

# Smoke Signal

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Pocahontas, Arkansas 72455

Today the Class of 1977 Steps into the Future



# Smoke Signal Profiles Seniors



Each of the 100 or so people who will receive diplomas tonight is an individual with certain idiosyncracies, likes and dislikes, foibles and assets. Each one has a personality of his own.

But not only does each senior have his own personality, his class as a whole is a unique entity. It has characteristics unlike any other group of senior past or future. Never again in history will this particular combination of people come together. Never again will there be another PHS class of 1977. Last year's Smoke Signal staff wrote a profile of the graduating seniors

to try if possible and find out what made them tick. The results were fairly predictable, sometimes surprising and at times encouraging. This year's staff decided to do the same thing.

A four-page questionnaire containing questions on school, the future, extracurricular activities, work, dating, morality, etc., was given to each senior. Ninety-three people responded. A great majority of them answered the survey thoughtfully and intelligently. A few did not. Some seniors accused the staff of being nosy, but most were cooperative and helpful.

## We Didn't Like PEP

**CURRICULUM**  
Several seniors had comments about changes they would like to see in the curriculum. Suggestions for course additions were speech, individual study,

marketing, electronics and basic engineering. Other ideas were more advanced science courses, more foreign languages, an expanded and improved science and math department and a better program.

Some seniors asked for more agri courses, diesel mechanics, photography, Bible study, swimming and philosophy. More social studies, specialized shop courses, and more business courses were suggested. More advanced courses in every field and Spanish were things most often mentioned.

Concerning the things which they would like to see eliminated from the curriculum, a few seniors gave predictable but impossible answers such as English or math. But the thing mentioned most often which seniors would just as soon do without was PEP.



## We Were Helped By Teachers

### TEACHERS

When it came to mentioning teachers who influenced them, this year's seniors named almost all of the faculty. Those who were named most often were Willard, Pete Waites, Taylor, Paul Arm and Marc VanCamp.

A few seniors indicated that all of their teachers had influenced them for the good.

## We Feel Prepared To Meet Future

### SCHOOL

The seniors were asked if they felt that this school had done an adequate job of preparing them for the future. An overwhelming majority, nearly ninety percent of those who answered, said yes.

Of the ten who said no, there was no pattern. Six were boys and four were girls. Some were honor graduates; others do not have a 2.00 grade average, and one or two were in between.

Four seniors had other comments about how well PHS prepares a student for the future. Hank McNabb said that a graduate is prepared "if he takes the right subjects."

Randal Seyler explained that "the education is

really only what the student makes it." John Cook believes that the "individual should take the initiative in preparing himself for future life. This is a sign of maturity."

Perhaps the most intelligent answer to the question came from Karen Lewallen who simply said, "I'm not sure yet."

The second question concerned whether the courses at PHS had been challenging to their ability. About half of those who responded to the survey said that the courses had been challenging. Of the other half, about thirty said that some of their courses were challenging while ten said that they had not been challenged.

The prize for the most difficult course at PHS would go to a math class with algebra getting the most votes. Calculus, trig and geometry got their share of votes also.

Running a close second for most difficult was English. Specific courses mentioned included drama, vocabulary workshop, advanced composition and short story.

American history and accounting were also high on the list of courses which were difficult for this year's seniors.

Although English and math were named as the most difficult courses that seniors took, they were also named as the most rewarding courses. The

advanced English courses and algebra and geometry were, according to the graduates, the most rewarding.

Other courses which were rewarding to seniors include typing, p.e., history, accounting, agri, biology, home ec and foreign language.

The proverb "One man's meat is another man's poison" also holds true for academic courses. With only two or three exceptions, every course in the curriculum was named as "easiest" by someone. But the front runners in the least difficult category were agri, home ec, history and health. The less advanced English and math courses also received several votes in this category.

## We Differ On Our View of Discipline

### RULES

In the area of privileges which they would like to see granted, the seniors named by far the most often a longer lunch period. This was followed by a lounge or student center and the freedom to leave campus if not in a class.

As far as the enforcing of rules is concerned, a

majority of the seniors want to see smoking restricted to the smoking area, eliminated from the restrooms and even eliminated from the campus. Another big area of concern to the graduates is the reckless driving on campus.

