

Do Students Need Assistance To Eat

Must high school students be spoonfed? By the time one reaches the high school level he should be perfectly capable of forming a straight line. Pushing and shoving is child's play. Deciding on sandwiches and chocolate or plain milk should be an easy task for a 17-year-old.

Rather than governing themselves and showing courtesy towards their friends, some individuals tend to think only of the hunger in their own stomachs. They think nothing of smashing a few toes or bruising a few elbows for a hamburger.

Due to the immaturity of some, our teachers must give up some of their lunch time to supervise "a bunch of rambunctious students" trying to form a line to the lunch counter. It is common knowledge that the students of RMSH do not enjoy having babysitters, nor do the teachers enjoy babysitting.

If students would act their age and show concern for others, our teachers could give up their "babysitting jobs." High school students continuously look for privileges because they feel they are mature enough to use their freedom wisely and enjoy it also.

Although many are very capable of conducting themselves in an orderly fashion, it is very important that some lack maturity and are somewhat disruptive, which is why students are not allowed to completely govern themselves. It is simply "the people's choice." Students will be treated as young adults when they act as such.

Grades Important

Grade-point averages are something that should be worked on continually because, like it or not, they play an important role in students' futures.

Grade-point averages are the basis for consideration of admission to, among other things, the National Honor Society, where nominees must have an average of 3.25. Grade-point averages are used to determine class rank. A relatively high grade-point average is required to be an honor graduate. The actual number of honor graduates is five percent of the class, but the lowest grade-point average is usually no lower than 3.5.

To figure the grade-point average of a student, all the semester grades including the ninth grade must be obtained. Each A is worth four points, a B is three points, a C, two points, and a D is worth one point. A grade in an accelerated class is automatically worth .5 extra points. All the grades, given their numbers, must be added and then divided by the number of entries. The resulting number is the final grade point average.

The Tissue Issue

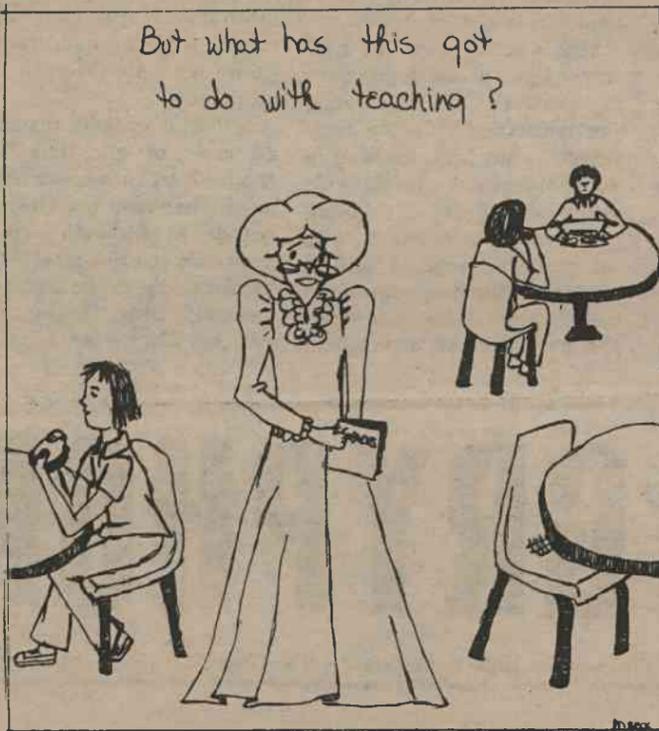
The cranky teacher is certainly a colorful and highly entertaining individual. These fearless battle axes armed with detention pads, gradebooks, and well practiced baleful glares breath fire and eat nails. They range from the venerable old generals with flags at full mast and trumpets blaring to the tenderfoots assiduous in emulating them.

What can be responsible for the highly unsociable behaviour of some of our illustrious instructors? Some dare to insinuate that it could be the naive and innocent youngsters who frolic in the halls, that it could be the same children who day after day enter the doors of this great institution for education with that insatiable thirst for knowledge. Certainly not.

After weeks of untiring investigation utilizing the deductive reasoning taught to us in our math and science classes, the investigative techniques from English and Social Studies as well as the poise secured in vocational classes, we have discovered that the abrasive tissue paper sold at the student store may be responsible for the problem. After all, hay fever has been particularly rampant this season. We suggest that the administration take prompt and decisive action in removing this undesirable element from the shelves of the store so that a closer teacher-student relationship can be restored, resulting in higher quality of education which of course is the primary goal of all Rocky Mount Senior High students.

