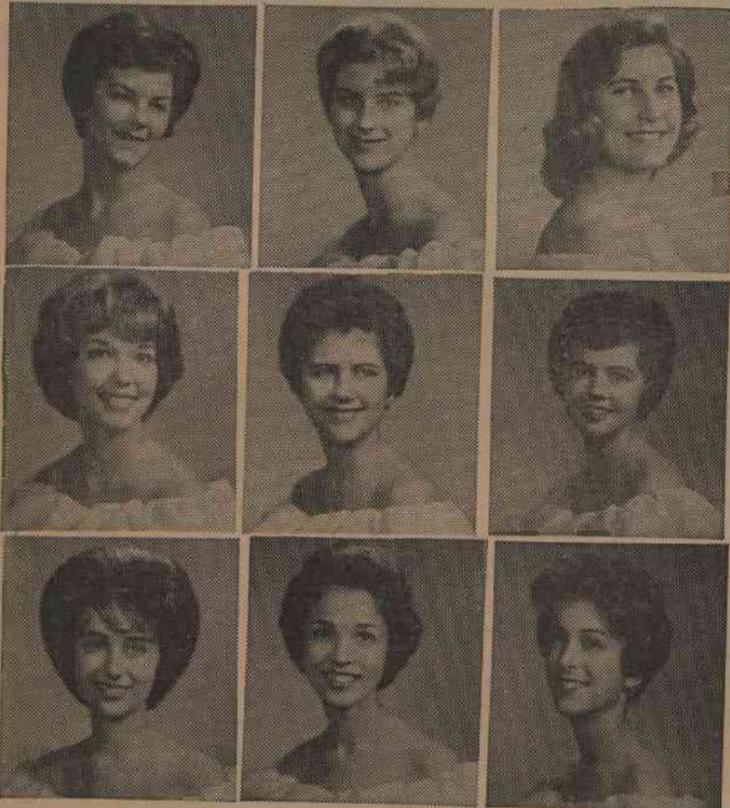




Pictured above are the Beauty Court girls: (l-r) first row — Marietta Broadfield, Martha Weeks, Mary Alice Ray, Betty Jo Bryant, Judy Kincheloe, Margie Parrish, Polly Reynolds. Second row — Pam Daniel, Theresa Haggerty,

Dianne Smith. Third row — Shelly Stallings, Bryan Daley, Lee Cuthrell. Four row — Carolyn Swaim, Dawana Gay, Ginna Aldridge. Photos by Barringer



THE BLACKBIRD

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Latin Club Attends Outstanding Students Tapped Annual Convention Conducted at UNC Into National Honor Society

Forty-three Latin students and their sponsors, Miss Louise Parker, traveled by bus to the State Junior Classical League Convention March 17, at Chapel Hill on the campus of the University of North Carolina.

As Vice-President of the State Junior Classical League, Katrina Kobylarz carried out the responsibility of editing the "Torch: N. C.", a publication of the state organization. She was assisted by her fellow staff members; Becky Walker, Assistant Editor; Judi Felton, Advertising Manager; and Ann Flye, Assistant Advertising Manager. Because Katrina was unable to attend the convention, Becky substituted for her and presented and sold the "Torch: N. C." to the students present. Money made from the selling of this publication goes to the local chapter of the Junior Classical League.

Many students in the local chapter participated in various contests and attended numerous discussion groups conducted during the convention. Several girls from the local chapter presented a Roman dance, which was directed by Valerie Sorrell, for the afternoon session of the convention.

"Blackbird" Wins First-Place Rating

At the annual convention of the Columbia Scholastic Press Association in New York, **The Blackbird**, having been judged with school newspapers from schools and colleges all over the United States, received a first-place rating.

In order for the paper to be judged, the staff submitted several papers and an application blank giving various information about the paper to the CSP. Newspapers are judged by category according to kind of publication, size of school, and school level. After being placed in a category, entries were judged according to page layout, copy, advertising, and organization. Awards range from medalist to fourth place.

The Blackbird is placed in the category for senior high school level papers. Papers competing with **The Blackbird** were from schools of the same level, composed of 750 to 1,000 students. For the past several years, **The Blackbird** has achieved the honor of winning a first-place rating.

Last week, several members attended three meetings at the University of Columbia and a luncheon and meeting at the Waldorf Astoria featuring Ed Murrow as guest speaker.

Five seniors and 13 juniors were tapped into the National Honor Society during assembly Friday, March 9.

Mollie Hughes presented the devotional, July Riley, President of the society, defined the society and introduced Mrs. Ora Vanbuskirk, advisor, who presented an award to Robert K. Smith naming him outstanding National Honor Society member because of his qualities of leadership, character, and service. Society members then spoke to the student body about the four qualifications for becoming a member. Robert and Bill Campbell spoke on character. Leadership was explained by Jeanne Bryant and John Daughtridge, Roy Phipps and Kay Brock defined knowledge, and Lanny Shuff

and Helen Brake spoke about service.

To be eligible for membership one must obtain an average of 90.5 in his scholastic work and must meet all four qualifications of leadership, character, knowledge, and service.

