

The Christmas Spirit

"Let there be peace on earth" sums up well the feelings that are in the minds of people during the Christmas season. The true spirit of Christmas is LOVE and all over the world people join hands to share a common bond of love and peace. Christians league together to show their joy during this so dearly cherished time of the year.

The Christmas season presents the best opportunity for people to express their love. People expect it from each other; therefore, more love is generated during these few days than during any other time of the year. The under-privileged and "needy" are given "special care" by those more fortunate than they. People express their love to close acquaintances by giving them special presents as tokens of love.

Christmas is the most celebrated time of the year. People capitalize on the spirit of love and carry it to its peak, often developing it as a habit and carrying it well into the new year. Hopefully, everyone will develop this habit and the love that will be generated to help the real meaning of Christmas come true can be enjoyed all year. After all, love never grows old and a little more love during the rest of the year helps make Christmas more enjoyable.

We Were Heard

The word has finally been received. Seniors may have optional semester exams if they have a ninety average or above in a subject. This decision, made Monday a week ago at the teachers meeting was agreed to by a vast majority of the teachers. The main argument for the continuation of the complete option of exams was that a single test cannot determine accurately the knowledge of a student over an expanded period of time. An example cited by those pupils was the NMSQ/PSAT test where so much is dependent upon the test. Variables such as the individual student's need are not taken into consideration. Also, many feel if you've sweated out almost 12 years (or more, if you went to kindergarten) of schooling, that one exam won't make much difference, and you deserve a break. At any rate, all these arguments were presented by the Senior Privileges Committee in their meeting with "the administration," and its decision was based on the feelings of both the faculty and the students. Although neither side was completely satisfied, students now realize that they may be heard if they go through the proper channels. And although we didn't receive everything asked for, we can and will live with what we got.

You've Come A Long Way

There was a time in Rocky Mount City Schools when girls could do nothing but sit in class very passively, make good grades, and look pretty. It seemed all the awards and activities, particularly in athletics, went to the male species. But now things have changed. With the introduction of track on the senior high level in addition to tennis and gymnastics, the female sex can truthfully say "we've come a long way, baby." The increase in participation is all part of an effort of the school to give more students, i.e. girls, more activities. Also, at the junior high level, a nucleus for a varsity level is being initiated. It is hoped that this will be a nucleus for a varsity level and for many students,

SPACE TALK...



Around The Campus

—by Ray Brinn

Well, seniors, we've finally found out about exams. The recent requirement of a 90 average or above has a lot of students talking. Many had hopes of being exempt from all exams.

SRA has been pretty exciting lately. Last week, Steve Braswell explained to the group why the senior class was not to attend the assembly by the DE Club last Friday. What was on the bulletin as "promotional reasons," was exactly right. The DE Club is using the assembly to stimulate interest in those students who may be DE members next year. The clarification was made in hopes of avoiding any mixup or ill feelings.

ATHLETICS

Athletically, things are really looking sharp. The cagers, behind the flashy floorplay of a fearsome Phil Ford are headed into the Holiday Festival in Raleigh with perhaps the best shot at taking top honors. Raleigh will be the place to be over the holidays.

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The Gryphon Grapplers are having their best season on record. Behind the able coaching of Coaches Phil Harris and Stan Bastian, the team has knocked off Wilson Fike, a first in Rocky Mount wrestling history, as well as the first time we've beaten Fike this year.

ENCOURAGEMENT

On other topics, the "Letter to the Editor" is a letter read to the students in last week's SRA meeting. It's really encouraging to know those folks in the superintendents' office are interested in us.

Overall, the year up to now has been pretty good, let's keep it that way. Be careful over the holiday, drive carefully, and have a good holiday. See you next year.

Choral Department Journeys To WITN

The Choral Department of Rocky Mount Senior High traveled to Washington and the studios of WITN-TV December 14 to tape a Christmas program for use during the holidays by the station on a Christmas TV special.

The department, headed by Mrs. Antoinette Battle, journeyed by bus to the station. While visiting the station, the group included the...

Complainers

"It was an objective test and it didn't really let me express myself."

"What good are finals anyhow? You forget everything as soon as they're over."

"The exam was based on class discussions. Can't learn nothin' from lectures."

"That multiple choice jive is from nowhere. Only the good guesser gets the good grade."

Letter to the Editor

(Editor's note: The following is a letter received by Miss Kate Parks Kitchin December 5 from Superintendent Ben F. Currin. The letter was read before the SRA last week at their meeting.)

Miss Kate P. Kitchin
Rocky Mount Senior High School
Rocky Mount, North Carolina

Dear Miss Kitchin:

This letter is to express to you in writing some of the compliments I related to you concerning your recent success at the State-wide student council convention. Our student council organization is an important part of the activities at Rocky Mount Senior High School. Please express to those members of the student council my attitude toward their importance. I can think of no other group that this is more diverse and that has such potential for providing the leadership that is necessary to have a truly outstanding senior high school.

The successes of the various students in this organization have been so numerous that I wish to make my comments general and compliment the entire student council organization. Please convey to each member my sincere appreciation for the fine job they are doing with the student council at Rocky Mount Senior High School.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,
Ben F. Currin
Superintendent



from HISTORY

DATES AND EVENTS

- The "Christmas Club" banked \$1,000,000 on December 1, 1909.
- President Monroe revealed the world on December 2, 1823.
- Illinois became the 21st state on December 3, 1818.
- The Whig Party's first convention was held on December 4, 1839.
- Prohibition ended on December 5, 1933.
- Finland announced its independence on December 6, 1917.