

The Gaslight



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Ronda Russell Crowned Miss Gaston

By Gary Leonheart
Gaslight Co-Editor

After weeks of exhausting practice and preparation the night finally arrived. The audience was tense — the contestants stood in line on the stage, awaiting the judges decision. The slip of paper was passed to the Master of Ceremonies. The moment had come....and Miss Gaston College 1982 is — Ronda Russell.

Ronda, the nineteen year old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. Dennis Russell was crowned as the most beautiful girl on campus.

The Miss Gaston College pageant took place on January 23, Ronda edged out some very stiff competition to take not only top honors, but the most talented award, as well.

Ronda is a Music major here at Gaston College with four years of piano, one year of voice and three years in tap dancing to her credit.

She has hazel eyes, dark brown hair and is 5'7" tall. Ronda, a 1980 graduate from Hunter Huss, was also the first runner up in the 1980 Miss Hunter Huss Pageant.

Her other activities include the "All County Chorus" and the Mars Hill Choral Clinic. Ronda was also presented a scholarship from the Gaston Music Education Foundation to attend Gaston.

Ronda's hobbies include cross-stitching, shopping, dancing, reading and she loves the

mountains and making new friends. Ronda hopes to continue her music future along with settling down and raising a family.

Along with Ronda was the first runner-up, Donna Pickelsimer and second runner up, Rebecca Taylor. Jacqueline Owensby was selected "Miss Congeniality" by her lovely competitors.

The pageant, which was sponsored by the S.G.A., was a tremendous success. About 300 spectators viewed and enjoyed the competition which was held in the Myers Center Auditorium.

Fred Story, the famed disc jockey from WBCY in Charlotte, was the Master of Ceremonies for the occasion.

Fred's light hearted antics proved to be the icing on the cake as the night wore on.

Jamie Tomlinson and pageant director Jay Rogers made everyone swoon with their singing, while the Pat Wall Dancers entertained with an outstanding performance.

The theme for the pageant, "Broadway Magic" was introduced by the contestants and got the evening off to a quick pace — that never let up until the final moment — when the queen was crowned.

The scenery, created with countless hours of work by the SGA student stage team, gave the



Miss Gaston College Ronda Russell is shown here being crowned by former Miss Gaston College Roselyn Grisson Sellers

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Financing Your Education: Several Sources Available

By Charlene Jenkins
Gaslight Reporter

Now that you've started your college education, are you having trouble financing it? Perhaps federal budget cuts have caused a change in your plans. Or maybe you have a younger brother or sister who wishes to attend college at a later date, but doesn't know how he or she will be able to afford it. Maybe you have a friend who is having problems coming up with enough funds.

If you fall into any of the above categories, you will certainly be interested to know that money for college is still available, despite inflation and the present economy.

If you know where to look, funds may be found in a number of places. Monies in the form of grants, scholarships, and work-study programs are frequently available to students.

You don't need an extremely high or low I.Q. in order to qualify. Your personal income will have more influence on your chances of receiving funds than any other standard.

The staff of the Gaslight feels that anyone should be able to get an education if he or she is willing to work for it. Therefore, we have tried to come up with viable sources of educational financing.

Dealing with banks

As for banks, the policy for low-interest student loans, payable after graduation, has changed in the past few years throughout the nation. Consequently, it may be near to impossible to receive money from this source.

Recently, a new plan has been put together by the Citizens Bank in Dallas, Georgia and the Students' Financial Services of Atlanta. These banks now offer to the parents of future college students a plan that will place the money saved for the students education into a

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