

SO Committees Do Many Jobs

To make students more aware of the Student Organization as a service group, a summary of committee projects, which already may have been publicized as they were completed, will give an inkling of the many hours spent in student service projects.

Those students who have not yet registered to vote in class and school elections will be given the opportunity to do so, November 29 through December 3. All students, new and old, who have never registered must do so to be eligible to vote.

The Elections committee has been hard at work making the registration cards for this occasion. Much time is given by Cacky Atkins and her committee, in preparation for this event.

Members of the Social committee, with Jean Stephenson as chairman, have spent countless hours showing guests and new students around the school, selecting sponsors for the football games, and operating the concession stand at the games. This group is now making plans for the annual Christmas dance.
SEE ORGANIZATION—PAGE 6

Jr. Red Cross Ends Campaign

With a total collection of \$28.48, the Junior Red Cross Membership campaign closed with only four homerooms 100 per cent.

Members of the Junior Red Cross got right to work this year. Mrs. Mae Bell, over-all chairman, talked to the club and gave them ideas about projects that could be undertaken. After looking through a Greek exchange album containing pictures of different types of cloth and agricultural products, the club selected the task of making an album about Rocky Mount to send overseas.

So the work could get underway immediately, different people were assigned things to bring in. Most of these articles, had to be self-explanatory, since the album might go to a country where English is not read or spoken.

Junior Red Cross requires outside work as well as work during the club hour. When the local Senior Red Cross chapter had its annual meeting, Junior members served as hosts and hostesses for the visitors. The school cafeteria was the site of the banquet so members were posted at important places to show the guests around.

Harriet Hagen, president of the Junior Red Cross, says that the club is doing fine and is expected to be the best and hardest working group in quite a while.

'Let Us Be Truly Thankful'

By an act of Congress, the last Thursday in November each year has been set aside as Thanksgiving Day. It is intended that on this one day of all the year that we, the American people shall pause in our busy lines and render thanks unto God for the blessings we enjoy as a free and Democratic people.

Our public high schools are a very important part of the American way of life. Are we truly thankful for them and the opportunity to learn? The freedom to seek knowledge and to learn is a heritage that we must always cherish. In our present day world we are apt to take our blessings for granted. We have far more to be thankful for today than did the Pilgrims of 300 years ago—and yet are genuinely sincere in expressing our gratitude to God for all that He has given us?

True that there will be no classes on Thursday and Friday of this week—but are these shouts of joy that we hear at this pronouncement from those who welcome the two days as an opportunity to express grateful hearts to God or are these shouts of joy from those who are thinking only of personal pleasures to be derived during the holidays?

We could spend hours and hours thinking of the many things for which we have to be grateful — our churches homes, and schools, which make up our great democratic ideas, such as freedom of worship, of speech, of assembly, and of petition. Indeed, we are a blessed people.

Let us, this Thanksgiving humbly bow in prayer and give thanks to God for the blessings he has bestowed upon us and honestly in our hearts, be truly grateful.

By C. M. Edson, Principal

Miss Print Candidates Named

"Who do you think "Miss Print" will be?" is what many people are asking each other, but they must wait for "Miss Print" to be announced at the traditional crowning.

Candidates for "Miss Print" are sophomores Ellen Joyner with Sonny Cherry as her campaign manager, Betty Lou Savage with Bobby Savage, Eleanor Bulluck with Boogie Divine, Lee Newby with Frank Wilkinson, Debbie Wall with Bradley Doxier, and Kitty Thurman with Charles Sanders. Juniors running are Tonya Pennington with Johnny Hammond as her manager, Fay Batts with Ray Joyner, Margaret Stone with Addison Wimbley, Kay Knight

with Bill Nelms, Fay Mears with Ray Edwards, and Ginger Rooney with Al Cole. Erwin Robbins with Ronny Felton as her manager and Lee Ann Brown with Fred Harris is her campaign are the seniors competing.

Each candidate is allowed seven containers distributed. It was voted among the candidates to make \$2.00 the maximum amount to be donated by the parents.

The campaign officially started yesterday and will end December 6.

