

THE BLACKBIRD

Published by Journalism Classes of Rocky Mount Senior High School

VOLUME XXXII

ROCKY MOUNT, N. C.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 1962

NUMBER 6

Juniors Appoint Committees for Junior-Senior

During the past week, members of the Junior-Senior Committees have been busy planning discussions for the annual prom scheduled for May 11.

Under the direction of chairman Bryan Daley and advisor Mrs. Ora VanBuskirk, the music committee's job is to furnish a dance band for the dance. Members of this committee are Mooney Stotesbury, Carolyn Swain, Marion Barnes, Butch Fergusson, Sue Shearin, Lee Cuthrell, Greg Low, and Skipper Tuttle.

Chairman Tom McAuley, Ginna Aldridge, and advisor Mrs. Evelyn Walston head the program committee, which is in charge of providing entertainment for the dance. Serving on this committee are Annie Justa, Jackie Redding, Caroletta Jorden, Wrennie Pitt, A. G. Smith, Becky Edwards, and Jan McCrary.

The responsibility for the prepar-

ations for the Junior-Senior Banquet falls on the shoulders of the banquet committee, which is under the direction of chairman Becky Walker and advisor Mr. Henry Trevathan. The members are Gaye Pitt, Diane Tanner, Judy Council, Ruth Oates, Jim McChesney, Thresa Haggerty, Tim Shearin, Jay Daughtridge, and Ruth Ward.

Heading the invitations committee are Steve Wright, Dwight Thomas for the banquet and dance, are chairman Linda Dickson and advisor Miss Rubie Vause. On the committee are Suzanne Arie, Tane Bell, Bernie Capps, Linda Cunningham, Margaret Doherty, Diane Smith, Anne Vanderslice, and Brack Townsend.

Chairman Glenn Hemmerle and Shelly Stallings, under the direction of advisor Mr. Earl Privott, head the decorations committee, which is responsible for deciding upon a theme and to carry it out

in decorating the gymnasium for the dance. Serving on this committee are Steve Wright, Dwight Thomas, Nancy Tilson, Judi Felton, Anne Nelson, Barbara Swinson, Sondra Shelton, Carolyn Felton, Hilton Barrett, Stephanie Matthews, Mickey Southerland, George Ramey, and Richard Harmon.

Chairmen for the Clean-up committee, which will clean the gymnasium the morning after the dance, are Terry Britt and Martha Jane Carson. It is under the guidance of Mr. Ralph Gorham. The members of this committee have not been announced at this time.

It has been announced that a date bureau will be set up for those students who have not already gotten dates for the festivities. President of the Junior Class, Greg Low, urges all students to come to the dance and the banquet.

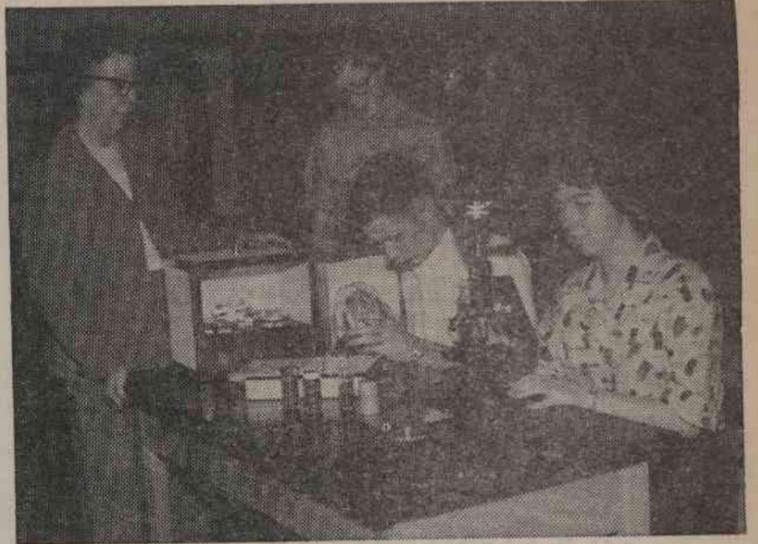
Two Seniors Named Nat. Merit Finalists

Judy Riley and Robert K. Smith have recently become finalists in the National Merit Scholarship competition. They are among 10,000 high school students in the United States who have earned this coveted honor. College scholarships will be awarded to around 1000 of the finalists.

The competition for the scholarships began in the latter part of the 1961-62 school-year when all interested juniors were given an opportunity to take the National Merit Qualifying Test. Judy, Robert, and Linda Blackburn achieved the high test average required to become semi-finalists. A recommendation from their high scores determined Judy and Robert as finalists.

They are now eligible for the scholarships that are awarded by the National Merit Corporation to many of the finalists. These scholarships range in size from \$100 to \$1500 a year and are applied to the winning student's college expenses while he is attending a college. The amount of these grants is determined by the financial need of the student receiving them. Scholarships are also offered by many corporations in the United States to some of the finalists.

An announcement of those receiving scholarships will be made about April 26.



Above is Mrs. Ora VanBuskirk giving advice to (l-r) Charles Threatt, Anne Gower, and Lynn Casto concerning their science fair projects.

Photo by Killebrew

Science Department Will Hold Its First Annual Science Fair

The science department will soon sponsor the first science fair ever held at Senior High. Science projects are now being completed by many who plan to enter the fair. Present dates for the fair are March 7, 8, and 9.

Under the guidance of Mrs. Ora VanBuskirk, the science fair will give many students a chance to show the results of numerous hours spent developing and experimenting with his own hypothesis. Students in both the physical and biological sciences have been encouraged to exhibit any individual research projects with which they have been experimenting; however, no student will be required to prepare a

project for the fair.

