

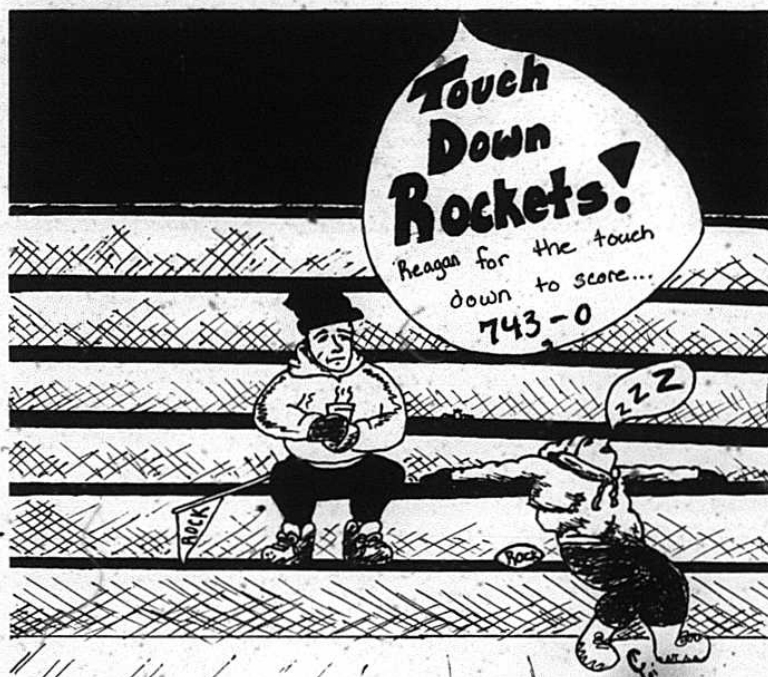
Dear Seniors:

As we've grown up over the years, our friends have become more than just playmates. Our days of playing dress-up and GI Joe have evolved into evenings spent on the phone and Friday night football games. What would we do without those special people who lend a shoulder to cry on and tell us up front when we've crossed the line? It's scary to think about how life would be without their presence. So why do we allow the little things in life to separate us from those who know us so well?

Friends, like life, are always taken for granted. They always seem to be around, even when times get rough and we're the epitome of evil to them. Yet, it's not until you're faced with a situation in which a side must be chosen that the role your friendship plays is put into perspective. Go or stay? Will they still be here later on if you decide to part ways for a while now? Or will they move on to more important things in life since it seems to them they're not needed, appreciated, or rather necessary anymore. Or should every avenue heading toward "newfound fun, no more friends" be ignored and life revolve around who you know now? Decisions were designed to be hard and impossible, especially in life altering instances. You're finally forced to say, "Who, or what, means more? This girlfriend/job/habit that could work out for the long run, but then again might not, or this friend who loves me for who I am and nothing else?" Sounds really hard to me.

You know you have the ultimate friend when they tell you to do what needs to be done, they'll be around when the fun's over and it's time to come home. But you have to wonder what exactly they go through to say that. The love they must have to watch you walk away, yet vow that they won't let you down even though you have them. The hurt they must feel while we're away doing what we think is right. And how ashamed and remorseful we feel when we crawl back to them later, beaten by life. But they welcome us back with open arms, just as if nothing had ever changed. I thank God for friends like that. They're the only things that keep us sane in this world of chaos.

Just like the little saying goes, "Lovers come and go, but friends are forever." There's more truth to that than most people are willing to believe, lovers standing for anything temporary that may stand between two friends. Don't take the hard road to figure it out. Place your truth and happiness in those who give you just that, and never, never let go.



The Rocket

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It Rocks...

- ~ Football season being in full swing.
- ~ Eating all that leftover Halloween candy.
- ~ Seeing the first snowflakes fall.
- ~ Taking college classes while still in high school.
- ~ Having a best friend who'll share their hot chocolate at cold games.

It Reeks...

- ~ Having to wear ten layers of clothing to watch the game.
- ~ Going to the dentist after eating all that leftover candy.
- ~ Seeing the last snowflakes fall four feet later.
- ~ Dealing with high school maturity levels in your college class.
- ~ The same best friend sharing their cold germs.