

Learning Goes On In Hospital

How does a rising Senior react when injured indefinitely from a serious automobile accident three months before his last year in high school begins? Can he bear the immobility necessary if his injuries are to heal? Can he complete his studies and graduate when confined to a hospital bed? Mike Lewis can answer.

"I didn't know where I was" said senior Mike Lewis when questioned about his arrival at Nash General Hospital. On June 20, Father's Day, Mike was driving to work in a heavy rainstorm. He lost control of the car because of slippery road conditions and collided into a tree. The car was literally wrapped around the tree, and it was more than 30 minutes before the Stony Creek Rescue Squad could remove Mike from the mangled car.

Mike's collar bone was broken, his gums deeply cut, his teeth loosened, and his right leg extensively damaged. During the more than 12 weeks he has stayed at Nash General he has undergone two operations. He has had two casts previously removed and he just recently



HOME BOUND Mike Lewis continues to receive his education in the hospital despite his tragic accident.

[photo by B. Hutchisson]

had a screw extracted that had been placed through his ankle.

His bed is surrounded by something that can easily be compared to a "jungle gym." There are a series of pulleys, metal rods and ropes which suspends Mike's leg in traction approximately nine inches above his bed. One of the most noticeable things about Mike's leg was a metal pin that was placed through his right knee.

The purpose of this pin was to hold the bone in place. On September 17, this pin was removed by a drill. The leg was bandaged, and a body cast which extends from his waist down to both legs was put on.

Between his knees there is a rod that hold his legs apart at a specified distance.

Mike will stay in this cast until the bone is completely healed. During this time he will not be able to move the lower half of his body, and he will have to remain immobile and flat on his back. His collar bone, gums, and teeth have all healed.

Mike is in a program known as "Homeward Bound" directed by Mr. Tommy Ezzel. This program is designed to assist students who have become disabled to keep up with their academics. Mr. Ezzel has 17 other students. Mike is his only student who will eventually be able to return to school. On every Friday Mr. Ezzel goes to the hospital and tutors Mike for three hours. During these three hours he teaches Mike in six different subjects.

When asked how he liked the one to one teacher-student ratio, Mike replied, "It's a lot

easier, but I still wish I was back at school. I miss the fun in the classroom." Each week when Mr. Ezzel comes he leaves Mike with a week's assignment.

Assignments are required to be completed when Mr. Ezzel returns the following week.

In addition to the "Homeward Bound" program, Mr. Elizabeth Hardy, an English teacher at Senior High, tutors Mike in English in her own spare time. One or twice a week Mrs. Hardy goes to the hospital and helps Mike with his studies.

Through visits and phone calls his friends help him to keep informed on the activities at school. He follows the Gryphon football games by listening to the radio. His room has accumulated many presents from his relatives, friends, and church. When asked what he would most like to do when he gets out of the hospital, Mike's response was "I want to be out in a field deer hunting."

Halls Are Crowded

Rocky Mount Senior High has a traffic problem, not only in the parking lot, but also in the hall. Several times a day, hall traffic jams the intersection of the 100 hall outside room 107.

When the traffic converges on the 100 hall, people are shoved and pushed the wrong ways, and inevitably, someone's spiral composition book will rip every sweater around. Ripped sweaters are not the only casualties. Ink pens attack white pants and shirts and leave their mark indelibly.

What can be done to solve the problem? Richard Shaw, a junior gasped between pushes and shoves, "We need a stop light!" A stop light might help unclog the intersection, but

what would happen to traffic violators? Would a right turn on red be legal?

Mrs. Carol Carpenter, an English teacher, was directing traffic one day before lunch. She didn't have a whistle, but she made herself heard. Later she said, "Some teachers suggest we set up a platform at the 100 hall and put Coach Harris in it to direct traffic."

Gonzales Prepares Costa Rican Meal

A Costa Rican meal was prepared by Elisa Gonzales, the American Field Service Foreign Exchange student from Costa Rica for the students from Mrs. Sue Hayworth's Spanish 4x class. The group met at Mrs. Hayworth's home on Wednesday, Sept. 15 for the dinner.

Elisa served the guests a type of fruit juice, doritos and a

tampico dip before dinner. The main course consisted of empanadas fried meat pies made of tortillas, ground beef, chopped potatoes, and onion salad that featured grated cabbage, carrots, pickles, and relishes. Elisa served apple pie "a la moda."

In Costa Rica apple pie is considered a delicacy because apples are very scarce and must

be imported from the United States. Usually apples are eaten only during the Christmas season in Costa Rica.

A special guest was Suzanne Cobb, American "sister" of Elisa. Other students who attended the meal were Denise Alston, Sherri Bynum, Bill Hudson, Missy Roberts, and Elizabeth Wilson.

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