



CAMPAIGN BEGUN — Dr. Ben Currin has begun his campaign for the position of State Superintendent.

## Dr. Ben Currin Begins Campaign

"I'm not too concerned whether a seven or eight year old can evenly saw a board or straightly hammer a nail in the elementary grades," declares Dr. Benjamin F. Currin. Expanding on this he stated that he is against starting career education on the first level of schooling. "There are only so many hours in a day and they should be used by the beginning student in learning the three basics — reading, writing, and arithmetic."

Dr. Currin, the Rocky Mount Schools Superintendent, is testing the waters as politicians say and is bidding to oust Craig Phillips from his elected position as State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

An Oxford native, Dr. Currin has been with the Rocky Mount school system since 1970.

Ending rumors and making them a reality, Dr. Currin became an announced candidate only in March, though he has been interested in a change in policies for about four years. Tilting his chair at a backward angle, Dr. Currin grinned and admitted that the news media

had made him a candidate. His name began appearing in multitudes of newspapers across the state, their headlines silently proclaiming him a favorable option to the present State Superintendent.

Currin has become the unofficial spokesman for parents interested in the basics recognizing that "the public is tired of watching our State officials experiment with our children, particularly since these experiments are not ...paying dividends."

Dr. Currin has also noted the necessity of having teachers work with him instead of just working for him. He summed it up with one short statement, "We're all employees."

One of the major differences in Currin's and Phillip's campaigns that directly concerns students is the timing of the input of vocational programs in the school systems. Phillips believes they should be started as soon as a youngster begins school. This early start takes a good deal of time away from the basic subjects. Currin maintains that first priority should be

## Production Is Success

Currently on Broadway at the Alvin Theatre, *Shenandoah*, a new musical, brims with all the qualities which make life bitter, but beautiful. John Collum does for the character of Charlie Anderson, a God-fearing, honest Virginia farmer, what only a professional could do.

The six sons of Charlie Anderson are played by handsome men, all of whom sing and dance as well as they act. Maureen Silliman plays Jenny, Anderson's only daughter. Aside from her theatrical background, Maureen presently appears as Pam Chandler in "The Guiding Light," a soap opera. Donna Theodore, as Anderson's daughter-in-law Anne, completes the cast of females. Gabriel, a young negro boy, is played by Brent Carter who makes his Broadway debut in *Shenandoah*. Mark Perman portrays Robert, Anderson's youngest son.

The musical is based on the book *Shenandoah* by James Lee Barrett. He wrote about the Andersons, a family who lived during the time of the great Civil War.

With the help of the six strong sons, Charlie tills his soil without the sweat of a single slave, and God blesses him for it. Then a tragic civil war breaks out. The Andersons refuse to recognize it as their own until, by forces not of their doing, they are drawn into the horrendous fight. Their struggle to remain a family is bitter and bloody.

*Shenandoah* is more than just a musical production; it is a realistic portrayal of life and history which draws on all the emotions of the audience.

given to those fundamentals of education, and the vocational and career skills should be taught on the secondary levels of school.



BYNUM SHY? Not at all — James was named Outstanding Actor in the Regional Drama Festival held at the Tank Theatre. (Photo by Carroll)

## Outstanding Actor Named

James Bynum has nearly overcome the shyness he declares to have possessed since the first grade. James was named the Outstanding Actor at the Regional Drama Festival held recently at the Tank Theatre. "I think dramatics can help a person who's shy. It brings out something that's been hidden for a long time. I'm still shy, but not as much now," James says.

At the festival James appeared as Adam in a two-character play "The Apple Bite." Myrna Lowe played opposite him as Eve. "I was nervous and serious, as usual," James says, "but it was a great honor to win."

Seriousness seems to be a problem in high school where dramatics is concerned. James feels that most students at Senior High enroll in dramatics because it is another course to take. "Dramatics is not just acting silly," James feels. "You've got to really be that character."

James expresses deep interest in drama as a career, but says, "I want to be so many things." He is attracted to drama because it gives him a chance to be someone else, to assume a total new being. James believes that the test of an actor's talent is how deep he can get into the character's mind.

Aside from his acting, James was named to the All-Conference football squad this fall as an offensive end. He finds dramatics as strenuous as football. James says, "I think dramatics works you out more than football because it deals with the mind." But James is not too tired to keep acting and practicing because he enjoys the challenge. He feels that the more he enjoys drama, the more the audience will appreciate this talented young prodigee.

### United Federal Savings & Loan

116 S. Franklin

446-9191

### ZALES

Our People Make Us Number One



## Graduate in style...

with the class ring made to order for you. It has your own name in raised letters, plus school name and year, and school mascot. Made with our exclusive fiery Sun-Lite® stone. 10 karat gold.

Zales Golden Years and We've Only Just Begun.

Student Accounts Invited

Zales Revolving Charge • Zales Custom Charge  
BankAmericard • Master Charge  
American Express • Diners Club • Carte Blanche • Layaway

## W.C. Reid Music Company

HAS

ACOUSTIC	GUILD	OVATION
ALVAREZ-TAIRI	KING	PREMIER
AMPEG	LATIN	RICKENBACKER
ARP	PERCUSSION	SELMER
BACH	LESLIE	WOODSON
BENGE	LOWREY	WURLITZER
GIBSON	LUDWIG	YAMAHA

143 S. Main Street — Tarrytown Mall



A variety of fresh seafoods

829 Raleigh Rd., Rocky Mount, N. C. 27801, Tel. 442-6109

## Edgecombe

### Technical Institute

Automotive Body Repair  
Automotive Mechanics  
Business Administration  
Child Care  
Cosmetology  
Electronic Servicing  
Electrical Installation  
Executive Secretary  
General Office Technology  
Industrial Mechanic

Knitting Mechanic  
Law Enforcement  
Machinist  
Medical Secretary  
Plastics Technology  
Registered Nursing  
Radiologic Technology  
Operating Room Assistant  
Industrial Management

Edgecombe Tech . . .  
Where Your Future Begins

Accredited by the Southern Association  
of Secondary Schools and Colleges