Nearly twenty percent of the students polled think

that discipline varies with the social status of the offender. One girl called it "a double standard for social classes;" a senior boy said that discipline is "a little too rough on the poor people; the big shots get to do anything."

Concerning the way discipline has been handled this year, about half of the seniors believed that is

was too strict. The other half felt that it was good or vastly improved.

The following comments show the diversity of opinion. "There should be more discipline."

"Very good because of Mr. Williams."

"Too lenient."

"Extra good."

"The students don't respect authority enough."

"It is really great for the lower class students. The popular one get by with almost anything."

"It is fairly strict, but I guess it's necessary."

"Much better than most schools I've seen."

"The discipline at this school is fair I guess. I think that they should be a little more strict sometimes."

"There has not been much this year."

"Too strict. Students have no real freedom."

"It's a very poor thing here."

"It's fairly good, but some more higher ups get by without too much difficulty."

"It has improved tremendously."

## We Got Involved

### ACTIVITIES

Nearly half of the seniors indicated that there were activities which they now wish they had participated in. Sports headed the list of these kinds of activities. Football, basketball, and track were named most often. These were followed by tennis, cheerleading and student government.

Sports also topped the list of activities which seniors enjoyed most. Again football and

basketball were named most often; band followed closely.

And when seniors named activities which they would like to see added, sports once more led the way. Most often mentioned were baseball, volleyball, swimming, soccer, gymnastics and boxing or wrestling. Other suggestions were a canoeing club, a chess club, a photography club, a theatre club and a varsity club.



# Answers-What Makes Them Tick

## We See Graduation As Most Memorable Day

### We Formulate Our Moral Ideals

**MORALITY**  
There was only one moral issue covered in the senior survey which got equal yes and no answers. That was the question of whether Randolph County should become wet. On that issue, the results showed one more yes vote than no vote. Other aspects of morality are more clearly divided.

Only seventeen people said that marijuana should be legalized or

decriminalized. And only eighteen people were in favor of legalizing abortions. There are eighteen seniors who smoke, and slightly more than half of those wish that they did not.

On the matter of drinking, however, the reverse is true. In answer to the question, "Do most of your friends drink?", seventy said yes. Half of these drinkers do so every weekend or all the time, and the other half drink only occasionally, as little as once or twice a year.

As far as the amount drunk, fifty people said that their friends drink to the point of getting drunk. To the question "Do most of your high school friends expect to go parking on a date?", two thirds said yes.

their money for home improvements. Another plans to finance a trip to Greece while one boy is putting his money into a house and 10 acres of land. The work experience of most seniors could be best summed up, however, by these two comments. It was done to "earn filthy lucre" and was spent on "wine, women, song and jelly beans."

About one-fourth of those who work have some regrets about working and only nine of those currently employed would like to stay with their present jobs.

Besides the money, working seniors say they have benefited from the experience. They also mentioned that they gained more of a sense of responsibility, learned how to get along with people and discovered how to handle money. A few said that they lost a lot of sleep, and two believed that they developed bad backs.

### We Worked Summers After School

**WORK**  
When it comes to work, about two-thirds of the seniors have had experience. Most of those who have done so worked in addition to their school and summers. Those who work, half said that their grades had not been affected. Nearly all said that it had hindered their social life.

The obvious and main reason for working was to earn money. Only a very few worked because they had to. Some worked to have something to do or to gain work experience.

Only five seniors put their money in the bank or saved it for college. The salaries of most of them went for these things in this order: Clothes, car, gas, dates, food, school expenses and recreation.

They also spent their money on motorcycle, wedding, insurance, party beverages, radio equipment, fishing equipment, stereo, junk, tools, gun and boat. One senior helped out his family and two spent

### We Don't Go Steady; We Aren't Planning Marriage

**DATING**  
Over half of the seniors said that they date frequently, but only about one fourth of them go steady. Four of the seniors are engaged and plan to get married in the very near future.

Fifteen was the age at which most of the seniors began to date. Sixteen and fourteen were also frequently given answers. Three people started dating as young as ten years old while three people have not dated at all.

