

EDITORIALS

We Need Grumblers!

At the end of the last school year, the average RMSH student had become aware of at least eighty-seven things wrong with this school. He had heard complaints from underclassmen and upperclassmen, from friends and faculty, and, more than likely, he had voiced a few himself. Out of all these grumblers, the editors of the BLACKBIRD heard from **only eight**. Out of eighty-seven letters that should have been written, the BLACKBIRD received **only eight**.

Most of you were here last year. You remember the spring play with no curtains, the social injustice you saw committed, and hundreds of other things you didn't like, but were too indifferent to speak up about. You just grumbled to yourselves, knowing that changes were badly needed, knowing that without changes, progress is stifled. You just grumbled self-contentedly and let the foundations of democracy rust in your minds.

By the time this school year is over, the average RMSH student will discover at least eighty-seven things wrong with this school. The editors of the BLACKBIRD are waiting, and hoping that more than eight progressive and free thinking people will speak up this year.

Good For You!

We have now returned to Rocky Mount Senior High for the year 1967-68. Many returned thankfully, though more did so less enthusiastically.

These first two weeks have brought us together for the first time since last May. Yet throughout this period one thing has been clear—this is no ordinary student body.

The regretful fiasco in schedules with the IBM computer presented an opportunity for mass confusion. But the students met the challenge with good judgment and gave the hard-working office staff an opportunity to rectify the situation. Other evidences exist of the tremendous spirit this student body has. For example, the smooth operation of the first fire drill has brought the praises of the Fire Drill Committee Head, Benjie Martindale.

So give yourselves a pat on the back, students, and keep up the good work.

From The Editor

Around The Campus

With the coming of a new school year, a time of planning for the future begins. For the seniors this will mean planning studies and setting goals.

In looking toward the future, a good idea would be for all students to take a hint from Captain B. T. Godwin of the Rocky Mount Police Department. Captain Godwin has been a detective on the police force here for 28 years, and has had many experiences with young people in trouble.

"It is a pity that teenagers cannot foresee what a criminal record can do to them when they try to get jobs, or to hold responsible positions in their communities, or in the state and federal governments."

The police captain suggested that when a group of teenagers gather to decide how to get their 'kicks', they should stop and think. He reported that nine times out of ten stolen articles weren't even needed.

A felony conviction, he stated, results in the loss of one's citizenship and the loss of many rights. Lost citizenship can only be restored after many years, and only by difficult action in a superior court. After committing a felony a person cannot vote, hold an office of public trust, obtain a passport to a foreign land, or join the military. Captain Godwin added that with a record, obtaining credit at a bank or loan company would be difficult.

Captain Godwin concluded by saying that he wished young people would sit down and discuss among themselves the effects of a police record on their lives. He said that if they would realize the outcome of their actions, they would not consider 'kicks' worth the effort.

His message is clear. If a person wants to get into trouble, he will surely pay the consequences. Thought before action is always the best policy.

COLLEGE NIGHT

The annual RMSH college night will be held at the school at 7:30 p. m. on September 21. Representatives from various colleges in North Carolina and other area colleges will come speak to juniors and seniors about their schools.

The date of college night was set by the N. C. Higher Education Division.

WELCOME,
SOPHOMORE.



OUR MAIL



Dear Editor,

As summer slowly slips away, we find approximately 1100 students busily involved in a new school year at RMSH. For many it will be the opportunity to renew old acquaintances, and for some it will be a new school with strange faces and many adjustments to be made. However, I hope all will find fellowship and satisfaction as the educational opportunities present themselves throughout the year.

Rocky Mount Senior High School has been recognized as a school with a challenging curriculum designed to meet the varied needs of all our students. It is my fervent hope that all students will be able to find the proper courses with the guidance of the counselors and teachers enabling each and every student to successfully complete high school and either continue their education or find a satisfactory job.

The policy of recognizing students in assembly who have brought credit to themselves and our school will be continued this year. By the same token students failing to abide by school regulations will be held accountable for their actions. I suggest all students read the handbook carefully, because it has been printed with great care at much expense to give students an insight into our school's many activities.

The most important quality which we strive for in Rocky Mount Senior High School is to have a student-centered school, because it is my sincere opinion that students count more than things. I want students to be able to see clearly the long pull of the school and at the same time be able to make clear-cut decisions in the present in order to reach the goal of maturity. Robert Frost succinctly phrased it when he wrote, "You've got to be sweeping and you've got to be pointed, but you've got to come out somewhere."

How will you come out at RMSH? As a credit to your parents, your school and yourself or as one whom everyone is relieved to see leave? Only time will answer the question for you. My wish is for you to

be a valuable asset to our school.

Sincerely,
Mr. V. J. Colombo
Principal

Dear Editor,

Our school board has recently approved new additions to the school and more modern equipment, such as air-conditioning. It seems as though they should consider the present needs of Senior High first.

The walkway from A to B buildings has presented quite an inconvenience in the past because of inclement weather. Our last year's vice president wrote a letter asking that a drain pipe be installed to prevent the walkway from being flooded. The letter was disregarded.

After a rain, both the students AND teachers have a choice of walking in the rain or swimming through puddles.

The expense of the drain pipe will be nothing compared to the health of the students. This is a MAJOR problem at such a MINOR cost!

Lee Hudson
Senior

Dear Editor,

With the new school year ahead of us, we all need to be reminded of school spirit. Without our careful thought to this we could not be the united body of students and faculty that we are.

Not only is school spirit giving everything we've got, but it also applies to any activity of the school. This includes supporting our Hi-NocAr, Blackbird, and Paradigm. This spirit is cheering for our school and our team, backing them all the way, while also using this united support to extend over every phase of school life. Taking pride in the cleanliness of our school and its appearance goes with this.

We, as individuals, represent our school in all its activities. Students, let's maintain the proud name of Rocky Mount Senior High!

Penny Hicks
Senior

Said the kind old lady to the Internal Revenue clerk: I do hope you'll give my money to some nice country.

THE BLACKBIRD

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