

## Who do you think you are, Einstein?

Nick Coppedge

When someone says something stupid, you may sarcastically say, "Sure, Einstein". Maybe when someone says something extremely smart or has a great idea you may say, "Who are you, Einstein?" Einstein is a universal household name, and we think of Einstein as a synonym for genius.

Very few people, however, really know why his name is equivalent to genius. Everyone has heard  $E=mc^2$ , the most famous equation in the world. Yet, most people don't understand its importance or its meaning.  $E=mc^2$  is the basis for Einstein's greatest achievement which is his theory of relativity.  $E=mc^2$  means energy equals mass X celeritus squared. Einstein used the Latin word celeritus which means quickness, but he used it to express the speed of light.

What does all of this mean? If you could suck all the energy out of just one gram of mass you could supply a large family with power for over 100 years. Scientists thought this equation couldn't be right, because it seems to defy common sense. For example, if you were to burn one gram of gasoline, very little energy would be released from the chemical reaction which takes place. After many years of denying  $E=mc^2$  they realized it was correct after intense studies on nuclear energy problems, explaining why a little hydrogen bomb can have devastating effects when detonated.

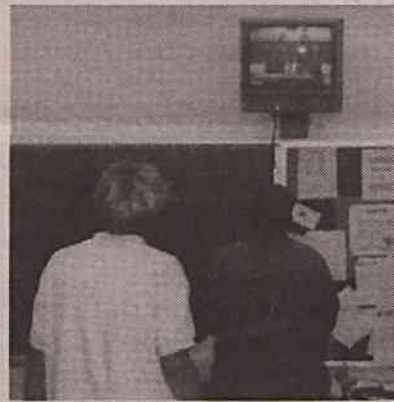
Although knowing the meaning of the most famous equation,  $E=mc^2$ , may seem useless and unimportant to many people, it is an extraordinary achievement in the world of physics.

## New license restrictions

Marques Williams

A new license restriction has been placed on 16-17 year old drivers. In addition to only driving from 5am to 9pm, the new law states that 16 year olds may have only one passenger riding with them. The law was enacted because teenagers represent about 14% of all drivers, and teenagers are involved about 7% of the fatal crashes that occur on America's roadways. Experts feel that teens should spend more time behind the wheel in driver's education rather than going on the road early. In addition to more time behind the wheel, instructors say that it would benefit the teenage driver to have more experience in the world of driving.

## One Year Later: Remembering September 11th



After the attacks, students watch President George W. Bush address the nation. The time was about 12 noon.

-Photo by J. Oswalt

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*Nisi populus stulta non interdum ageret, nihil interelligens unquam ageretur.*

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## No moment of silence?

Caitlin Johnson

On September 11<sup>th</sup>, the nation was asked to observe a moment of silence at 8:46 a.m. This was to commemorate the moment of the first attack against America exactly one year ago. It was not mandated that we hold a moment of silence; it was a request that RMSH didn't observe. There was no school-wide moment of silence. This is very disappointing.

September 11<sup>th</sup> is a day that will never be forgotten. Not having a moment of silence was very disrespectful to all those who lost their lives that day. It was also very un-American.

Why would there not be a moment of silence? There is nothing about it that's against any religion. During a moment of silence, you drop everything that you are doing at that moment. You don't have to pray, you could just sit there and stare at the wall. As long as you don't make any sound and disturb others, you are okay.

I asked Mrs. Bradshaw for her side of the story. She said, "I left it up to the teacher's discretion. Some teachers had already had things planned to commemorate the attacks, such as ordering the special edition of the News & Observer. Some even had their own moment of silence. But no, there was never a school wide moment of silence planned."

I do not agree that it should have been up to the teacher's discretion. I feel that there should have been a school-wide moment of silence. I think that it's pretty bad when kindergartners have a moment of silence, but high schoolers do not. My mom said that when she was at the church where she works, on Sept. 11<sup>th</sup>, the kids at Englewood Elementary school were dressed in red, white, and blue, waving flags, singing patriotic songs, and had a moment of silence. My brother, who is in the U.S. Navy, on tour at the base in Charleston, S.C., said that a man came over the intercom and said, "The president wants us to have a moment of silence." RMSH didn't do anything school-wide. It was just treated like a regular day. Some teachers may not have planned anything because they may have been trying to move on and not dwell on the tragedy.

Next year, we should remember all the people lost on that day, together, as one school and along with the rest of the nation. Disclaimer: This article is the sole opinion of the writer and does not necessarily reflect the views or opinions of The Gryphon or Rocky Mount Senior High.

## Budget Crisis

Caitlin Johnson

The budget crisis is affecting many Nash-Rocky Mount Schools, even RMSH.

In May, the state made recommendations to cut budgets in education from kindergarten up to college. Gov. Mike Easley had vowed education would not be affected by the state budget crisis. Easley thought that shortfall would be \$900 million to \$1.2 billion. The shortfall actually amounted to \$1.5 Billion

The Nash-Rocky Mount School System lost 23 teacher and 48 teacher's assistants. RMSH also had positions cut. This year, there are 2 secretaries in the office. Last year, there were 3 secretaries.

The teacher's cut has saved the district \$2 million, but has resulted in larger class sizes. This is evident at RMSH, where the average class size is near 30 students with only one teacher.

## Hello! You need glasses!

Darace Barnes

Have you ever been sitting in the classroom taking notes from the board and realize that your sentence makes no sense? You wrote, "the orange elephant took the fish." You ask your friend what the sentence on the board says. She tells you that the sentence says, "the gray dolphin chased the fish." If you do that, hello, you need glasses.

Statistics show the most common sign of vision problems are rubbing eyes, squinting, turning or tilting your head, losing your place when reading, or using your finger to follow along when reading. Other symptoms include headaches, red eyes, wandering eyes, and complaints of blurred vision. If you have any of these symptoms, hello, you need glasses.

If you have glasses and want to stop your eyes from getting worse, you should take frequent eye breaks, look up and away from extended near-computer work, spend time outdoors, don't hold reading materials too close to your face, practice eye focus skills as recommended by doctor, and ensure you are wearing a current lens prescription. In most cases glasses will not cause deterioration that will not otherwise occur. Wearing glasses for activities other than recommended, however, could cause problems. Examples: Distant glasses worn to read up close. This may cause your eyes to work harder than they need to.

Make sure that you look out for the symptoms and go to the doctor and get check-ups.