

## 'Oh Say Can You See'

"And now, ladies and gentlemen, our national anthem."

"OH, SAY CAN YOU SEE" . . . Hey, Joe you got any gum? "BY THE DAWN'S EARLY LIGHT" . . . Ooooh, Melvin, your hands are cold . . . "WHAT SO PROUDLY WE HAILED" . . . and so I says to him, I says . . . "AT THE TWILIGHT'S LAST GLEAMING" . . . did you hear the one about the traveling . . . "WHOSE BROAD-STRIPES AND BRIGHT STARS" . . . well, what's her phone number

"THROUGH THE PERILOUS FIGHT" . . . is it a stick or an automatic . . . "O'ER THE RAMPARTS WE WATCHED" . . . did you know the world's highest recorded kangaroo jump was ten feet "WERE SO GALLANTLY STREAMING" . . . so I busted him once and sent two dozen roses to the widow . . . "AND THE ROCKET'S RED GLARE" . . . Oh, Ringo's so cute . . . "THE BOMBS BURSTING IN AIR" . . . oh, look who Agatha's with . . . "GAVE PROOF THROUGH THE NIGHT THAT OUR FLAG WAS STILL THERE" . . . hey, Petunia, over here . . . "OH, SAY DOES THAT STAR-SPANGLED BANNER YET WAVE" . . . What are your views on the dignity of man . . . "O'ER THE LAND OF THE FREE" . . . hey, honey, haven't I seen you somewhere before . . . "AND THE HOME OF THE BRAVE."

"Hey, what's everybody cheering about?"  
 "I don't know, did somebody score a touchdown?"  
 Believe it or not, the national anthem is played before every football game. Have YOU ever tried listening to it?

—The Stampede, Wichita, Kan.



## Vietnam: A Big Question

Editor's Note: The following panel discussion of the war in Viet Nam should be of vital importance to all RMSH students, seniors particularly. These young people will soon have to determine the policy of the United States in Viet Nam and, if the war continues, they will be the ones who fight.

Participating in the discussion are six seniors: Hugh Shearin, Anne Watson, Steve Horne, Tommy Gurley, Susan Kovarco, and Bobby Fuerst. Any letters relating to this article will be welcomed in the Blackbird room or in room 110.

Question: What right, if any, has the United States to be in Viet Nam?

Shearin: We've learned that to preserve peace within the nation, we must make it the business of every person. Similarly, before we can have world peace, we must make it the business of every country to protect it.

Gurley: The United States is

the leading power in the world. We have taken it upon ourselves to be the protector of democracy.

Kovarco: In order for us to prevent the spread of Communism, we must step in and fight—we waited too long in Cuba, Korea, and the Congo.

Question: How do you feel about the situation in Viet Nam, as it now stands? What about the future?

Horne: I think it's going to turn into another Korea and we're going to fight to a tie. I'm not a war monger, but every time we fight to-a-tie with the Communists, we lose a little bit more prestige and respect at home and abroad. After a few more ties, we're going to be standing alone. I think this time we've got to fight and WIN!

Fuerst: I can't see us backing out, but, as far as South America goes, they would rather see us back out than fight. At least, that's what I gather from the newspapers.

Question: The bombing raids by the U. S. have been coming into the spotlight more and more. Do you think these bombings are right or wrong?

Watson: I think it's unfortunate that innocent people who aren't involved have to be killed.

Horne: Yes, but, we've got 150 thousand troops over there. The bombing is necessary to protect them.

Shearin: The original treaty about partitioning Viet Nam said all who wanted a free, democratic government were to come to South Viet Nam, while all who wanted a Communist government were to go to North Viet Nam. I think that we ought to fight to preserve that free government, however, we shouldn't try to take over North Viet Nam and break our part of the bargain.

Kovarco: If they broke the treaty, they broke the agreement on both parts.

Question: Do you think draft

exemption laws should stay as they are?

Horne: I think it would be much better to have voluntary enlistment rather than the draft. The armed services should be made more attractive so that an army career would be beneficial. But, right now, who wants to join?

Fuerst: I've already signed up for NROTC. If they draft me, I'll go. At any rate, I won't burn my draft card.

Question: Which brings us to the question, should protest marches be held? Also, what do you think of the anti-U.S. demonstrations at Barkley?

Kovarco: They're disgusting. Young people could find something better to do with time as valuable as it is. These demonstrations often do not achieve their purpose; they tend to help the Communists. People ought to have the right of free speech, but they're using it wrong.

