

Homecoming Plans Exciting

Excitement and enthusiasm are in evidence around Senior High as students anticipate Homecoming Day by preparing for a gay parade through the downtown business district, a football game, the crowning of Campus Sweetheart, and a schoolwide dance, November 16.

Participating in the traditional parade will be approximately sixty cars or floats from school and community organizations. Thirteen homerooms have already signed up for the parade as have also the sophomore, junior, and classes. THE BLACKBIRD and the HI NOC-AR staffs, the Cheerleaders, the National Honor Society, the Girls' Athletic Association, The SOS Club, the Bible Club, the Monogram Club, and the Junior Classical League have entered either a car or float.

Several local civic organizations in the past have entered cars, and the sponsoring group is expecting them to do the same this year.

Girls running for Campus Sweetheart are Barbara Davis, Bettie Ann Whitehurst, Ellen Joyner, Kitty Thurman, Judy Capps, Lee Newby, Charlotte Charmichael, Betty Lou Savage, and Sylvia Updegraff. From this election of beautiful girls one will be crowned during the halftime ceremonies of the game. The Collegian Combo will finish music for the big dance following the football game.

Everyone is working hard to make this Rocky Mount's best homecoming. Invitations to attend the festivities were sent to former RMHS graduates. Good Sports Club members are sponsoring two items to be sold at the game: bag of confetti and ribbons with flowers. It is hoped that many people will be at the game and dance.

High School Elects Stevenson Prexy By a Lead of 97

In the mock national election, sponsored by Miss Iola Parker's government class and third period American history class on November 6, Rocky Mount students elected Adlai Stevenson as president with 319 votes over Dwight Eisenhower's 222.

Purpose of this "straw ballot" was to create more student interest in national politics and to plant the "voting habit" into the lives of future voters.

The government class was in charge of registration and voting, and the history class did the campaigning. Joyce Burgess acted as chairman of the Democratic National Committee; Gwen Currin Republican National Committee chairman; Clare Davenport, State Board of Elections chairman; Clayton Hurt, County Board of Elections chairman; and Kitty Thurman, publicity chairman.

Registration took place Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday before the voting, November 6. The election was schoolwide, and no student was allowed to vote if he failed to register.

Of the student body, 90.3 percent registered and 92.4 percent of these students went to the polls on election day and cast votes for the candidates of their choice.

"I Speak for Democracy" Contest to Start Monday

Close for B. E. Day

Schools close this afternoon at 12:30 to allow teachers to participate in a Business-Education Day program, at which time they will see business in action — and talk with top executives of the host firms.

Some twenty business and industrial firms in the city, including manufacturers, bankers, building contractors, wholesalers, and others, will cooperate and act as host firms to the faculty.

B-E Day is now in its fourth year. Its main objectives and purposes are to afford businessmen an opportunity to explain the risks, the costs, and the achievements of their particular enterprises so the teachers will be better able to inform students of local opportunities.

The committee sponsoring this project hopes also to plan activities for students and classrooms.

American history students are preparing to enter the "I Speak for Democracy" contest, which begins next Monday, November 19.

Competition at present is between Mr. Ralph Gorham's history class, and on Monday all the students who have entered will give their speeches. During that week there will be several eliminations until the finalists are selected. winners go through district, state, and national competitions.

Speeches are judged on contest with a possible 40 points; delivery, 20 points; and originality, 20 points.

An interesting fact about this contest is that some of the essays competing for national recognition are used as material for Radio Free Europe.

The contest is sponsored annually by the Junior Chamber of Commerce. Kathryn Batten was last year's local winner.



Kitty Thurman, with her campaign manager Jimmy Thorpe, is demonstrating the techniques that paid off in the Miss Print contest.

Miss Print Coronation

Editor Crowns Kitty Thurman

In an atmosphere of excitement, Miss Print of 1956-57, Kitty Thurman, walked onto a gaily red and amber lighted stage, representing the Cinderella Home, where she received a sparkling gold crown from the King of the program, Edward Riner, Editor of the BLACKBOARD.

Kitty had a total of 13,805. Cinderella and her Prince Charming, Jimmy Thorpe, were escorted to the throne where the Pages, Gwen Currin and Pat Bell, assisted Edward in presenting the crown and bouquet of mixed flowers to Kitty. Runnerup Duchess with 10,871 votes was Gloria Nelson and her Duke was Richard Taylor. Gloria received a nosegay of red carnations.

Members of the court were Lady Jane Bradley and Charles Edwards, Lady Celia Brake and John Baggett, Lady Brenda Burnette and Frank Brake, and Lady Nancy Coggins and Mac Hines.

Lady Jane Fountain and Dale Stevens, Lady Luanne Hobbs and

Lady Sandra Melton and Cecil Marks, Lady Virginia Norment and Mitchell Collins, and Lady Jo Dare Williams and Tommy Whitley were the other members of the court. Following this the couples waltzed to the Merry Widow Waltz.

The Miss Print campaign has been conducted by THE BLACKBIRD Staff for the past eight years.

Edsonian Production Promises Murder, Mystery, and Comedy

If you like comedy and mystery, don't miss the Edsonian's first production where you'll meet the "Stranger In the Night", in a hotel gift shop where a murder just might occur, Friday night, December 7.

Though the picture on this page (taken at a recent play practice) shows the cast in all kinds of moods, the rehearsals have usually been more serious. However, the play is hilarious as well as mysterious.

Twelve delightful and intriguing characters are portrayed in "Stranger In the Night." Sylvia Lee (Frances Gay) and Mable Crain, (Jane Pamgren) are the youthful owners of a hotel gift shop. Grant Teny (Stan Reed) is a young newspaper columnist; J. T. Rutledge, a retired executive, is played by Larry Warner; Velda Stevens, J. T.'s secretary, is portrayed by Retha Kerman. Audrey Glover plays the part of Clifford Newkirk, a law student.

Marie Stetcher, Tommy Reece,

Anne Battle, Jackie Jackson, Sandra Hardesty, and Puddie Gold are (see Play, page 5)

This is Play Practice?!



Fun naturally accompanies hard work, and this cast hopes to prove it with their dramatic production of "Stranger In the Night". The above picture shows them clowning at one of their "time outs."

Photo by Barringer

Hi-Noc-Ar Gets '1'

Hi-Noc-Ar, 1956, won a first place grade at the Columbia Press Association according to a recent report received by the Yearbook staff.

This publication has been a member of the CSPA since 1947, and during those years has won four first place ratings. This year the staff is working for a medalist award.