THE GRYPHON

"The purpose of the Gryphon is to examine events in the school, the community and the world which affect the lives of the students of RMSH. It is the Gryphon's aim to stimulate awareness of issues, to promote a better understanding of others, and to bring about positive action where change is needed."



EDITOR'S ECHO

Class of '76 Blazes New Trail

By Terri Gardner

Twelve years pass by quickly in retrospect. All of the events blur and fuse together to become memory. Much is forgotten. Yet, for the now graduating Class of 1976, it is all. Twelve years have made them what they are.

Few incidents before they began school seem important. But once they began school, ah...it was life! For 12 years it has held the focus of their attention. For 12 years they have made best friends, played hop scotch and tag, flunked tests, won awards, hated teachers and loved them, lost the respect of others and gained it back. They have experienced a little slice of life; right now it is all they know of life.

But now they must move on, blue-robed, tassel-topped figures grasping a paper which testifies that they are ready to face the world. They have been

nurtured, tutored, encouraged, prodded, praised. Now they are ushered into living with "Pomp and Circumstance."

Twenty years from now, what will it matter? How often will memory take them back to school days, to old friends and first kisses, to Homecoming games and victory, to a favorite or most-hated class? How often will they smile-remembering the Junior-Senior, that special gown, the \$40 tux, the special dance? How often?

But now, it is all. They move forward into the unknown. They follow a path; they blaze a trail. They turn their backs on the past and let the wind of the future dry the tears of their fear. But they do move forward, and their goals, their struggles and failures and triumphs become the goals, struggles, failures, and triumphs of the future world.

We wish them well.

Letters To The Editor

Dear Editor:

This letter is in response to the article in the April issue, "Editor's Echo."

First of all, I would like to correct your statement in the adjoining article about the TWIRP dance, that last year's prom was "an unpleasant experience most of us here at Senior High would like to forget." The "most of us" who would like to forget this experience, probably, did not even attend. Some people were so angered by the outcome of the decision of the band, that they decided to stage their own Jr.-Sr. prom. The "few of us" who attended the prom found it to be a very pleasant and enjoyable evening, one that we can only look back on with fond memories.

True, there were short-comings and mistakes made by the class of '76 as was pointed out in "Editor's Echo." But there were also many teachers and students who worked very hard on the prom who should have been congratulated for their work. There were no editorials last year on how beautiful the decorations were or how many of the members of the Class of '75 stated that it was the best prom that Sr. High had ever had, or that it was a tremendous improvement over the one that had been held the previous year.

So, for those of you who would like to forget the 1975 Jr.-Sr. as an unpleasant experience, let me say to you that there are also many of us who will remember it as a very successful affair. Maybe if you had been there, you would have felt differently. Maybe not, but in any case, the 1975 prom, among the many problems and disagreements that arose, was a beautiful, enjoyable one for those of us who attended. And I congratulate the teachers and students who worked so hard to make it enjoyable for doing an EXCELLENT JOB.

Barbara Cofield

Dear Editor:

First of all, even though the article on Chocolate Funk was very biased and ill stated, it was opinion of many people. The band performed poorly, but the way it was criticized was uncalled for. Many blacks have stated that the band did a poor job and that the songs were hard to dance by. We feel that one of the replying letters to the editor was even more biased and prejudice. Not only was it irrational and weak, but many blacks were embarrassed by it just as were the whites by the first article.

We agree that the original editorial was wrong, but two wrongs do not make a right. We quote "Very Intelligent," "Marvelous Jobs," "Not gong to change their style because of the white people at Senior High." "I've understood it, just like back in slavery days." "The white man said those niggers are really singing." "You don't understand your own music."

First of all regarding the band's intelligence, who took their IQ? As far as marvelous is concerned, we haven't been able to find any one who thought the band was good, black or white much less marvelous. No one asked Chocolate Funk to change their style, so we can't see why this prejudiced statement should have been included. Now our main criticisms, was the author of this letter alive back in slavery days? Did he know anyone who was? How could he have heard some white say, "Those niggers are really singing." This is only bringing up old wounds that should be left alone. How can he say "whites don't understand their own music." Besides what does that or slavery have to do with the Twirp Dance?

Last but certainly not least, "but you others, you took over our school and sent us over here." We the students at Rocky Mount Senior High didn't take anyone's school. It was forced upon whites just as it was forced upon blacks. This is most absurd, and it clearly has nothing to do with Twirp Week. It only causes hard feeling. And even though the first article was wrong and only expressed one person's feelings, why was a bombardment placed on all students? We agree the first was wrong, but so was the second. We hope that the feelings that have been hurt, will heal, but also, we hope that the biased and prejudiced articles that claim to show a majority of feeling but only show one person's feelings will not be published in the future.

Steve Daughtridge
Tony Barnes

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