible, of the valuable work which is being done by your "governing body" and at the same time, attempt to make each person realize that the Student Organization is here to serve him. With this in mind, everyone must feel that he is a valuable part in our student assembly. Just as in our U. S. Congress, we elect two representatives to repre-

sent the consent and feelings of an entire homeroom. In this respect, Rocky Mount Senior High distinguishes itself in having one of the largest representative assemblies in the State of North Carolina.

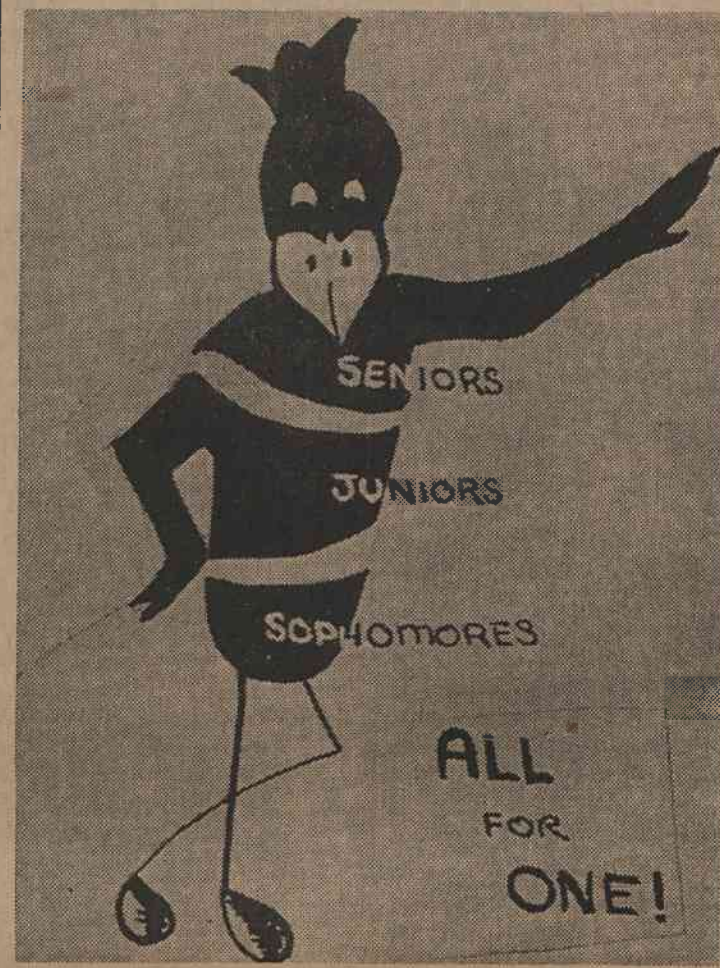
One of the oldest problems which we all face at Senior High is the preservation and good upkeep of the excellent facilities which we are so fortunate to have here. We should all be very proud of our wonderful facilities and treat them with the utmost care and respect. This may be done in the following ways. (1) place all trash in available containers—In the school or in the parking lot. (2) keep off the grass at all times. (3) avoid defacing the school structures at all times. If we follow each of these simple rules, as we should, life at Senior High will be even more pleasant and enjoyable.

Finally, we arrive at what many consider to be the "backbone" of our high school life. Not only should we endeavor to excel in the classroom, but in order to preserve our excellent standing record, all students must in some way participate in some type of school activity. One main objective of this is student participation. This ranges from membership in a school club to membership in the school choir; from varsity athletics to membership on The Blackbird or Hi-Noc-Ar staff. It also applies to me that school spirit should fall in this category of student participation. The term "school spirit" is both trite and ambiguous. This term applies not just to athletics but to all forms of student activity such as the band concerts, chorus recitals, and dramatic productions.

One great problem which we hope to overcome this year is that concerning student participation in assemblies. Vice-President Scott McCullough, chairman of the Program Committee, is always in search of new ideas for our assembly programs. If we are to continue our assembly schedule we must have some co-operation from you, the students.