Fuerst: Everyone should have the right to voice his opinion as long as he's orderly. I don't believe they're right, but . . .

Watson: I think they're doing us more harm than good. They focus world-wide attention on themselves and us and they are probably misunderstood by foreigners.

Horne: It shows poor patriotism, even though these people are a definite minority. Some of these people burn their cards because they are cowards, but some burn them because they are conscientious objectors. Still burning draft cards is against the law — it seems like they would be more effective if they stayed inside the law.

Shearin: If someone doesn't want to fight for his country, he should deny his citizenship and the protection that the country offers.

Gurley: The war over there has gotten out of hand. The United States was too late getting there and sent too little aid. But, we're in it now and we have to fight to the finish.

## Lack Of Spirit At RMHS Is Protested By Readers

Dear Editor:

As an alumnus of Rocky Mount Senior High School, I was shocked and perhaps ashamed when I learned that not enough enthusiasm and support was generated to charter a Blackbird Special train to Fayetteville.

Of course, I expect the rebuttal that I was not in school when the football team was losing, and therefore, we had no trouble generating school spirit. However, these special trains were being chartered long before I entered Senior High. I can remember hearing about the Blackbird Special when I was in grammar school and junior high. I think that a look at a few old Hi-Noc-Ars will verify my hypothesis. I think also that these same Hi-Noc-Ars will show that all was not a bed of roses for Blackbird football in those days.

The irony is that the Birds played perhaps their best game of the season against Fayetteville. I do not know, but the game might have come out differently if the team could have looked up into the stands and seen a few hundred cheering Blackbird fans, especially in the fourth quarter.

Boys like Fred Barden, Warren Broughton, Jack Collins, and the other lettermen are the same boys who helped win a conference championship last year. They are probably trying harder this year than last, but apparently Rocky Mount's school spirit, previously recognized throughout the state, fits

into the "fair weather" category. Blackbird football fortunes will probably rise to the top again, maybe before the sophomores graduate, if they are not drowned by an indifference spreading through the student body.

This letter may be a waste of time. It may just prove how easy it is to support a winner; but, I hope I see a stadium full of proud Rocky Mount fans when the Birds play Durham.

Sincerely,  
 Bruce Lea

Editor's Note: Bruce Lea was editor of the Blackbird last year. He is now attending the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Dear Editor,

What has happened to the RMSH "School Spirit" of which we used to be so proud?

The students attend the ball games, so why don't they help the cheerleaders yell? The cheerleaders work hard to learn the cheers and the students act like a bunch of morons sitting around having a social meeting at the games.

The bonfires are also disappointing—particularly the one that was held Thursday night, October 21. I was sure there would be a large turnout since we did not have to go to school on Friday, but it was mostly the cheerleaders, football players and their dates, and a few scphomores.

Everyone likes to be thanked for their accomplishments, so I say a big thanks to the cheerleaders. We'll thank the student body when they regain their school spirit.

Debbie Odom  
 Junior

Dear Editor,

It seems to me that we have a habit of praising only part of those who have raised RMHS to its present high standing. Of course our athletic teams are great and our scholarship is high, but what about our band? The band members work every day in the sun, practicing a new routine each week. They go to all possible games (in-

cluding the Wilmington flood) and faithfully cheer and play while their schoolmates laugh and enjoy the game.

From now on, let's continue to praise the team but also let's remember, appreciate, and support our band.

Lyn Joyner  
 Senior

## From The Desk Of The Editor

Too often people accept  
 Too often people accept things they should change and they eventually will suffer. If students are wise they will see that they must not accept the present parking lot situation and that it must be changed. If we do not change it we will suffer. How? The privilege of eating lunch in the parking lot will be taken away from us.

The House and Grounds committee and Traffic committee are taking measures to improve the present conditions. However, without the support of the entire student body they will fail. And from their failure we will suffer.

What are these committees doing?

- (1) They are securing more trash cans for the parking lot.
- (2) They are distributing litter bags to drivers of automobiles.
- (3) They are trying to secure railroad ties to divide the parking lot into individual parking spaces.

What should we, the students, do?

- (1) Put trash in the trash cans, not throw it on the ground beside them.
- (2) Put trash in the litter bag of the car in which you sit. If the driver has not obtained one, ask that he do so. If you drive, ask a member of the House and Grounds committee to give you a litter bag.
- (3) Park in an orderly fashion, being sure to leave yourself and other plenty of room to enter, park, and exit safely.

If you are a responsible student you will change what you can change—the appearance of the parking lot.



## The Blackbird

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