

THE

"The Voice of the Students"

GASLIGHT



Karen Ann Gibbs Crowned "Miss Gaston College '83"

Profile



"Miss Gaston College" for 1983
Miss Karen Ann Gibbs

By Michael Schwartz
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With tears in her eyes, Karen Ann Gibbs started her long walk toward the front of the stage. She held a bouquet of roses tightly in her arms and the sparkling crown sat atop her head.

Several weeks of practicing, pretending to be crowned the winner, had finally paid off for Karen. And although just a week earlier, she had had thoughts of withdrawing from the contest — she was glad she didn't.

Karen was really surprised when her name was called out. "It's a good feeling. I was thinking of my family and friends," she said afterwards. "My father was standing down in front of the stage taking pictures. They gave me a lot of support."

Her thoughts weren't all on her friends though. As she stood facing the audience, the moment of the situation finally caught up with her — "Karen, what are you doing up here?" she said to herself.

Karen, 20, is the daughter of the Rev. and Mrs. Phillip H. Gibbs of Gastonia. Her father is pastor of Bradley Memorial United Methodist Church.

It wasn't all that easy for Karen though. There was one thing that nearly kept her from entering the "Miss Gaston College" pageant.

It wasn't her fear of standing in front of a large audience. After all, if her father could do it every Sunday, why couldn't she? Nor was it having to perform a tap and jazz number to the overture "Audition" from David Merrick's "42nd Street." She loves to dance.

Karen's biggest fear was having to get up there in front of everybody, with braces on.

"I really didn't think I wanted to," she said. "Sure, braces and all." Karen has had braces for less than a year now, and they were on her mind.

She was scheduled to have the braces removed by the time of the pageant, but her orthodontist wasn't satisfied — so on they stayed. But as it turned out, she had nothing to worry about.

As for the pageant itself, Karen thought it was great. And as for the other contestants. "I made some new friends," she said. "It's great to have someone help you. And even though you are competing against each other, we were still good friends."

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