

editorials

End Of The Road

Welcome back, peers, for that final year, the "crip" year. You know all you have to do is coast it on out, and the colleges, universities, schools, and employers will receive you with enthusiastic embraces.

For most seniors, however, this will be a year marked by building determination; rewarded by expanding knowledge and accomplishment; climaxed by the final gratification, graduation; and confused by the awful spectre of decisions that lie ahead.

What you as seniors do in this transitory year will go far toward determining the degree of success you attain in years ahead, and, consequently, the concentration of happiness you can expect.

For you who go to college, the problems you face here will be compounded by the new, awesome pressures you will find. But by utilizing the facilities at your command this year, you can lessen the future load, by developing not "good work habits," but common sense and self-dedication; not desire for good grades, but a thirst for knowledge that stems from an unquenchable source within you; not selfish greed, but a personal challenge toward accomplishment of dreams.

Need For Identity

Juniors, you got a bum deal. For the first time in three years you must accept anonymity. In the ninth grade you were king of the junior high hill, and last year you received the attention of all with your naivete as sophomores.

But now you're caught in the middle. You will be forced to develop, as a class and as individuals, an identity characteristically your own. Perhaps this is the challenge of being sixteen years old, an age-old struggle.

You are now entering the stage in your lives where decisions bring results. Before, you wanted chocolate, but your mother decided vanilla was better for your skin. But there's nothing she can do now about a D in geometry. And your junior year may be the most important record you leave behind toward college admission.

But with added responsibility comes increased freedom for you as young men and women. More and more you will find decisions left up to you, and (who knows?) you might even get to stay out till twelve.

Time To Begin

Get outa here, you dumb sophomore. This and similar phrases of disaffection will ring in your ears for the entirety of the coming year. The prefix "dumb" will not be dropped from sophomores, in all likelihood, no matter what you do, but conscientious effort on your part can remove some of the bitter intent behind it.

If you're a little starry-eyed at your first exposure to senior high life, you shouldn't be. There's nothing awesome or frightening about it, except for the opportunities it affords you.

You will be realizing for the first time importance individually as young adults, and strength collectively as a class, as the sophomores almost always win the magazine sales contest.

You will probably find new freedom of expression in the classroom, and will be surprised at the increased maturity and wisdom in your thinking.

But most important you will have reached a goal which, no matter how well you have masked your desire, you have striving for for nine years.

Vicious Cycle

Every summer monsoon rains strike tropical regions of the world with torrential outbursts.

Every day tons of impurities are pumped into the air we breathe and the water we drink.

Every year accidents on America's highways cause thousands of deaths (last year 53,000 of them).

Every fifteen to twenty years thousands of Lemmings rush to a watery death off the rocky cliffs of Norway.

From The Principal's Desk

By V. J. Colombo

We at Rocky Mount Senior High School have plunged full force into the 1968-69 school term in high hopes of improving our school, our community, and ourselves. Think for a moment about the influence that our school has in the lives of all associated with this fine institution. Senior High has a life and a purpose that go on endlessly, even though the membership changes from year to year.

The influence of the school is a part of nearly everything we say or do.

Our school reflects the values our community thinks are important. As community values change, our school changes. It is incumbent upon all of us to review thoughtfully the purposes and actions of our school and apply moral principles we have learned to work for a better school, thus improving our community.

We must remember that our school is an impersonal mass of bricks and mortar. It is the group within that gives the school its personality. The interaction among students is the quality which makes the differ-

ence between a cold "impersonal mass of bricks and mortar," and a warm, personal "haven of friendship."

Let us always remember that the individuals is the most important part of our school. All our efforts are aimed at accepting each and every student where he is intellectually, and carrying him as far as his abilities will allow.

We in Rocky Mouna Senior High School are dedicated to this philosophy of teaching the individual. We challenge each student to invest his time, efforts, and talents to the best of his ability and make this institution even better for the future.

Mail Box

Dear Editor,

During the past year I have attended many games (football, basketball, and baseball) of many schools. and in every school except Senior High I have noticed that the cheerleaders would lead the team supporters in their school's song at some time during the game. This creates more will to yell and cheer for one's team, and thus the team fights harder. I would like to see this at our games this year, because I have a pride for my school and my alma mater.

I hope the cheerleaders have read this.