Only about one fourth of

the seniors have any parental restrictions on their dating. As for the ideal age for marriage, the greatest number advocated 20 to 22 years of age. Many said that 18 to 20 was the right age for marriage, and nearly twenty people thought that 25 to 30 was the right age. Several students did not think that age should be the deciding factor; they said that the maturity of the people involved is more important than age.

As for the money spent to finance a date, most boys earn their own. The

Keeping to the nostalgia theme, the Smoke Signal asked seniors what they would remember most about PHS. Again the responses were just as varied as the seniors themselves.

"Parties and girls."  
"Football games and playing in the band."  
"The filth, the cold, the parking. The people."  
"The small parking spaces and all of my special friends."

"All my friends and a few of the teachers who have helped me."  
"Redecorating the home ec building."  
"The freedom to have some fun."  
"The good friends that I

The seniors were asked to name the day which has been the most memorable for them since they have been in school. Most of them are in the midst of that day right now—graduation day is what most of them thought would be most memorable. Here are some other answers:

"The day all your senior stuff comes in."  
"The day I was accepted in the US Navy."  
"The day I got my senior ring."  
"Last year's senior party."  
"Playing football."  
"April 3, 1975."  
"Some parties. Some dates."  
"When a friend was killed in a car wreck."  
"Pep rally days."  
"Homecoming."  
"The day I was told I made All-District."  
"The day I skipped out."  
"The day I became a senior."  
"Coming back to PHS to graduate."  
"The last day of sports."

"The day we ordered caps and gowns because that was the day that I realized that I would soon be out."  
"The day I got kicked out for fighting."  
"The day I got honorable mention in football."  
"Winning district in tennis. Winning district in track. Taking second in state in track."  
"Went to Fayetteville on judging team."  
"This year's prom."  
"The night coming back on the football bus after beating Osceola 21-0 in 1974; the day my boss came to see me at PHS in 1975."  
"The day my senior ring arrived."  
"The day of competition at Vo-Tech."  
"Getting Chieftain Queen."  
"When I was selected junior maid in homecoming."  
"The time we beat St. Paul in basketball."  
"The first day in PHS."  
"FFA state fair trip in the ninth grade."

"Spring Concert 1977."  
"Being elected president of Student Council. Being selected to be on the annual staff."  
"Snow days when we get out early."  
"All of them."  
"The first day of every year."  
"Finding out I would graduate."  
"District Science Fair at ASU in the eighth grade."  
"Making All-State tryouts in band."  
"March 21, 1977."  
"Awards assemblies."  
"When I was sick, but didn't want to go home. Also the day we have SRA tests."  
"November 13, 1976. I got my engagement ring."  
"Being selected for Girls' State."  
"July 4, 1975."  
"I can't really say because there are too many."  
"Going to state tryouts in band when I was in tenth grade."  
"The weekend of this year's prom."

### We Will Remember Sports, Friends, Activities Most

had and all of the fun and good times that I had at PHS."  
"The corners."  
"Band and teasing Mr. Fleming."  
"Redskin, spirit, some classes, friends."  
"Band, halftime shows."  
"Library."  
"The friendliness of everyone."  
"Nothing special. All the little things together will be my memory."  
"Football."  
"Dention hall. Mr. Waites' class."  
"Mr. VanCamp's classes."  
"When I scored eight points against Paragood this year. It was my first touchdown in senior high

football."  
"My diploma."  
"Senior prom."  
"Agri."  
"I want to remember it as a nice school with nice people, but I'm afraid as time goes on it will get worse and worse."  
"The football and basketball games. Remodeling the home ec cottage. Signing the Chieftain. Lunch period. Mr. Towell's fourth period English class."  
"Teachers like Mr. Malone."  
"That I graduated there."  
"The days of me, Cecil Tackett and Faron Phillips and those joke-telling days."

"Nothing. It was the most boring year I have ever had."  
"The three days I got kicked out of school."  
"Beating St. Paul."  
"The football games against Nut Hill."  
"The dances."  
"Basketball."  
"Weekend parties."  
"The building."  
"Staying up all night beating the drum."  
"My junior year."  
"The friends I'll leave behind."  
"The football season. The gossip. The people who interfered with everyone else's business."



