

# RMSH Student Organization Meets To Approve New 1967-68 Cabinet

The Student Organization of Rocky Mount Senior High School met Tuesday, Sept. 19, for the first time this year in the school auditorium with President Benjie Smith presiding.

President Smith called the meeting to order and welcomed all S. O. members, asking that they represent their homerooms and the student body well and that they take an active part in S. O. affairs.

The President then introduced his cabinet, and each member present submitted his report to the assembly.

American Field Service chairman Stephen Battle introduced Mario Obreque of Chile, this year's AFS student, and plead-

ed that we "make a bigger point of being friendly" to him. Mario expressed his pleasure at being with us and his hopes for a wonderful year here.

Jamie Harris, student store chairman, asked the representatives to encourage student support of the store.

The Publications Committee, explained chairman Mike Stevens, has two duties. The first is to compile a student directory, and the second is to distribute Thank-You Grams to students who have brought honor to our school.

Elections Committee chairman Kack Harrison announced that voter registration will be held Wednesday, October 4 through Tuesday, October 10.

The building was cleared on September 6 in one minute and fifty-nine seconds during the first fire drill. Fire Drill Committee chairman Benjie Martindale stressed the importance of improving this record.

Karen Colombo, School Spirit Committee chairman, called attention to the "excellent attendance" at the first bonfire and announced that there would be a second soon.

Blackbird editor Bob Chapman asked the representatives to urge all students to support the school paper by buying subscriptions, and Doug Bradham and Margaret Winstead, co-editors of the Hi-Noc-Ar announced October 6 as the beginning of their annual subscription drive.

Social Committee chairman Marsh Pully announced a tea to be given by her committee on September 28 for all new students at RMSH, while Penny

Hicks head cheerleader, stressed sportsmanship at all athletic contests.

President Smith called for a discussion and vote upon approval of the exofficio members of the cabinet. Senior class president Stephen Draper moved that they be accepted; his move was voted upon and approved.

## Hi-Noc-Ar Plans Convention Trip

Next Wednesday night, eight students from the Hi-Noc-Ar staff and their advisor, Miss Alma Murchison, will leave for New York to attend meetings of the Columbia Scholastic Press Association Convention and to do some sightseeing around New York.

Members attending the convention are Doug Bradham, co-editor, Kack Harrison, Marsh Pully, Mary Elizabeth Bradley, Ella Jean Lewis, Sharon Kilpatrick, Deborah Davidson, and Kathy Boykin.

The students are traveling by train and will arrive in New York early Thursday morning. The meeting will be held at Columbia University. The students will attend group and sectional meetings. The rating on last year's book will be announced Friday afternoon. The staff members are hoping for another first place or even a medalist. The convention ends with a luncheon at the American tel, Saturday afternoon.

The students and Miss Murchison will return to Rocky Mount Sunday night, October 15.



S. O. PRESIDENT'S CABINET—Members of the president's cabinet for the student organization this year are: (FIRST ROW) Marsh Pully, Ken Thompson, Bobby Thompson, Benjie Smith, Charlotte Looney, Penny Hicks; (SECOND ROW) Steve Andrews, Kacky Harrison, Karen Colombo, Jamie Harris, Margaret Winstead, Bob Chapman; (THIRD ROW) Mike Stephens, Mike Dixon, Benjie Martindale, Doug Bradham, Hatcher Kincheloe, and Stephen Battle. (Photos by Killebrew)

# THE BLACKBIRD

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## Four Students Honor Senior High As National Merit Semi-Finalists

Principal V. J. Colombo has announced that four students at Rocky Mount Senior High School have been named Semifinalists in the 1967-68 National Merit Scholarship Program.

The students are Hatcher Kincheloe, Mary Jo Sheridan, Mary Ella Tetterton, and Lois Watson.

The 14,000 Semifinalists appointed throughout the nation have advanced to the second

step in the competition for about 2,900 Merit Scholarships, valued at more than \$8 million, to be awarded in 1968.

Semifinalists scored the highest in each state on the National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test given last February. They constitute less than one percent of the graduating secondary school seniors in the nation.

