

THE PATRIOT

THAT'S
THE
WAY
LIFE
GOES

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1996





The
**Ruffin High
School**

Patriot

The Patriot
1996
vol. 1

Ruffin High School
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Ruffin, S.C. 29475

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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





Mr. Greene and some of the members of the RHS chorus gather around the piano to rehearse for their spring concert.

Nichole Proveaux and Tanisha Portee, Editor and Co-editor respectively, concentrated their efforts on carefully placing pictures on one of the final layouts for the yearbook.

Senior Quintella Hodges works to finish her chemistry test before the bell. Quintella was the band drum major.



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Christopher Fryar said, "I spent my weekends sleeping."



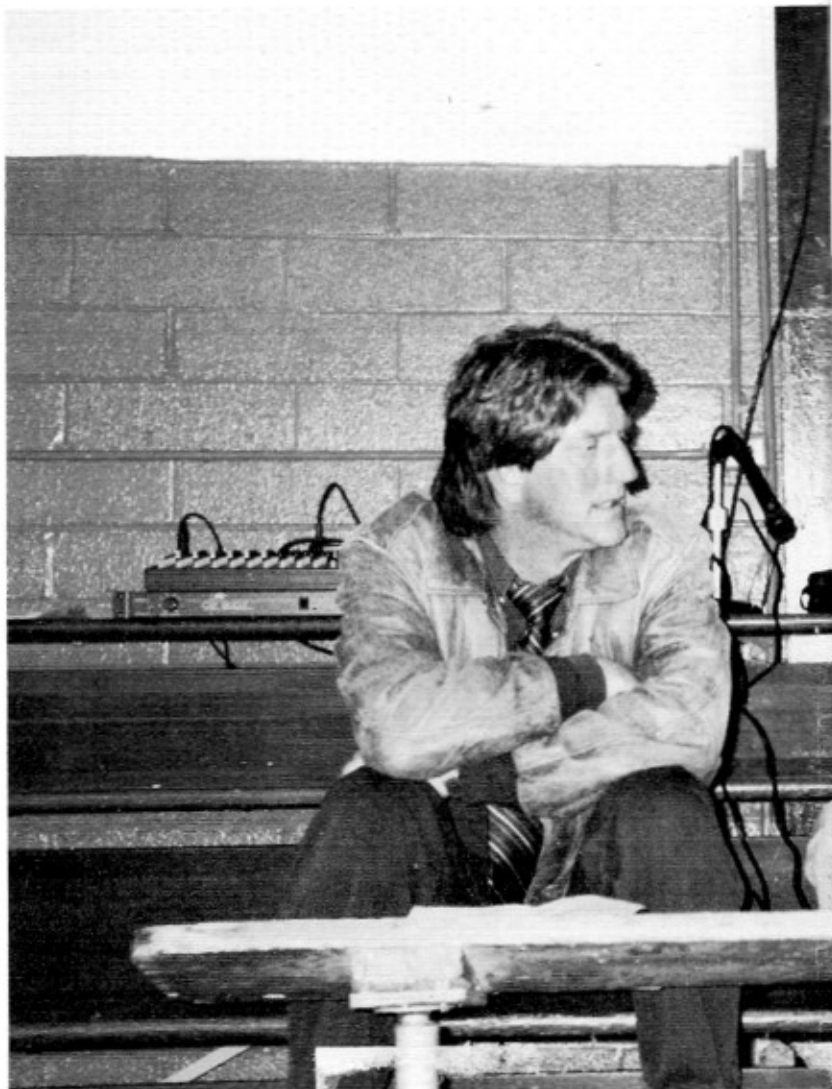
Christopher Linder stated, "My weekends were spent partying."



Dedric Stokes said, "I spent my weekends chilling."



Willard Stokes said, "I spent my weekends out."



Confused or what! Coach Cotterman and Coach Lawrence were trying to start the scoreboard.

Sharminique Fryar and Quintella Hodges spent the weekend at the big rivalry game against Walterboro.

Band members Josette Carroll, Gerald Jenkins, Quintella Hodges, and Chris Fryar competed at Lower State.



It's the Weekend ...

Baby

Students here did the same things any other teenagers would have done on the weekend. Whether it included going to games, parties or just staying home in front of the tube, no two persons spent their time the same way. The term "weekend" had a totally different meaning to every student.

When Friday drew near, everyone became excited knowing that we were about to embark on our exciting weekend. From Friday night basketball games to Saturday morning cartoons, everyone had a different way to enjoy their weekend. Some people went to work that morning, while others stayed home and slept late.

— Ronetta Stokes



Varsity Basketball players Kristin Warren, Karonda Ancrum, Ronetta Stokes, Etrulia Hodges, Latia Chisolm, Amethyst Generette, Sharonda Sampson, Jawyiah Salley, and Quintella Hodges spent their weekend warming up for the game against Branchville.

Day By Day

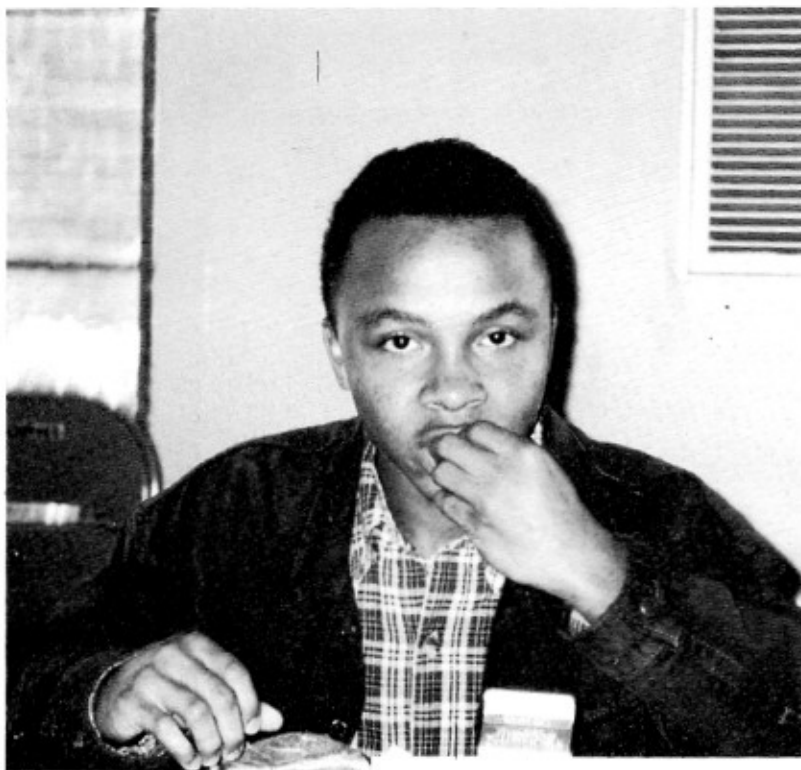
The day-to-day routine for the students here included more than academics. A lot of us participated in extracurricular activities and some even had jobs.

As the bell rang for lunch, the majority of the students formed a line going into the cafeteria. Then a lot of us waited until the canteen opened so we could buy some snacks. Still others ate lunch in the cafeteria and brought a snack from the canteen, too.

When the bell rang at 3:15, a lot of students were glad because they could go home and watch "Ricki Lake." Then some students regretted that the bell rang because they knew that meant it was almost time to go to work. Some students stayed after school and practiced band, basketball, football, baseball, track, volleyball, and cheerleading or chorus.

The many possibilities of a great day awaited us. Of course, the chance to expand on these possibilities came with the next day. Here we could start all over again.

— Ronetta Stokes



Calm down, it's only a burger! Stephen Williams sat at the cafeteria table munching on his lunch.





That's what friends are for. Sophomores Renodia Allen and Henry Coghran were sitting down eating a friendly lunch in the cafeteria.

Seniors Gerald Jenkins, band reporter; Anthony Aiken and Enricko Harley, varsity football players; and Chris Linder, band president and varsity basketball player, were eating their lunch like it was really good.



Oh, my God, they didn't go to lunch! Seniors Roslynn Oliver and Christy Crosby sat on the lawn during lunch break.



It's only a chip! Junior Yolanda Williams and Senior Miesha Yates conversed with Mrs. Sannie Mae Williams while they bought a snack.

Homecoming '95

Homecoming is a time of pride, honor, and tradition. It signifies a very important time of the year for a school and its football team. It helps each student of every school feel like a winner. This year's homecoming was definitely a winner.

As homecoming approached, the football team became very anxious. Though we didn't have a homecoming parade, the week was still filled with many things to do such as the broadcasting and the voting for the homecoming king and queen.

Homecoming was initiated by spirit week, which brought out some unusual looks. On Monday the teachers exchanged their usual dress clothes for tee-shirts, jeans, and sneakers, while the students dressed up as teachers. Tuesday became even stranger as we turned back the clock to the 1950's and '60's styles. By Wednesday our spirits were lifted and our pride soared as students dressed in red, white, and blue to support the football team and the school colors. Although spirit week was shortened by teacher workdays on Thursday and Friday, we still managed a pep rally on Wednesday.

The pep rally was endowed with pride. As the members of the team were announced, many students rose to stand and cheer for their favorite players. The students then got their laughs from the pranks which were played on some of the coaching staff and teachers. Some had to suck Coke from baby bottles, blindfolded, while others were plastered with whip cream pies to the face, which the football players were delighted to do.

On the night of homecoming, everyone knew something special was in the air. Everyone knew this was the win the football team so desperately needed. The night was kicked off with the traditional playing of the "Star Spangled Banner," performed by our own prestigious band.

At the beginning of the game the team played with a lot of pride and spirit until the first half was over. At half time the traditional crowning of the homecoming king and queen took place.

The contestants for the homecoming queen were Teresa Stokes, Quintella Hodges, Anita Blewer, and Yasmin Thompson. The contestants for homecoming king were Gerald Jenkins and Anthony Aiken. Although the competition was fierce, Teresa Stokes captured the homecoming queen title while Gerald Jenkins won the honor of being homecoming king. After the band performed "Magical Movies in Motion," the newly crowned homecoming king and queen were escorted around the field in a black 1995 Lincoln Town Car.

As the second half began, the game fell into place. The team was unstoppable, romping the Falcons of Ben Lippen by a massive score of 48-7. The homecoming victory was fantastic, especially for the senior players who would not be returning, but as the old saying goes, "you win some and you lose some" and as for Ben Lippen: Hey! That's the way life goes.

— Keith Bunch and Gerald Jenkins



Friends and football players Stephen Williams and Alvin Boatwright relax during the homecoming pep rally. Stephen was a rookie while Alvin was a veteran player.

Left to right. Jovan Varn, Chris Kirkland, Vernon Steward, Travis Johnson, and Demetrick Salley hang out during the pep rally. Jovan, Chris, and Demetrick were also members of the football team.



In between pep rallies, football games, and basketball games, the cheerleaders also found time to compete in the Eastern Cheerleading Association Competition.

Teresa Stokes and Gerald Jenkins were crowned Homecoming King and Queen. Gerald was president of the chorus while Teresa was president of the senior class.

Strive to Excel...

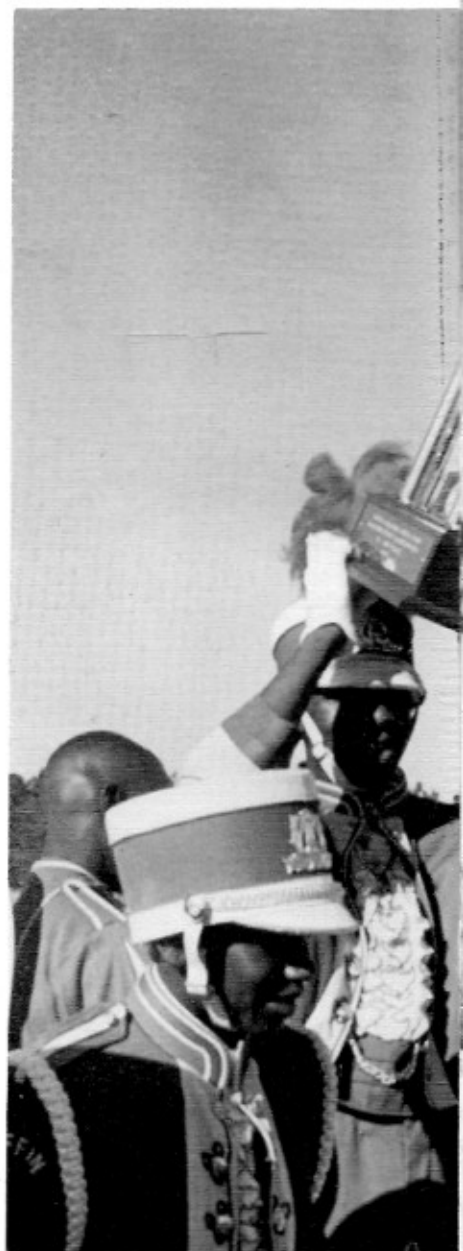
Words just can't express the triumph of the Marching Patriot Pride Band. The band had many new members. They put a lot of hard work, dedication, and time into learning each portion of their performance and routines as well as learning all the notes, tunes, beats, and counts. The colorguard had to keep in accord with the band.

Being in the band brought a lot of responsibilities and determination. The band's goal was to ultimately make it to the state finals. They did!

— Karonda Ancrum
Jennifer Steward



Def moves . . . The young cymbalist was anxious, yet calm, while waiting to perform. The pressures of the performance didn't seem to bother the young patriot.





Those proud Patriots raise the trophy to their hopes, dreams, and triumphs of the season. This joyous occasion marked the pinnacle of the year.

Do or Die . . . Band members prepare themselves for Lower State competition. They all went in with pride, confidence, and the hope of going to State Finals.



The Patriots marched gracefully over the field of dreams while playing "Flintstones." This performance took them one step closer to victory.

Their performance was complete. Band Director James Stroman told the saxophonist it was a job well done.

... Not to Equal

Throughout the preliminary part of the season, they placed second, yet they strove to be number one. They made it at lower state by coming in fourth; the top five go to state. Finally, the day arrived when all their hard work, patience, effort, and time paid off. They had to travel to Batesburg-Leesville for the competition, but when all was played and done, the Patriots took fifth place. The band members shouted and jumped in jubilation. They had accomplished their goal — they made it to state!

The band members learned that even though they didn't win first place in everything they did, if they put in their all, anything could be accomplished. They never lost pride in themselves.

