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South Brunswick High School (Continued)



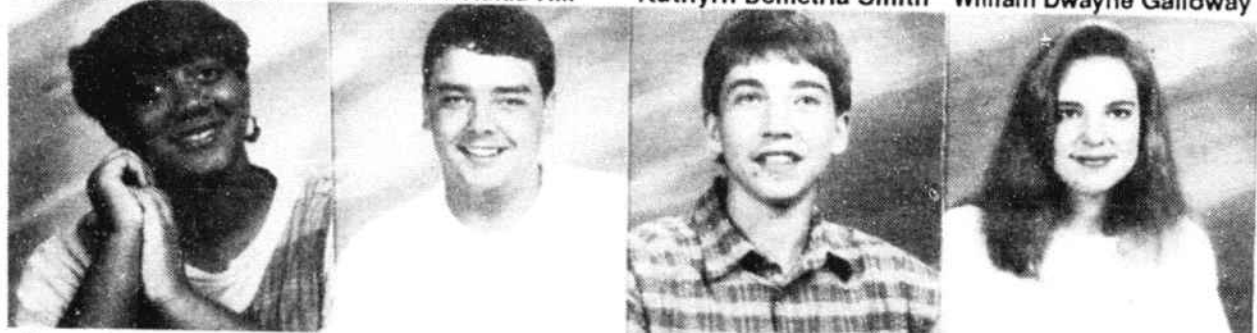
Robin Wilson Donna Gall Pennington Carla Ronnette B. Jones Roberta Scott Powell



Karen Denise Davis Chadwick Dwayne Turner Gregory Norman Ruffkin Timothy LeMont Bryant



Brenda Yvette Tobler Asheba Nakia Hill Kathryn Demetria Smith William Dwayne Galloway



Tamara Paulette Clemmons Christopher Edward Hamrick Denny Sherman Blankenship Michelle Leigh Durham



Donald Scott Harrelson Richard Jason McDowell Jacqueline Rae Hewett Jamie Asher Bigford

Seniors Speak Out On Public Education

BY MARJORIE MEGIVERN
 Education these days is like the weather; everybody talks about it, everybody complains about it, but nobody seems to do anything about it.

Most of the talking is being done by politicians, media commentators or educators. Has anyone ever asked students what they think might make public schools more effective?

That was exactly the question asked of several bright, articulate graduating seniors at South Brunswick High School, and the answers were instructive.

Kim Bell, an honor graduate, answered at once that teachers needed to have control of their classrooms.

"Students try to take advantage of them," she said, "and the teachers try to calm them down, but they really should let that kind of student know who is boss."

The teacher was at the top of Terri Smith's list, too.

"Teachers need more administrative help," she insisted. "They have too much paperwork. I know, because I've helped them with it. This takes away from their class preparation time."

Terri's also suggested that a counselor be provided in every high school for personal counseling, not just to focus on career or academic needs.

James Simon had a balanced perspective on the new Comprehensive School approach being adopted by South Brunswick High

School.

"I think it has good and bad points," he said. "It gives students freedom and makes them more responsible, but those who don't have any sense of responsibility will abuse it."

"The kids' reactions will depend on their home life."

James would like to see the whole country consider the tenure question, as well.

"Some teachers who have it shouldn't be teaching at all," he said.

Highly motivated teachers is the need seen by Patrice Law.

"We need people who are excited about teaching, and they need to develop ideas for getting kids to come to school and get their education. Maybe there should be an approach to parents, because the lazy ones stay at home and their parents let them."

Preston McGriff, like James, had student freedom in mind, and he had a suggestion on the lighter side.

"I think high schools should let students leave the campus for lunch," he said. "The cafeteria food isn't good, to begin with, and after being cooped up in the building, kids need to get out for a break at noon."

There you have it, educators and pundits of America.

A conference on school reform should take into consideration the observations and recommendations of those most affected by our faltering educational system. Ask the students for ideas!

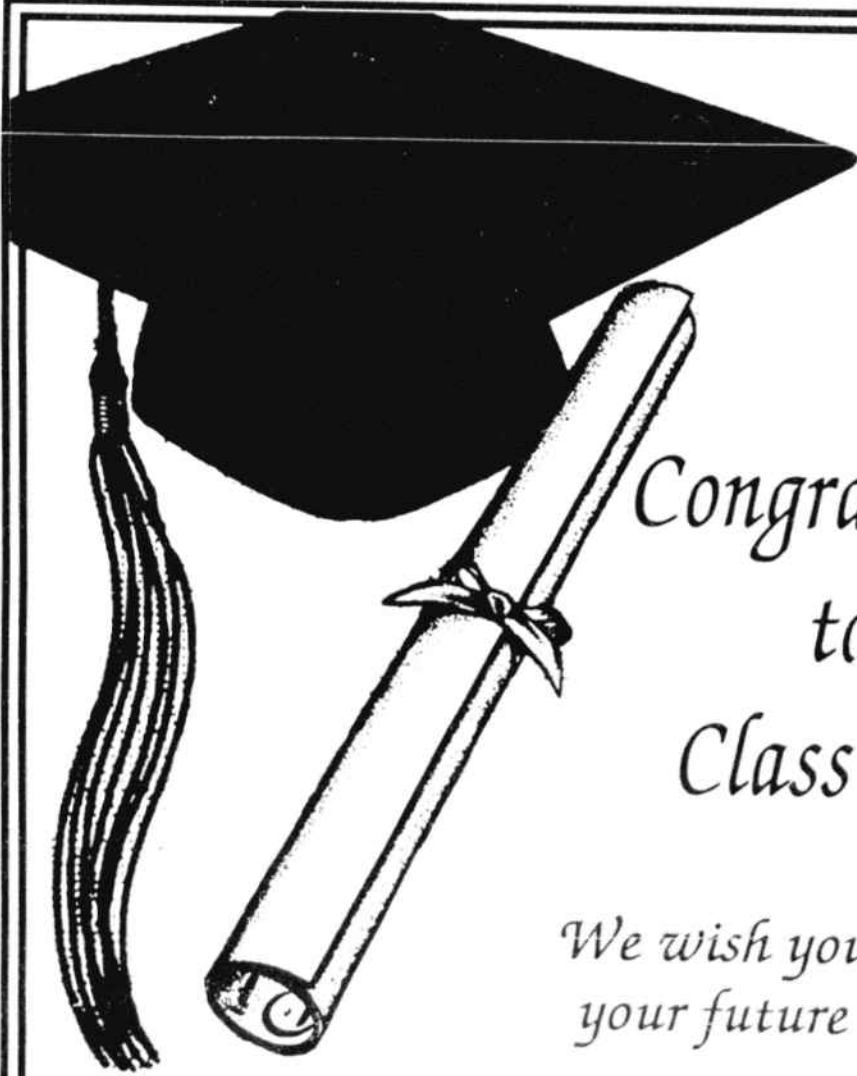
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