



Features



EDITOR: KRICKET MORTON

RESEARCH PAPERS CREATE HAVOC AMONG AHS STUDENTS

BY BILL SNYDER

"Note cards, bibliographies, MLA Handbook, and rough drafts," are all words that make most students cringe upon hearing them. As the teacher announces how many sources are required and when the paper is due, all the students just sit there, in agony, thinking of how much work they will have to do during the next month. Research papers are definitely a good reason for many students' nightmares because they are so time-consuming (and brain power-consuming).

One reason everyone hates doing research papers is that they are extremely hard to write. They deal with exact details. By the time you have finished your paper, you know everything there is to know about your topic (unless you copied your older brother or sister's paper). Everything from note cards to the final draft has to be perfect. Researching your topic is also a pain because you have to be a librarian to figure out where the books you need are. Who cares about *Contemporary Literary Criticism* anyway?

The worst thing about research papers, by far, is that they take a lot of time. Anybody would rather be at home lying around than doing research at Pfeiffer or Stanly County Library. Here you are sitting in the library, looking out the window at a beautiful day, and contemplating whether or not you could pass English if you didn't turn in your research paper. You finally snap out of your trance and find all those stupid books staring up at you. The only thing worse than spending time in a library is spending time in a library during the weekend. While everyone is out at the river or just having fun in the sun, you're working your fingers to the bone taking notes that you'll probably never use. Working on research so much, you tend to become a social outcast because you never have time for any sort of recreation.

Generally, research papers cause students loads of unnecessary grief. Who needs to know how the elements of the quest apply to the *Illiad*? If you still have to do a research paper this year, good luck. The rest of us will be thinking about you when we are at the river.



Mrs. Fast's Advanced English III class sweats under the demands of a research paper.

RELIEF AT LAST!

BY TOM STUBBS

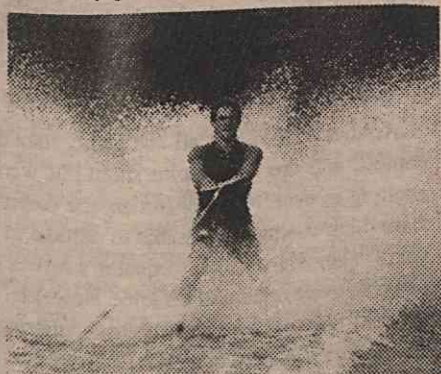
After a rigorous winter full of academic as well as athletic demands, just when you thought you couldn't take it any longer, along comes salvation in the form of SPRING BREAK! Here in Albemarle, students will get out of school on March 24 and not return until April 5, at which time they will receive their third quarter report cards, so make the time you're out of school count; it may be your last recreation for a while. But let's not dwell on that and spoil a good vacation. The eleven days allotted for the vacation leaves ample time to rest and recuperate from the stresses of school, with plenty of time left over for fun.

For starters, you will want to get a headstart on that savage tan you wish to attain and show off by prom time. You may also want to get started on that exercise program so you will be able to fit into that skimpy bikini. There will be no shortage of parties during this time, so have fun but don't get burned out.

There will also be several groups of people going to the local beaches to participate in all of the parties and entertainment events sponsored by the major

beer companies. For a few lucky people, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, will be their spring break destination.

For most of us though, a couple of carefree weeks at the river, swimming and skiing during the day and partying during the night, is just the thing we need to keep us going until we finally get out for the summer.



Neil Kluttz decides to use a wet suit to try out the frigid waters of Lake Tillery.

A NIGHT FULL OF MEMORIES

BY KRICKET MORTON

Prom '89, a night of elegance, slowly approaches us with breathless anticipation. Only six weeks separate us from this joyous occasion. The annual Jr.-Sr. Prom is a tradition at Albemarle High School. The juniors plan and prepare the prom in honor of the seniors.

However, the juniors that participate in the preparation of the prom are not the only ones who must make certain plans and arrangements. The people attending the prom must choose their date. For the guys that have girlfriends this task is no problem, but those who don't have "steadies", the time for "scouting out" your date is now, so you don't regret your choice later.

After the scary part of getting a date is over, finding the appropriate attire for the illustrious evening can be a nightmare, for girls especially. They travel from dress shop to dress shop, search-

ing for the perfect formal that will make them look absolutely magnificent. Guys on the other hand make a trip to the tailors to be measured, which takes about 30 minutes at the most, and then they are all set. Oopps, I forgot dinner reservations and post prom plans. Dinner reservations must be made early for the very nice restaurants. Most of the places become full about three or four weeks before the prom. Guys usually discuss this with the girls, so they will go to a place that both agree on.

Once final plans and preparations are made, nothing is left but numerous conversations about every detail with anyone who will listen. Although this time is very chaotic and students minds seem to wander during school, this glorious night offers a sense of magic and unbearable anticipation to all of those who attend.



Last year's prom-goers wait in the restaurant parking lot as their magical evening of dining and dancing begins.

Gimme A Break!

If you're a high school student and you never have any money and you really can't afford to pay full price for anything ... then this could be the break you've been waiting for. Just walk into Hardee's and ask for your Student Discount Card. Then anytime you drop by after school to grab a bite to eat, you get a big break on the bill.

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