On behalf of your Student Organization I charge you to work together in your classes and homerooms and strive to make 1965-66 the finest year ever for the finest school anywhere, Rocky Mount Senior High.

Sincerely,  
Eddie Baysden  
President of  
Student Organization, '65-66



## Letters To Editor Air Views

Dear Editor,  
Since I left Japan, many strange things have happened to me. Everybody watches me carefully and wonders who I am. Surely my appearance is very different from American's, but I have found we are not so different in the ways of living and thinking.

Many people ask me, "Don't you get homesick, living in such a different country from yours?" But I always answer, "No." I really feel as if I am at home. Almost all of the students, teachers, and neighbors are very kind and ready to help me.

My second new experience

was to sell flags and THE BLACKBIRD. As I have never sold anything before, I am very shy standing in the street and selling something. But, it is interesting and good to be friends with many people.

My third experience is being interviewed and having my picture taken. As I like to talk about Japan, I don't mind this.

I am very happy staying here. Thank you very much for accepting me in this Rocky Mount Senior High School.

Emi Manabe

Dear Editor,  
I noticed that in the introductory issue of The Blackbird, the by-lines were left off the editorials. Since the opinions expressed in an editorial are not always the same as the paper, I feel that it would be an asset to The Blackbird and to the editorialists to put by-lines on the editorials of future issues.

Tommy Smith

(Editor's Note: The opinions expressed in an editorial should be that of the paper in which it is expressed. Newspapers are responsible for their editorial policy which is illustrated by what editorials they print as their opinion.)

It is the policy of The Blackbird to give by-lines only on stories written by a student not on the staff.

Dear Editor,  
I feel compelled to comment on the recent auditorium behavior of RMSH students. The manner in which we have conducted ourselves would be uncomplimentary to an elementary school, much less a high school.

I won't insult the under-

classmen by saying that the seniors have no part in this display of immaturity. Each class must bear some of the responsibility. When Martha Kincheloe, the head cheerleader, calls for competition cheers among the classes, she is using her only means of boosting school spirit. She is NOT giving the classes an opportunity to air their differences or express their displeasure. The hissing and booing are an insult to the cheerleaders and to the dignity of RMSH.

I hope The Blackbird will use its influence to persuade the students to show their pride in their team and their school by showing respect for each other.

Brenda Allen

Dear Editor:  
I realize that our competent kitchen staff has little control over "Mother Nature" and even less control over the rapid reproduction of our cafeteria flies. A few of our little winged friends can be put up with and even give our limited lunch break a "picnic effect." But when the tiny six-legged creatures start diving from the sky into our soup bowls, something has got to be done. At one table I spotted four flies using a piece of lemon pie as a landing field while another gave flight instructions from atop a milk carton.

Maybe the problem could be eased if everyone packed a fly swatter and a can of Raid, but there must be a better solution.

Bruce Gurganus

Cotton dyes more easily, more evenly, and with faster colors than any other fabric.



A bit of trash drifts across the school yard, searching . . . searching for its proper niche. Changing from surprise to arrogant indifference to ashamed loneliness. Conspicuous in cut, regimented grass, Lounging uneasily between planned petunias it searches for its own kind. It finds its place at RMHS. MFD

## The Blackbird

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## From The Desk Of The Editor

One day while riding my motorcycle, I was passed by some nitwit in a car who almost ran me off the road. At the end of the day, I recalled that and other incidents that have happened when automobile drivers have been careless and "hogged" the road. I wrote this poem to express my thoughts for the careless drivers.

**From A Motorcycle To An Automobile**

Although I have two wheels I still have a right to some room  
I keep up with the speed limit  
So don't honk and follow too close.  
If ever you pass, just give me a foot;  
Don't zoom by like a crazy fool,  
All I want is to be considered  
A vehicle just like you.