The Blackbird sponsors the "Miss Print" contest to make money to aid in the publishing of the paper.

Drama Date Set

If work continues as planned, the Edsonians will have their first play ready for production on December 10.

The "Blithe Spirit" cast and production crew have been hard at work and there's a strong feeling among them that this may be one of the best plays ever produced here.

There are many intricate details to every part of the stage set, and the property committee has been sifting through every possibility in order that everything will be letter perfect. Aside from making curtains and covering a sofa, all members of the organization have been busy painting flats, building steps, tables, windows and the like.

United Fund Goal 113,146

Because of complaints from people about the many campaigns for money, the United Fund, which is supported by one annual drive, has been organized.

There are nineteen organizations supported by the United Fund, among the number are Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Rural Youth Day Program, and the Salvation Army. This year the goal is 113,146 dollars; and if the system of "one-gift" contribution is to be maintained, the contributions must be greater than they have in the past. Local senior high students have already contributed 386 dollars to this cause.

The United Fund campaign is conducted in Rocky Mount by two non-professional fund raisers and year-round residents who are volunteer solicitors.

This organization works on the assumption that "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure" by helping to prevent delinquency, disease, crime, and broken homes through services to youth, adults, the sick and afflicted.

School Gets Station

"Rocky Mount Senior High is getting a radio station to be run entirely by the students," says Ronnie Felton, member of the Radio Broadcasters Club and MC of his own radio show, *In The Mood*.

The station is going to be installed sometime after Christmas by Ray Wilkinson and will transmit directly from high school. Broadcasting equipment will probably be located in the General Purpose room or in the auditorium.

Programs will be broadcast everyday and they will feature high school activities and other things of interest to high school students. There will be student announcers, technicians and engineers trained especially for work in the station. Local business firms will have the opportunity to advertise over the student station also.

Burnette Wins Essay Contest

Winner of the "Voice of Democracy" contest was Shirley Burnette with Katherine Batten and Nancy Newbold as runners-up.

RMSHS had 46 students taking part. The eight finalists were Shirley Burnette, Nancy Newbold, Sheila Culpepper, Kitty Thurman, Jean Taylor, Audrey Kennedy, Kathrine Batten, and Julian Aldridge. These students come from the 10th, 11th, and 12th grades. The five judges based their decision on text, presentation and originality. Each talk had to be in the five-minute region.

In this area the project is sponsored by the Junior Chamber of Commerce. It was originated in 1947 and since then all 48 states plus students from Alaska, District of Columbia, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico have participated.

The school winner will receive a certificate of merit, the community winner is awarded a certificate which will be presented at the regular Junior Chamber of Commerce meeting as well as a silver tray. The school providing the community winner is given the Jaycee cup.

This year the Belk-Tyler company is furnishing a steak dinner to the finalists in the school with

New Gymnasium By BB Season

Completion of the new gymnasium by the beginning of the basketball season is now the object of the contractor.

Many are the advantages of the new gym. Instead of having to travel to the old building each day for practice, the members of the varsity and B-squad basketball teams may then go right into the practice session without having to wait for someone who could not get a ride.

From the looks of the many colored flannels worn during the gym periods each day, the boys would like to start the basketball season as soon as possible so that they may avoid any further "humiliation." The girls that take gym would also like to get in a heated building instead of playing badminton in shorts in 32 degree weather.

There have been several freak accidents or tragedies during the building of the gym. In the early part of the summer, the west wall collapsed during a storm. Last semester, a workman was killed. If this had to happen, it was a good thing that it occurred while the students were in classes. Some of them might have been hurt otherwise.

This new gym will have modern equipment and a much greater seating capacity than the old one.

Holidays Here

Thanksgiving has come at last and school will close tomorrow afternoon at 3:24 and will resume Monday morning at 8:45.

This will be the first regularly scheduled holiday since school began in September, even though there was a holiday for the teachers meeting in Greenville.

THE BLACKBIRD staff sincerely hopes that everyone will enjoy the Thanksgiving holidays and that each one will have a full realization of all the things that Thanksgiving really means in addition to his share of a loaded table, maybe at Grandma's.