



MIKE BARNHILL AND MARY BARR . . . ROTARY COUPLE

School Day Blues Caused As Graduation Approaches

My graduation cap and gown flutter in the gentle breeze of the summer night. June 5th has finally arrived and here I am -- a graduating senior! Thoughts of elementary school still linger in my mind. It seems just a short time ago that I had a gigantic crush on Stanley Graham in the first grade. I remember the commencement program that we held when we "graduated" from grammar school.

My thoughts advance to junior high school and beginning of football games and sock-hops. My world expanded as I came to know 200 other kids who had entered the thrill of junior high. The ninth grade brought my first French class. I thought I was so cool because I knew how to say hello and good-bye in French. If my ninth grade French teacher could see me now!

Finally it happened--the giant step to Rocky Mount Senior High. Wow, here I was -- the dumbest sophomore in the entire school. The tenth grade was full of cutty remarks about Santa Claus and bicycles with kickstands. Then there was my biology class with Harvey the Skeleton making eyes at me. He was the skinniest guy I ever met.

It wasn't so bad during my junior year because there were new sophomores to pester now! Of course, the big event in any junior's year is the annual Junior - Senior. After much preparation, the girls floated through the doors at Tarrytown Mall, while the guys looked like penguins waddling

around. What a night!

The guy sitting next to me begins to get nervous and starts biting his nails. My thoughts reflect back on the greatest year of my life--the year of the mighty senior! The days of sleep while juniors and sophomores slaved over exams haunt me. Just think -- in thirty minutes I'll be home -- free.

As the stately "Pomp and Circumstance" flows over the P.A. system, I feel my heart fluttering. I've come through twelve long years of school and finally I'm being repaid for those nights of studying. The graduating senior class of 1972 rises as each name is blared out to the anxious parents and friends. They've made it through the L's--only seven more names until mine. Hair's fixed, cap's straight, gown's neat-check! The countdown is at three--only three more names to me! Two, One--me. What? They forgot my name . . . there must be some mistake . . . heh, fellows, wait for me!

Limericks

Along the ocean's shore
The sea gulls fly hungrily
Looking for their prey,
Dawn Plummer

A tree branching out
Showing its new green outfit
To the waiting world,
Jo Safy

Snowflakes falling down
Touch the earth so silently
You can't hear a sound.
Jo Safy

Did you every think
Of capturing a splashing
Wave in your small hand?
Tricia Whitley

Walking in the sand
Watching the seagulls pass over
Is trainquility.
Deborah Swanson

A snow-topped mountain
Waits for excited skiers
To glide down its back.
Deborah Bowen

February Valentines Bring Rotary Couple Into Focus

Although most Seniors are now anticipating graduation, they are still hopeful of achieving a lot of things in the remaining two months of their high school days. Two such Seniors are Mary Barr and Mike Barnhill. They have been selected as February's Rotary Couple.

Mary Barr

Who's the girl with the great sense of humor whom everyone knows? Mary Barr, of course! And who is the girl who hiccups when a teacher calls her name? Who else but Mary Barr? Well, we've got that fact established. Mary Barr is February's Rotary Girl.

Mary, daughter of Mrs. Evelyn Eady Barr, is a member of St. John A.M.E. Zion Church. She was recently given the honor of being selected as an Outstanding Senior. Also, she is a member of the National Honor Society, Booster Club, Student Drug Task Force, Representative to the SRA, and Business Manager for the Gryphon staff. Quite a list, huh? Well, that's not all. Outside of school, Mary is a member of the T.A.C., Mayor's Committee for Drug Abuse, and a National Merit Finalist.

Mary's future plans include attending the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and majoring in journalism.

Mike Barnhill

What can one say about Mike Barnhill? For one thing, he is a very congenial person who has a great sense of humor. Courtesy is another one of

Mike's personality traits. Mike is the son of Mr. and Mrs. R. K. Barnhill.

Mike has been "racking up" the honors lately. He was recently selected as an Outstanding Senior. And he is outstanding!

He has participated in the student government as Junior Class President, Sophomore Vice-President, and a member of the Human Relations and Social Committees. He is also on a special Graduation Steering Committee and was a Morehead Nominee.

"I feel that the honor is important, especially to people of our age. We have so much freedom that we must also entertain some type of honor code to govern our actions," was Mike's profound statement on the Rotary honor.

When asked about our school, Mike replied, "Our school could be much better, but I can't think of any action by the administration that would improve Senior High. Change will come about only after a rash of interest and loyalty irritates the students into action." As one can see, Mike is never at a loss for words.

Upon graduation, Mike plans to attend the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He will study either law or social science education.





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about keeping his money in the bank!

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