

Dear Seniors...

By CHEYENNE CARMACK

We have arrived. We have arrived at the most envied position imaginable to those inside high school walls and beyond.

Underclassmen look up to us. And at the same time, they're wishing, yearning for the day that they can be the rulers of this white-walled kingdom.

Former students view the experiences that we are currently living, and memories flood their minds. They, too, wish. Many of them, if given the chance, would step back into their Senior year for just a little while to relive the good times and temporarily forget about "the real world."

It comes down to this simple fact: We *are* where everyone else wants to be.

So live it up. Enjoy it. For a brief while, smile and appreciate this shining moment that you've been given.

Stresses and pressures that come with the territory of our hailed roles may be dragging you down and stealing the sparkle from your first semester as a senior. There's so much to do, to think about, and so little time.

Find relief in knowing that there are 180 other people carrying a very similar load. Each and every one of us have major decisions to make and most of us are struggling to meet college deadlines and still pass high school tests.

Take a breather from future fears and today's terrors. Rejoice in the fact that you have come so far, so successfully.

Focus on the positive. Look at all the advantages there are to being the "oldest and wisest" among so many teenagers.

Who got first priority of parking spaces? Who can finally stand on the "Senior Wall" without fear of a "wanna-be" label? Who else can check out ten books in the library???

Seniors, of course!

So yell with a little extra pizzazz at a pep rally. Have a sleep over with your best friends. Do all the things you know you're going to miss someday.

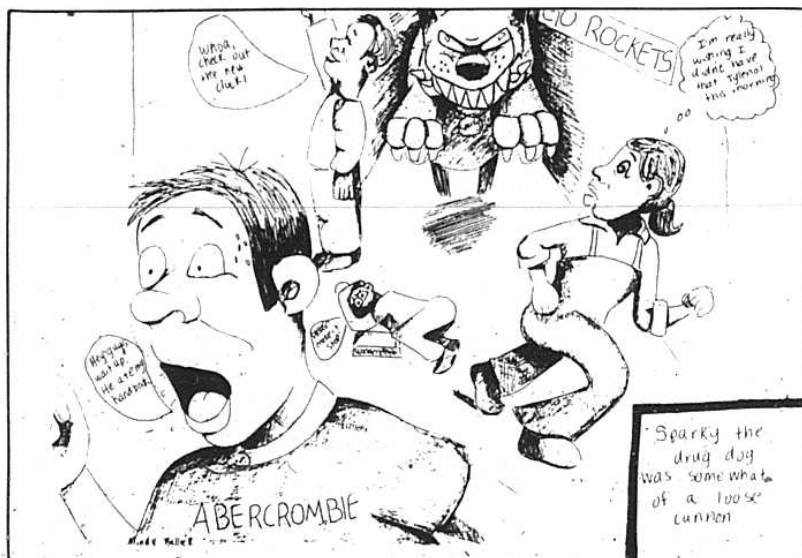
Even if you're one of those people who has anticipated your walk across the stage since kindergarten; just to get the torture they call school over with, be content and make these next months something to write in the history books...or at least your journal.

If nothing else, when this is all over, you can miss hating school.

Graduation can be compared to Christmas. If you anticipate it and count down day by day, it takes ages for you to hear carols and jingling bells. But if you enjoy your summer, and make the most of the fall, presents and bows will appear before you know it.

Use this time we have been given -- this quickly fading time together to just be kids, learn, and have fun. Live this next year like you'll never get it back -- because you won't. Make memories. Make moments.

Why not? You are -- we are -- where everyone else wants to be.



RCHS curriculum lacking

By MINDY BULLOCK

Here at RCHS we have a wonderful school facility. We have access to computers, resource materials, after school programs to offer help when needed as well as a talented staff. However, I still feel our curriculum is somewhat lacking. RCHS has only one advanced placement course available to students: calculus.

When I attended the Governor's Scholars Program this summer I was introduced to classes filled with students who had benefited from numerous AP courses. They seemed to be more prepared to tackle the subjects we debated or discussed.

I had art classes with students who were enrolled in AP studio art and AP ceramics. I was shocked to discover one of my good friends, Jim, had already completed a semester of AP European history. I

felt cheated and intimidated. There is no reason for me to feel this way when a facility like RCHS has the capability to offer these classes.

The main reason we don't have AP courses is because the school believes the college courses are an ample substitute. What about students who don't want or need the college credits? I do not want to worry about college until I get to college. Also, those classes do not accredit your high school transcript.

"Sometimes you sign up for those college classes and don't even get them," remarks Senior Lindsey Parsons.

But I think there is an underlying factor that attributes to having only one AP course class.

The classes offered seem to be geared toward more general students, neglecting the ones who ex-

cel in academics. I am certainly not proposing that students who struggle should be deprived of courses to help them. Those lower level courses are important to those students and the school. But, I don't think that it's impossible for both the academically sound and the struggling students to have their needs met.

Making AP classes available would cost the school virtually nothing financially, and I think we are costing the students by not having them. We are costing them the confidence and security that they need to further their education at a college or university. We are costing them by not measuring up curriculum-wise to the rest of the state. And, we are costing them by not having the classes to encourage academic excellence.

The Rocket

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It Rocks

Sleeping late on Saturday mornings

Pizza-free Mondays

Blitz, RCHS' new friend and drug dog

The freedoms of being a teenager

The clock in the library hall

It Reeks

Waking up early on school days

Forgetting your lunch money

Blaming your beloved pet for destroying your homework

The stresses of being a teenager

Being held up by traffic in the library hall...or any hall