



The NEW BERN MIRROR

Mr. & Mrs. A. N. Murphy
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It might be hard to find a New Bernian old enough to read and write who doesn't know February 2 is Groundhog Day. What most of us are ignorant of is the fact it is also Candlemas, a Christian festival that since the 11th century has marked the blessing of candles for church use.

Seeing as how the groundhog (really a woodchuck) got a full view of his shadow this year, we're supposed to have rough weather until the middle of March. Fortunately, the records show that he is less than accurate as a prophet.

Cold spells notwithstanding, from here on out, it did our heart good the other morning to count no less than a dozen robins on a single lawn around the corner from where we live. Surely, Spring must be on its way.

WNBE-TV and ABC deserved the tremendous audience enticed by excellent coverage of the Winter Olympics in Austria. Naturally, New Bern's sports fans were tuned in, but thousands of folks who don't normally care for athletic events also hovered by their sets for the spectacular action.

This may surprise you. Albums dealing with the life and death of John F. Kennedy--some of them hastily prepared after the President's assassination--have been poor sellers in our town. Even the better discs are slow movers. A similar lag has been noted elsewhere.

Incidentally, magazine wordage on Kennedy--though fairly heavy--is only a small fraction of the reams of copy devoted to Liz Taylor and Richard Burton. Whether one admired JFK or not, it seems a little sad that his slaying has generated less sustained interest among millions of Americans than the prolonged Taylor-Burton affair.

Speaking of magazines, here's something for would-be censors to ponder. Teen agers aren't the big buyers of questionable reading material, here in New Bern. A spot check reveals that a majority of the purchasers of trashy literature are in their thirties or older. Sales to men and women are about evenly divided. "Confession" magazines--popular for years and years--still hold strong appeal for a certain type of female.

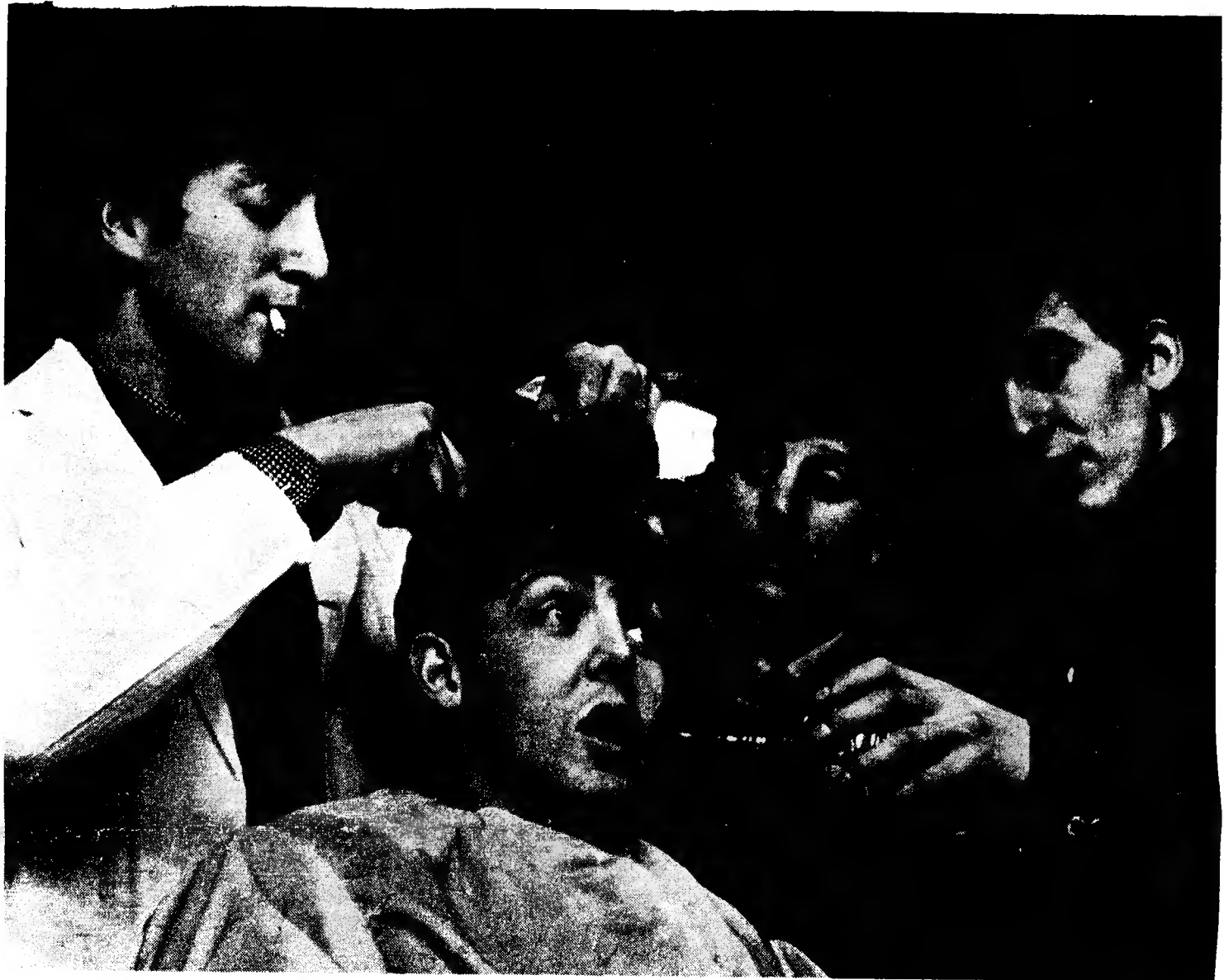
Playing to a full house, night after night, is the dream of every actor and actress. A talented young New Bernian--Diane Bray--has had the dream come true this week at East Carolina College in Greenville.

