



High Times Editorials

By Barbara Baker

THE TIMES ARE A CHANGIN'

Bob Dylan was right when he wrote the words quoted in the title of this editorial. Never before have events moved so rapidly and advances been made so swiftly as in America today. Because the world is daily becoming more complex, and the competition for good jobs becomes more heated, a good education by today's standards, one needs to have access to modern teaching facilities and advanced methods of education. Such advances have been a time in coming to Smithfield students, but next year the new Smithfield-Selma Senior High School will open many doors to students in this county. The educational part of the program is only part of the advantage the new school will offer to its students, however. There will be opportunities to form new clubs and organizations, and hopefully a student government. The success of any aspect of the program at the new school, however, cannot be placed totally in the hands of the new principal and his staff. The attitudes displayed by the students will be the determining factors as to whether going to this new school will be a rewarding experience or just outline drudgery.

The key word in the success of the new school will be attitude. If students insist on clinging to the memories and longing for their previous schools, and refuse to unite behind the new one, there will be no hope for a sound educational program. If, on the other hand, memories of past years are retained, but pride and determination to make the new school one of the best in the state becomes the goal of the students, there will be no end to the achievements that the school may acquire.

There is a tremendous amount of talent in the Smithfield area. This fact has been evidenced in our own school in such projects as the play *My Fair Lady*, the chorus, the band and the many civic clubs that have been organized by students. The new school will offer an excellent place for pooling the talent to be found, if the students will only display a desire to work together to make a good school.

Education should be a rewarding and enjoyable experience. Through co-operation with the principal, faculty, and each other, the first year at the new school could be just an experience. Of course there will always be fond memories of the years at SHS, but the times change, and if we are to survive, we must change with them. The change will be painful only if we make it so.

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Advisor - Mrs. Johnson

ON THE ABM

I want to break an egg that was laid by the military recently. On Sunday, May 11, a news item was repeated hourly by Mike Blackmon on WKIX. It sounded to me as if the newscaster was laughing at the announcement. It went like this: A military spokesman has stated that a nuclear attack by Russia in 1975 will leave only 20 percent of the U. S. strategic missile system operative.

Don't misunderstand me, now I have all faith in the U. S. military, but this statement does seem to be a little ridiculous. Allow me to point out why.

What the armed forces has done is to set up a hypothetical attack six years in the future to demonstrate the need for a more extensive ABM defense system. The figures are designed to scare the average citizen so he will want to have more missiles to fire back on the aggressors. (Who are also imaginary.) Do not let the figures mislead you. With only 20 percent of our present system, we could effectively destroy civilization behind the iron curtain. This is allowing for misfires, interceptions, and misses.

Another flaw in the statement is that it seems the military has forgotten the civilian citizenry in its drive for ABM's. In case of nuclear attack, most of us would be highly radioactive cinders, and hardly in a position to care whether the rest of the world is destroyed or not.

The world does not have to have atomic holocaust wrought on by fear and ignorance on both sides. The tax dollars that would be spent on the ABM system could be better employed if used for cancer research, just as an example. With more research children born with defects might have a better chance to lead a normal life. If we gave ourselves a chance we could have something truly great in this country.

Instead of worrying about how many we can kill or destroy in retaliation, let's worry about how many we can heal the sick, protect the poor and weak, and uphold the principles our country was founded on.

BREAKING EGGS

By Randy Lucas, Opinion Editor

In the beginning of the year we decided to call this column "Breaking Eggs," based on the old saying that you cannot make an omelette without breaking eggs. We wanted to see how student opinion concerning current issues was viewed by the students of SHS. Apparently, it runs fast, but shallow. There are a few, usually the A students, who submit opinions for this column. The ones who really should be the determinants of school policy are the B and C students, yet they have been content to sit back and air their gripes to their little clique. Instead of airing their ideas in the place provided for them, a lot of hot air was expended for nothing.

I'm not going to preach a sermon, for I am no more innocent of this than anyone else. However, next year it is hoped that the new school will have a student government. If no more is done to fulfill the student's role in his own government than was done here at SHS, the student government will fall flat on its face. I sincerely hope that the juniors, sophomores, and freshmen will make an effort to have something really worthwhile next year.

COMMENTS BEST LEFT IGNORED

I've stopped waiting for the right girl -
just doing my best with the wrong one.

Opportunity doesn't knock; it just rings the phone —
then asks a stupid question.

I know you have to be somebody —
but why do you have to be you?

Please rush down to the morgue —
and tell them you're ready.

I know a guy who's never sick —
germs won't go near him.

The female crocodile lays 3000 eggs a year —
the male eats up 2999 of them.

This may not seem important, but if it weren't for the male,
we'd be up to our necks in crocodiles.

You have a mechanical mind —
too bad some of the screws are loose.

You're a swell guy —
around the head.

You may think you're the big cheese around here —
but you only smell like it.

Stamp out smog —
Get a Horse!

Contemplation On Frogs

SHS is extremely fortunate to have a number of serious-minded students who are concerned with the problems of our world. As a prime example of such serious contemplation, two of the noted siblings in our midst have compiled for the "Smithfield High Times" their reflections on the vital subject of frogs.

Frogs
by Mark Harris

Frogs are economically feasible. Frog legs are a very popular food (for those who did not have the misfortune of dissecting one.) In the spring of each year, each tenth grader (and some others!) in the United States, except Tennessee, has the dissecting tray pushed under his nose and is told to leap to it. This assures a good frog market. At times, the demand for frogs is so great that, in order that everyone throughout eternity will be able to dissect a frog, the animals are protected by law during breeding season, thus assuring good prices for poachers. Frogs also consume many insects. (I have a neighbor who has fifty on his patio to keep the bugs away at night.) In short, table taste, desirable dissection, and insect inhibition make the frogs economically important. They also make good dart-board targets and conversation pieces.

FROGS

By Doug Harris

Frogs are important in the fact that the tadpoles are used as food by aquatic insects; the frog itself is used as food. Frog legs are considered gourmet food, but personally I couldn't eat one if you held a gun to my face as I was tied to a wall. They are also important in the fact that they eat insects and are greatly used for scientific study.

And some people happen to like frogs. Take Mark, for example. Every morning he rises, he takes a picture of his frog and says, "How do I love thee? Let me count the ways . . . ? Each evening when he gets home he works on his book, *La Rana Del Sur (The frog of The South)*, which he hopes to finish next month. He has written 276 chapters and guesses he will write about 380 more pages before he is finished. When he goes to bed, he takes his picture again and says, "Good night, sweet prince. Parting is such sweet sorrow.. "

Jane Godwin Receives Excellent

Jane Godwin, a freshman, received a rating of excellent at the recent state competition of the Federation of Music Clubs. To qualify for the state competition a student must receive a rating of superior in the district competition. The highest rating possible in the state contest is superior, but only three superior ratings were awarded at the competition, held on the campus of the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. The second highest rating was excellent, and very few pupils received this honor.

Jane is a piano student of Miss Flora Canaday.