— Karonda Ancrum
Jennifer Steward



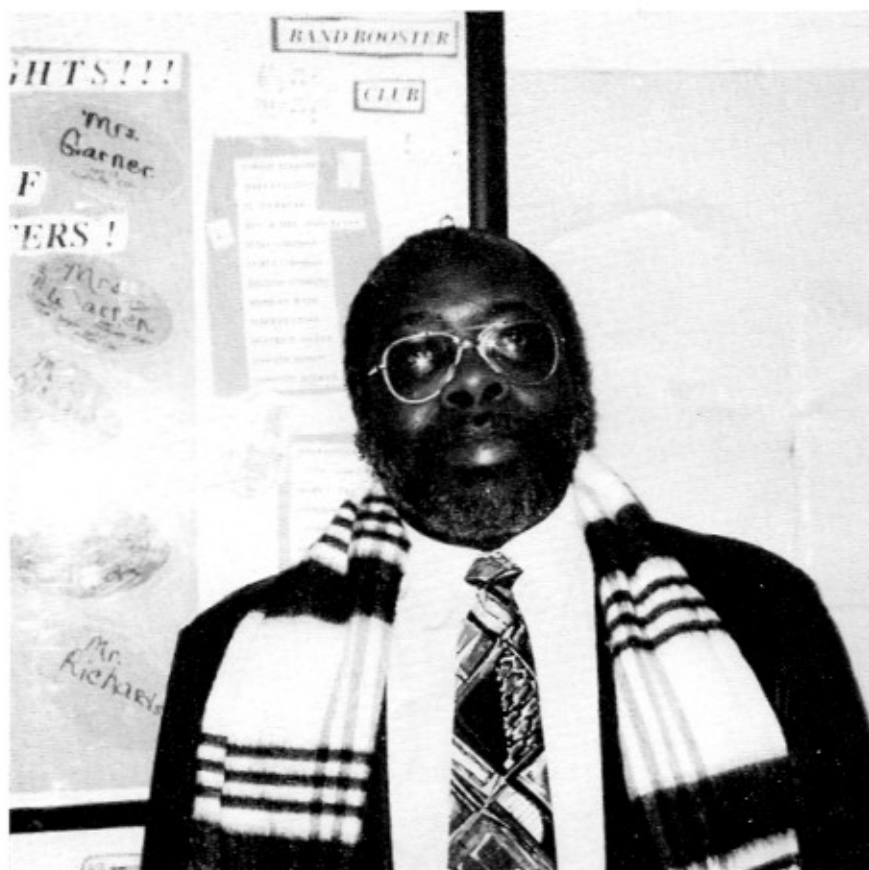
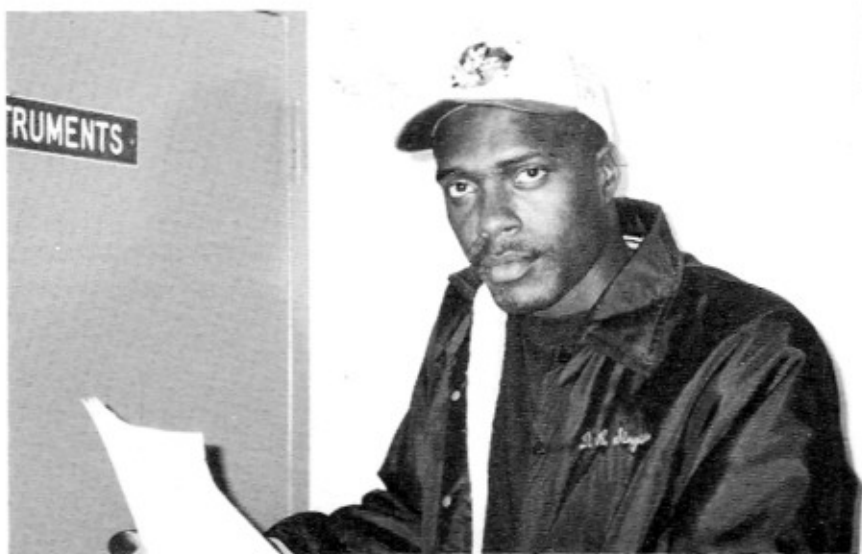
Assistant Roderick Williams replied, "It was a great experience for me this year working with the band, and I wish them the best in their upcoming endeavors."





After placing fourth at Lower State, the band members rejoiced in their triumph. Their hard work finally paid off.

Derrick Singleton, Color Guard and Assistant Director, was an essential player in the "visual effect" of the show.



Before State, the Marching Patriots were surprised to receive the honor of being given a pizza party and having the entire school sing to them.

"Strive to excel, not to equal." These were the words that the band members heard throughout the season.

THE ELITE

Being inducted into the National Honor Society or the Beta Club meant that you were recognized as one of the school's finest students. The members had to be academically sound and emotionally grounded. They were the school leaders who prepared themselves for being the upbuilders of the country or even the world.

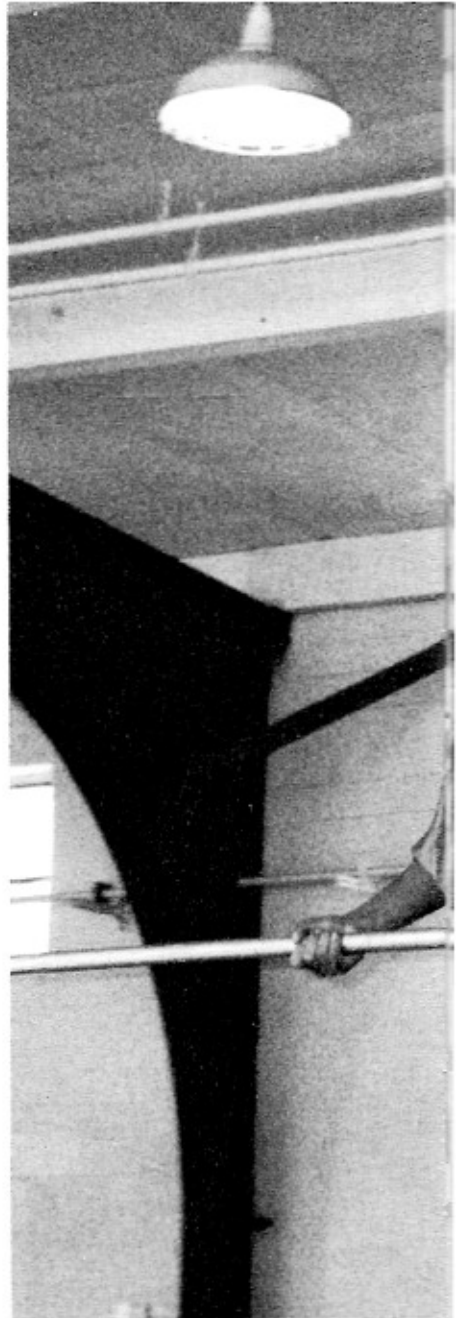
The members consisted of many outstanding students. They understood the responsibilities that came with this honor. It was not just a title they wore to boast to others about their intellect. It was more of a duty that they possessed which obligated them to share their knowledge with others. The members were sure to keep a clean record because they were looked up to as foremen. In order to maintain a good profile, they focused on four virtues: scholarship, leadership, service, and character.

The NHS advisors were Mrs. Mary Mintz, Mrs. Patsy Spires, Mr. Rick James, and Mr. Carl Simmons. The Beta Club advisor was Ms. Kelley Schoonmaker. They helped to guide the members and keep them centered. Their valuable sense of direction was truly appreciated. The members' parents also needed recognition for without them there would be no stable future to look forward to. The members are the men and women who will keep the nation prosperous.

— Stephen Williams



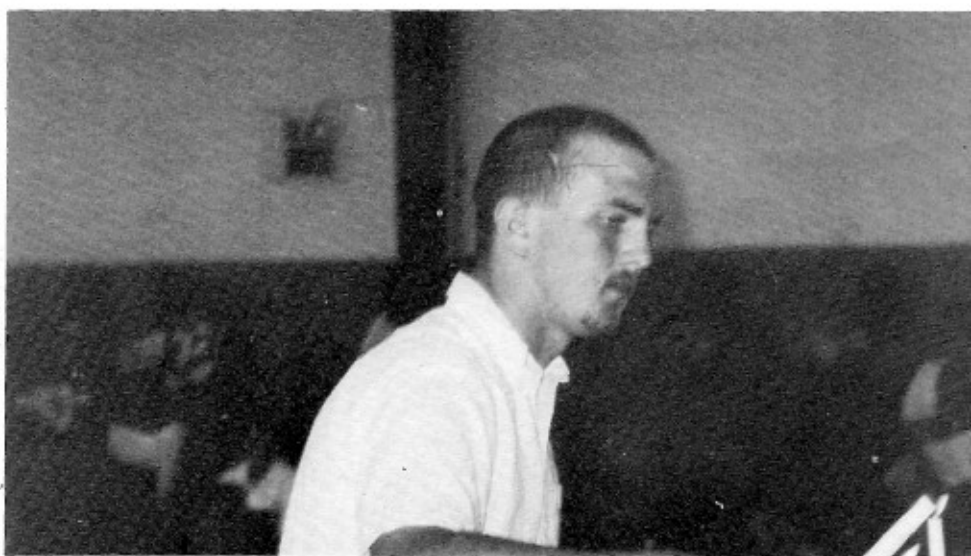
These were our Beta Club officers: Chris Salley, vice president; Quintella Hodges, treasurer; Sharonda Sampson, parliamentarian; Karonda Annum, secretary; and Nichole Proveaux, president.





It takes a whole lot of skill to perform such a dangerous act, especially when you're 10 feet off the ground.

Jason Blount lighted his candle with a lot of care. Good thing he did because he sure would have lit up the place if the candle fell.



That cake sure looks good. The National Honor Society really threw a live party!

They looked so proud of themselves. I wonder if anyone was paying attention to how close those candles were to the certificates.



One Sweet Day Prom '96

It was the moment that everyone had been waiting for. It was Prom '96, and all of the participating students were excited about the event. There was a new King and Queen to be elected that night. The students and teachers were waiting for an adventurous evening.

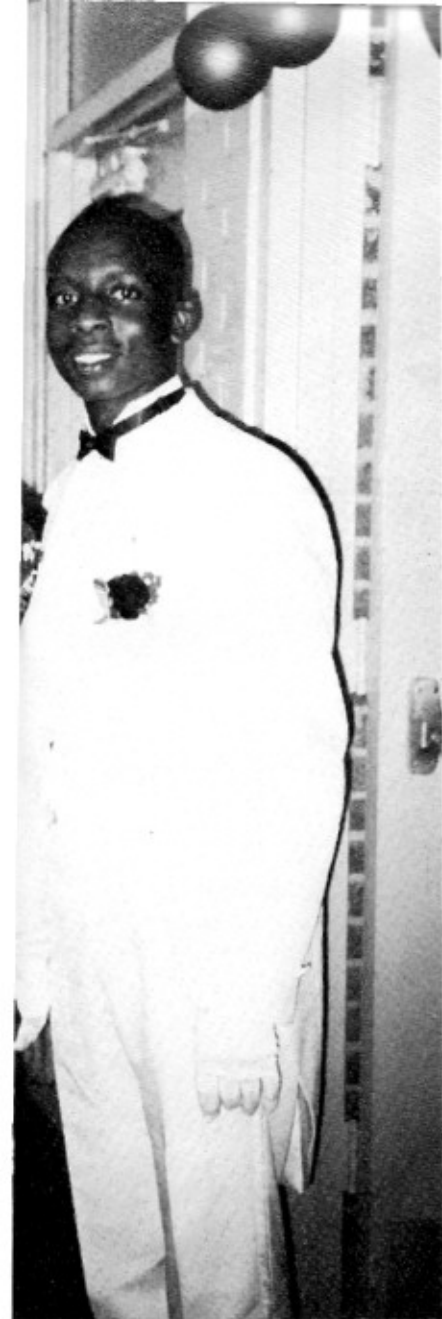
Eight o'clock was the moment of truth. Students entered the prom with the finest clothing that they ever wore. Michael Mosley and Nichole Proveaux were the two Juniors who were elected as King and Queen of Prom '96. Many students left the prom after they had taken their pictures and danced all night. The guys left to take their dates out to eat, while the single people sat back and reminisced about the good time they shared. After the night was over, everyone had experienced an evening worth remembering.

— Ronetta Stokes
Christopher Linder



Christel Breland and Kline Smyly look so dandy all dressed up.





Aren't they a cute couple! Sophomore Karonda Ancrum and Senior Gerald Jenkins made a grand entrance to Prom '96.

If you're happy, and you know it, get all dressed up for the prom. These righteous dudes, Chris Gooding, Denise Strickland, Terri Preacher, Greg Fralix, and Doug Fralix, prepare to enter into excitement.



Hard at work, Juniors Nichole Proveaux and Greg Fralix add the final touches to the prom.

Michael Moseley and Nichole Proveaux pose for this royal shot as prom King and Queen.





Sophomore Varsity basketball player and band member, Michael Brown, enjoyed having access to the school's weight room during his free period.



