

Enthusiastic students visit UNC-Chapel Hill. From right to left are: Gerald Costen, Roland Valentine, Gay Wilgus and Thurbert Baker.

RMSH Students Venture To UNC For Convention

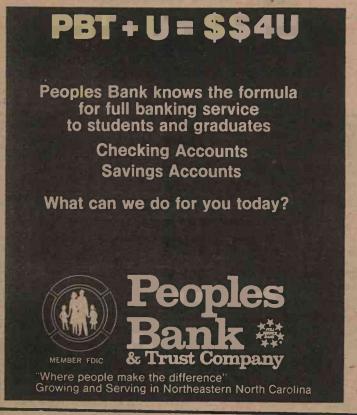
The time was about 7 p.m. Saturday morning, February 13. The radiant sun was beginning to peak through the massive clouds as they emptied their multitudes of rain upon this section of the state. What could anyone be doing besides dreaming sweet thoughts in his warm bed?

Well, a group composed of Gay Wilgus, Gerald Costen, Roland Valentine and Thurbert Baker were preparing to journey to UNC-Chapel Hill. They were on their way to a convention sponsored by the NAACP concerning problems in our public schools. The students were chaporoned by Mr. Samuel Gray, Executive Director of the Rocky Mount Human Relations Committee. The rain continued for the entire trip to Chapel Hill. On arrival the group had some difficulty in finding the Student Union Building where the convention was to be held. After weaving through the vast catacombs of buildings at UNC, they found the Union Building and registered. Each person was given a folder containing information and a color written at the top. The color determined what order the people would attend the four workshops.

The first one was centered around Education and Desegregation in the public school, Mr. Rufus Huffman chaired the discussion, and many interesting points were thrown out to the delegates. The second workshop concerned Law and Desegregation in the public schools. Mr. J. LeVonne Chambers, a well known black lawyer carried on the topic. The third subject discussed was racism in the schools. It was chaired by Mr. Joseph C. Champion. The final workshop was centered around the Legal Rights Of Students. Many helpful points were given.

The convention was then dismissed for lunch. A second period was held that evening in the auditorium. Mr. Roy Wilkins, a well known figure with the NAACP, was the speaker.

On the way home, the exhausted group stopped off at Kemps, a small store in Chapel Hill. Gay Wilgus could not help from purchasing some small article to bring back to Rocky Mount. The students arrived in town about 5 p.m. The weary pupils all said their goodbys and were off for home.



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Mrs. Bell's History Class Creates Touch Of Soul

Orchestra to most people means the New York Philharmonic, but to the members of Mrs. Ruth Bell's World History class it means drums, bells, rattles, and a little "soul."

As the class is studying world cultures; it decided to show how African music has transformed over the years, and how it has affected western music.

Slaves brought from Africa the chants, rituals and tribal dances which have influenced spirituals, jazz, blues, "soul" sounds, and Black folk songs.

Drums, bells, and rattles comprise the musical instruments in the orchestra. Of
the three instruments the drum
was the Africans' most prized
instrument. The drum was the
means by which most Africans
communicated. Various
rhythms served as words.

Students who participated in the program were appropriately dressed in African styled robes and diashekis. Dorothy Hannon served as narrator for the program. She explained how the bell followed the drum, and the rattle. Sam Lucas demonstrated how the Africans "talked" with the drum.

Jacqueline Shaw did an African dance from the song "Ba Kayana Be enda" (The Girls They Go). Vickie Person and Dorothy Hannon sang moving Negro spirituals. The class demonstrated how an African son was first sang and then how Christians harmonized it. A trio also sang a Negro spiritual.

At the end of the program the students sang an African song. They were led by the bell, followed by the drum and rattle.

Each student who attended the assembly was better able to realize how African music has affected the western world.

Teachers Attend Lit. Seminar

During January, February, and March of this year, several RMSH English teachers are participating in an in-service, televised course entitled "English for Teachers: Literature".

The course consists of nine telecasts of thirty minutes each with a follow-up discussion of one hour and a half at a minimum. The classes are held every Wednesday from 3:45 until 5:30 in the Board Room of the Administrative Building, and any teacher or para-professional who is under contract to the local Board of Education was eligible to register and participate in the course.

The purpose of this course is to provide an in-depth study of literature, and to help implement the literature materials currently being developed and printed by the State Department of Public Instruction. Elementary and secondary school teachers are involved, as it is also geared to those levels. An added inducement for teachers to attend is the fact that the course carries one unit of noncollege credit which can be applied toward renewals of certificates.

In each lesson, the participating teachers have been guided in the follow-through discussions by Mrs. Ruby Sharpe, local seminar leader, and teacher of English at RMSH. When asked how she feels about the program, she replied; "The teachers seem to be enjoying Dr. Smith's presentation of a conceptual literary curriculum. We hope to incorporate his new ideas in our own curriculum."

Jabberwock, Debutante Plan Outstanding Spring Events

Have you heard of the Jabberwock and Debutante? No, they aren't strange creatures from Mars. They're simply fund raising programs for the young ladies in and around the community.

Debutante is a program sponsored by the Beta Zeta Sigma Chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Incorporated. Each year a committee composed of thirty-two professional women selects these outstanding girls. They in turn are given several events during their membership to introduce them to society. If a delegate raises over a certain amount of money, the rest of it will be used to help her through the college of her choice. Through such an effort, Beta Zeta Sigma Chapter has been able to contribute approximately \$20,000 to high school graduates attending college.

Jabberwock is similar to the above program in that it is also done in the welfare of the young ladies in the community. It is sponsored by the Rocky Mount Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority. They also raise funds to be used in furthering their education. The girls go through several events during their membership also. At the close of the time designated for them, they will sponsor four Broadway Programs. The first will be "West Side Story," a modern day "Romeo and Juliet." The second will be, humorous tender musical that ticks with sheer brilliance." The final one is "Around the World in 80 Tunes." The girls are looking forward to a very busy schedule.

Debutante and Jabberwock are truly great events for the progress of our fine ladies,

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