Semifinalists must advance to Finalist standing to be considered for Merit Scholarships, since all winners will be selected from the Finalist group. Semifinalists become Finalists by receiving the endorsement of their schools, taking a second examination, and submitting information about their achievements and interests.

Every Semifinalist who becomes a Finalist will be considered for one of about 2,400

four-year Merit Scholarships financed by some 400 corporations, foundations, colleges, unions, trusts, professional associations, other organizations, and individuals, and by NSMC itself. In addition, about 500 one-time National Merit \$1000 Scholarships will be awarded for the first time in 1968.

Winners of four-year Merit Scholarships may receive up to \$1,500 a year for four college years, depending on their individual need. Winners of the National Merit \$1,000 Scholarships will receive one-time grants of \$1,000 upon enrollment in college.

High school grades, accomplishments, leadership qualities, extracurricular activities, and school citizenship of the Finalists are evaluated, along with test scores, in selecting Merit Scholarship winners.

## Blackbird Ends Campaign For 1967-'68 Subscribers

The Blackbird staff presented its annual "kick-off" assembly Friday, September 15, in the school auditorium, launching this year's subscription campaign for the school newspaper.

The assembly featured a skit entitled "The Exodus of the Limmings". A young country girl, Mary B. Numskull, was on trial for having stolen some copies of the Blackbird. Three witnesses testified to the whereabouts and good intentions of Mary B., but to no avail. Mary B.'s attorney presented her case well, but district attorney did a much better job, or at least the jury thought. The jury found Mary B. Numskull guilty of having stolen the Blackbirds. She was sentenced to a life without any Blackbirds. Because of her sentence Mary B. became hysteri-

cal and was carried off the stage by two able-bodied policemen.

At the end of the skit the Blackbird staff distributed the first issue of this year's paper to all students and faculty members. This free copy was given to acquaint the students with the paper, which includes news, features, editorials, and sports.

The subscription drive began following the assembly and closed last Friday. Representatives canvassed homerooms daily to sell Blackbird subscriptions. The campaign ended with a total of 700 subscriptions being sold.

The Blackbird staff would like to thank all persons who bought subscriptions and remind those who did not subscribe that copies will be on sale for \$.25 after each issue.

## RMSHS Begins Addition Plans

With the completion of the new transformer, students realize that work has really begun on the new addition to senior high.

In 1970, when a student opens the doors of the student lounge, he will not be going outdoors like a student of today; he will enter either of the two new classrooms that will have been constructed in that area.

The present library and bookroom will be converted into four classrooms. The general purpose room will be extended across the corridor to complete the formation of an L-shaped cafeteria. The new student lounge, band, art, and health rooms will be located in the area between the present gym and the auditorium. On the Nash Street side of the gym will be added a gymnastics room and several dressing-rooms.

The new library, general purpose room, and four classrooms will be extended on the front campus. As a third wing it stretches from the main walk to the flagpole.

Electricians have finished putting in a large transformer which is necessary to supply the electrical power for the new additions, which are contracted to be completed by the 1969-70 school year.

## Upperclassmen Participate In '67 RMSH College Night

Nearly sixty-one percent of the juniors and seniors at senior high attended the annual college night program at Rocky Mount Senior High Thursday, September 21.

Approximately eighty parents joined their children to participate in the sessions, which began at 7:00 p. m. and lasted until 8:30. The program was divided into three thirty-minute sessions, thereby giving each student an opportunity to attend the sessions of three colleges in which he might be interested.

The purpose of the program is to give both parents and students a chance to discuss with qualified representatives of several colleges the various entrance requirements, costs, programs offered by the schools, and any other information pertinent to college admission and graduation.

Forty-seven schools were represented, among them nine junior colleges, three schools of nursing, two community colleges, one technical institute, one business school, and thirty-one four-year colleges or universities.



DICK CASHWELL of the University of North Carolina is telling Randy Crawford about entrance to UNC. Terry Sorrell is looking over some literature on the university while waiting to ask a question. (Photo by Killebrew)