

THE BLACKBIRD

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BEN GAZZARA, 1967 BEAUTY COURT JUDGE

Ben Gazzara, Popular T. V. Actor Judges 1967 Jr.-Sr. Beauty Court

Ben Gazzara, an extremely talented actor, and star of motion pictures, television, and the theater, will judge the 1966-67 Junior-Senior Beauty Court, which is sponsored by The BLACKBIRD.

The five-foot-eleven, dark haired actor is most well-known to the students for his starring role in the current television series, "Run for Your Life" and for his earlier performance on "Arrest and Trial."

Gazzara was born in the East Side district of Manhattan on August 28, 1931. He made his stage debut at the age of five in the Madison Square Boy's Club production of "Little Red Riding Hood," and appeared in many Club productions throughout his teens. After two years of study at City College of New York, he quit to work at the Dramatic Workshop at the New School of Social Research.

The first professional part performed by Gazzara was in "End as a Man," first pro-

duced by the Actors Studio as a laboratory project. The play was produced off-Broadway, and then moved "uptown," where Gazzara, at twenty-two, was a Broadway hit. He later created two other historical Broadway roles, one in "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof" and another in "A Hatful of Rain." He will star in a new play, "Traveller Without Luggage," which has a fall opening on Broadway next season.

His motion picture performances include parts in "Anatomy of a Murder," "The Young Doctors," and a recently completed film shot in Europe "The Captive City."

Gazzara maintains two residences, one in New York and one in Hollywood, and likes to divide his time between them both. He is married to actress Janice Rule, whom he met when they co-starred in the Broadway play, "Night Circus."

Students Elect Benjie As 67-68 S. O. President

Benjie Smith was elected President of the Student Organization in the school-wide election held Friday, April 28. Bobby Thompson won the vice-president's position, and Ken Thompson was elected secretary to complete the slate. These officers are for the 1967-68 school year.

Benjie, Stephen Battle, and Charlotte Looney were nominated for president; Bobby, Bill Griffin and Woody Bobbitt campaigned for vice-president; and Ken, Brenda Thompson, and Fran Warren were competing for secretary. The treasurer will be selected under the guidance of Miss Kitchin, the Student Organization advisor.

Voting was done by the preferential ballot. To eliminate the necessity of voting again, the voters numbered the candidates in order of their preference.

All of the candidates elected are experienced. Among other things Benjie is serving as President of the Junior Class and was past chairman of the fire drill committee. Bobby has served as Vice-President of his class and has helped a great deal in the organization of the Junior-Senior. Both Benjie and Bobby are rising seniors. Ken, a rising junior, has held the office of President of his class and attended the Eastern District Leadership Convention.

Band Blasts Spring With Annual Concert

Thursday, April 27, at eight o'clock p. m., the Rocky Mount Senior High School Band presented its annual Spring Concert in the auditorium of R.M.S.H. This was its first under the direction of its new conductor, John C. Sykes, Jr.

Among the selections played by the band were "Red's White and Blue March," from "Red" Skelton; "Symphonic Suite," by Clifton Williams; "Irish Tune" from "County Derry," by Percy Grainger; selections from "The Sound of Music," "Born Free," by Don Black; "Concertino," by C. M. von Weber, with a clarinet solo by Carolyn Roberts; "Lemon Merengue," by James Stuart, conducted by Doug Fitzgerald of East Carolina College; "Shenandoah," by James Ployhar; and "Colonel Bogey," by Kenneth Alford.

Hi-Noc-Ar Elects New Staff

Miss Alma Louise Murchison, Hi-Noc-Ar advisor, has announced yearbook officers for 1967-68.

Margaret Winstead and Doug Bradham will lead the staff as co-editors.

All the officers were elected by this year's staff. Barden Robbins was elected advertising manager; Dianne Joyner, circulation manager; Tommy Smith, business manager; and Kitty Keel, copy editor.

Miss Murchison, in remarking about the newly elected officers, said that they are a fine group and have proven, so far this year, that they are capable of filling their new posts. She believes that under their guidance, the 1968-69 Hi-Noc-Ar will be as good as this year's.

Margaret Winstead, commenting on the relationship of the editors with other members, stated, "Doug and I realize the responsibility that is ahead of us. We are looking forward to a thrilling year of accomplishment. Our relationship with the staff is that of dependence—none of us could get along without the others!"

All of the juniors on the annual staff have learned about yearbook production this year through the guidance of Miss Murchison and of some patient and interested senior members.

Change In Schedule Brings Added Responsibility To All

Several changes to be made in registration for the school year 1967-68 have been announced by Mr. Colombo. The complete program for next year has not yet been released; this is a general outline of the 1967-68 schedule:

All students must register

for five, five and one-half, or six units of work. A student with a "B" average may take five and one-half units. A student with a C average or less may take no more than five units. For the 1967-68 year, Senior High students will be required to take Physical Education in grades 11 and 12. These students will receive one-half unit credit per year. Physical Education will be elective in grade 10. Beginning in 1968-69, students will be required to take Physical Education in grades 10 and 11; it will then be elective in grade 12. To supplement the half unit a student earns by taking Physical Education, several other courses for which students may receive one-half unit credit next year are Public Speaking, Reading 2, Developmental Reading (for juniors and seniors), Newspaper Journalism I, Dramatics I, Yearbook Journalism I and II, Personal Typing, Note-hand, Clothing, Girls' Chorus, Boys' Chorus, Art I, World Geography, Advanced Government, and General Music.

Several new courses will also be offered at Senior High next year. Among these are Advanced Government—one half-unit credit, Reading I, World Geography—one half-unit credit, Latin I, Biology X, Advanced Biology II J, Advanced Math 12 J, Trigonometry/Algebra III, and General Music—one half-unit credit. Accelerated courses will be offered in English 10, 11 and 12, T.V. American History, T.V. World History, Science, Mathematics, and in Foreign Languages.

Beth Celebrates Birthday With Annual AFS Banquet

April 26 at 7:00 p. m. the American Field Service chapter of Rocky Mount Senior High School presented its annual banquet at Josh Bulluck's. The banquet was held for the purpose of honoring the American Field Service Exchange Student, Elsebeth Kamstrup. Carolyn Jenkins opened the banquet by introducing Ben Winstead, who presented the invocation. Following the invocation, almost 125 school officials and students enjoyed a barbecue-brunswick stew dinner prepared by a local restaurant. At the conclusion of the dinner Carolyn recognized Arthur Marcus who, in a short speech, summed up the student body's warm feeling and friendship towards Elsebeth. The presidents of the three classes then briefly expressed the importance of her

stay in Rocky Mount both socially and economically.

Mrs. Harold Minges, past president of the American Field Service, followed by summarizing the year's work. Mrs. Ben Winstead, who is presently in charge of the AFS, continued by expressing her optimism for the future and urging the students to support the program.

The banquet was also in celebration of Elsebeth's birthday. With this in keeping, Carolyn presented her with several gifts. Elsebeth then spoke on how much the AFS meant to her. She stated that the past year had been one of the happiest in her life, and that her eighteenth birthday would surely be one of her most memorable. Following this, she was given a birthday cake, while everyone sang.



DIANNE JOYNER, Margaret Winstead, Doug Bradham, Barden Robbins, and Kitty Keel are selected as the 1967-68 Hi-Noc-Ar officers. Absent is Tommy Smith, business manager for next year.