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# THE BLACKBIRD

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## Three Girls Prove Old Adage 'Female Smarter Than Male'

Judy Leonard, Gail Wald, and Roberta Williams proved the much disputed remark, "Girls are smarter than boys," when these girls became semifinalists in the 1958-59 National Merit Scholarship Competition.

Out of 479,000 students, the three Rocky Mount High School seniors were among 10,00 of highest scorers on the National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test endorsed them as semifinalists. This moved the girls a step closer to a part of an estimated \$5 mills in Merit Scholarships.

### 3-Hour Exam Next

Judy, Gail and Roberta with the other semifinalists, will next take a three-hour examination, the Scholastic Aptitude Test of the College Entrance Examination

## Another Holiday!

Schools out! Rocky Mount schools will close an entire day for the annual meeting of the NCEA (North Carolina Education Association) in Elizabeth City, Tuesday, October 21.

This makes a holiday for the students but the "poor" teachers of the North-Eastern section of N. C. will be attending meetings. (This day really must be made up.)

Board. This test will be given in testing centers throughout the United States December 6.

The girls have been sent "just pages and pages" of forms to fill out. This will supply the examining board with all the needed information about the girls and their school life.

Students passing the semifinals will, as finalists, be eligible for \$5 millions in awards sponsored by business organizations all over America. In this the final phase of the competition, high school grades, extracurricular activities, and student leadership will be graded as well as the tests.

### Winners To Get 4-Year Fund

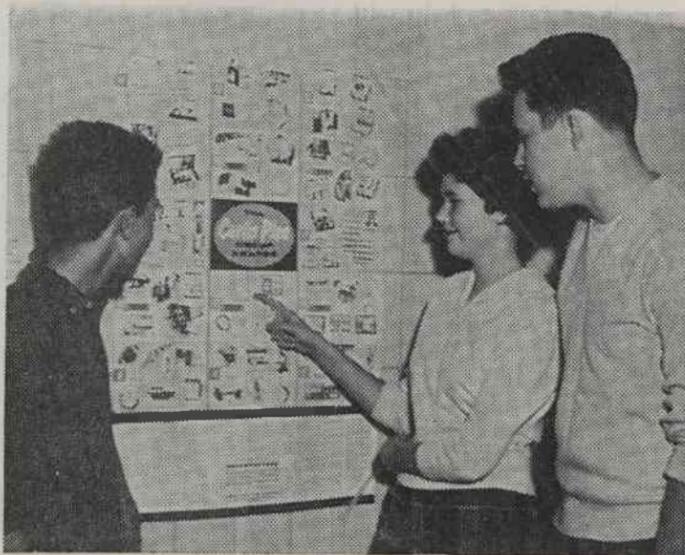
Those named the Merit Scholars of 1959 will receive a four-year award covering the four college years. Additional funds will be provided according to the individual needs of the student. The Merit Scholars will be announced about May 1.

All finalists will be awarded Certificates of Merit which recognizes their high ability. All colleges will be notified, enabling these students to be considered for other awards.

Nearly one-third of the national senior class has been tested. The goal of these tests is to make it possible for a greater number of students to enter college next fall.

## Successful 'Mag' Sale Ends

### "I Want That!"



Chris Woodard, sophomore, Mary Will Woodard, junior, and Lawrence Satterfield, senior, top magazine salesmen in each class, are having trouble deciding which of the many prizes they want for their achievement. Photo by Johnnie Harper

## Work Pays Off After Ten Days

With reports in and prizes selected, one of the reportedly biggest magazine campaigns ever to hit Senior High has ended after ten toilsome days of students' knocking on doors and pleading with customers for sales.

Three most successful door-knockers in the school are Chris Woodard, Lawrence Satterfield, and Mary Will Woodard. Highest homerom in sales was that of Mr. Chris Carpenter. As a reward Mr. Carpenter's homerom will enjoy a free trip to the Ice Capades in Raleigh.

Mr. Carpenter will dine with Mr. C. W. Doak (of the Curteiss Publishing Company) in Raleigh before joining his homerom at the Ice Capades.

The junior class was the highest in total sales followed by the sophomores and seniors. Each class contributes part of its profits to the student organization. Sophomores and seniors give twenty-five per cent. However, since the juniors sponsor the Junior-Senior, only ten per cent of their profit goes to the SO.

At the time of this writing, reports have not been completed but Miss Gate Parks Kitchen, SO advisor, stated that the response of the students for this campaign has been overwhelming.

