

## Superintendent's Viewpoint

By BOB McRAE

### New Year Exciting

The start of a new year is always an exciting time for the school system. The winter months will soon give way to warmer weather and the end of another school year. The spotlight event, of course, will be the graduation Class of 1988 on May 31.

Before that special night, however, there is much work to be done. In today's column I want to share with you some of the projects we will be working on during the next six months.

Work will soon begin on next year's budget. This is one of the most important tasks that we undertake. We receive over two million dollars in local tax resources, and such an amount deserves careful attention. We have made some nice strides this year and want to continue that progress. We must continue to maintain and upgrade our buildings and grounds and also assign attention in the budget to items that will result in improved instruction for our kids.

You already know that our facilities study is complete, and the top priority is the completion of our reorganization plan. To implement this plan, projects will have to be completed on both the senior high and junior high campuses. Once this work is done we will have our five elementary schools (K-5), Kings Mountain Middle School (6-8), and Kings Mountain High School (9-12). Although the timetable for this work is tentative, we need to begin to plan now. I will ask the Board in January to provide the direction for selecting the architect for those projects. Hopefully, that very important architectural work can begin in the spring. While much remains to be done, it is not totally inconceivable that the organizational changes could take place with the beginning of the 1990-91 school year.

Our curriculum study is continuing. We are developing a complete strategy for the full implementation of the Basic Education Plan by 1993. With that comes a K-12 foreign language program, expanded offerings in cultural arts including K-5 visual arts, K-12 dance instruction, and a more intensive drama program, and a refinement of currently flourishing programs in areas such as physical education and computer instruction. You will be seeing changes in our offerings during each of the next five school years, and we want to make sure they are done with excellence as our goal.

We will be trying to make a decision regarding the implementation of the Open Court Reading Program which has been piloted at North School during the last two years. Parents who have children in this program, your input will be valuable. I have heard several of you make positive comments already. We will continue to try to stay in touch with you as we work together to make a final decision. When you consider the importance that being able to read has on a child's future, you can begin to understand the magnitude of this decision.

I continue to be concerned about our ability to meet the needs of the non-English speaking students who come to us. We are going to look at this problem during the coming months to see if we can pull together a structured plan for meeting this need. Both these children and our teachers who want to serve them deserve this effort.

We also must plan to face the problem which comes as the use of student bus drivers below the age of 18 is eliminated. I have already told you that major busing changes may be in the future. I pledge that our goal will continue to be the safe and timely transportation of students to school within available resources. However, unless we can find several adult drivers in addition to the ones we now have, some changes will have to come and some services reduced. Adults, we need more of you as bus drivers.

There are other challenges to face as well. It will be a busy year. However, I am confident we will meet all of them effectively because we have so many good people to turn to for help. Keep us in your thoughts as we move ahead - for our kids.

### Biggers On Dean's List

Susan Biggers, daughter of Mrs. and Billy L. Biggers of Kings Mountain, has been named to the dean's list for the fall semester at Wake Forest University.

To be named to the dean's list, a student must have a semester grade of at least 3.0 out of a possible 4.0.

At Wake Forest, Miss Biggers double majors in history and politics and is active as a majorette in the marching Deacon band. She also serves as a student academic adviser, a Deacon Darling and is a member of Phi Alpha Theta.

## Gardner-Webb Enrollment Up

Boiling Springs, NC...GW's fall enrollment reached 1971 students, making the enrollment the highest ever for the college. But what really fuels President White's optimism is that applications for 1988 are up 54%.

Increasing the enrollment is a top priority for White. He receives weekly reports from the admissions office on progress in student recruitment.

By December 12, 1986, the admissions office had received 224 applications. By December 11, 1987, however, Gardner-Webb had received 344 applications. Even more encouraging are the statistics on paid deposits. "They're up 112%," White reports.

While there is no clear-cut explanation as to why the figures have increased so dramatically, President White can point to several factors.

"I think the key word is attitude," he says. "More than in recent years, there appears to be a positive attitude on the part of the entire college community -- faculty, staff and students." White adds, "In the final analysis, happy students are our best recruiters."

There is a real and growing sense of pride on campus. As a result of the success of the college's current capital campaign, significant im-

provements have been made on campus. The cafeteria, several of the dormitories, and the grounds have been spruced up.