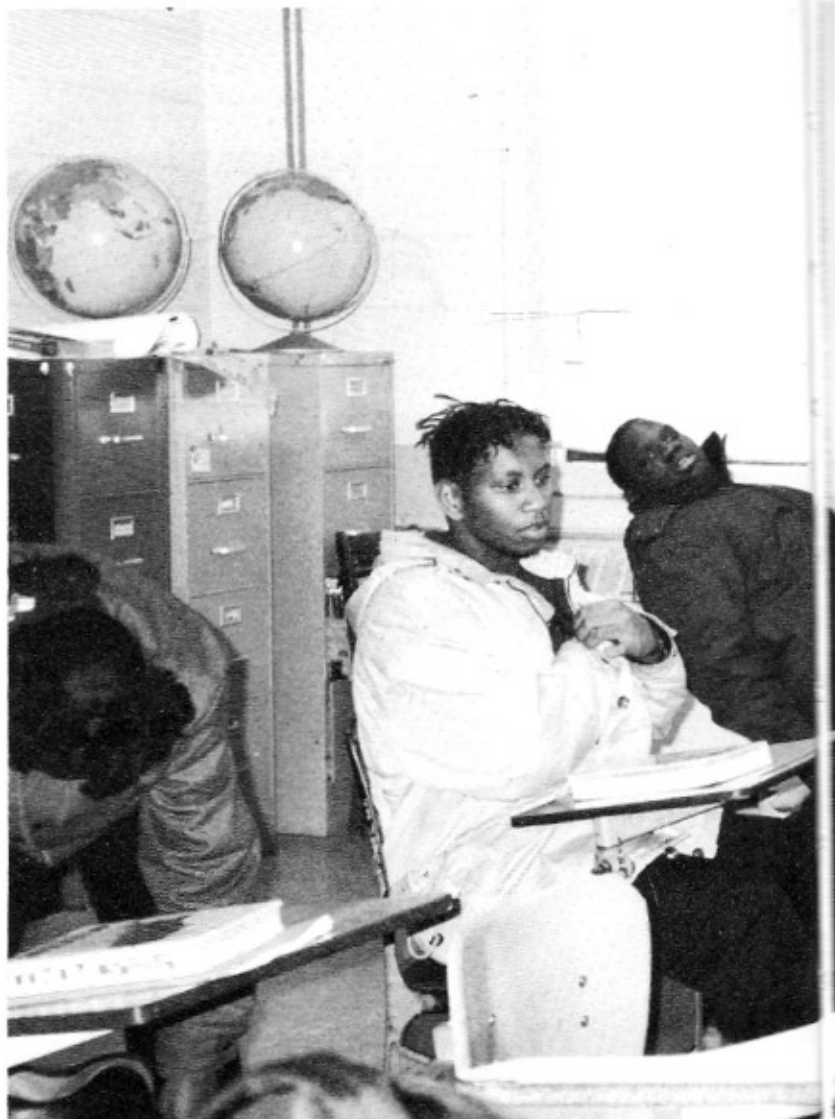
Mr. Patrick Thomas, our new English teacher, issued a referral to Armel Holmes and Pasqua Jones for misbehaving. He got into the swing of things in no time.



Ruth Govan got into the swing of things during our Spirit Week. She was a member of the Marching Patriot Pride Band and a participant in the Health Occupations program.



Sophomore Aisha Gilbert sits in Ms. Crawford's office eating her continental breakfast that her first period class received for perfect attendance.



Sophomore James Williams and Dedric Stokes sat in a relaxed position in economics class as they waited to hear Mr. Kirkland talk about elastic and inelastic demand.

Freshmen Alfonso Warren and Tywan Stephens sat in the principal's office enjoying their continental breakfast that they won for having perfect attendance for the month.

In a hurry to class, Junior Curtis Breland leapt down the catwalk to make it before the bell rang.

People Make the World Go 'Round

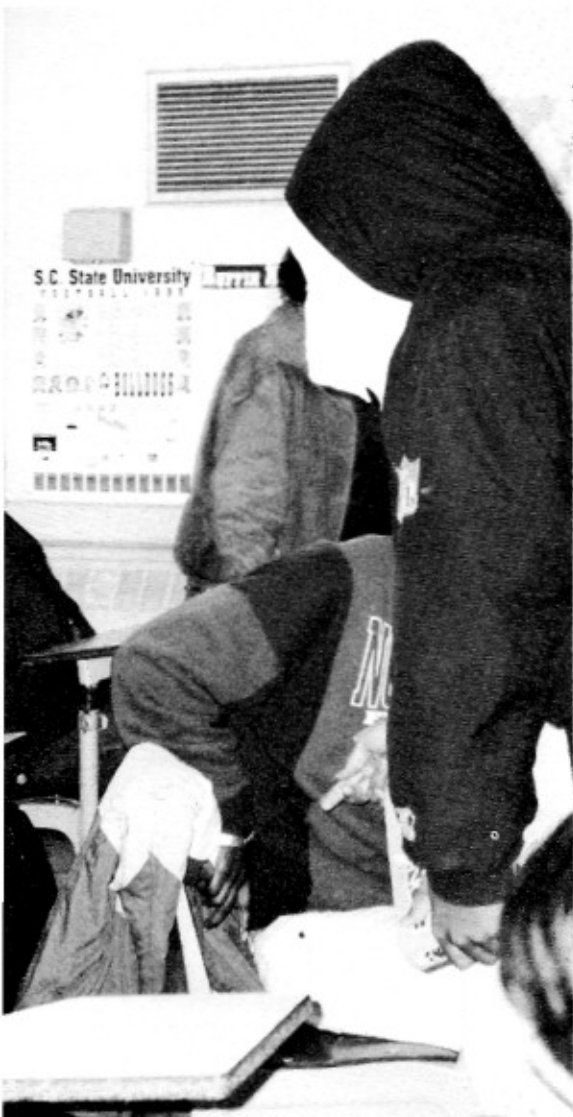
The students of our school are very special people. No matter what others may think of them, we all have unique personalities and characteristics. Human beings come in all shapes, colors, sizes, and creeds. We cannot make ourselves conform to any clique. However badly we may want to be a part of a particular group of people, it always turns out better if we just be ourselves. Talents of both underclassmen and upperclassmen are both honored and praised, just as the teachers are.

Senior Teresa Stokes, accompanied by many other students from across the nation, went to Washington, D.C. She attended it in connection with the Coastal Electric Cooperative Scholarship. She met top executives of states and representatives from far and near. Teresa was also the first runner up in the Miss WPAL Scholarship Pageant. There she also won the Miss CONGENIALITY Award and the Best Salesperson Trophy. Juniors Tanisha Portee and Nichole Proveaux took an adventurous journey to the University of South Carolina in Columbia with Mrs. Garner to study the rudiments of a GOOD yearbook. They all had different classes and learned different things. Nichole studied the basics of graphics and design, Tanisha studied the basics of advanced editors and theme developing, while Mrs. Garner went to the advisors' workshop. Tanisha and Nichole stated "it was a week of hell."

Sophomore Kristin Warren and Senior Scottie Fryar were chosen by Upward Bound to represent Colleton County at the University of Tennessee. There they studied math and science extensively. They changed classes everyday, making them have sixteen classes in six weeks time. They had the opportunity to meet college students, star athletes, and administrative personnel. They also got hands on training in the science laboratory and unwound the secrets of the hand held calculators in mathematics.

Freshman Denise Strickland took her journey to Coker College in Hartsville, S.C. with the Governor's School of Science and Math. "I really enjoyed it," stated Denise with a smile. She went on to say that she couldn't wait to go back. She spent seven days there. She strictly studied math and science to her utmost ability. Many people deserved the opportunity to go somewhere and better their education but unfortunately, we all can't get what we deserve. We live with it and face the truth knowing that "That's the way life goes."

— Gwenetta S. Chisolm



Faculty and Staff

Rita Blocker
Charlie Cotterman
Tina Eudaley
Ginger Garner



Eric Green
Carolyn Hudson
Rick James
Alma Jones



Freddie Kirkland
Margaree Richardson
Joe Ritter
Richard Roderick



Carl Simmons
Craig Smith
Patsy Spiers
Anna Varnado



Beth Warren
Vera Bowman
Laura Chisolm
Evelyn Fowler



No matter what the situation was, the faculty was constantly working hard. From grading papers to sharing helpful advice, the teachers were always trying to better our minds and our education. The new staff members brought some needed additions. They included Rick James, Eric Green, Coach Charlie Cotterman, Mark Galloway, and Kelli Schoonmaker. These new teachers brought with them an array of skills.

Each teacher in his or her own special way influenced us to become better students and to achieve many goals that we thought were unattainable. They taught us how to solve difficult math problems and how to pronounce eccentric vocabulary words. They taught us that we were the future and we should be proud of ourselves.

When asked about his thought of the faculty, Mr. Kirkland replied, "I feel we have a very good faculty with a great deal of knowledge, experience, and dedication to our students and our school."

— Keith Bunch



Vera Godwin
Maryanne Maree
Dean Nettles
Judy Pilch



Connie Roper
Dottie Smoak
Sannie Williams
Sonya Williams



Fannie Aiken
Katherine Breland
Eyvonne Brown
Cindy Claxton



Vivian McFadden
Cindy Roberts

Class of '99

The freshman class was a group of unique students. They all had different interests, but they all agreed on the importance of an education. The students knew they had to make some adjustments from middle school, but the freshman class president, Jenifer Bell, felt that the freshman class had the tenacity to endure the rigorous high school curriculum.

For many of the freshmen, this was a year they had been waiting for. They knew that this year was the beginning of their high school career. They realized that hard work was the key to being successful as a student. The freshmen were determined to accomplish the goals that others didn't reach. In a final stretch, they reached these goals. They hurdled all obstacles in their way as they completed their freshman year and made their start as the class of '99.

— Scottie Fryar

Levi Adams
Henry Aiken
Franklin Allen
Lachell Allen



Jodi Arnold
David Avery
Jenifer Bell
Sylvester Black



Jerod Breland
Roger Breland
Brian Brooks
Rodney Broughton



Curtiss Bryant
Enrico Bryant
Jennifer Bryant
Kim Buckner





Latoya Buckner
Jerome Butler
Billy Cain
Deidra Carroll



Syreeta Carroll
Jelani Chisolm
Benjamin Cochran
Blair Crosby



Lance Davis
Brian Elliot
Gabriella Flores
Lakeshia Fryar



Sharminique Fryar
Ammie George
Iesha Gilbert
Troy Green



Princess Griffin
Shenika Hallman
Jamar Haynes
Sophia Henderson



Etrulia Hodges
Terrill Hodges
Shelly Jamison
Lakesha Jenkins

Lameka Jenkins
 Lanesha Jenkins
 Santonio Jenkins
 Cedric Jones



Demetric Jones
 Pasqua Jones
 Rachel Jones
 Charlene Lawton



Shonda Lawton
 Jamie Linder
 Carlena Little
 Brian McFadden



Ron Mixon
 James Moore
 Leonida Moore
 Jessica Myers



James Risher
 Demetric Sally
 Fredrick Salley
 Jason Salley



Terrell Salley
 Brian Sharpe
 Tron Simmons
 Laquala Sims





LaShaundra Stansel
 Jerell Stephens
 Jessica Stephens
 Renolder Stephens



Shalleka Stephens
 Tywain Stephens
 Craig Stokes
 Tamika Stokes



Denise Strickland
 Travis Taylor
 Natasha Walker
 Alphonso Warren



Roger Washington
 Angela L. Williams
 Angela R. Williams
 Latoya Williams



Shanta Williams
 Junetta Williams
 Melissa Winningham
 Dewey Varnadoe



When asked how high school differs from middle school, freshmen Sheldonia Jamison and Sophia Henderson replied, "It's only a higher level of learning."

Class of '98

Sophomores took on the new year with ease. For some, it was their most important year for both their personal lives as well as their school lives. It was also the time when teenagers tend to try for their driver's licenses. Some even applied to take the PSAT. Stephen Williams scored a 1050 on his PSAT!

When asked how it felt to be a sophomore, Dashawn Salley replied, "Being a sophomore requires more responsibility for me and puts more pressure on certain things like college." Lynn Mears said, "This year was different from last year because this year I gained more privileges."

When asked what things she acquired to have a successful year as a sophomore, Jawyiah Salley said, "I brought up my grades and learned how to deal with high school life." Class president Randy Joyner expressed himself by saying, "I received more knowledge and less leisure time than I did in my freshman year."

The leadership of the class officers helped sophomores function properly. The officers provided the guidance the students needed. The sophomore class officers were Randy Joyner, president; Kristin Warren, vice-president; Ronetta Stokes, secretary; Karonda Ancrum, treasurer; Fredrika Salley, chaplain; and Dwayne Wade, reporter.

— Dwayne L. Wade

Regina Aiken
Renodia Allen
Karonda Ancrum
Tara Avery



Diana Black
Jermel Black
Jerode Blackwell
Melvina Breland



Johnny Brown
Michael Brown
Jerry Bryant
Sherry Bryant



Linda Butler
Henry Cochran
Tiffany Dobison
Hubert Franklin





Troy Frazier
Chris Fryar
Amethyst Generette
Nadine George



Latarsha Hollington
Mark Jacques
Marco Jenkins
Latoya Jenkins



Terrance Jenkins
Travis Johnson
Randy Joyner
Chris Kirkland



Rose Koger
Christina Lawton-McCallister
Paul Lawton
Deidra Linder



Tim Linder
Pasheena Mears
Shervon Mears
Stephanie Mole



Sophomores Jerode Blackwell and Marco Jenkins demonstrate their musical talents at a RAID team assembly. Both were members of the varsity football and basketball teams.

Grady Murray
 Travis North
 Latisha Parker
 Terri Preacher



Tasha Randell
 Demetral Sanders
 Dashawn Salley
 Fredrika Salley



Jawyah Salley
 Michael Salley
 Quinton Salley
 Rolanda Salley



Corinthia Smith
 Latrille Stephens
 Jennifer Steward
 Vernon Steward



Mrs. Peacock looks on as Diana Black and Amethyst Generette watch Nathan Utsey as he is eating lunch. Am and Latarsha were athletes. Nathan was on the band.



Sophomores Randy Joyner, Willard Stokes, Jovan Varn enjoyed being with seniors Anthony Aiken and Andy Salley. They were all varsity football players.



Dedric Stokes
Jackie Stokes
Ronetta Stokes
Willard Stokes



Nathan Utsey
Andre Varn
Dwayne Wade
Kristin Warren



James Williams
Stephen Williams
Tameko Williams

Class of '97

As Juniors, there were many choices for us to make. Each one led us down a different path. We had a tremendous amount of pressure on our shoulders, but we didn't let it hold us back.

Our first choice was to democratically elect class officers. They were the "chosen ones." We chose them to lead us down the paths of success. Many juniors went to the class meetings to have their say on the issues at present. We compromised and came to an agreement that would be beneficial to us all. The first decision was one of little difficulty, but those that followed were intense.

Our Junior year is the year in which we order our class rings. Most students ordered their class rings from the Jostens representative who came to our school, while a few deviated and purchased this precious momento from a jewelry store. There were still a few unresolved situations. A few of our fellow juniors had not passed the Exit Exam. These students were enrolled in special enrichment classes so that when the time came, they would pass with flying colors. Unfortunately, not all students passed the exam on the second try. I commend those others who were determined to succeed and refused to take life's possibilities for granted. As the year came to an end, we realized that our time as Juniors was slipping away. Soon we'd have to come face-to-face with reality — our Senior year was just around the corner.