The projects will be divided into two classes. Those projects pertaining to any of the physical sciences, such as mathematics, chemistry, and physics, will be judged separately from those pertaining to the biological sciences. Top winners in each of these classes will then attend the district science fair at East Carolina College in Greenville, March 23. Winners in the district fair are sent to the state science fair in Chapel Hill. An all-expense paid trip to the national science fair in Seattle, Washington, will be awarded to the top student in each division at the state fair.

Three distinguished judges have been selected to judge in the local science fair. Dr. A. W. Sharer, the head of the biology department at Wesleyan College; Mr. Alan Darratt an employee of the city health service; and Mrs. Mae Bell, director of the Children's Museum, have consented to lend their time and service to the fair.

The projects will be set up in several of the science rooms. Non-participating students are invited to visit the fair both before and after school. Interested parents are encouraged to view the exhibits on Thursday night or Friday afternoon until 5:00. Judging of the projects will be completed before the Thursday night opening.

Outstanding Science Students Selected To Attend Junior Science Symposium

Two outstanding science students have been selected by their teachers to represent Senior High in the 1962 Junior Science Symposium to be held in Durham, March 15, 16, and 17.

Larry Eligh, representing the biology department, and Bebo White, representing the chemistry department, are to attend the symposium with Mrs. Ora VanBuskirk, who will serve as advisor.

The symposium will be attended by 180 outstanding sophomore and junior boys and girls who have done well in mathematics, physics, chemistry, biology, or other science courses. Sponsored by the North Carolina Academy of Science and the United States Army Research Office (Durham) with the cooperation of Duke University, the symposium has as its theme: "Research in Progress-Science in the

Making."

Students attending will face a varied and interesting program — lectures, demonstrations, and tours of the various facilities at Duke. Housing will be at the Jack Tar Hotel in downtown Durham.

The primary objectives of the 1962 Symposium is to search out potentially talented youth of high school age in the state and to encourage the development of their scientific interests and abilities.

Logistic management, transportation, housing, and subsistence for participants is provided by the United States Army Research Office (Durham).

Coinciding with the symposium the annual Duke Engineers Fair will be seen by participants.

The symposium has been held annually since 1958 and Senior High has been represented every year.

Journalism Class To Journey To New York for Convention

Nine members of the Blackbird Staff and their advisor will journey to New York City, for the purpose of attending the Columbia Press Association convention and sightseeing March 15.

The Columbia Scholastic Press Association is sent high school papers from all parts of the country and rates them according to the size of the school. Senior high is in the 750-1000 student category.

They will attend as many meetings at Columbia University as possible, and the highlight of the trip will be on Saturday, when they attend a luncheon at the Waldorf Astoria.

They plan to tour Manhattan Island, the United Nations Building, Radio City Music Hall, Coney Island, and the Statue of Liberty. They also plan to attend such Broadway plays as "Carnival", "Gift of Time", "Camelot", and "Shot in the Dark".

Members of the Blackbird Staff attending the convention are Judi Felton, Katrina Kobylarz, Jon Wiggs, David Lamm, Stephanie Matthews, Marilyn Spencer, Nancy

Helms, Lee Cuthrell, Dell Harris, and advisor Mrs. Zeno Williams.



Pictured above are (l-r) Jon Wiggs, Marilyn Spencer, and Dell Harris busy making plans for the Journalism classes annual trip to New York.

Photo by Killebrew

Junior Issue

In order to gain experience for publishing next year's Blackbird, the junior members of the Blackbird Staff are editing this issue.

This year, for the first time, the junior members have been putting out the Babybird, a supplement to the Blackbird, while the seniors have been publishing the Blackbird. This month, the junior members will be publishing the Blackbird, and the senior members will be working on a journalism research paper.

Annual Leadership Award Presented To Robert K. Smith By Local Club

Robert K. Smith was recently named winner of the Elk's Youth Leadership Award, which is given

to a deserving senior each year by the local Elk's Lodge.

President of the Student Organization, high salesman in this year's magazine campaign with subscriptions amounting to \$125.02, and a past president of his homeroom are only a few examples of his outstanding leadership. He also is a member of the National Honor Society, a finalist in the National Merit scholarship competition, an outstanding senior, and a former Kiwanis Boy of the Month.

Six students were originally nominated by the faculty for this award. Each compiled a brochure on their personal achievements which was given to the Elk's Club where it was graded on neatness, originality and content by local citizens. These judges selected Robert as the winner.

As recipient of this award, Robert will be presented with a \$100 Lodge. His brochure will be sent to the State Elks' Association to be judged. The winner of the state contest will then compete on a national level.

Student Organization Has Valentine's Dance Feb. 17

The Student Organization sponsored a Valentine Dance in the school gymnasium from 8:30 to 11:30 Saturday night, February 17.

Decorated in the holiday theme, the gym was transformed into a festive hall. A red and white canopy, draped from the ceiling, added to the holiday atmosphere. The attire of the students attending was semi-formal.

During the intermission a combo, the Blazers, was presented. The newly formed group has as its manager, Skipper Sprye. It is composed of Kenneth Braswell, a student at State College; Marvin Pike a junior at this school; Ike Anderson, a senior; and Graham Herring,

also a senior. Kenneth plays the guitar and sings; Marvin, the guitar and piano; Ike, the guitar, piano, and trombone; Graham, the drums.

The Social Committee, with Polly Reynolds serving as chairman, was in charge of the planning of the dance. The dance was originally to be the Spring Dance; however, the Valentine theme was adopted. Refreshments were served by the P. T. S. A. to the students and several teachers who served as chaperones until the dance was over.

The Valentine Dance was the last school dance the Student Organization will sponsor this year.