

New Name Draws More Letters

Don't Let Name Change Affect Student Morale

To the Editor:
As a Birmingham student I feel that I, too, have something to say about the proposed name change; only it isn't what most of the students have been saying.
I agree with the school board that the two schools should not be named geographically. I will certainly miss the name Birmingham high school but I'm not going to waste my time going against any decision the school board has already made.
They have been taking care of our school a long time and we have a name very well. So if they say that the name must be changed I'm sure that they know what they are talking about.

THE ONLY obstacle that I am worried about is the attitude of the student body. Everyone knows that morale is hard to build up in Birmingham and the name changing is going to either make or break our school and its reputation.

The students can sulk and moan about the new name and let our sports and our other school organizations droop, or they can get out to prove to the other schools that we are the same kids that we always were and that we are just as good in sports as we always were and that nothing as silly as a name change could ruin us.

I'VE TALKED WITH students from other schools and they are all just waiting to see how we weather this. Especially Royal Oak!

Maples, we all know that the school board has decided on the name. Now it's up to us. We can be branded as a bunch of spoiled brats or we can be known as a school that isn't going to let anything stand in its way.
Let's build as good a reputation for Seaholm high school as we did for Birmingham high!

JANET STRONG '61
531 Oakland
Birmingham

How Important Is It that Name Be Changed?

To the Editor:
We all know of the increasingly hot argument over the name of our high school at Lincoln and Cranbrook roads.

As each week goes by, the board of education comes up with another reason for perpetuating the new name. Ernest W. Seaholm high school; and Mr. Chapin and his petitioners come up with another reason for returning to the old name, Birmingham high school.

I do not think that this argument can be settled to everyone's satisfaction until the board answers a question which has bothered me, and, I imagine, many other people.

IT IS QUITE evident why Birmingham high students and graduates want the original name—sentimental reasons. Perhaps a better definition would be school spirit.

It is also fairly evident how much they want it: there are about 500 signatures on Mr. Chapin's petition, and many more would like to see the old name back, but have not signed as yet.

But I want to know: just how important is it to how many people that our high school be called something other than Birmingham? We have been told that it is important, but how important? Only when the public has this information can it make a really fair, logical decision.

FOR EXAMPLE, the board of

education says that "to have one school named 'The Birmingham high school' (would be) decidedly unfair to the students of the new high school."

I think it depends on those students. As a matter of fact, I have not heard of a single Groves student who gives a hoot.

If this is a true indication of the attitude at Groves, and if that attitude continues, the above quotation is unfounded.

But is it the true attitude, and will it continue? Groves students can answer the first part of that question by voicing their opinions.

To answer the second part, we would have to look at other secondary schools, schools which have been faced with the same problem as Birmingham and have kept their old city names.

I wonder if the board of education is aware of this. It has looked afraid to prove that all will be rosy for SHSers in a few years; it has not told us whether or not things would be rosy if the SHSers were BHSers.

THE BOARD OF education seems to take it for granted that unfairness and confusion will result if our high school uses its old name.
But they do not seem to really be certain of this, because they have not yet, to my knowledge, offered the public proof that such unfairness and confusion will occur (if it will occur at all).
I am sure that when students and graduates of Birmingham high school have all the information they need to switch both sides of the dispute, they will make the right decision.

If they can see that it would be unwise to use the city name, they will not hesitate to agree with the board of education.

But until they are shown that beyond any doubt it is unwise, they will continue to object.

22830 W. 14 Mile
Beverly Hills
DAVE MAKER

New Grad Changes His View on Name Of His School

To the Editor:
When Dr. Dwight B. Ireland announced to the graduating seniors that Birmingham high school would hence be known as Seaholm, I was against it. The more I think about it, however, the sillier my original position seems to be. I don't get me wrong. I have a

very strong feeling for Birmingham high school and would like to see it remain just as it is. But there is no choice. The change is necessary.

WOULD IT? Obviously, there must be a distinction between the two high schools, and one cannot be given dominance over the other, as retention of the Birmingham name certainly would.

ALTHOUGH WE ALL would prefer to keep the Birmingham name, what real difference does it make?
The traditions we cherish are not strictly Birmingham traditions for they existed long before the Birmingham name and will continue long after it has passed. They are what might be termed the "Maple heritage."

This heritage had its birth at the old Hill school, developed and grew at Baldwin, and in 1952 was passed on to Birmingham. Now it will be handed over to Seaholm. Someday Seaholm may hand it over to a fifth school, but it will go on as long as there are high school students in the school district.

LOOK AT FIELD DAY, Washington trip, the first "Highlander,"

the school colors, the Maple nickname, the marching song, and most of the memorials, honors and awards. All were cherished long before anyone thought of Birmingham.

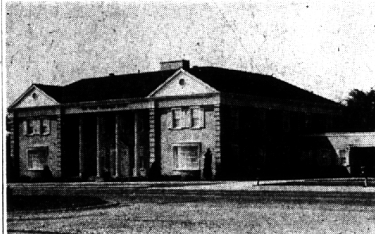
Last year student congress and "The Piper" celebrated 25th anniversaries although Birmingham high school is only seven years old. Our sports record books don't stop with 1952 but date back to the '20s.

These don't belong to Birmingham, nor do they belong to Baldwin. They belong to that Hill-Baldwin-Birmingham-Seaholm heritage, of which Birmingham was just one phase—a relatively short phase, but a great one.

DURING ITS SEVEN short years, Birmingham gave to the heritage the Marc Joslyn, Lt. Anderson and Harry Klimashyn medals. (See LETTERS, Page 5-B).

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