

Student Voters Pick Thorpe SO Prexy

In an election which boasted of 74 per cent of the registered voters, Sandy Thorpe defeated his opponent Bobby Savage, for the position of next year's president of the Student Organization.

Bobby Wimberly was elected to fill the office of vice president in a run-off election against Fred Harris; Johnny Hammond was eliminated from the slate in the first vote. Secretarial nominations were Norma Savage, Kay Williford and by petition, Erwin Robbins. Norma Savage having been eliminated in the first vote, a run-off election was held in which Erwin won over Kay.

Posters Spark Campaign
Campaign posters, hand bills, and stunts were seen throughout the school during the week prior to the voting date. Campaign speeches were given in assembly April 30th.

Chairman of the election committee, Wiley Fisher, states that this campaign was a most successful one. Everything went off with a bang, especially when the beauty show was given by Bobby Wimberly featuring Jimmy Lancaster, Johnny Warren, Stan Leggett and Eddie Pennington as

bathing beauties.

Run-Off Necessary
Polling places were in the homerooms of the advisers where the voting was done on Tuesday, May 4th. Sophomores voted in Mrs. Robbin's room, juniors in Miss Craighill's room and the seniors in Mr. Privett's room. Polls opened at 8:30 and closed at 4:00. The run-off voting was done on May 6th. in the same order.

Campaign managers, who are selected by each candidate, are responsible for the campaign of the candidate they are serving. Sandy Thorpe's manager was Theo Pitt; Bobby Savage's, Elise Williams; Fred Harris's, Lee Parker; Bobby Wimberly's, Mimi Brewer; Johnny Hammond's, Ruth Sides; Norma Savage's, Jimmy Selby; Kay Williford's, Freddy Turnage, and Erwin Robbins's, Marvin Barnes.

6 To Attend 'States'

Delegates have been elected to attend the fifteenth annual Girls' and Boys' State which will be conducted in Greensboro and Chapel Hill in June.

Kay Williford and Jane Hatchett, delegates to Girls State are to go to Woman's College in Greensboro, June 6-11 where they will attend concerts, parties, and other activities. One of the five days will be spent in Raleigh. Joyce Pierce and Lenore Brown are alternate delegates in case either of the others is unable to attend.

Delegates to Boys State—Julian Aldridge, Flaye Hammond, Charles Daughtridge, and Bill Kincheloe will be at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill, June 13-20. Boys from all over the state plan to set up city, state, and National governments. From these delegates two boys will be chosen to go to Boys' Notion.

Local delegates were chosen by the faculty from the rising senior class on the basis of scholarship, leadership, ability, service, and an interest in the affairs of government.

The American Legion sponsors Girls and Boys' State Conventions.

Exam Dates Set

June is not only a month for brides and graduation but is also the month for final exams, which are scheduled here for June 1, 2, 3.

First period exams are to start at nine o'clock Tuesday morning, June 1, and second period ones will begin at one o'clock that afternoon.

Third and fourth periods will follow the same schedule on Wednesday.

Fifth period exams are scheduled for Thursday morning. Thursday afternoon is reserved for make-up exams for those students who for acceptable reasons are not to take them at the specified time.

Senior exams will be given the week of May 25-27.

All delinquent dues must be paid before exams.

Last Curtain Call

Drama Final Project

As the final curtain came down on the senior play "Our Miss Brooks" Friday night, the class of '54 completed its last project.

"Our Miss Brooks" is the story taken from the radio-TV show about the trials and tribulations of a high school teacher. For the first time high school dramatics here a teacher portrayed a teacher on the stage. Miss Alma Murchison played Miss Brooks. Miss Brooks is beset with problems of the senior play, fights with the basketball coach and judging of contests.

Students taking part in the acting were Mollie Spruill, Miss Finch, the librarian; Janice Gray, Miss Audubon, the music teacher; Jimmy Lancaster, Hugo Longacre, the athletic coach; Jimmy Selby, Mr. Wadsworth, the principal; Ruth Farmer, Rhonda Allen; Patsy McAuley, Mrs. Allen; Kay Sanders, Elise; Edith Anne Johnson, Jane; Theo Pitt, Ted.

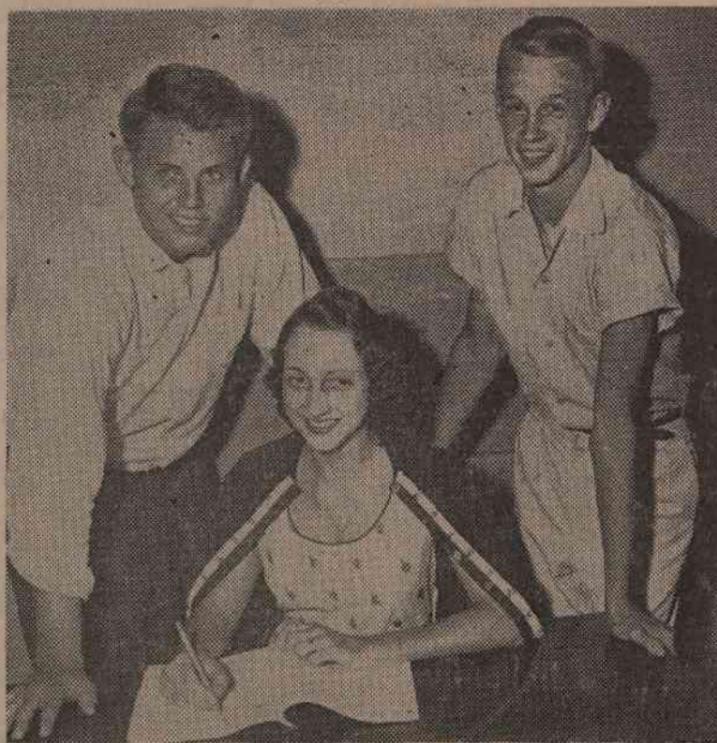
Other students are Robert Daughtridge, Stanley; Margaret Daughtridge, Doris; E. L. Daughtridge, Steve; Rose Booth, Marce; Garland Chick, Martin; Elise

Williams, Faith; Peggy Petitt, Elaine; Dave Barnes and Smokey Lancaster, two basketball players.

