

THAT'S THE WAY LIFE GOES

As the first day of another school year rolled around, the students became anxious and impatient. They were ready to embark upon a new adventure. For some it was the beginning of a four year journey. No matter what a student's situation was, everyone had something to gain.

Ruffin gave students the opportunity to be a part of a small, yet close-knit student body with an excellent faculty. It instilled in them the power to grow and to achieve in a variety of ways: socially, academically, athletically, and creatively. Many students were involved in school and community clubs such as the National Honor Society, the National Beta Club, the band, student council, and a diversity of other clubs and sports. Some of these organizations helped students to get along better with people, while others helped with academics and colleges. Sports helped to relieve students' tension and ease their minds, but they also presented the students with a physical workout to whip them into shape.

The administrative staff, faculty, and students shared the tradition of the school and exemplified true Patriot pride. This was proven true at pep rallies, dances, throughout spirit week, and at Homecoming.

The parents showed their school spirit and support by joining the Booster Club, by volunteering their time at school, and in the concession stand on game nights. Although our sports' records were not winning ones, there was pride to be found.

As the end of the school year found its way in, students began to study for final exams, and seniors prepared for graduation. They were exhilarated. Finally, it was their turn to walk across the stage. Some had plans to go off to college and a few were undecided, but all were ready for the adventure. Even though the school year came and went, each student can look back and recapture the moments in **The Patriot '96**.

— Nichole Proveaux