Cast in the coveted role of Anita in West Side Story, she will perform before almost 4,000 persons during the four-night run in McGinnis Auditorium that ends Saturday. All seats have been sold out for more than a week.

The demand for tickets far exceeded the supply. If you missed out, you'll have another chance in July or August when the award-winning musical is scheduled for a week's run under a new East Carolina College project, sponsorship of a professional summer theater.

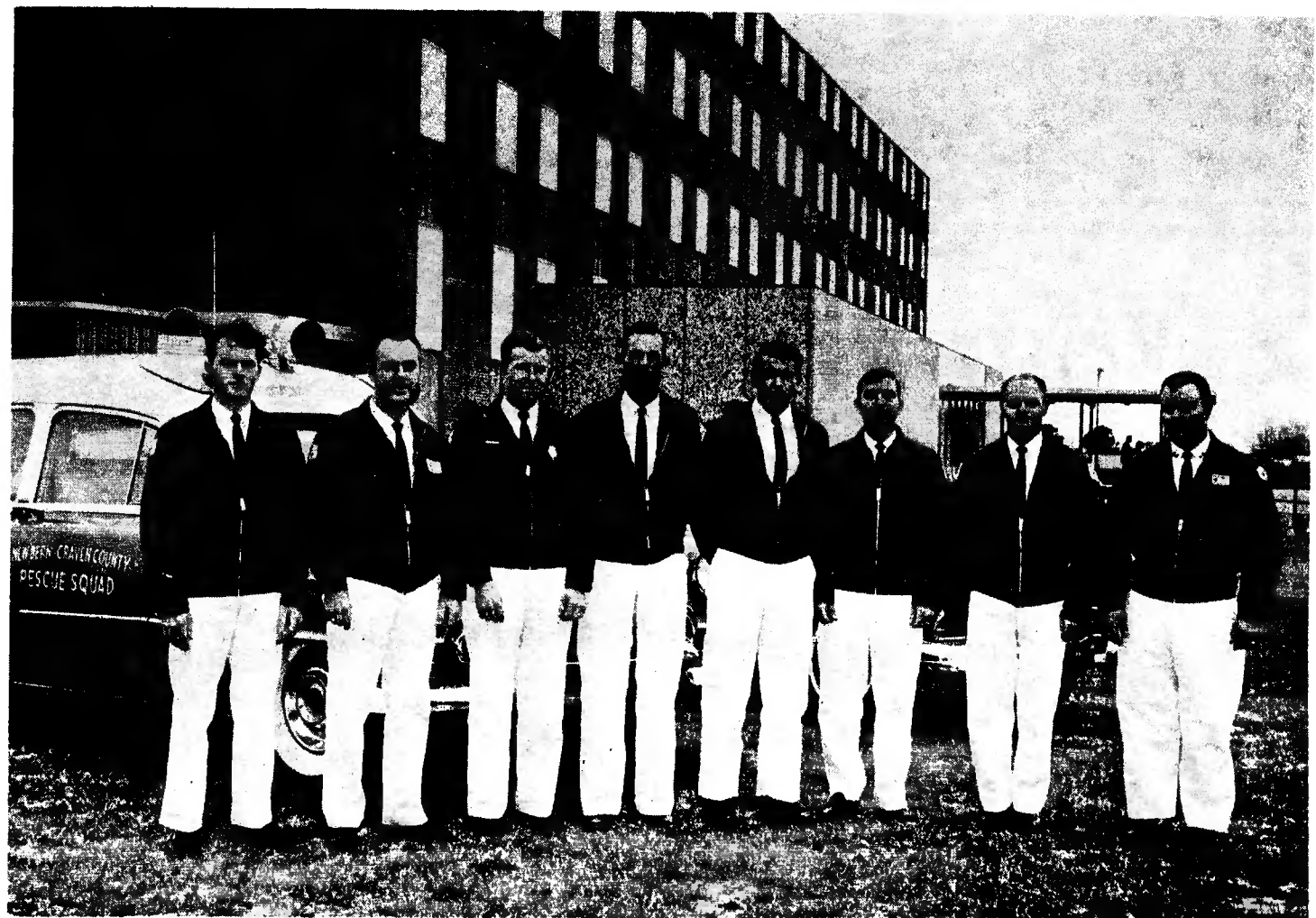
West Side Story is the 14th annual musical sponsored by EC's Student Government As-

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CONVERSATION PIECE--These four characters aren't New Bernians, North Carolinians or even Americans, but we couldn't in good conscience leave them off the front page of The Mirror this week. The Beatles have arrived from England, with their wild warbling and

shaggy-dog craniums. Local teen agers are delirious, oldsters (forgetting how they once raved over howling Cab Calloway) are bewildered and somewhat disgusted. Things will never be quite the same again.



A HELPING HAND--Pictured here are eight of thirteen men who comprise the New Bern-Craven County Rescue Squad. Additional members are now being recruited. Applicants must be at least 21 years old. The unit serves without pay, other than compensation one

gets for aiding a neighbor in distress. Seen, left to right, are Johnny Hodges, Lt. Larry Prokey, Lt. Bobby Hill, Sgt. Lewis Mayo, Larry Peele, Chick Natella, Robert Murdock and Capt. Herman Brinson.