

RIGHT OR WRONG,
I BELIEVE...

Exams — Yes Or No

As first semester ends, the question (and problem) of examinations again arises. Students are faced with a single comprehensive test which counts as a major influence for semester grading. With this realized, many students argue that a semester grade should not depend so heavily on a single grade. This, they say, puts too much stress on the student and this strain alone may cause him to do poorly. Also, students add that the grade merely judges a student's ability to "cram" rather than his knowledge, for he has too many details to really learn them all.

Still, think of the purpose of the examination. It is intended to show the teacher exactly how much the student has actually retained and how much he has already forgotten. This way, the teacher hopes to consider not only his students' grades, but also his accumulated knowledge. After all, is this not the true purpose of education?

Consider also other examples. When it is time for a medical student to graduate, does it really matter how many facts he has been shown, or is the real importance how much he knows? Your doctor may remember hearing about your disease, but you're going to stay sick unless he knows what to do! The same is true in other businesses, even the business of education. What you knew in the past is not really important. What matters is what you know now! Therefore, exams have become an important part of grading. In some countries, they determine passing or failure.

Now with exams finished, it is vital that we see the need and importance of them, and in the future, prepare accordingly.

Burd Of The Week No. 7

In our number, there have occurred many incidents resulting in Burdom, but recently one occurred, not to be soon forgotten. It happened out at the "Shop of Goodies," meeting-place of millions. It seems that Roger Stencil and Arthur Marcus were discussing the merits of a friend. Roger agreed that this friend was definitely the kind of girl needed by himself for the coming Ember's Dance. Suddenly, in a fit of passion, he was seized with the idea that Arthur would steal this ideal girl from him; so he, as the saying goes, "slapped him up beside the ear." Arthur, his war-like, aggressive spirit aroused, struck back, knocking Roger's glasses to the earthy floor of the parking lot. They then realized that they were friends and so made up, but Roger's glasses were still not to be found! A massive search was begun with many electronic devices aiding the guest. Still, Roger's optical wonders were unfound. Not until the

next morning did searching fingers discover them, hidden under the tropical undergrowth. All this definitely merits burdom for Roger, Arthur, the "Shop of Goodies," and the tropical undergrowth. Congratulations!

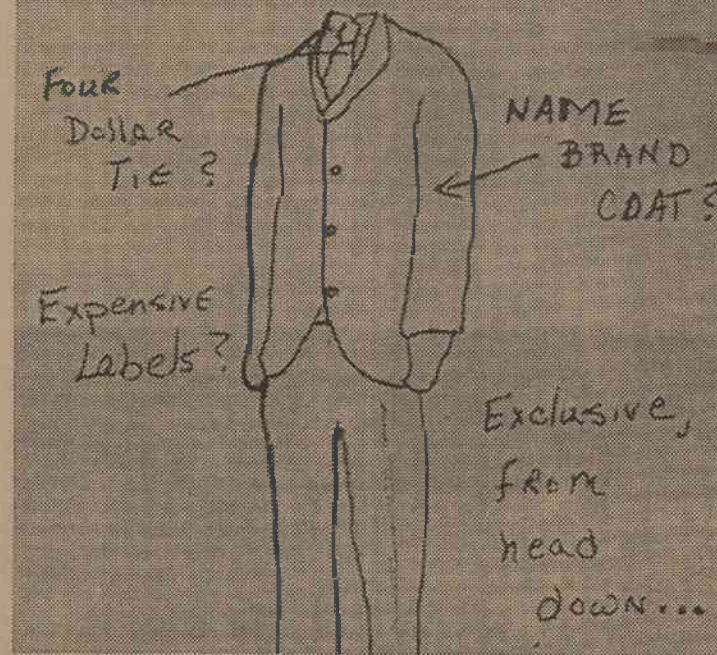
It is time for students and teachers here to play detectives. Somewhere, in our school, a demolition expert lurks. Thus far, he has bombed the bathrooms several times, using (at least, this is suspected) a highly complicated time-fuse (probably a burning cigarette). Thus far, he has left none of the "standard" accepted detective clues like a monogrammed handkerchief, laundry ticket, or note reading: "Bomber," name, address, and phone number. All this indicates a professional, maybe even a gang. (Isn't it exciting?!) This is all fine except that the plumbing has been havin' trouble taking it. Glory and praise for becoming a Burd. Shame and double-shame for harming our plumbing.