# We Admire Our Parents, Our Teachers, Our Classmates Most off All

## As We See It A Challenge

As the '77 seniors leave PHS the '78 seniors take on the responsibility of leading the student body. Next year's seniors will have the task of setting an example for the lower classmen. The seniors must take an active part in school activities or the other students will not want to become involved, either.

In no way are we trying to belittle this year's seniors. They have done an admirable job; however, there are always some areas that need improvement. For example, next year's seniors could keep tradition by presenting a senior play. Not necessarily the lack of leadership of this year's seniors there are a few areas that have room for improvement. The bathrooms could be cleaned up and seniors could make sure they stayed that way. The spirit at PHS has up to now been somewhat lacking, but next year's seniors could change that.

A possible student lounge is only one of many goals that can be achieved. Juniors have already proven that they can take responsibility as well as leadership. Even though the newspaper staff was made up of juniors with no experience, they somehow managed to produce a paper. With the enormous burden of raising money for the prom and banquet, the juniors again pulled through. Next year's seniors are perfectly capable of handling the responsibility set before them if they will only do it.

The Smoke Signal was also curious about what people the seniors admired. Several said that they admired their parents. Others pointed national figures, and some named their own classmates. The answers follow.

"Mr. Jerry Williams. He has really straightened this school out and it needed it badly."  
"Mr. Amos."  
"My employer, Mr. Worthy."  
"Miss Waldron."  
"Carol French for the hard work she has done

this year as Student Council president."  
"Mr. C. D. Foster."  
"Mrs. Durham."  
"Mr. Taylor."  
"My dad, Maynard Hall and Joe Frazier both have a lot of pride."  
"Coach Kent Miller."  
"Venita Smith (Per-

ful.)"  
"Bob Giersburg."  
"Robert E. Lee."  
"No one. I'll set my own goals."  
"Brandt Smith. He doesn't go along with the crowd when it would be easier to."  
"Myself."  
"I can't pinpoint them, but I do admire the teachers for their ability to cope with their work and students."  
"Mr. Pete Waites."  
"Mr. Amos. He is always willing to listen to problems and just talk about them."  
"Miss Wilford."  
"Mr. VanCamp."  
"Tonna Wrenfrow."  
"John Wayne."  
"Mr. Marcus VanCamp. He really knows how to make your days at PHS happy."  
"A person who knows himself and what he wants out of life."  
"Mrs. Ruth Riddle because she tries to help you with any kind of problem you have."  
"Sue Cooper for working for the wages she does."

## We Plan To Go to College, To Vo-Tech, to Service

### FUTURE PLANS

In this year's senior class, about half of the graduates plan to get some kind of post-secondary training. Around thirty-five percent of them have no plans for further schooling and the rest are undecided.

Most of those who will continue their education will go to college. Approximately 10 will go to vocational school and a like number plan to join the military service.

The Army has recruited

Mike Richardson, Tommy Dorman, Larry Brown, Paul Foster and David Burgess. Kenny Carucci, Ron Briggs and Randal Seyler plan to go into the Navy. The Air Force will get Duylene Winebaugh and Brian Griffith. Most of these chose the military service because of the benefits and the educational opportunities.

Only about one third of the seniors have definitely decided upon a career which they would like to pursue. Three each want to

become accountants, businessmen or career service men. Two want to be secretaries, mechanics or medical technologists. Other professions which seniors have decided upon are truck driver, photographer, housewife, p.e. teacher, pediatrician and policeman. Still others are interested in becoming teachers, social workers, flight attendants, missionaries, dentists, nurses, anesthesiologists, electricians and radio-tv repairmen.

## To Underclassmen We Say, 'Study, Get Involved, Live It Up'

Because they have twelve years of experience on which to draw, we asked the seniors to give a word of advice to underclassmen. Here are their words of wisdom.

"Take advantage of every activity in high school that you possibly can. Don't be shy."

"Study now because if you don't you'll regret it."

"Make the best grades you can and take hard subjects."

"Don't get caught."  
"Stay in school. Stay sober. Take all the classes

you can get. Don't help too many teachers."