Miss Kitchen also said that the student participation in this campaign has been wonderful and that a campaign like this is a demonstration of the students' abilities and is a credit to the school.

Prizes ranged from a fountain pen set for the seller of \$20 worth of subscriptions to a portable radio for a \$325 salesman. A certificate of achievement was given to anyone selling \$30 or more.

## Casting Complete

## 'Lights Out' Stars Seniors

"Lights Out," a three-act mystery comedy, has its complete cast with Honey McIntyre, Lou Ann Ann Randolph and Edward Fleming

## New Room Mystery

What's in the "Green Rom?" looks like is a mystery to everyone but the members of Black Masquers, because it is a private room that may be entered only by members of this honorary organization for dramatic students.

Besides re-decorating the Green Room and helping Mrs. Ada Hobbs, dramatics teacher and advisor to the club, choose the cast for the play "Lights Out," members of the organization are drawing up a new constitution.

Officers recently elected are Honey McIntyre, president; Sandra Hardesty, vice president; Glenda Ferrell, secretary; and John Walters, treasurer.

To be eligible for membership in The Black Masquers, one must have worked on two major productions.

## Posters Now Down As Campaign Ends

Posters are down, homerooms will be visited no more, for The Blackbird officially closed its subscription campaign, leaving the staff quite sad because they didn't reach the goal of 600.

In the campaign the sophomores were ahead, with seniors next, and the juniors lagging. Though subscription sales fell far below the goal, the staff reports that it will do its best to uphold the faith of the ones who did subscribe.

All members of the staff were in competition with each other to see who could sell the most subscriptions. Regina Harles, Susie Street, and Judy Smith lead. Each sold over thirty subscriptions.

playing the leading roles.

Other members of the cast with important parts are Skippy Best, Jerry Blankenship, Penny Connell, Diane Kennedy, Brenda Robinson, Judy Sorrell, Dale Stevens and Wayne White.

"Lights Out" takes place at a house party with a possible buyer for the Stimwell estate. That's all Agnes Harwood (Honey McIntyre) had expected when she invited several acquaintances for a week-end at the mansion. But what a night of thrills and chills lay ahead for both guests and hostess, a night filled with creeping figures, ghostly threats and a strange voice in the dark!

Many hours already have been spent by Mrs. Ada Hobbs, dramatics teacher, in the casting of this first Edsonian production of this year.

Plans are still incomplete as to the presentation date.

## Senior Highers Eligible

## 'I Speak For Democracy'

### To Enter Contest

All Senior Highers are eligible for the "I speak for Democracy" contest, which this year will be under the direction of Mr. Julius Abernathy, Speech Club advisor and math teacher.

Deadline for all talks is October 15, and they should range from three to five minutes in length. Talks will be recorded on a tape recorder by Mr. Abernathy and the tap will be played back to judge, who will decide upon and announce a winner.

Last year's winner, Carolyn Nic-

hols, will be trying again. Carolyn has already won several other important journalistic contests this year, including first place in "Your Newspaper Guards Your Freedom," an editorial contest sponsored by the ELKS Club, and first place in the News and Observer's press contest.

Those students who are interested in the speaking contest should see Mr. Abernathy in homeroom 206, located in B-building as soon as possible.

## Carolyn J. Nickols Now Waits For Outcome of Press Meet

Carolyn Jean Nichols, Rocky Mount's and The News and Observer's Representative to the Ford Motor Company's National Teen-Age Press Conference, has a long, anxious wait before she will learn whether she is a winner of one of the five scholarships.

In competition with 174 other students from all over the United States, Alaska, and Hawaii, Carolyn spent a little over two days in Detroit, Michigan. Contestants were required to answer a detailed questionnaire on their grades, choices of subjects, hobbies, and extracurricular activities.

Contestants also had to attend press conferences and turn in a news account of Ford's '59 car line. Winners of one \$8,000 scholarship and four \$1,000 scholarships will be announced in November.

Though contestants worked quite hard most of the time, they still had fun and were entertained at a banquet which featured a floor show with Jill Corey, popular singer, and the Stepbrothers, a dance team.

While in Detroit, all contestants stayed at the Statler Hotel as guests of the Ford Motor Company. Students tried out the '59 Ford in groups of four. Carolyn's group won the gas economy contest and they each received a gift.

Carolyn was teased quite often in a friendly way by the many "Yankees" about her Southern accent.

## True To Type



Carolyn Nichols, contest winner, keeps busy to help time pass faster until Ford scholarship winners are announced next month.