6 December 20, 1996

Focus

In the beginning,

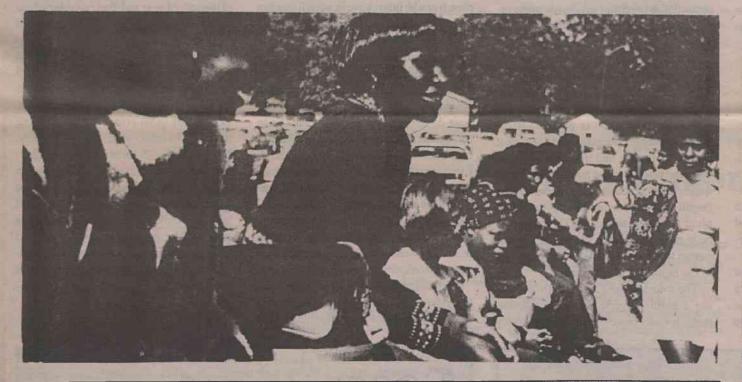
there was the Dairy Bar, a local malt shop, 10 cent bags of fries, hot dogs, scarves around girls' necks, v-necks for guys, rock and roll music, Chuck Berry, trips to the theaters and drive-ins and, of course the famous poodle skirts.

These were the sights, sounds, and tastes of the 1950's. As Rocky Mount reached the level of a city, it's inhabitants were caught up in the fads and crazes that swept the nation. This was the beginning of the long road that took being a teenager from "teenybopping down the lane" to "surfing the mainstream" of today.

Four major elements take an effect on the evolution of teenage culture. Clothing, music, food, and dating have long been the major concerns of most teens as proven by countless surveys. These elements have changed in drastic measures however from the swinging '50s to the turning point '60s, to the polyester disco '70s, to the fashion-driven '80s to now, the diversified '90s.

As all of us approach the 21st Century, it helps to take a look back at where we've been as teenagers, so that we can better understand where our children, and our freshmen, are going.

As Bob Dylan said so long ago ...



Then and Now

- Music1970- Motown movement spawns disco,
and a sweeping fad with bands such as
Chic and *The Village People*1996-
ists st
TempClothes1980- British Knights hit the market as the
hot shoes and blue jean jackets with "hot
pants" colorize the streets.1996-
a mix
terizeDating1950- The ideal date involves a drive to the
Center or Cameo Theaters in downtown
Rocky Mount, or the Tower Drive-in.
"Cruising the Dairy Bar" is also popular.1996-
SportFood1960- Moonpies are the big craze along with1996-
- Food 1960- Moonpies are the big craze along with hamburgers.

1996- Music reaches new hights with talents of artists such as Bonethugs and Harmony, and Stone Temple Pilots

1996- Levis and Guess jeans rule the pants of today while a mixture of high-fashion shirts and retro styles characterize the upper half.

1996- Dating spreads out into many forms or fashions. Sporting events are big, as are the movies and the mall.

1996- Health foods and bottled water hit big, with junk food in a close second.

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Gryphon

