



Hope everyone had a wonderful vacation away from the trials and tribulations of West Craven!

The National Honor Society held their monthly meeting on Tuesday, January 9. Ideas for Teacher Appreciation Day were discussed, because some people think that it's pretty crazy for a teacher to drive all the way from Greenville or some other distant land to get their car washed. My suggestion is that they give them a full tank of gas along with the car wash. Whaddya say, teachers? Anyhow, there wasn't too much discussed. Mrs. Gray just scared the wits out of everyone talking about grade averages and other such horrible things!

Well, competency test scores have finally come back after hundreds of chewed-off nails and pulled-out hairs. I got some statistics from guidance counselor, Mark Meltzer that may be interesting to you. 74.6 percent of the juniors at West Craven passed the test, leaving 24.4 percent

with failing scores. A whopping 155 passed both sections of the test with two people having perfect scores in the reading section. Lucky devils! The median score (score at which 50% scored above and 50% scored below) was 105 in Reading and 93 in Math. Doesn't sound bad, does it? But who's to say—only the computer knows!

In basketball news, I get the feeling that West Craven is out to trample somebody! During the holidays, WC showed their stuff by beating New Bern 47-41 Thursday night in the semi-finals and Jones Senior in the finals not giving them a chance with a score of 78-48. Leading scorers in the New Bern tourney game were Clifton Green with 15 and Jeff Jones with 14. In the Jones Senior finals on Friday night leading scorers were Rufus Harris with 23, Jeff Jones with 20, and "Tree" Green with 12. Congratulations go to Rufus Harris and Clifton Green who made the all-tournament team.

In West Craven's first conference game last Thursday night they trampled, I mean STOMPED White Oak with a score of 116-79!!! Coach Jones commented that it was the "best offensive game of the year" and I think that was the understatement of the year. It also marked a new school record in scoring. Alright! James Blount came off the bench and led the scoring with 20 points. All five of the first string men were in double figures. Jones also said that the key to their game was rebounding and defense. And it seems to me that West Craven's got the key and they're the only ones that can unlock the door!

In ladies action, the girls broke bad and won 54-47 over White Oak. Brenda Gatlin was leading rebounder with 17 and Michelle Sutton led the scoring with 14 points. Also in double figures were Gwen Harris with 13, Monica Brown with 12, and Brenda Gatlin with 10. Their rebounding made it possible for them to take 68 shots from the floor as opposed to White Oak's 40. There's no way that the Lady Eagles are going to let the men outdo them. Right, ladies?

Junior Civitan is moving right along into the new year. As all you disco dancers know, they sponsored a dance on Friday night, January 5 to raise

money for NARC (National Association of Retarded Citizens). The money raised at this dance and other such funds are given to the NARC to help sponsor Lisa McCoy at the annual Sno-Do in Canada this February. West Craven's Junior Civitan goal is \$1000 IF Lisa drives the snowmobile 100 miles. The goal for eastern North Carolina is \$6000 and for International Civitans the goal is \$30,000. If you would like to give please send contributions to Parena Dove, Secretary, Junior Civitan Club, West Craven High School, Route 2, Box 163, Vanceboro, NC 28586.

Most of you have probably noticed a new face around West Craven by now. The name that goes with this face is Barbara, and she is an exchange student from Chile, sponsored by the Junior Civitan Club. Barbara is 16 years old, an honor student, president of the student council, and has had several years of English. She comes highly recommended from her country. Her desires in coming to America are to get to know how the everyday American lives and to improve her ability in speaking English. She will be available in February to speak to civic and church groups, etc. If you would like for her to speak to your group or organization, call West Craven High School and ask to speak to Mrs. McIntyre. And students, please go a little bit out of your way to be friendly to Barbara because she's a long, long way from home!

This column will no longer appear in the West Craven Highlights. If you enjoyed the column and wish to see it again, please send your complaints to Editor, West Craven Highlights, Vanceboro, NC 28586.

## School Board urges people's vote on merger

New Bern—"Let the people speak" was the recommendation of Hiram Mayo, Superintendent of Craven County Schools, to the Craven County Board of Education at a meeting on Thursday, January 4. A motion was made for the Board of Education to propose a county-wide vote to decide whether or not the Craven County Schools should merge with the New Bern City Schools. This resolution was unanimously approved by the Board and will be presented to the Craven County Commissioners at their meeting on January 12.

The Board also discussed the current merger bill of Rep. Chris Barker of New Bern. This revised bill calls for an interim board to be made up of both the Craven County and the New Bern City School Boards, which could take over on July 1, 1979. The two Boards would work together until July 1, 1980. In the Primary and General Elections of 1980, the qualified voters of the entire county would elect a five member Craven County Board of Education. The three candidates with the most votes would serve for four years with the remaining two serving for two years. After 1980, all members would serve for four years. This would provide for staggered terms. The new Board would assume all properties and obligations of the present Boards.

Several of the Board members expressed concern that the interim board would not represent the county equally. Since the

County Board has only seven members, while the City Board has nine, the County Board would have a minority on the joint interim board, although it represents over 60% of the students.

In calling for a county-wide vote, Mayo said, "I feel very, very strongly that the people of Craven County should decide this issue. . . I think it is too important an issue for any one person to decide." Mayo then submitted an alternate proposal for the organization of a Craven County Board of Education. This would be a twelve member board based on the population of each district. Townships 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, and 7 would qualify for one member each along with the Jasper School District, which consists of Township 9 and part of 8. The New Bern City School District would qualify for five members. This distribution of representation would mean that each member would represent about 4,200 people.

David Henderson, attorney for the Craven County Board of Education, pointed out several problems with the Barker bill. The bill, as is now written, would appear to make merger mandatory by July 1, 1979 but is inconsistent when it makes formation of a new Board contingent on the approval of a merger plan. Another problem with the bill is that there is an apparent four month gap between July 1 and the General Election in November of 1980, when there would not be a Board.

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