



COMPUTERS also provided inquisitive minds with an opportunity to test their knowledge on a wide variety of topics. Bryan Smith of South Brunswick Middle School takes a quiz on plant growth.

Curriculum Fair Praised While Hundreds View Student Projects

BY TERRY POPE

It was a chance for schools to share ideas and for parents to view what students have been doing since the 1984-85 school year began. When the first Brunswick County Science and Curriculum Fair ended Sunday evening, hundreds of visitors had attended the two-day event that highlighted the county's most talented, creative and gifted students.

"It gives the whole county a chance to see what's going on," said Assistant Superintendent Ed Lemon. "Ordinarily, these are things that you don't see everyday. It also gives other schools a chance to see what is going on. We like sharing ideas."

What was originally planned as a countywide science fair was changed into a science and curriculum fair last summer by Superintendent Gene Yarbrough, when he was still an assistant superintendent in charge of curriculum, Lemon said.

"He asked the board last year to fund this program," Lemon said. "As he moved up to superintendent, I took that responsibility."

Science displays, computer projects, art works and student demonstrations filled the public assembly building at the government complex in Bolivia for two days. Winners in the county science fair were also chosen to advance to the Southeast Regional Science, Math and Computer fair to be held Saturday in Kenansville.

One of the judges for the county science fair, Gene Boland, region two science coordinator with the N.C. Department of Public Instruction, was also excited about combining the science fair into a curriculum fair for all students to enjoy.

"This is an outstanding idea," Boland said. "As far as I know, this school system is the first to offer such a program, at least in my region."

Among the projects judged Saturday morning were ones that sought answers to such questions as, "Is it possible to isolate a paramecium and grow a pure culture of them?" Or, "Which chewing gum really lasts the longest in flavor?"

Although Boland said the science projects were creative, many lacked the "experimentation process" needed to label them science projects, he added. "The four that won show more experimentation than others. This is something we will be working with science teachers on."

Students winning first-place blue ribbons in math, science and computers will display their projects this weekend in Kenansville. Science project winners are Kathy McMullen, eighth grade, Shallotte Middle School; Felicia Gore, freshman, West Brunswick High School; Kim Edwards, sophomore, North Brunswick High School; and Christy Johnson, sophomore, South Brunswick High School.



LATIN INSTRUMENTS accompanied the Brunswick County Honors Chorus in their number, "Mama Paquita." Playing the bongos was Michael Westcott of Bolivia Elementary School.

First-place blue ribbons for computer projects were awarded to Jeni Trout, senior at West Brunswick; Tom Corbett Jr., seventh-grader at South Brunswick Middle School; and Susan Yount, sixth-grader at South Brunswick Middle School.

Winning first-place ribbons for their math projects were Sutton Foy, seventh-grader, South Brunswick Middle School, and Larry Norris,

Tracy Smith and Adam Baker, sixth-graders at Waccamaw Elementary School.

Kathy McMullen's science project titled "Plant Growth and Nutrients" asked the question, "Do nutrients make a difference in plant growth?" Through experimentation, the eighth-grader determined "plants need an average amount of fertilizer to grow well, which is one-eighth teaspoon per cup of water."

Felicia Gore's project explored whether breakfast actually helps students do better academically while Kim Edwards' project compared male and female intelligence levels.

Christy Johnson explored the world of the paramecium and had to label her experiment as unsuccessful since other microbes were getting into her culture either through unclear jars or unclear water. But she still earned a blue ribbon for three attempts.

A common checkerboard provided student Sutton Foy with a creative math project.

"Since the checkerboard is made up of 64 squares (the squares of 8x8) which is a square itself, I believed the total number of all the squares would be a square itself," Foy wrote of his project. There are 204 squares on the checkerboard, he determined.

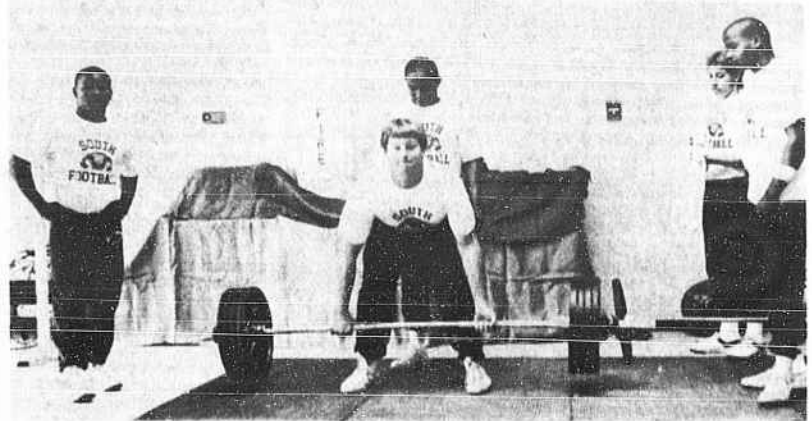
Winning math projects also explored the palindrome conjecture, or changing a number within a minimum number of steps so that it is the same digits spelled backwards. For example, changing 1985 to 5891 through simple steps.

Winning computer projects included an original quiz on the state of North Carolina and a quiz on plant growth.

"We will have a lot longer to think about it next year, since we know it will be an annual event," Lemon said. "It has been a beautiful opportunity to show what we are doing in the schools."



A ROBOT named Scholar, the invention of Southport Elementary School's fourth-grader John Midgett, was a popular attraction at the science and curriculum fair. Kayde Smith of Leland Middle and Trey Carpenter of Lincoln Primary demonstrate the project.



STUDENT STRENGTH in other school subjects was also tested at the curriculum fair. Members of the South Brunswick High School football and weight lifting squads watch as Scott Robde lifts 415 pounds. Others are, from left, Bryan Galloway, Gary Galloway, Ritchie LaBelle and Larry Galloway.

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