— Nichole Proveaux

Tahnee Allen
Alvin Boatwright
Alkeshia Buckner
Keith Bunch



Latia Chisolm
Jose Cisneros
Kenequa Crosby
Greg Fralix

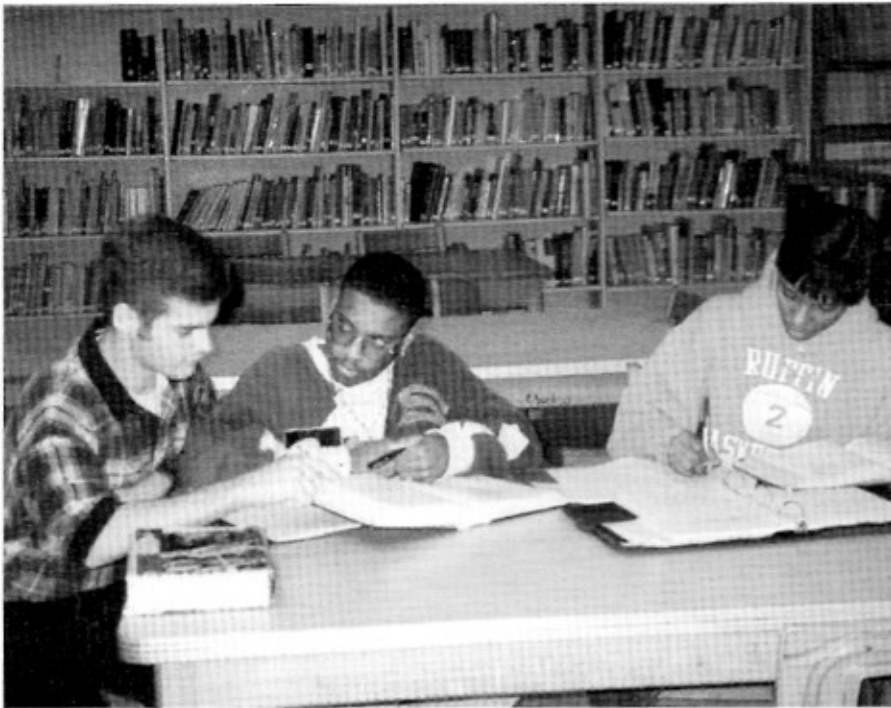


Foster Fryar
Chris Gooding
Theo Hollington
Armel Holmes



Lisa Kinard
Sandra Kinard
Dellaine Mosley
Michael Mosley





While Juniors Sharonda Sampson and Christopher Salley work diligently on their literature assignment, Keith Bunch explains an answer to Chris. Chris and Sharonda played varsity basketball. Keith was a starting pitcher and co-captain of the baseball team.



Tanisha Portee
Nichole Proveaux
Kinisha Risher
Chris Salley



Vaughn Salley
Letitia Sampson
Sharonda Sampson
Derrick Stephens



Janette Stephens
Rochelle Stephens
Jason Way
Timothy Williams



Yolanda Williams



Senior and President of FFA, Bubba Smyly, asserted in a senior meeting, "To be or not to be, that is the question."

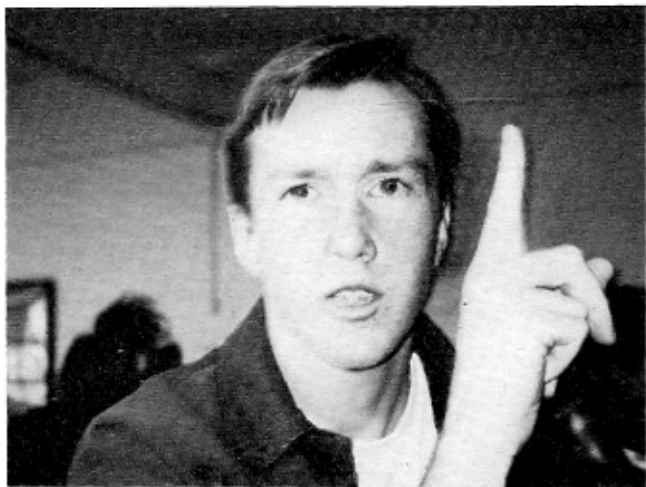
In choosing a well-centered and affordable college, Sharon Broughton sought help from guidance counselor, Mrs. Stephens.

Sinclair Brown, a varsity football player, rushed to calculus class when he realized that the bell was about to ring.



Senior guys posed proudly as they realized that their high school career was finally coming to an end.

Amanda George stood happily as she read a letter. I wonder if it was really that interesting.



Class of '96

As seniors, we had many complicated decisions that would determine our future. We realized that fate was not in our hands, but in the hands of that Almighty Being above. Our first priority was to elect senior class officers. Our officers were chosen because of the jobs that they were able to perform. We learned by each others' mistakes that being a senior was fun when it came to the specified privileges, but it was also expensive, from SAT test dues to senior supplies and trip. When it came to the senior supplies and trips, we relied on the advisors for the majority of our help.

Our senior year was the year we ordered our caps, gowns, and tassels for graduation. The ones who didn't order their rings last year ordered them the present year. We looked forward to walking down the aisle with that "Kool-Aid smile" and our parents and the rest of the family on the side with their cameras. Although a few of our seniors didn't pass the Exit Exam, we all still looked forward to those doors springing open with the future up ahead of us.

Our seniors were very different from the others. They were a very distinct few who lived up to their expectations. We were often compared to glue and paper; we always stuck together. We were always there to lend a helping hand to some needy person.

We were characterized as small in number but big in achievements. For example, our senior class president, Teresa Stokes, visited Washington D.C., representing Coastal Electric as well as Ruffin High School. That was only one of the things that we achieved here. We plan to accomplish many more things after leaving here.

— Gwenetta Chisolm

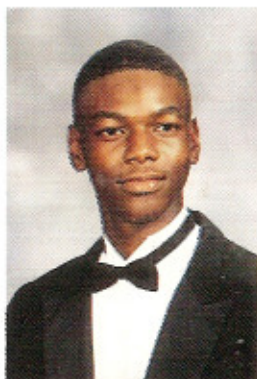


Latoya Ackerman
Anthony Aiken
Daryll Black



Anita Blewer
Kimberlyn Bostic
Christel Breland

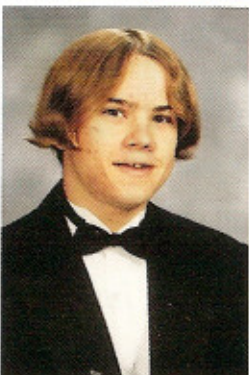
Roderick Broughton
Sharon Broughton
Sinclair Brown



Josette Carroll
Gwenetta Chisolm
Kemberly Chisom



Sharell Drain
Shaki Franklin
Doug Fralix

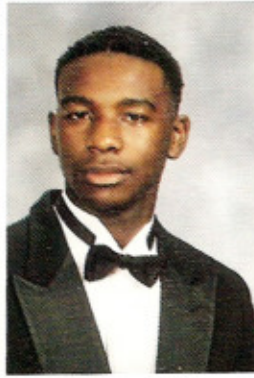


Scottie Fryar
Amanda George
Ruth Govan





Ericko Harley
Quintella Hodges
Tonya Jamison



Gerald Jenkins
Rodney Jenkins
Chris Linder



Faith Lingard
Darrell Mays
Cynthia Moody

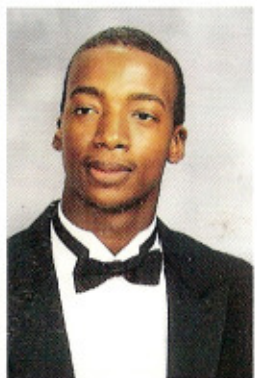
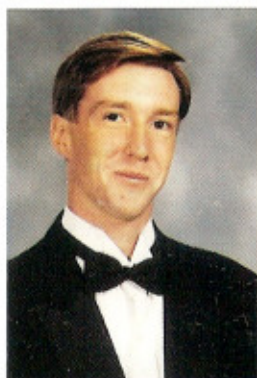


Ricardo Mosley
Shalarece Murdaugh
Shannon Murray

Roslyn Oliver
 Tonya Risher
 Kimberly Shepherd



Kline Smyly
 Delando Steward
 Sheron Stokes



In Memory
 of
 Sheron Stokes
 Dec. 11, 1977
 to
 Oct. 31, 1994

Teresa Stokes
 Yasmin Thompson
 Terry Williams



Ebony Wrice
 Miesha Yates





Andy Salley, a veteran player on the varsity basketball team, dribbled the ball at the end of the first quarter.

Yasmin Thompson, a former cheerleader, studied intently at the last minute for a physics test.

Terry Williams and Rodney Jenkins looked with big smiles as they thought of the "Big Day," May 31.



Senior girls stood with their heads held high as they realized that the doors to the real world were about to be opened.

As class began, Sharell Drain sat at the back of the class and waited impatiently for it to end.



Freshman Henry Aiken worked very hard in academics



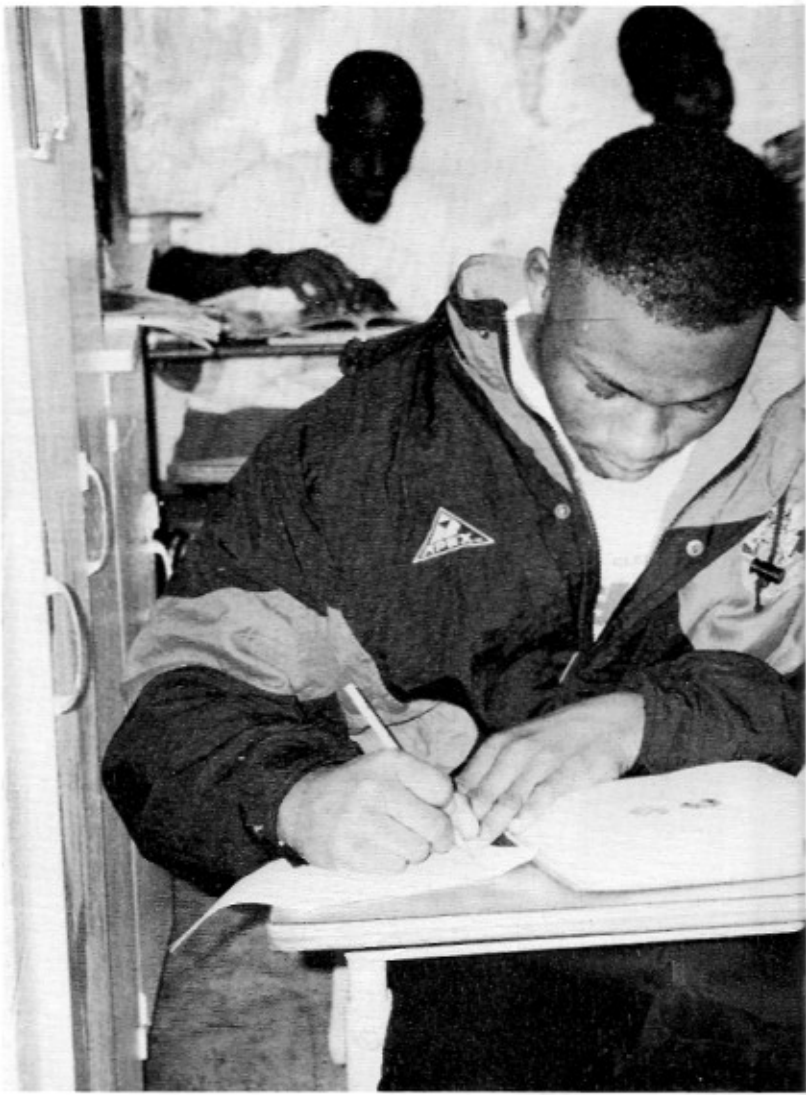
Dwayne Wade accomplished many goals in academics.



"Hard work is the key to success," said Johnny Brown.



Mrs. Richardson prepared for a day of teaching.



"This is not an everyday thing" . . . Foster Fryar working diligently in U.S. History.

The chorus performed at the "Men Above the Crew Convention." It was one of the most active clubs of the year.

Deidra Linder and Stephanie Mole participated in JROTC. This course gave students credits for the year.



Academics

Academics, the most important reason students are at school, is the catalyst for a brighter future. Inside the classroom was an environment full of challenges and obstacles. With those challenges came experiences from which we could learn.

Students in grades nine through twelve had various choices of classes. Either they were required or extra-curricular courses. When completing those courses, additional credit could assist students in receiving a diploma. This diploma was the key to the students' future success. With this knowledge, they were preparing themselves for entering the college of their choice or going straight to the work force with valuable experience. In order to receive a high school diploma, each student must have specific credits in language arts, U.S. History, economics and government, mathematics, natural science, physical education or ROTC, and no less than seven electives. They must also pass the exit exam to earn a diploma. Whether or not each student achieved his goals at the end of the year showed that . . . "That's the way life goes."

— Kristin Warren



Teacher Cadets gave students a chance to explore the world of teaching. Tanisha Portee, Kinisha Risher, Stephanie Black, and Faith Lingard visited Kiddy Kollege.

Strive for Excellence

Academic excellence is a primary goal here. The teachers are like coaches and the students are like team members that work together as one in order for students to become successful. Even though academics is more serious than a football game, they all involve cooperation.

In the past we as Patriots stood in the shadows, but now we are really starting to shine. There has been a new selection of courses offered for students such as AP Biology, Honors English, and Teacher Cadets. AP English has been here since 1989-90.

For instance Teacher Cadets is an exciting course which gives the opportunity to experience the art of teaching. One of their biggest projects involves displaying a puppet show for the children at elementary schools.

In AP English much reading is required and there is much interactive discussion. One of the most enjoyed activities is open essays, which give the students a chance to express their opinions.

AP Biology is on a whole new level than regular biology. There is much hands on training, which gives students the opportunity to experience new ideas in the field of biology.

Honors English is also a new level of English that gives students the chance to become more responsible. One of their best projects of the year is the research paper.

— Kristin Warren



Stephanie Black says, "Teacher cadets gives you a chance to show abilities as students."

