

Gordon Cureton Heads Garinger's Student Body

By James Cuthbertson
Post Staff Writer

Ask Gordon Cureton how he felt in September when he was elected as the President of the student body of one of the largest high schools in the state and he will quite candidly tell you that he was nervous.

"I was running against three of the most popular people at the school," said the Garinger High School senior who alternates his time between heading the student government, playing varsity football, running track, and serving in the National Honor Society and the Key Club.

The 5-foot 8-inch Morehead Scholarship finalist thinks it's a great honor to be President of the Garinger student body.

"It signals a new era as far as race relations are concerned. People are voting on candidates at Garinger as people instead of on the basis of race," said Cureton who added that Delcia Harper became Garinger's first Black girl secretary in the September Elections also.

"I think that our school has started on the right foot to make this school year the best year," he said. "Blacks and whites are beginning to get along with each other."

The son of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel L. Cureton of 1126 Waddell St. has been at Garinger all three of his high school years. He first became interested in student government, he said, when he was a student at Hawthorne Junior High School.

"But I really became more openly concerned about Student Government when I went to Garinger," he said. "In the 11th grade I served on the Junior Executive Council.

What does his duties include? "I head the student council which works on special projects such as dances and planning homecoming activities, and etc. he said.

The three-year letterman in football played defensive back on the football team and runs



GORDON T. CURETON
...Morehead Scholarship Finalist

the 110, the 220 and the 100 yard dashes in track.

In addition, Cureton is the Lt. Governor of Division two South of the Key Clubs which includes clubs in Mecklenburg and Gaston counties.

Cureton offers this advice for schools caught in the turmoil of a riot. Don't let a small percentage of the student body influence you," he said. "The school is what you make it. If you want a good school you can make it that way. All a riot does is get your school's name in the paper in a bad way. You can accomplish the

same thing by doing good deeds. It's a harder but better route that is the right route."

Cureton is considering three area universities for furthering his education. They are the University of North Carolina, Duke University, and Davidson College.

He plans to major in political science and hopes to enter law school one day. For fun, he said, "I will stick to track."

"I have been amazed at all three schools. All have something to offer me and I feel that I have something to offer them also", he said.

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Shelby Rich, right front row, was crowned Queen. Cassandra Washington, second from right, was 1st runner-up, and Ingrid Renee Sullivan, 3rd from right, was 2nd runner-up. For other photo please turn to page 10. Photo by Preler.

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