Members of the production staff included Barbara Ann Moore and Phil Wheelless, student directors; Carolyn Stancil and Peggy Sexton, prompters; Elizabeth Thompson, Gordon Wilkinson, and Sis Livengood, make-up; Barbara Brown, costumes; Kay Sanders, publicity; Barbara Ann Moore, gifts; Janice Gray and Sallie Ann Bartholomew, properties; Eddie Pennington, stage manager; E. L. Daughtridge, and Nicky Shine, lights; Bart Ritner, Bobby Chesso and Henry Thompson, sound; Wiley Fisher, business manager; Marvin Ward, house manager; Mollie Spruill, posters.

The play was directed by Miss Winkie Harris who is completing successful first year in dramatics at RMSHS.

The proceeds from the play will be used by the senior class to help pay for the gift to the school. The class has selected a scoreboard for the new gym to leave as its final gift to 'Our Alma Mater.'



New officers of the Student Organization are left to right Bobby Wimberly, vice-president, Erwin Robbins, secretary, and Sandy Thorpe, president.

The Blackbird

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Kincheloe To Serve As Chief Marshall

Bill Kincheloe has been selected by the National Honor Society to serve as chief marshal at the graduation exercises, June 4.

It will be the duty of the chief marshal to lead the seniors into the auditorium during commencement programs. This is perhaps one of the greatest honors that can come to a student in his junior year.

Other marshalls are Jane Hatchett, Erwin Robbins, Kay Williford, Mary Lee Fountain, Muri Brewer, Bobby Savage, and Julian Aldridge. These students are the junior members of the National Honor Society.

Jimmy Selby, chairman of the Baccalaureate committee for the senior class, has announced that the Reverend Vann Bogard Dunn of the Duke University Divinity School will present the commencement sermon in the school auditorium, May 30.

The Reverend Mr. Dunn, a native of Sedalia, Kentucky, received his B. A. degree from Murray State College in 1946 and his B. D. degree from Duke University in 1948. After graduating he became pastor at the Methodist Church in Kirkley, Kentucky. In 1951 he returned to Duke to study for his Ph. D. degree, which he receives in June 7.

The Reverend Leon Russell of the First Methodist Church and the Reverend H. F. Surratt of the Clark Street Methodist Church will assist Reverend Dunn in the service.



State Supt. Carroll To Deliver Annual Commencement Address

Dr. Charlie F. Carroll, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, has accepted the invitation to be the principal speaker in the commencement exercises of the class of '53-'54 in the auditorium, June 4, at 8 p. m.

Other guests on the program are Rev. Hoke H. Ritchie, Pastor of the Trinity Lutheran Church, who will deliver the Invocation and Benediction, Mr. Frank S. Wilkinson, a member of the Board of Trustees, who is to present the diplomas and Bibles, and Superintendent of the city schools, D. S. Johnson, who will preside over the exercises.

The class will march into the auditorium led by their chief marshal, Bill Kincheloe, to the traditional processional *Pomp and Circumstance*, Elgar, played by the high school band. *Hulddegungsmarsch*, Grieg, will be used as the recessional.

Under the direction of Mr. Harold T. Parry the choir will sing "You'll Never Walk Alone" etoietta "You'll Never Walk Alone," Rodgers and Hammerstein, and *Battle Hymn of Republic*, Howe, Steffs, and Ringwald.

Freddie Turnage, president of the class will also present the class gift at this time.

This is the first class to graduate from the new Rocky Mount Senior high and also the largest to graduate in the history of the school.

Newsees

Dickie Pearshall, a former student now living in Charlotte, won the State high school singles championship, May 14.

Musettes had a weiner roast at the River Side Park, May 12.

The band played with other guest bands for the opening of the Taboro swimming pool, May 16. Afterward they could go swimming for an hour and a half.

Margaret Daughtridge, chairman of the commencement committee, Rodney Malcom, Nancy Hobbingsworth, Edith Gardner, Charles Hughes, Sarah Moore, Darrel Boyd, Jerry Rentrow, Peggy Bateman, Mrs. Ora VanBaskirk, adviser, planned the program and bulletin for graduation. Decorations will be the courtesy of Weather's Florist.

Eat, Dance, Play All This Sr. Day

Eats, dancing, music, and dramatics—all of this, and more, too, will entertain the seniors when the annual Senior Day is observed Monday, May 31.

Seniors will begin the day with a breakfast at the Ricks Hotel at 8:30 a. m. At the meeting Janet Spain, chairman of the Senior Day Committee, will preside and Mr. and Miss Senior will be selected by three judges. Mayor Jack Murchison will proclaim the day officially, "Senior Day."

After breakfast the members of the class of '54 will return to school but not to assume the task of learning. Instead, they may if they desire and if it meets with the approval of the teachers, teach the class.

After lunch, seniors will not be required to return until 1:30 p. m. At this time they will report to the auditorium where each senior homeroom will present a short skit and the Last Will and Testament and the Prophecy will be read.

A Vesper Service will be held at Gay's Park at 5:30 and this will be followed by a supper at Josh Bulluck's and a movie at the Center Theater.

To top the big day the seniors will be entertained by Walter Plummer and his band at a street dance in the parking lot behind the school.

Seniors will not wear caps and gowns on this day. Instead they will wear the class flower with ribbons identifying them as "Seniors of 1954."