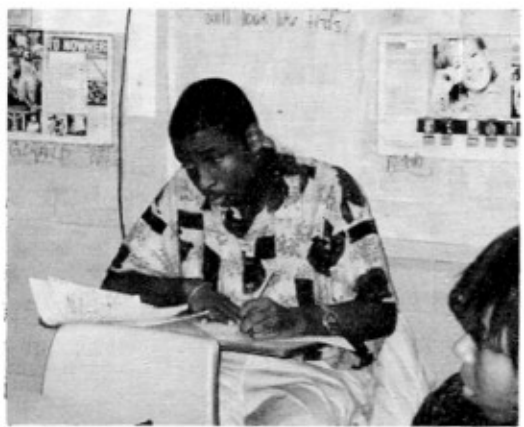
Sharonda Sampson enjoys hands on experience in AP Biology.





Teacher cadet Faith Lingard says, "Although this is strenuous, it is quite challenging. This makes it different from all the other classes."

Christopher Salley explains that AP Biology is on a "whole new level." Because the work is on college level, the information is more in depth.



Gerald Jenkins works hard in journalism to stay on task. He wants to make sure that the yearbook turns out to be a success.



Mr. Richardson works hard to teach Sinclair Brown new information provided on computers.

AWARDS NIGHT

This was the night that many students have waited all year for. Awards Night, an evening of recognition, had finally arrived. The outstanding students of our school reaped trophies that will forever remind them of their hard work. There were many smiles of jubilation, and also expressions of disappointment. All in all, everyone got what they deserved. Realizing that, no one showed any hard feeling about not getting what they wanted. They only used that as motivation to do better.

There were many awards given out, and we are proud of everyone. The Student of the Year Award was given to Nichole Proveaux. Kristin Warren, with a 4.25 GPA, was honored with the Highest Academic Average. Both were given trophies. About \$3,400 was given in scholarships to our seniors. Teresa Stokes received \$1,300, and Scottie Fryar was awarded \$1,200.

It is hard to control your emotions when everyone sees you getting something you worked such a long time for. Whether or not these awards are lost or placed in a dark corner, there will come a day when they will be remembered. Looking back, it will be hard for one not to smile.

— Kristin Warren



James Arnold is greeted with a handshake for the senior award in the science department.

Quintella Hodges, Scottie Fryar, and Gerald Jenkins were proud to receive a \$100 scholarship from the Band Booster Club.





Jerome Mosley received the Army Scholar Athlete Award. This was just one of the many received.

And the Winner is . . . Nichole Proveaux was awarded the Student of the Year Award and Kristin Warren received the Highest Academic Average Award with a G.P.A. of 4.25.



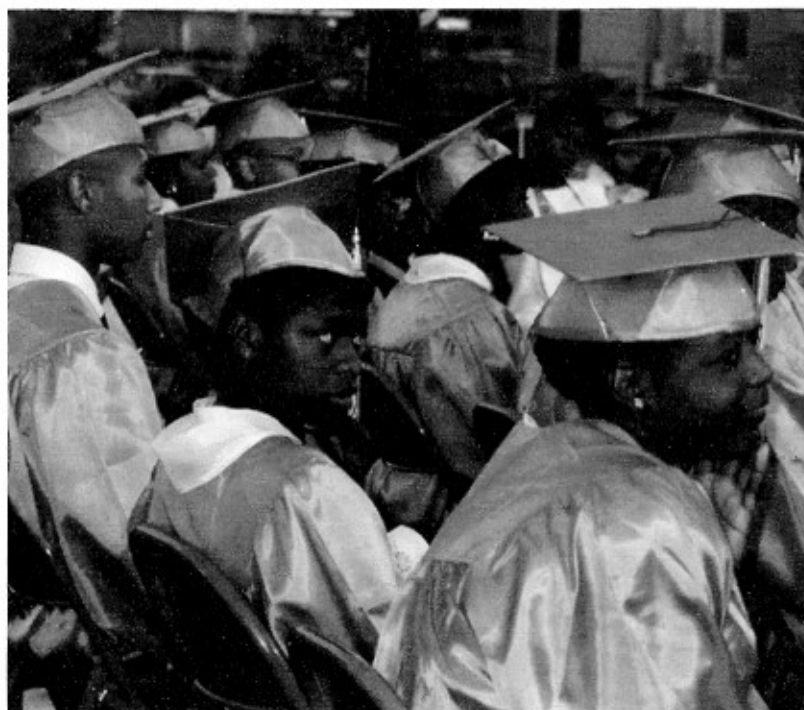
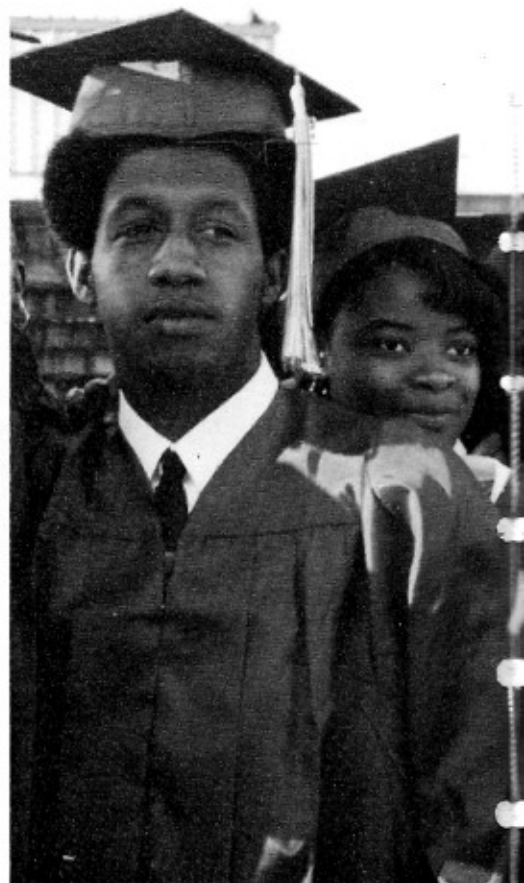
Randy Joyner, sophomore class president, received the Kodak Leadership Award.

Teresa Stokes received both awards and scholarships.



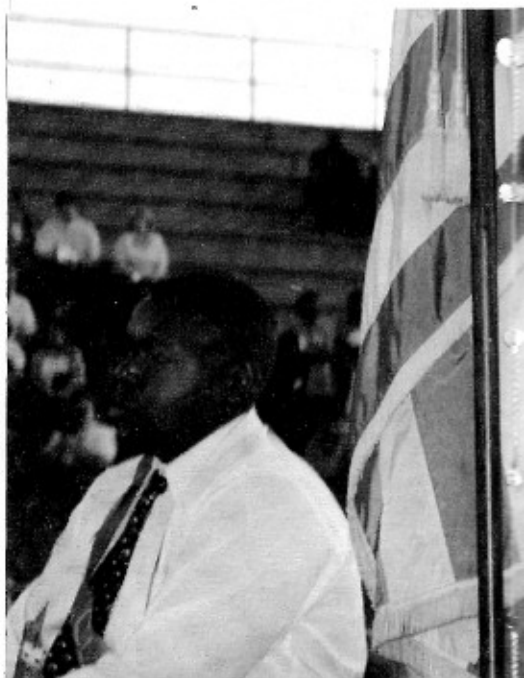
Josette Carroll, James Arnold, Teresa Stokes, Faith Lingard, and Scottie Fryar stand and wait for everyone to march and be seated. These honor graduates have overcome many obstacles and faced many challenges to reach the top.

Ericko Harley, Cynthia Moody, Latoya Ackerman and Gerald Jenkins pose for a picture before it was time to line up for graduation. These seniors were ready to face the real world.



Anxiously waiting for their names to be called are Laurie Kelly, Linda Johns and Rondey Jenkins. All three of these seniors are ready to move on with their lives.

Second and third ranked juniors, Kinisha Risher and Jerome Mosley sit in inquisition as they contemplate what next year holds in store for them. Kinisha Risher was a lead marshal and Jerome Mosley was a flag bearer.



... AND THEY'RE OFF!

As the Patriot Band began its rendition of the traditional graduation march "Pomp and Circumstance," the 47 graduating seniors lined up behind the flag bearers and lead marshalls to march onto the football field. As the graduates peered into the stands, they saw a multitude of parents and friends who had come to give them their support and wish them luck.

After the third honor graduate and class president, Teresa Stokes, recited the pledge of allegiance, everyone remained standing and the National Anthem was played. Fourth honor graduate and student body president, Faith Lingard, bid everyone a warm welcome to the ceremony. Next came a selection from the RHS Chorus and then the presentation of the salutatorian medallion by principal, Quenie Crawford.

James Arnold delivered a strong message in his salutatory address. He stressed the importance of family and friends as well as parents and teachers. Reiterating the class theme, "Reaching for the Stars Amidst the Odds," he manifested many of the obstacles that the class of 1996 had overcome to get to where they were.

Seeing it as a pleasure, Ms. Crawford stood to pronounce the valedictorian and present Patricia Floretta Josette Carroll with the valedictorian medallion. As her classmates roared, Josette accepted the insignia with pride. Welling in tears, she addressed the parents, teachers, friends and family members present. She thanked them for their undying support and love. She, too, focused on the theme and gave incidents of the many obstacles that the seniors had to face.

After the presentation of the class of 1996, they stood and waltzed majestically to shake the hands of those who awarded them their diplomas or certificates. When all of the seniors were seated, Ms. Crawford congratulated them and awarded Teresa Stokes with a citizenship award for her outstanding efforts as a senior and her dedication to the school. Fifth honor graduate, Scottie Fryar, gave the closing remarks and the assemblage stood to sing the alma mater. The ceremony was officially ended by the recessional, but the tears and emotions of the graduates could still be heard.

This was the night that the class of 1996 had waited for. After tonight they had only the memories to cherish. Although they were leaving behind the football games, proms, schoolbooks, homework, and old friends, they were about to embark upon a new adventure — the real world. For many it would be a challenge, but for others it would be a breeze. The class of 1996 was about to take the world by its harness and run.

— Nichole Proveaux



FHA Advisor: Mrs. Warren; President, Nichole Proveaux; Vice President, Janette Stephens; Secretary, Patricia Carroll

RAID Advisor: Mrs. Sonya Williams; President, Gwenette Chisolm; Vice President, Gerald Jenkins; Secretary, Ruth Govan

"Participation within the club was great. I really enjoyed working with the Raid Team throughout the course of the year."



FFA: "Our motto is Learning, Doing to Learn, Earning to Live, and Living to Serve," replied Mr. Richardson.

Advisor: Mr. William Richardson; Kline Smyly, President; Vice President, Mark Jacques, Secretary, Anita Blewer



MONEY ... MONEY ... MONEY

Here there were a variety of clubs to choose from such as the Student Council, the FBLA, down to Men Above the Crew — there was a club or organization for all walks of life.

Many clubs required a lot of work to be done. The RAID team, Ruffin Against Illegal Drugs, rushed frantically for two weeks making sure their skit for the "Just Say No Kickoff" was a success.

"You need to raise money and pay your dues" was the cry of the advisors. Along with hard work there was a lot of fun, lasting memories, and everyone who participated left with a lasting memory.

Even though many students participated in the diverse clubs and organizations, there were some who didn't get involved in anything, but "That's the way life goes."

— Karonda Ancrum



Advisor: Ms. Jones; President, Kim Sheppard; Vice President, Yasmin Thompson; Secretary, Janette Stephens.



"The FBLA club tries to provide an opportunity for business education students to prepare them for business occupations. This year, I really enjoyed working with the club," stated Ms. Jones.



First year volleyball player Kenequa Crosby says, "If you got it, you got it . . . If you don't, you don't."



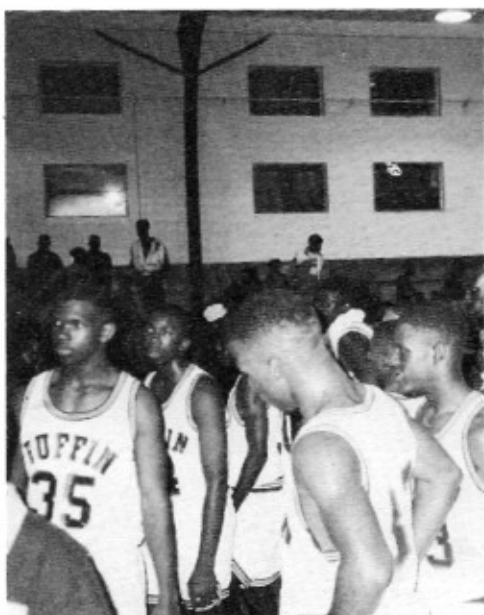
Football player Jerode Blackwell commented that the football season was terrible, yet fun.



Sophomore Marco Jenkins was a varsity basketball and football player. He said, "Hey sometimes you win; sometimes you lose."



Varsity cheerleader Sharminique Fryar says, "It's a Patriot thing. You wouldn't understand!"



As the Patriots tried to catch the Gator, their defense was at its best. The Patriots finished the season with a 1-9 record.

Patriots showed true sportsmanship after a heartwrenching loss to Walterboro. The basketball team played with determination at every game.

At the best pep rally ever, cheerleaders Latisha Parker, Terri Preacher, and Lynn Mears were rocking the house.



NEVER GIVE UP!

Aim For the Top

A large percentage of the student body took part in extra curricular activities and sports such as basketball, baseball and football. To be a player on the team, one had to show determination and dedication. These two important qualities were shown by attending practices when they were held and by giving their best in a game. Another important quality was the players' attitudes. They had to strive to be the best and out to do the rest.

The fans played a big role in school sports. The cheers and roars of the crowd kept the players' spirits high and mighty. When the team's fans turned out to show their support for the team and for the school, it meant a lot to the players. They had someone to cheer them on. It put the will to win in them. They played harder and stronger when they heard their names being yelled from the stands. They kicked it up into high gear and took off!

In the eyes and hearts of the spectators, their team would always be number one no matter how often or by how much they were defeated.

Many players in the sports program suffered injuries. Sinclair Brown, a veteran tailback on the varsity football team, suffered from neck injuries and a slight concussion. Detric Stokes, also a member of the varsity team, obtained a knee injury on the field. This resulted in him having an operation and going through physical therapy. Nichole Proveaux, a first-year starter on the volleyball team, sprained her ankle in the last game of the season. She was on crutches for a week.

All of the injuries sustained had a tremendous effect on each player's school spirit and their will to win. They kept fighting and cheering and not letting it get them down. Even though our teams didn't have winning seasons, they did their best and led us to a few victories. As a wise man once said, "It's not whether you win or lose, it's how you play the game."

— Gerald Jenkins



Look at the baby! Head Coach Joe Ritter participated in a friendly joke planned by the cheerleaders.