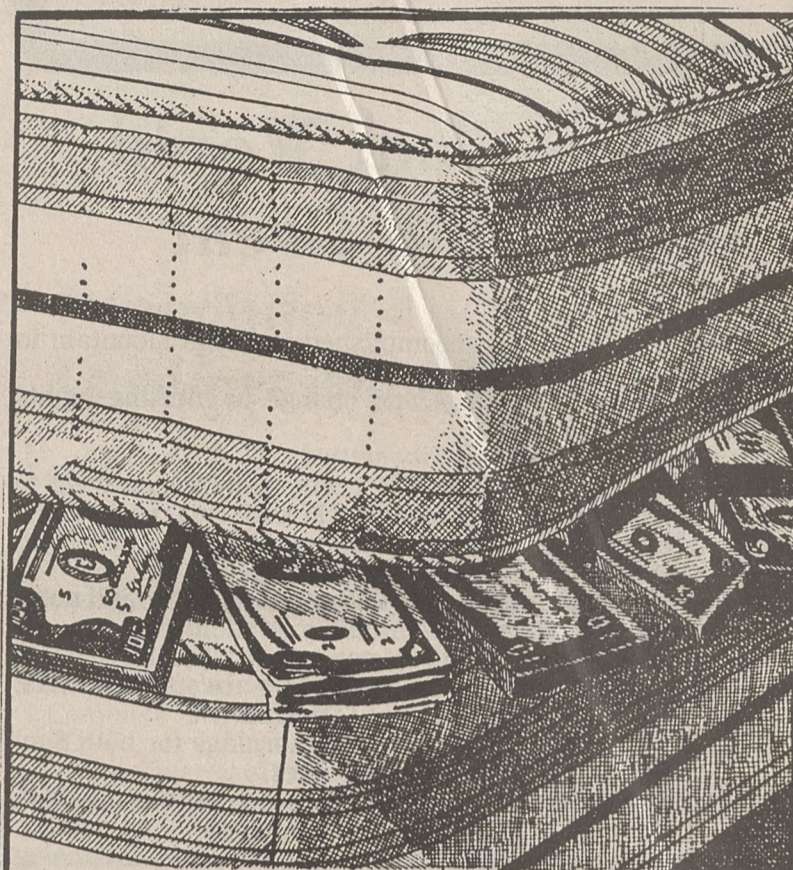
In addition to a positive spirit and pride, White cites the increase in staff and efficiency in the admissions pro-

gram as a factor in the growth in both the enrollment and the number of applications.

"The enhanced publicity the college has received and the championship football team are other factors," White states.



SANTA BOOGIES AT NORTH SCHOOL—Brandon Wood, as Santa, boogies in the North School Christmas production of "Santa Goes Rock And Roll." He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Larry Wood.



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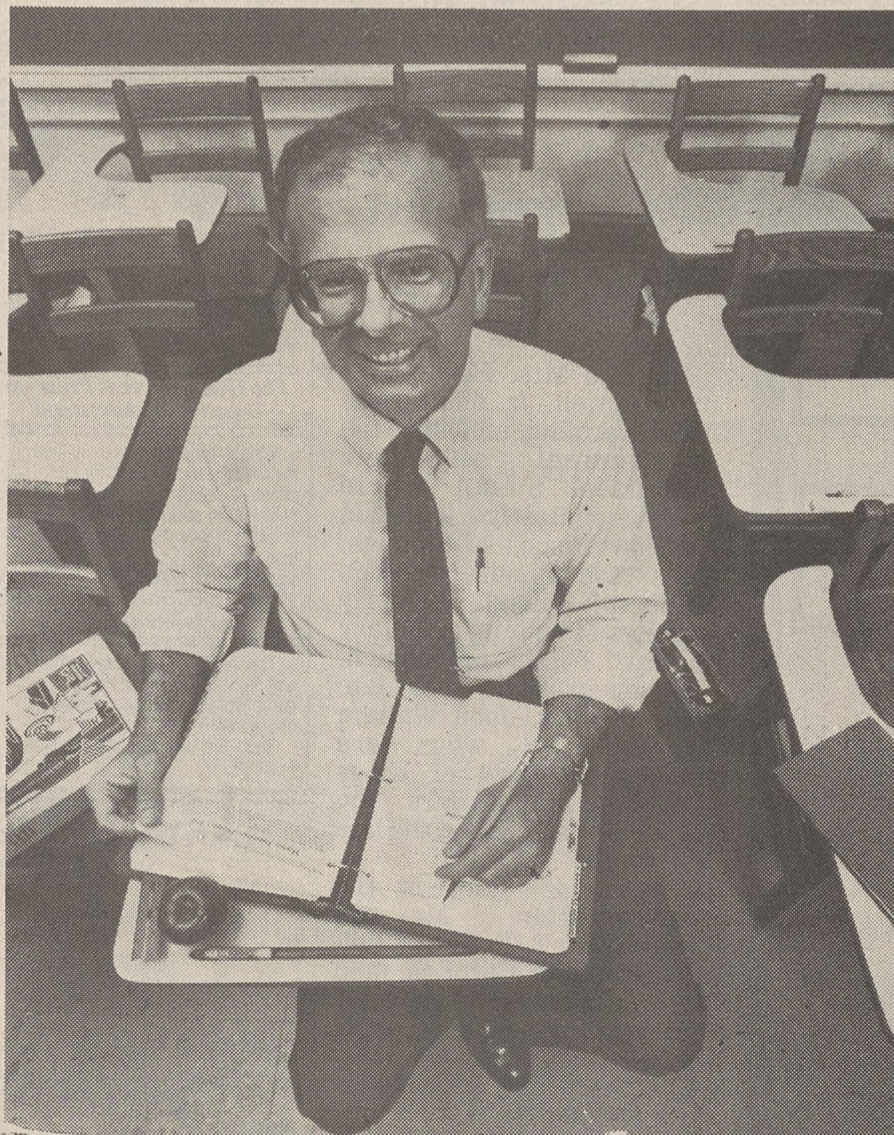
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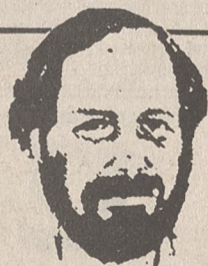
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RAGAN HARPER

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