"Persistence and patience."

"Keep your cool with the teachers."

"Be yourself and don't try to impress anyone."

"Take all you can get the most of it. Become involved."

"Don't loaf your senior year. It's boring."

"Stick with it. You'll live."

"Enjoy high school as much as you can because it only happens once."

"Finish school because you'll never regret it."

"Study hard because when you get out of school and try and get a job you'll wish you had studied."

"School is a necessity in life so make the best of it because it's not that bad."

"Do not act like nuts."

"Hang in and do your best. It will pay off in the end."

"Don't let anyone run over you."

"Graduate."

"Be yourself and study harder than I did."

"Accept the Lord Jesus Christ and life will have meaning."

"Don't do anything to the other guy you don't want done to yourself. And be kind to teachers; they're not all bad."

"Work at courses that are challenging to your ability."

"Watch out for Mr. Taylor and Mr. VanCamp."

"Nothing. Let them suffer themselves."

"Be careful."

"Study like mad."

"Respect authority."

"Don't give up the ship."

"Don't drink, smoke or anything you'd regret later in life. You have one life to live. If you serve God you just begin to live. I pray that they won't throw away their lives."

"Hang in there."

"Get out."

"Make the best of your last years because they're over much faster than you will imagine."

"Make your days at PHS the best you can because you'll really miss it after you get out. Get involved and have fun especially your senior year."

"Be careful around

teachers with beat eyes."

"Keep cool; you'll get it sooner or later."

"Don't party."

"Go to church."

"Be sure you have required classes graduate before you're a senior so you won't have to worry during your senior year."

"Don't fill your schedule with study halls and take courses in which you can benefit."

"Don't work over 20 hours a week because it interferes in your grades and school activities."

"Try your best to stay out of trouble and try to earn respect for yourself."

"Have fun and don't worry about being popular."

"Reach and don't be afraid of experience. Don't stand back and say I can't. Really work at overcoming shyness and have self confidence even if you have to fake it."

"Do what you want."

"Keep alert and listen."

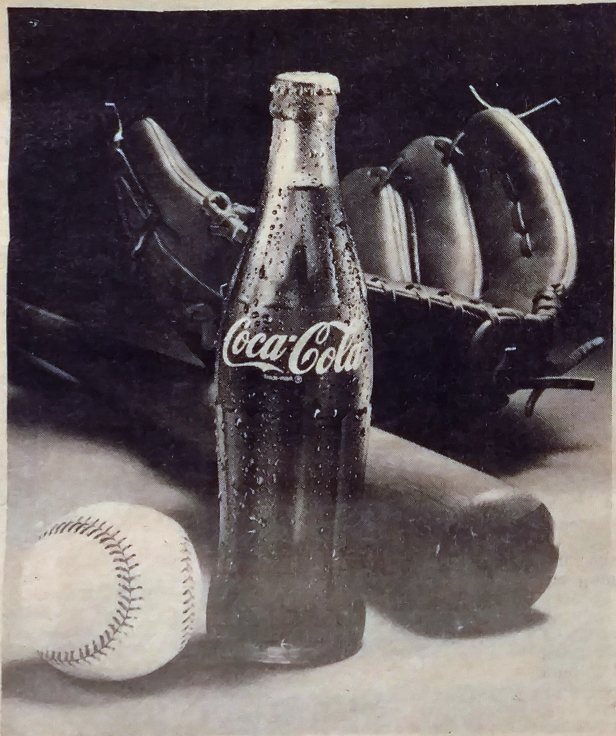
"Be Kool and a Jool. Work hard at everything worth anything."

"When a teacher gets on to you for something, just let it ride because if you try to deny it, you'll get into more trouble."

"Quit griping about school and study."

"Get what you can from school while you have a chance to because when it is over there will be no more high school days."

Ending on a sad note, the Smoke Signal discovered that by a majority of two to one the seniors last year did not live up to their expectations. Most feel that seniors have lost all their privileges and that the senior year has been just like any other.



*From the top  
of the first  
to the bottom  
of the ninth...  
Coke adds life  
to America's  
favorite pastime!*