The Blackbird

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WHAT MAKES GOOD GROOMING



Candles And Stuff

By THE CANDLEMAKER

He's tall, he's dark, he's debonair,
He smiles, he frowns, he rebels, he ignores,
He's a ladies' man, and a social drinker, too.
He respects no one, and pretends he is a leader.

He wears a blue Gant shirt, Bostonian shoes,
An alligator leather belt, a four dollar tie,
His pants are by Corbin, his socks by Burlington,
He struts with a six dollar umbrella and a
sixty dollar London Fog.

He's vain, he's sarcastic, he's tempting,
He cheers but doesn't really care who wins.
He attends everything but participates in nothing.
He likes to win but has no compassion
for a losing player.

He's the RMSH "image," its idol,
You who worship him—Beware!
You who follow him—Get out of the rut!
You who ignore him—Look, but don't touch!

Do not idolize what you do not understand.
You who worship him are blind fools,
You who follow him are conformists,
You who ignore him are partial judges
in a partial world.

He is a mist that will soon evaporate.
He is a fire whose flame will soon die.
Mist and flames are only temporal,
Fleeting images in an impressionable world.

Disperse the mist, douse the flames,
Kill the myth that envelopes us,
Burn your own candle, light your own way,
And the world will be yours.

Editor Thrilled By Letters

Dear Editor:

What are some examples of school spirit? It is the unmitigated joy on a cheerleader's face as she leads the crowd in cheering for her team; the hearty roar of the crowd as it cheers its team to victory. It is the hush of the crowd as the crucial shot is in the air; it is the bristle and crush after the game.

It is the anxiety on the face of the coach as he watches his boys play their hearts out for their team, school, and their very self-respect; the unashamed tears of joy on the faces of the players. It is the quiet time in the dressing-room after the game at the time for prayer.

Rocky Mount has school spirit because I saw all these things the Friday night of the Goldsboro game. These are some of the things that make our great team great.

Jeff Surles

Dear Editor,
I would like to take this

opportunity to commend you and your staff for an almost perfect newspaper. However, I have a peeve.

The reason the nut who dreams up the Burd of the Week column can't ever find his burds, is that he doesn't look. He evidently picks solely on the biddy Brains in his own social circle. However, there are hundreds, thousands, millions . . . well, many creatures worthy of Burdom of which he doesn't know. BUT, never fear! I have the solution! I think you ought to allow students to send in nominations and describe the momentous event which merited the nomination. Besides—it's more democratic that way.

Cyril

P.S. I love you.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

This tenderly written masterpiece has won the heart of the ever-sympathetic Blackbird staff. The entire group was choked by its sincerity,

From The Nest Of The Editor

Congratulations to RMSH Blackbirds for their fabulous victory over the Goldsboro Earthquakes. They finally did it! The Birds displayed great determination, poise, and spirit in this game and also in their close losses to Raleigh Broughton and Wilmington.

The cheerleaders and the entire student body are also worthy of praise for the backing they have been giving the Birds. It gives the team a great lift to see the bleachers full of cheering students. Everybody please continue giving the Birds this great support tonight and also if your time permits, please attend the open-house to be given immediately after the game in the cafeteria.

Powder Puff

The Student Organization will present a powder-puff football game in the near future. The game will feature the senior girls, under the leadership of Coach Whitley, versus a combined junior and sophomore team with Coach Thompkins at the helm.

Assemblies

Congratulations to the Program Committee of the Student Organization for the excellent assemblies it has been having. I believe that almost everyone will agree that "The Spurrilows" assembly was one of the best held here in recent years.

On the weekends, many of us here at RMSH have trouble finding something to do. Recently, Charlie Daniels made it known that he has something to offer to us in this capacity. Each Saturday night, the YMCA sponsors a dance in its gym from 8:00 until 11:00 for 75 cents per person. In past efforts, students from Senior High have made a poor showing but this is something that could be changed. According to Mr. Daniels, "I think students from RMSH have something to offer us and I know we have something for them." Realizing that this can not only provide an evening's entertainment but also help a fine organization, why not get together a group and at least give the YMCA a chance this week. A new teenage activity could be found there.

Dear Editor:

I wish to complain about the ribbing I've been taking from my fellow school-mates since our homecoming parade. In the parade I played the role of "Batman" and since then, I have not had a moment of peace. Please help me attain peace of mind. Help me plead my case.

Save me!

Johnnie Joyner, Junior
(alias "Batman")
(alias Fatman, too)