

editorials

Changing Times

The methodical disembowelling of a school. Are you asleep or do you realize that next year Rocky Mount Senior High and Booker T. Washington will become one school?

And guess who will be its principal? Our own Mr. V. J. Colombo. Mr. Armstrong, present principal of the Booker T. Lions will become associate principal, and Mr. Dan Avent, RMSH's able assistant, will remain in his same capacity.

The transition cannot be an easy arrangement. Many seniors perhaps feel themselves lucky to be "getting out." Yet, they must realize that the times we live in are times of change and any problems they manage to avoid now will only find them unprepared in the future. It is the rising sophomores and juniors and seniors who have it within their realm of opportunity to witness, more, to be a part of history.

The times they are a-changing, and we young people are the centers of that change. The way in which we accept the challenge of the present may indicate the type of existence we will have in the future.

Let us hope that existence will be one of peace and prosperity and justice.

A Suggestion

The study hall is the center of all learning at Rocky Mount Senior High.

Learning how to win at dot games. Learning which letters to guess first at hangman. Trying to learn how to read lips at ten paces (roughly equal to twelve seats diagonally back).

A careful study of a typical fifth period study hall would find: 16.2% of the people looking out the window with no apparent objective in mind, 6% contemplating the wonders of the human toes, 15.7% dreaming about last Friday night, 41% trying to forget last Friday night, 91% looking forward with deep, knife-like anticipation to next Friday night, 9% who do not realize there will be a next Friday night, and 3% deep in concentrated study. This brings us the rough total of 173%.

Now this is not to knock study halls. They're great. Perhaps it's just the name that's misleading. What we need is a survey of all students to be made at the beginning of the school year. The survey material would consist of a blank sheet of paper, a pencil, and the instruction to write one word.

If the student wrote "study," he would be placed in a study hall.

If he wrote "quill," he would be put in a basketweaving course during his free time.

And in this way everybody would get to do pretty generally what he deep down inside really wanted to, and study hall, or basketweaving hall, or whatever (the list is practically, with the exceptions of war and boyfriend, endless) would be unbelievably happy affairs.

The Longest Days

Two more six weeks! Sixty more school days and its all over.

The seniors look forward to graduation, college, and Vietnam.

The juniors will be on top next year, high and mighty, the leaders of RMSH.

The poor, lowly, dumb sophomores will finally have progressed. (a little)

But consider these sixty days. Let's not give up just because we're drawing near the end.

The seniors go into senior slump. They just want to coast out and graduate.

The juniors go apathetic. "It's spring, we've done all right, we want to have fun."

The sophomores we don't worry about, they haven't caught on yet anyway.

Think before you quit. A vast amount of knowledge can be lost and many excellent records can be permanently damaged by 'spring fever.' Your time is yours. Your grades are your own business. Compare the values and expenses. Is a little fun worth it?

The choice is yours. Contemplate it!



Our Editor Reads His Mail

Dear Editor,

As a student at Rocky Mount Senior High, I am very disgusted with the behavior of some of the students that bring about the names "immature, uncalled for" to the whole student body.

I am very sick and tired of some of the students behavior in assemblies. If one were a well-mannered, mature individual, and knew how much goes into making an assembly, he would not sit on his hobby horse, and laugh at every mistake, little or otherwise, that anyone makes. If anyone had to get on that stage and perform in front of 1200 people as well as he is able, and then get laughed at he would feel as though it is of no use to try again.

Another thing, when the principal of our school gets up to give a speech to the whole student body, the students show little respect. Don't you think it is about time to get these "children"

Untitled

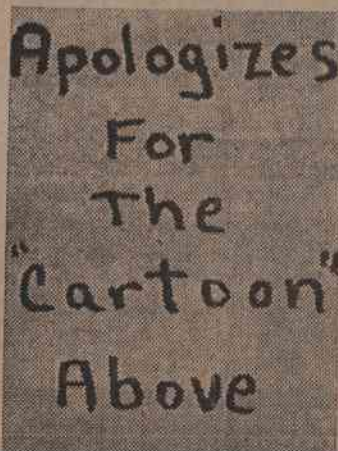
By HUGH BRIAN

A crystal, clinging drop is born
To young and greening grass.
In early glow of growing morn,
A man insults his looking glass.

The dew drop, cold and quivering,
Anticipates its death.
A bomber is delivering
Its gift to steal a breath.

A crimson drop is forming
A young life leaks away.
At home a riot's storming,
Half a life away.

A country that is crying,
Refuses still to die.
A young man isn't buying,
The old man wonders why.



Around the Campus

Once again, some of RMSH's gifted students have received an extremely high honor and in doing so brought honor to RMSH. It is indeed an honor for a school to have one Morehead scholar. Very few schools however, have more than one. This year, RMSH has not only one, nor two Morehead recipients, but a grand total of three. This is an almost unheard of distinction. Very few schools send more than one student to the semifinal bracket of the Morehead Awards. RMSH not only sent three, but all of these three proceeded from the semifinal bracket to the rank of finalist. Well, it was thought, we will have at least one Morehead Scholar, but who will it be? With the material that RMSH sent to the final round of interviews, it would take extremely hard judges to make an easy choice as to who should become a Morehead Scholar and who should be eliminated. The judges evidently felt that none of our fine, talented nominees could be eliminated, because they selected all three for Morehead Awards.

In addition to the three RMSH students who received Morehead Awards, a former RMSH student who is now attending Wilmington New Hanover High School also received a Morehead Award. The fact that four students and former students in the Rocky Mount school system have won, in the same year, Morehead Awards speaks well for the Rocky Mount School System. Congratulations should be extended to all members of the various school faculties that these fine students have attended in their twelve years of schooling. The fact that Rocky Mount has three Morehead Scholars points out the high degree of excellence of the school system in Rocky Mount. We should all be proud of both our award winners and of our school system. We should be glad to be able to attend a school system of such a high degree of excellence. The students in the Rocky Mount school system have an unlimited number of opportunities if they will only reach out and take them.

disciplined? I do.

I would, before I graduate, like to see for one time in my three years at Rocky Mount Senior High the whole student body act as though they were the ones on stage. Act as you would want everyone to act toward you.

Pam Joyner
Senior

Dear Editor,

I would like to thank the students of RMSH through the Blackbird for their help in making the Fellowship of Christian Athletes student-Faculty game, March 8, a moderate success.

Although we have a small "huddle group" at Senior High, we also are doing our part to fulfill the F.C.A.'s primary purpose, "to confront athletes and coaches, and through them, the youth of the nation, with the challenge and adventure of following Jesus Christ in the fellowship of the church. It is only through you, the youth of the nation, that we are able to attempt to fulfill this purpose.

We are now trying to raise money to send our members to the F.C.A. camp in Black Mountain for one week this summer. It's only through your help that we are able to do this. On behalf of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, I thank you.

Ed Griffin, President
Fellowship of
Christian Athletes

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