

THE GRYPHON

Volume 1, No. 6

Rocky Mount Senior High School

February, 1975

'75 Outstanding Seniors Named Dr. Currin Advocates Three R's



OUTSTANDING SENIORS SELECTED — These 21 outstanding seniors have been selected by the members of the Class of '75. They are as follows: (Kneeling) — Jarvis Moore, Phyllis Goffney, Gail Phillips, Beverly Powell, Cathy Allen, Susan Kitts, Liz Safy, and Susan Mooring. (Standing) —

Marvin Dancy, Don Johnson, Frank Inscoc, Ken Whitehurst, Robert Watson, Deborah Farmer, Nancy Davis, Stephanie Branch, Bryant Aldridge, Michael Alston, Doug Henley, and John Thorpe. (Photo by Murray)

Ben F. Currin, Rocky Mount School Superintendent, has been gaining statewide attention for his strong stand for education reform.

The reform that Dr. Currin is speaking up for is back to the basics for training of students. He advocates the teaching of the "three R's" — reading, writing and arithmetic especially in the elementary grades.

A statewide assessment taken last fall showed that North Carolina's sixth graders ranked lower than average, not only nationally, but in the southeastern region as well.

Surveys such as these result from the State Department of Public Instruction's limited emphasis on basic education, according to Dr. Currin. He states "The Department's priorities need to be redirected. We must move from fads to fundamentals."

"One day we find our state leaders talking about 'Career Education.' The next day it is 'Management by Objectives.' We innovate and innovate, but I have begun to suspect that the public is tired of watching our state officials experiment with our children, particularly since those experiments are not, in my opinion, paying dividends."

Dr. Currin is not against new educational approaches and tactics for experimental projects. However, he is against these innovations if they are promoted at the expense of basic education.

The economic situation will obviously require a tight budget from every state department, stated Dr. Currin. Therefore he feels it is necessary to emphasize the added leadership needed for basic education. "Improved pay is essential to getting quality teachers. Emphasis should be on giving teachers time to teach, not on frills, fads, and gimmicks."

Dr. Currin's objections to the State Department of Public Instruction and his policy of back to the basics have been drawing a network of support across the state. His name is circulating as a possible candidate for state superintendent. As of yet Dr. Currin has not made any decisions concerning the candidacy.

Convention Scheduled

Boon McGee, Gevonda Braswell, and Wanda Joyner will represent RMSH at the 4th Annual Eastern District North Carolina Association of Student Councils (EDNCASC) Convention in Havelock, N. C. on March 15 and 16. Ex officio delegates are Jimmy Apostoleris and Micheal Alston, with two delegates yet to be elected. This delegation will also serve as the Resolutions Committee for the Convention. The theme for the weekend will be "We Can Make It Happen."



AFS CHOOSES APPLICANT — Laura Davenport represents RMSH in the Americans Abroad Program.

Junior Selected To Study Abroad

Laura Davenport has been chosen by the Americans Abroad Program to participate in the Summer Abroad Program of study in a foreign country.

The only applicant from Senior High, Laura began her application in October of last year. Application included the filling out of all sorts of forms, along with photographs of Laura engaged in many school

activities. The Selection Committee interviewed Laura and her family to discover how she and her family spend an average day.

Among a few of Laura's preferences of countries are Austria and Switzerland; although, she thinks that you never know how life in a different country is unless you experience it.

Governor's School

Nine Nominated

Terri Gardner, Patricia Scarboro, Jerome Gardner, Paul Sneed, Kenneth Bulluck, Gary Carter, Patti Hutchison, Helen Wiley, and Stephanie Pickett have all been so outstanding that they have been nominated to the Governor's School of North Carolina.

Gary Carter, who has delighted all with his unique histrionics in school plays, was nominated to the school along with Patti Hutchison to study drama. Helen Wiley and Stephanie Pickett are the outstanding band students. Terri Gardner, Paul Sneed,

Kenneth Bulluck, Jerome Gardner, and Patricia Scarboro were recognized for their superiority in academic areas.

Nominees to the Governor's School are chosen from a select number of students with high I. Q. test scores and a consistently respectable grade average. A student should also demonstrate creativity and have an unreserved amount of motivation.

The duration of Governor's School is seven weeks and the participants from North Carolina will live and study on the campus of Salem College in Winston-Salem.



GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL NOMINEES CHOSEN — Jerome Gardner, Paul Sneed, Helen Wiley, Stephanie Pickett, Gary Carter, and Patti Hutchison were chosen for RMSH. (absent — Terri Gardner, Kenneth Bulluck, and Patricia Scarboro). (Photo by Allen)