After a valiant effort on offense, Terrance Jenkins had to get his ankle retaped.



As a symbol of our teams' dedication, Chris Gooding rarely missed a practice and was always behind the team 100%.

Don't let that calm look fool you. Assistant Coach Charlie Cotterman was all business when it came to football.

Put his face in the ground! There was no way for the other team to get past our defense.



Necessary Roughness

Hard work. Determination. Togetherness. These were some of the major components that made up the football team. They were the center points from which success was derived. When the team attained these traits, they were bound to achieving success. There were times when this didn't happen. Many things occurred that made it extremely difficult for the team to fully grasp hold of all of these virtues at one time. In those situations, they looked far — there into what they had gained and realized it took strength and courage to go that far.

After a series of consecutive losses, the team had a taste of victory when they beat Ben Lippen to win Homecoming. The victory strengthened their pride and renewed their self-confidence. This was the beginning of a new day, and they saw that they had the potential to be great. One football player said that he could feel the intensity and excitement in the huddle. One fan on the sideline stated that he could see the anxiety in the players' faces. Even though that was the only game they won, that night, all their injuries, long practices, and strenuous workouts paid off.

After the season, the coaches and the players thanked the volunteers and fans who came out and supported them at the games. They especially thanked those who took the time out of their busy schedule to work in the concession stand and ticket booth on game night.

Although their losing season was discouraging, they learned to keep their heads held high. They still have their pride. As long as they hold on to it, they've won something more important than any game; they've won a personal battle.

— Stephen Williams

Scoreboard

Walterboro	L
Wade Hampton	L
Harleyville-Ridgeville	L
Williston-Elko	L
St. George	L
Estill	L
North	L
Denmark-Olar	L
Ben Lippen	W
Bowman	L

W=Win L=Losses



Look out! Number 13, Andy Salley, sped around the corner for a tackle.

Our defense was tenacious! They looked like a pack of wolves after a lone deer.

Assistant Coach Richard Roderick was thinking: Maybe I'll have the team run ten laps, put them in the weight room for a couple of hours, and go over some plays for the rest of the night . . . Naw, that's not enough.



The cheerleaders give some inspiration with their "FIGHT" cheer at a basketball game.



Varsity cheerleader Terri Preacher struts her stuff during fourth period cheerleading practice.

Varsity cheerleaders Melvina Breland and Lynn Mears practice their slamming dance routine.



Spike It!

"The volleyball team did a phat job," said Chris Kirkland. The team started with thirteen members and ended the season with seven dedicated, hard-working players.

Coach Sonya Williams said, "The team did a dynamic job considering we had such a young team and only one veteran player." Williams also said she's looking forward to coaching in the upcoming season.

Even though the team was the youngest in the region, they placed fifth in their conference. The team, with skills and experience from previous games, played hard.

Although the team didn't have a winning record, they learned that teamwork, dedication, determination, and experience from hard work was the key to success.

— Gerald Jenkins

All Fired Up!

"How do you feel? Fired up!" This was one of the numerous chants the cheerleaders shouted to support their team. The squad was responsible for motivating and moving the crowd at pep rallies, football, and basketball games. The cheerleaders learned new cheers and dances for the many competitions they went to. However, their job was not always as glamorous as it seemed.

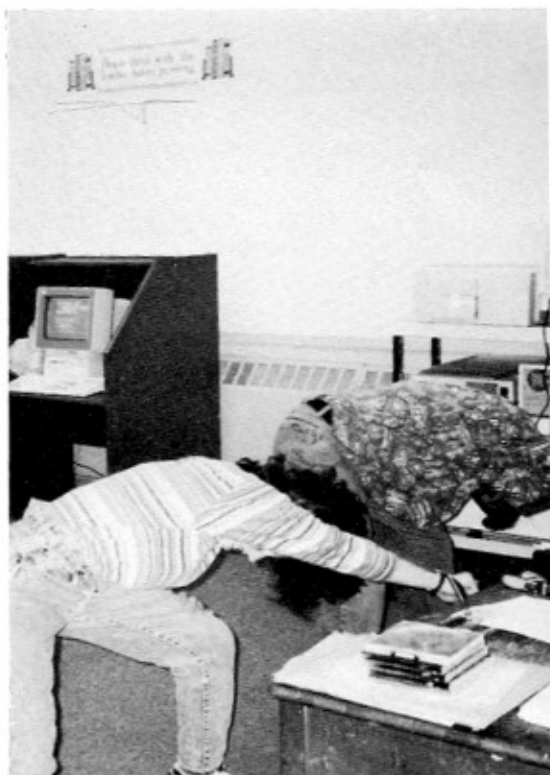
"A lot of hard work and dedication was shown from my ladies," commented Coach Roper. All the cheerleaders had the same thing to say about cheerleading. "It was a fun experience with our new coach." The cheerleaders enjoyed cheering for the new varsity football and basketball teams.

As warm-up exercises the cheerleaders ran laps around the school, did several jumping jacks and stretching routines. The cheerleaders ended their exhausting practice with a rehearsal of their cheers.

To become a cheerleader, the girls had to show a lot of hard work and determination as well as dedication and school spirit. The cheerleaders were expected to be lady-like and to always be focused on "the game." Cheerleaders are a great asset to every school.

Coached by Connie Roper, the members of the squad were Sherri Bryant, captain; Demetral Sanders, co-captain; Latisha Parker, Amanda Combs, Denise Strickland, Lynn Mears, Terri Preacher, Melvina Breland, and Sharminique Fryar. The squad did lose some members, but it didn't hurt their spirit and effort to be all they could be.

— Gerald Jenkins



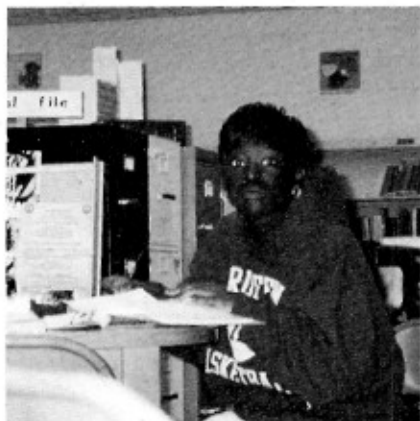
The varsity volleyball team poses with a smile of triumph after their well-played season. Many of their games were victorious.

Varsity cheerleaders Sharminique Fryar and Denise Strickland shake and bake as they strive to succeed at the National Finals in Virginia.



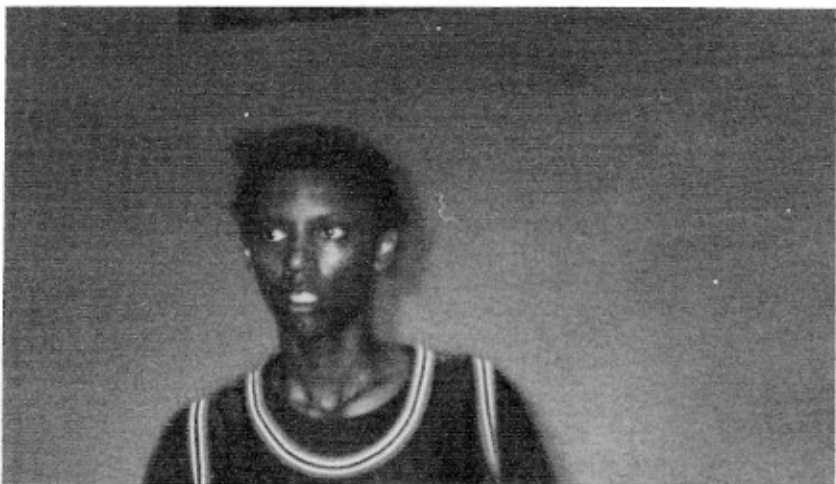
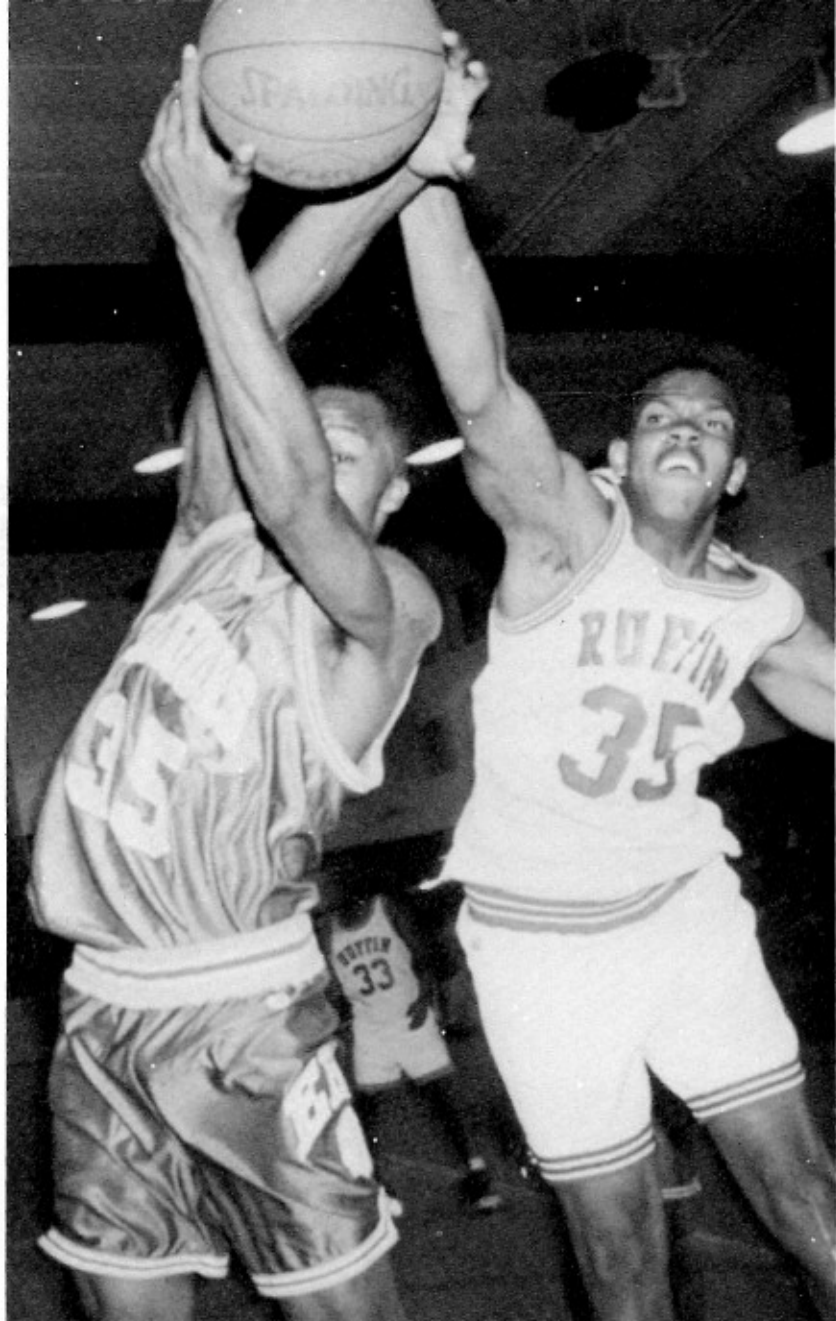
Andy Salley said, "Get that outta here kid!"

Jerode Blackwell's crossover gave him a career high of 27 points.



Jawyah Salley didn't only play basketball, she also studied for hours.

Popcorn has popped her last kernel.



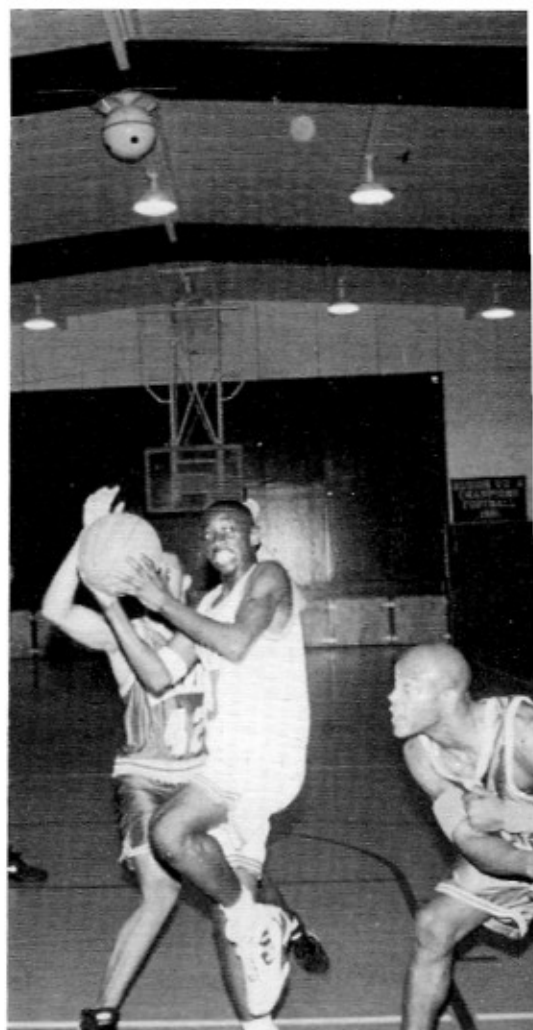
JUST DO IT!

Many students came out for a chance at making the school basketball team. There were those who made it and those who didn't, but that's the way life goes. As the athletes worked hard for the season, both girls and boys became focused on the job that had to be done. The teams readjusted to their new coaches, but it was all the same. They knew what they had to do and the coaches stressed the importance of a good season.

The girls' varsity team went on to have a good season. They finished the conference in third place; nevertheless, they still had to defeat the Branchville Yellow Jackets in order to secure a spot in the state playoffs. The lady patriots prevailed and earned their position in the state playoffs. The lady patriots played a hard game, but they lost the game, thus ending their season. The girls' team only graduated two seniors and will be returning many experienced players to take another chance at returning to the state playoffs.

The boys' varsity team went on to have a disappointing, but challenging season. They finished last in conference, but earned much respect from the teams. The boys stayed focused on their game as the new coach learned to adjust to their ways. The boys' varsity team would lose three seniors: Scottie Fryar, Christopher Linder, and Andy Salley. The team would be very young next year and hope to prevail to the playoffs.

— Christopher Linder



Troy Green glided past his opponents with a facial move.