New members tapped from the Senior Class were Nancy Caddell, Dianne Griffin, Marita Rosental, Mike Warner, and Clara Williams. New junior members who were tapped included Eddie Allen, Ginna Aldridge, Hilton Barrett, Martha Carson, Jimmy Hubbard, Jim McChesney, Ruth Oates, Pete Raper, Dwight Thomas, Skipper Tuttle, Ruth Ward, and Beo White. A tea was given in the student lounge in honor of the new members and their parents the same afternoon.

Senior High Student Named Winner In "My True Security" Competition

Wednesday, March 14, Lanny Shuff was announced winner of the "My True Security" oratorical contest sponsored by the Junior Chamber of Commerce.

Each student in Miss Kitchin's English 12s class was required to write the necessary theme, entitled "My True Security," for the contest. Miss Kitchin selected the best themes and submitted them to the Jaycees to be judged along with those written by West Edgecombe High School students. From Senior High, the themes of Lanny Shuff and Georgia Davis were

chosen by the judges as best. Lanny and Georgia read their themes at a meeting of the Jaycees conducted at the Rio Restaurant Wednesday night, competing with Barbara Wrenn and George Brake from West Edgecombe. As winner of the contest, Lanny received a \$50 bond; and his reading was taped and will be entered for state competition. George Brake was named runner-up and received a \$25 bond.

This contest is sponsored annually to promote interest in basic American principles.

Band Members Receive Plaque Representing Superior Rating

Saturday, March 16, Senior High Band members participated in the Eastern Division running of the State Band Contest at East Carolina College where they received the only superior rating given in the entire contest.

Band members left Rocky Mount by car at 9 o'clock in order to be in Greenville by 11 o'clock. Judges for the contest represented the music departments of various North Carolina colleges and universities. This is the first time in the history of Senior High that the band has received a superior rating. A plaque was awarded to represent this outstanding achievement.

Selections played by Senior High band members were "Green Domino" by Gundman, "Storm King March" by Walter Finlay, and "Come Sweet Death" by Bach. Latter selections were chosen by the judges.

Composing the band are 42 pieces, under the direction of Frank Hammond who has been teaching at Senior High for the past three years. Mr. Hammond says that within the next four years, he expects the band to grow to as many as 65 or 70 students.



Above (l-r) Tom Williford, Arnold Adams, Mr. Hammond, Dianne Wilhalf, and Sandra Cheshire, band members, admire the plaque received by the band. Photo by Killebrew

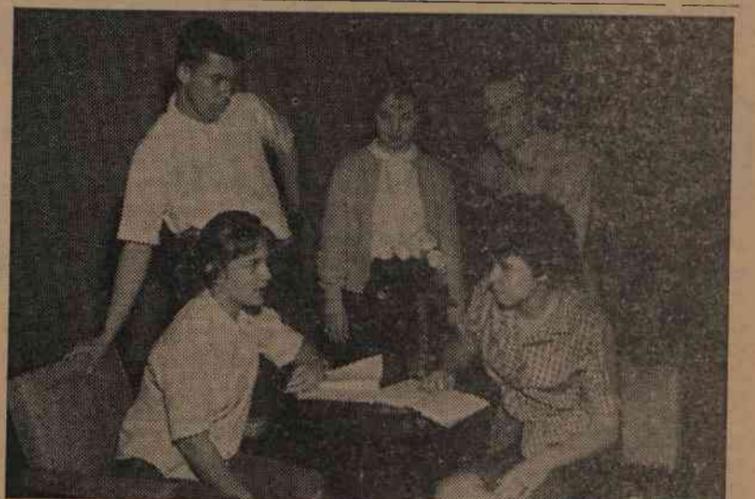
Suspensful Comedy Presented By Edsonian Drama Students

Edsonian dramatics students will present their spring production of the year, "Fair Exchange," March 31 at eight o'clock P. M. in the Senior High auditorium.

"Fair Exchange" is a suspensful comedy about an exchange of male honor students between two schools to escort the female honor students to the Spring Proms. One of the female honor students plans a party for the purpose of welcoming her guest escort. A radio bulletin interrupts the party with the announcement that a young man has been found on the highway unconscious and badly beaten and that it is thought to be the foul play of a particular hitch-hiking hoodlum. A description of the discovered clues is also given. By putting two and two to-

gether, one of the girls begins to suspect the guest honor student and decides to investigate the situation.

Valda Lancaster plays the female honor student, and Pam Daniel and John Daughtridge portrays her mother and father. David Chesson plays as her steady boy friend. Portraying the local male honor student is Ronnie Eads, and Martha Brown is his girl friend. Guests at the party include Jeanne Bryant, best friend of the female honor student, Larry Murchison, Annie Justa, Leonard Harris, Anne Nelson and Oscar Elliot. Jo Anne Maurer is a high school faculty member. Olivier Hammel portrays the guest honor student, and Honey Roney and Pat Forbes are the two characters who solve the mystery.



Pictured above are (l-r) back row — David Chesson, Valda Lancaster, Olivier Hammel, front row — Pat Forbes and Honey Roney rehearsing a scene in "Fair Exchange." Photo by Killebrew