John Harris
Senior

Dear Editor,

One of the many activities participated in by Senior High students during the past summer was Drivers Training, that nerve racking ordeal in which every teenager must partake in order to obtain his drivers license.

Let each of us reflect on the summer in which we took Drivers Training, and select the one person who had the most effect on our training. All of us would have to agree on our driving instructor: a man with nerves of steel, unlimited courage and patience that is everlasting, to him we owe our enduring thanks.

Roy Casey
Junior

Dear Editor,

It is everywhere this year at school, but especially in the athletic program. It can be seen in Denny Allen's passes, Buddy Edgerton's running, and in the performance of the entire team. It can be seen in the hard work of the cheerleaders and certainly the coaches. In fact it is the product of the coaches. Coach Tapp especially; for it is school spirit. Coach Tapp has brought to his school a spirit which it has been lacking for years. He didn't bring enthusiasm directly to the student body but instead to the teams and thus to the students. His stern hand has caused the team to fight to win.

The new spirit at RMSH is "We're Going to Win Tonight" instead of "I hope we get some breaks for once." It is "Onward to Victory" instead of "We got beat again."

The "New Spirit" must keep going whether or not the team wins. Because when a team loses it is the job of the student body to bring it back. We have been fortunate that Coach Tapp has taken the initiative to start over when the student body quit, but it is now the job of the students to keep alive the "New Spirit."

Bob O'Keef
Junior

From The Editor

Around The Campus

Welcome one and all to the year of the Blackbird. This 1968-1969 school year hopefully will be one that will be recorded in the history of Rocky Mount Senior High as one of the greatest years ever.

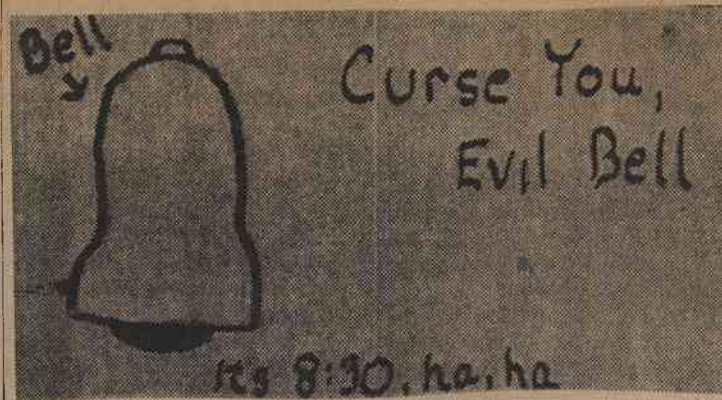
This year we have the potential to excel in many fields of endeavor. As the official school newspaper, the Blackbird will dutifully record and report the accomplishments of the students and athletes that proudly raise the banners of RMSH to the sky.

However, to continuously present the news we need your support of our paper. This year the Blackbird will publish twelve issues for the student body. This first issue is a complimentary issue given to all students. The other eleven issues may be purchased by a subscription which costs \$1.25. This price is

a bargain because each issue costs a quarter if purchased separately. In fact, by buying a subscription, you are saving about \$1.50.

The staff of the Blackbird has worked exceptionally hard this summer so that they might publish the best newspaper possible. Although we have sold advertisements, we still need all of your support for our paper. In the next few days a representative of the Blackbird will be in your homeroom selling subscriptions to the Blackbird. These subscriptions will be available either by cash or by promisory note. Also, subscriptions may be obtained from any member of the Blackbird staff.

In this historic year, don't let us fall short of our goals. Support your school and your paper, buy a Blackbird subscription today.



THE BLACKBIRD

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EDITOR Skipper Greathouse
BUSINESS MANAGER Denise Boswell
ADVERTISING MANAGER Karen Colombo
CIRCULATION MANAGER Robert Collins

PAGE EDITORS:
1st Robert Collins
2nd Robert Joyce
3rd David Cole
4th Kay Belcher
5th Betsy Chiple
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8th Skipper Greathouse
9th Skipper Greathouse
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Feature Writer Keith Bowden

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Donna Armstrong, Debbie Bradshaw, Ida Dew, Lynne Crombie, Willette Harrison, Sandra Murray, Roy Casey, Perry La-Grange, David Matthews, Cash Roberts, Bob O'Keef.
ADVISOR Mrs. Margaret Williams
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