Chris Linder showed no respect for the Warriors and fought for the rebound.



Coach Joe Ritter calls out the starting line-up as Keith Bunch, Paul Lawton, Roger Breland, Roderick Broughton, and Billy Cain look on.

Catcher Rodney Broughton steps to the plate in anticipation of getting a hit to help the Patriots win.



Sharell Drain trots back to the dug-out after scoring a much needed run in a win over Bowman.

Wayne Fender runs in as the third out is called. Although he was a rookie, Wayne earned a starting position in the outfield.

Roger Breland, a returning player for the Patriots, awaits a play while playing in the infield.



PLAY BALL!!

With the start of a new spring came the beginning of another season of baseball. Along with the season came another valuable chance for the Patriots to gain a spot in the Region VA Play-offs. As late January rolled around, Coach Joe Ritter began shaping a group of largely inexperienced young men who would compete well in their division.

The team was anchored by returning starters: third baseman, Roderick Broughton; left-fielder, Sharell Drain; pitcher/shortstop, Terrance Adams, and pitcher/shortstop Keith Bunch. Returnees included Rodney Broughton, Roger Breland, and Jerrod Breland. Newcomers were Wayne Fender, Travis Taylor, Billy Cain, Paul Lawton, Kelly Getz, Preston Warren, and Matthew Claxton.

After dropping the first two games of the season to Harleyville-Ridgeville and Wade Hampton, the Patriots went on to defeat Estill and Bowman twice, split with Denmark-Olar and lost to Branchville and North both twice. Their final records were 5-7 overall and 5-5 in conference play. This would be enough for the Patriots to finish in 3rd place and gave them a playoff spot.

In the first round of the play-offs the Patriots faced Ben Lippen. The Patriots fought hard but lost. In the second round the Patriots would face conference rival Branchville. Again, the Patriots fought hard, but could not come out on top and were eliminated from the play-offs. Although their appearance was brief, the experience the Patriots gained from the play-offs was worth it.

On behalf of the baseball team, I would like to thank all of those who helped in our success this year. THANK YOU! I would like to send our blessings out to Travis Taylor who was injured midway during the season. May you have a speedy recovery and we look forward to seeing you next year.

— Keith Bunch

Harleyville-Ridgeville	L
Wade Hampton	L
Bowman	W
Bowman	W
Branchville	L
North	L
Estill	W
Estill	W
Branchville	L
North	L
Denmark-Olar	S
Denmark-Olar	S
Playoffs Region 5-A	
Ben Lippen	L
Branchville	L
W=win L=loss S=split win	



YOU'RE OUT!! Roderick Broughton, the Patriot's third baseman, tags out a Bowman runner after he tries to steal third.

STRIKE THREE!! Pitcher Keith Bunch delivers a pitch in hopes of helping his team. This was Keith's fourth year on the baseball team.

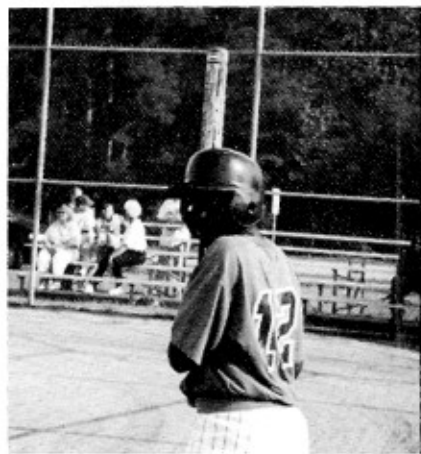
CRACK!! Outfielder Billy Cain tries to beat out an infield hit. Billy was another rookie on the Patriot's squad.



First baseman, Nichole Proveaux, stretches out her glove to receive the ball from Shalarece Murdaugh. In that instance the two veteran players turned a double play.



HIT AND RUN!



Sheneka Hallmon clutches the ball in her glove after receiving a ground ball hit into right field.

Laquita Jenkins, an eighth grader, awaits her turn "on deck." She batted .375 that game.

Hit and run! That was the job of all the members of the Lady Patriots. The ladies played fourteen games this season. The Patriots had a team of thirteen members including three seniors. The majority were veterans who had played ball before, either on a community team, or at school. The young members of the team were also an advantage for next year's team. The number of returning players will be higher. The season was not the best, but the girls played their hearts out. They showed lots of pride in being a Lady Patriot. The softball team practiced everyday of the week except for on the days they had games.

The team had many ups and downs. The first being the winning of their games; the latter being players who were benched for a couple of games. The removal of some of the players from the team was also a downside. Through it all, the dedicated players kept their heads up and did their best in all their games. Team captain, first baseman, and alternate pitcher, Nichole Proveaux, had these words to describe her softball experience this year: "Although this softball season was exciting, things could have been better. We had excellent winning potential, but we didn't focus on the basics enough to grasp their concepts. That doesn't matter, because next year we are going to be 'THE BOMB'!"

— Gerald Jenkins

JUST DO IT!

The track team did an exceptional job this year. The team traveled to the Azalea track meet at Charleston Southern University. The track team placed first at Bamberg-Ehrhardt High School both times they visited them. The team also placed first at Wade Hampton and Walterboro High. The girls 4×100 meter relay team has been taking first place at all of their track meets. The members also excelled individually in events such as the 200 meter run, 400 meter run, and other events. "Track is a very tedious sport compared to other sports," said track star Chris Linder. Regardless of the team's surroundings, they did a great job.

The team had to practice in the parking lot and on the highway around the school. That does not hurt their spirit and their willingness to win. The team made the best of what they had and it showed. The girls' team was the winner of the conference meet with Teresa Stokes as player of the year. The boys' team was the runner-up at the conference meet with Terry Williams as player of the year. The team had a number of players becoming lower and state champions.



"Thank goodness I'm finished," senior Terry Williams sighed in relief after he ran the two mile race at Walterboro.

Etrulia Hodges and Latarsha Hollington give it all they've got to win the 4×100 relay race at Walterboro High.

Senior Teresa Stokes fights her way around the track to bring home a win.



Educational speaker of the week, Leola Adams, explains the fundamentals of a good education.



Janette Stephens smiles in astonishment as she greets her prom date.



Group hug, Derrick Stephens and Mrs. E. Warren say cheese as Men Above the Crew participants serve coffee and doughnuts.



Freshman Amanda McDaniels catches the flash of the camera. She hung out with her friends at lunch.





COMMUNITY QUEST

Our school, made of many small communities, donated a large percent of its time helping the town of Ruffin. Clubs such as the Future Business Leaders of America and the National Honor Society took on the responsibilities of helping the less fortunate. Fruit baskets, dinners, and other miscellaneous items were distributed to families in the Colleton County area. A Christmas concert was given to lift everyone's spirits.

In return, Ruffin, along with Walterboro community, gave openly to our school. Donations of food and money allowed us to help others in need. The part-time jobs that were given supplied students with a sense of responsibility and also a chance to prove their eligibility in the work place.

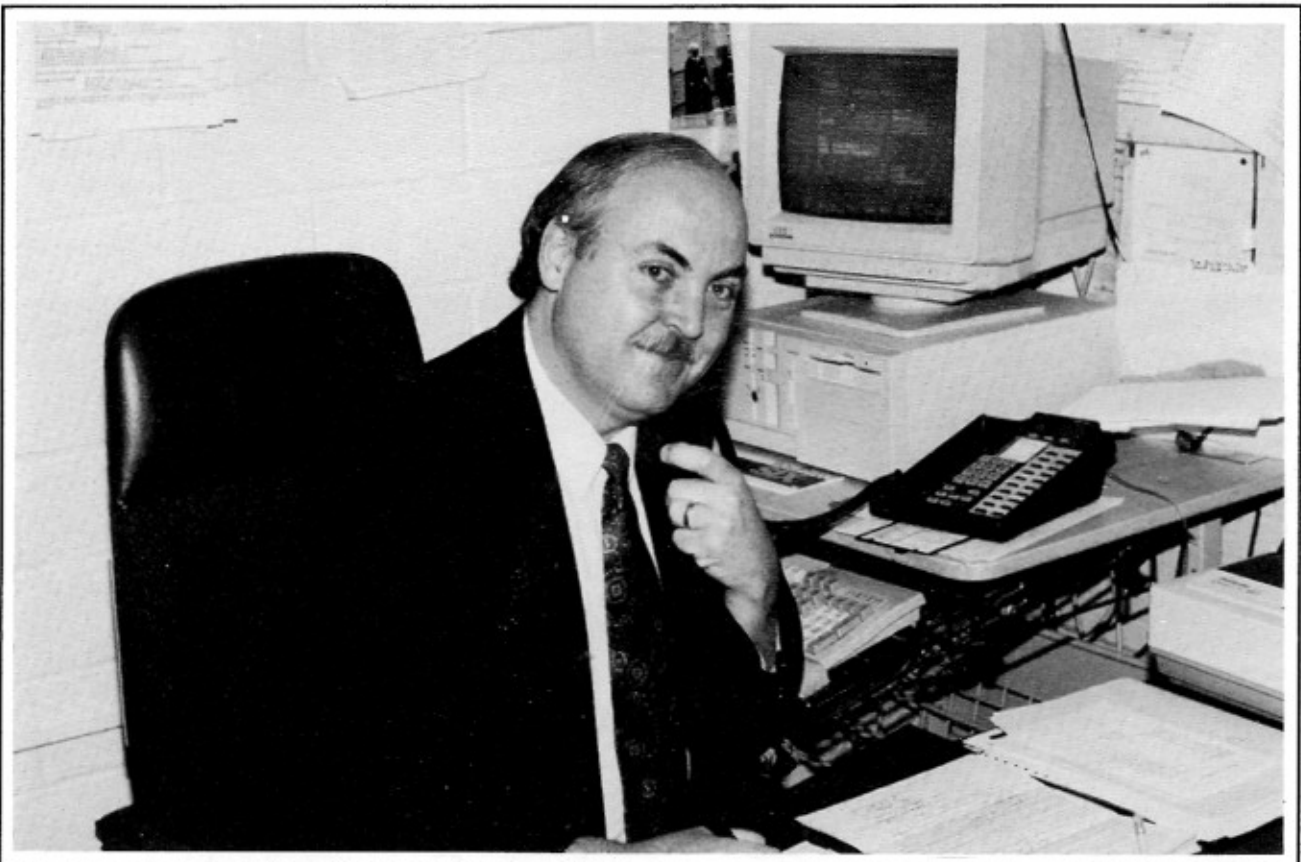
— Janette Stephens

Before the Beta Club induction, parents were invited to eat lunch at school. They thoroughly enjoyed their meals and conversation.

At a cancer fundraiser, Alvin Boatwright wet 'em up! Teachers volunteered to let students throw wet sponges at them.

Jam! Mr. Stroman and the band tear it up in the 1996 Rice Festival Parade.





THANK YOU RHS FAMILY FOR YOUR SUPPORT

QUENIE CRAWFORD, Principal

DEAN NETTLES, Asst. Principal

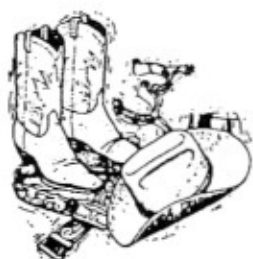


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Sis. Carrie Johnson, Clerk

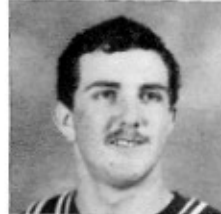
"Be not wise in thine own eyes,
Fear the Lord, and depart from evil."
Proverbs 3:7



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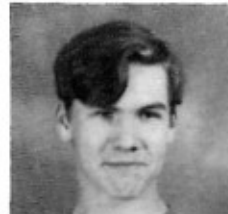


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Mrs. Brenda Peacock, a teacher at Bells, served as an assistant coach to the girls varsity basketball team.



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The Ruffin High School Athletic Booster Club was vital to the athletic department. The members helped to raise money for the various sports. The money was used to either feed the players, or to give out "special recognition" awards.



Tekisha Salley
Amy St. Germain
Jessica Stephens
Lashonda Williams
Mark Galloway

The Band Booster Club was involved in everything that the band undertook. They always went to competitions and parades. They helped to raise the money that was needed to pay for the new band uniforms that the band members will wear next year.



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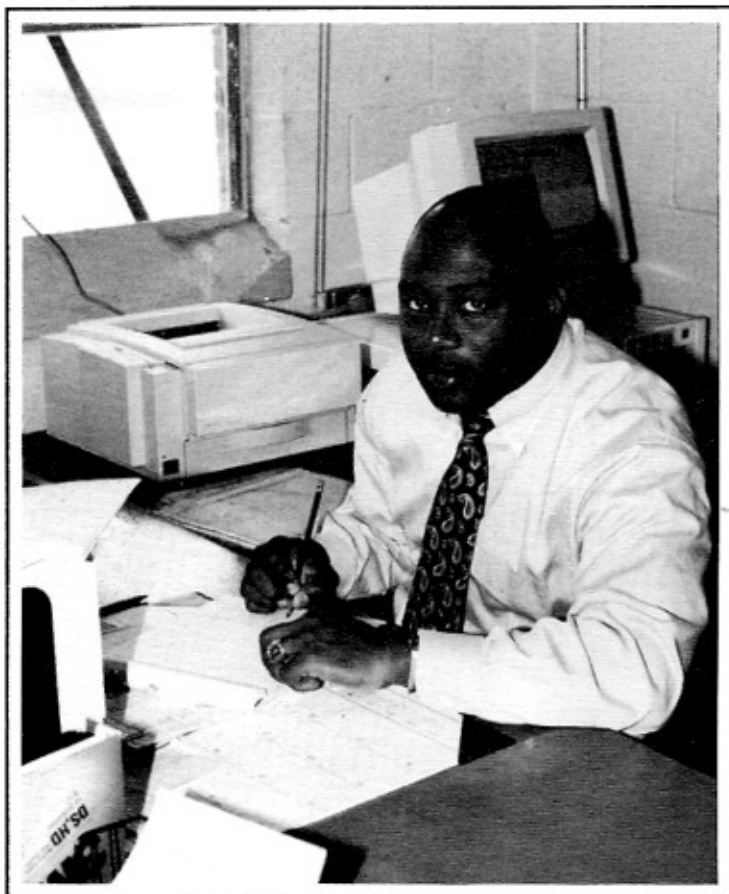


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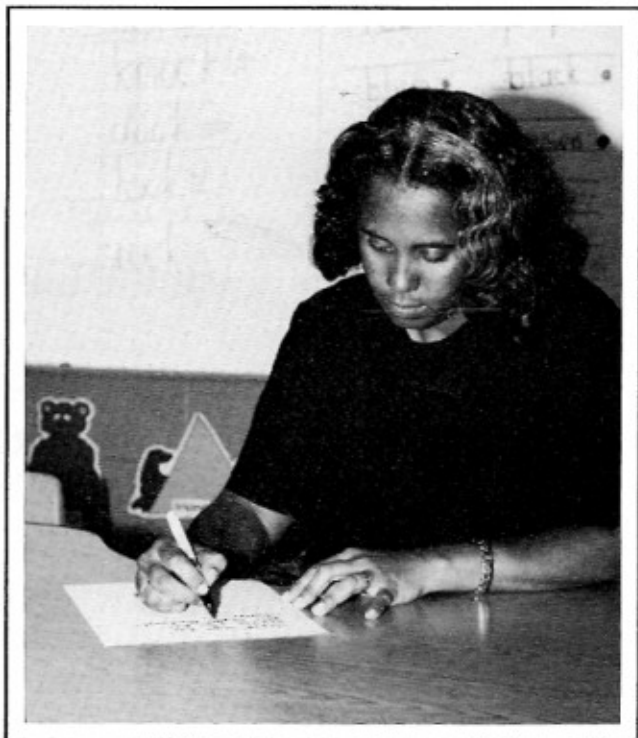
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Mr. Wilmont Hayes was the boys varsity basketball coach this year. It was his first year. Mr. Hayes also served as an assistant football coach and he worked at Bells Elementary.



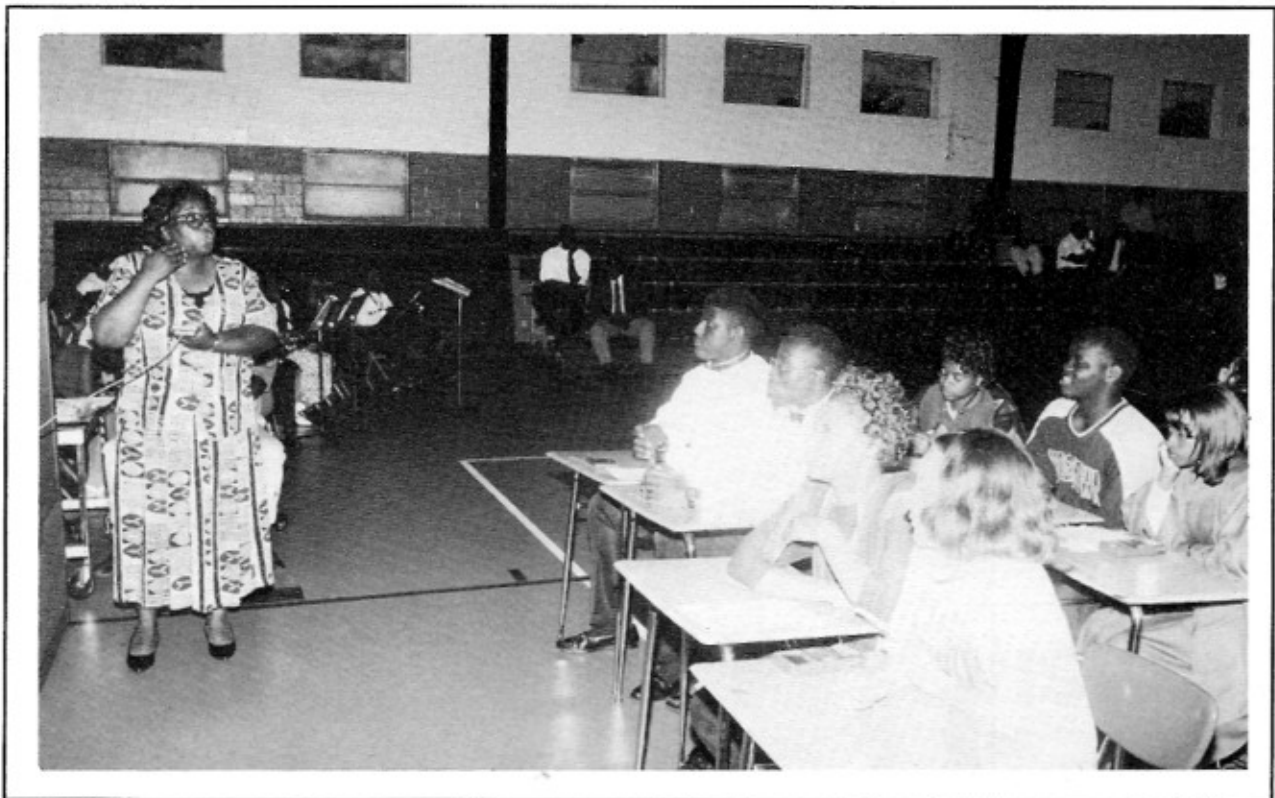
Tommy Lawrence
Coll Parker
Kelley Schoonmaker
Leroy Washington
Jeff Wesley
Sannie Mae Williams

Mrs. Phyllis Murdaugh helped out the volleyball team. At the volleyball sets she kept the score book. She is a kindergarten teacher at Bells Elementary.



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* Mrs. Mary Mintz, a math teacher, demonstrated one of her audio-visual teaching techniques at one of the school's community awareness programs. She used some of her best students in the demonstration.



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Mrs. Vera Bowman was an office secretary at Ruffin High School. She paid the bills and handled the money. She was much appreciated.



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 Love, Mom, Dad and
 Leighanne

Bubbsy,
 We are very proud of you.
 You turned out to be the best
 REDNECK of us all. God bless
 you and may your future be
 paved with gold.
 Love your whole family

BEST WISHES FAT BOY!!!!!!
 Love Mom and Greg

When you were born,
 we named you Rosie,
 and you have made our lives
 very rosie . . .
 Much love: Mom, Dad, Maria
 and Matt



CHRIS SALLEY
LOVES
ALANA RIVERS

To my family:
Thanks for sup-
porting me so
well!
I Love You!
-LATOYA

To Marquez D.
Ackerman
You mean the
world to me.
Auntie loves U
A LOT -TO-TO

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C/O '96 AWILLE
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= 11

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TERESA
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GERI WRON

GREG
DOUG

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CHRIS
Baby I love you
with all of my
We've been together since
10-20-93. You mean the
world to me -Nicki

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may you have
much success
in your en-
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Nichole,
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always being a
great friend. You
were always there
for me. Ya KZITH
God Daughter of the Year
Tiann Chy'Quita JATANE
ROBU SON
Love Always Your God-
mother FAITH (INGARD)

Keith Morgan Bunch:
I just want you to know that you
are one of the best friends I've
got in the world. Your friendship and
understanding means so much to me.
I love you!
Can't wait to see you at USC - Nichole

Dedicated to
Mr. Likon:
you are the
best positive
person at RHS
I love you Yasmin

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TO THE
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and
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Ronetta Stokes
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Andy Salley

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"It was GROOVY!"
— Karonda

"Chillin' man!"
— Gerald

"It's all about me!"
— Janette

**"Class of '97
RULES!!"**
— Keith

**"What? NO! NO!
What? Oh yea!"**
— Pepa

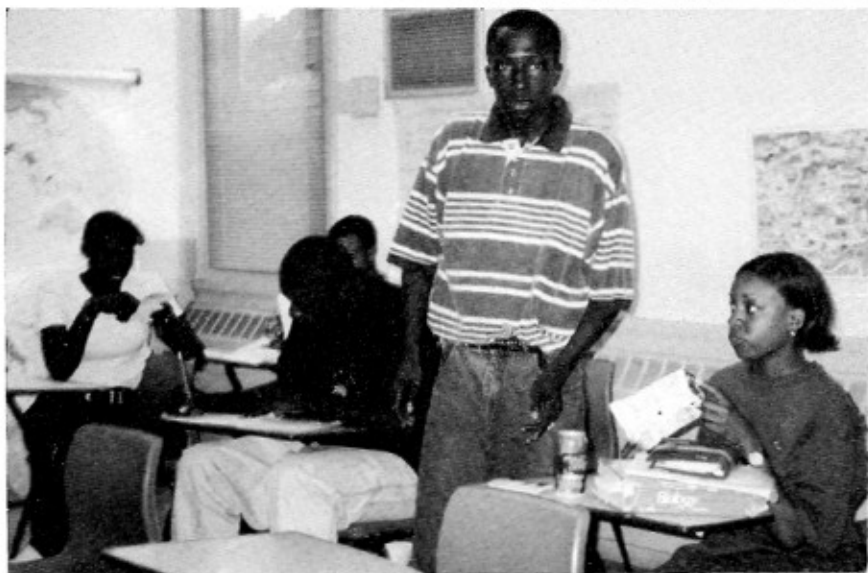
"It's up to you!"
— Kristin



"I'm a SLACKER!"
— Stephen

**"Don't sweat this
technique!"**
— Tanisha

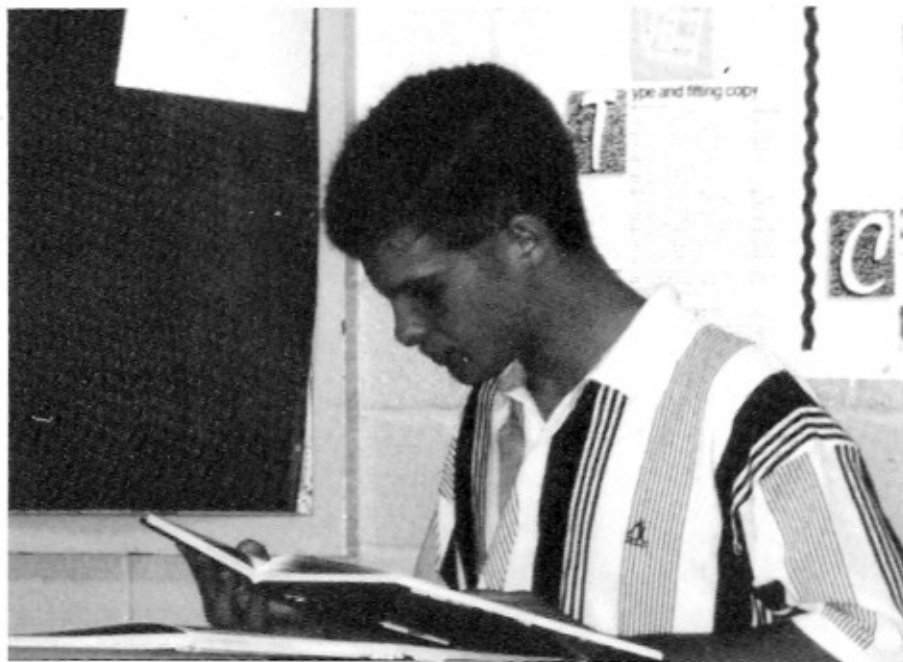
**"It was exciting! I got
to my tater chips."**
— Jennifer





THE PATRIOT STAFF 1996

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 Keith Bunch — Staff
 Gwenetta Chisolm — People
 Editor
 Scottie Fryar — Photographer
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 Chris Linder — Staff
 Faith Lingard — Copy Editor
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 Nichole Proveaux — Editor
 Janette Stephens — Business
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 Jennifer Steward — Index Editor
 Ronetta Stokes — Student Life
 Editor
 Dwayne Wade — Staff
 Kristin Warren — Academics
 Editor
 Stephen Williams — Staff



While this has been a frustrating year, I take refuge in knowing that God takes care of everything. For everything there is a season.

In spite of the problems, this year has been a wonderful learning experience for the staff. Good luck in 96-97!

Finally, I leave Ruffin after eight years. Best wishes to my students and my friends, especially Mrs. Warren, Mrs. Smoak, and Ms. Maree.

— Mrs. Ginger Gardner

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THAT'S THE WAY LIFE GOES

When I accepted the position of Editor-in-Chief of THE PATRIOT '96, I wasn't cognizant of the challenges for which I was in store. The year got off to a rocky start. Tanisha Portee and I had to teach the other staff members how to design layouts and organize spreads. We showed them the basics and had them to do mock layouts. That was the easy part! Practice layouts were one thing, but the actual layouts were another. They had to be flawless.

Some of our yearbook pictures didn't turn out very well, so we turned to Rob Novit, esteemed photographer for THE PRESS AND STANDARD. After weeks of pursuing after him, he gave us the negatives he had. They helped us tremendously, but this was just the first of a plague of obstacles that would devastate us.

Our first deadline was just one day away. Everything was complete and every spread was perfect, or so we thought. The staff had stayed after school the day before to complete all of the final preparations. We were both scared and excited, but our fear turned into chaos when we faced a major deadline emergency. There were a few "problems" with some of our spread. We were asked to consider making a few changes. The staff voiced our opinions and stood our ground. We prevailed.

As our second deadline approached, we faced a myriad of problems. After days of deliberations, a plan was conceived; the idea went over well and layouts were designed. The problems were defeated with success, but we had only just begun to climb to the other side of the mountain.

At this point in time, May 20, 1996, there are still seventeen more working days left for the yearbook staff. A few more spreads have to be completed, and a few more pictures have to be taken; but I can honestly sit here and say that no obstacle has been too big and no boulder too strong for THE PATRIOT '96 staff to overcome. We'll make it to the other side of the mountain.

As for myself, this has truly been a learning experience. I learned the rules of leadership, the glory of success and the importance of friends. I learned how to keep my cool in stressful situations, but most of all I learned that brainstorming and cooperation are the two best ways to mediate a problem.

As the staff faced problems, so did I. We are all young and inexperienced — even our first year advisor Mrs. Garner, but nothing amputated our spirits. There were many nights when I stayed up with less than five hours sleep to help a friend complete a spread, put labels on pictures or even count characters, but nothing was accomplished in vain. I had the best things in the world on my side. I had a strong-minded advisor, an outstanding staff, an excellent co-editor and friend. Yet there was one thing I held above all — God!

Although I was once told that being on the yearbook staff is a "thankless" job, I'm not so sure. I feel that everyone who opens this book and looks through the pages will be thankful that someone cared enough to help you savor the memories. So as you all receive your yearbooks and flip through them, remember the hard work and dedication that THE PATRIOT '96 staff put into this publication and appreciate it.

— Nichole Proveaux





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