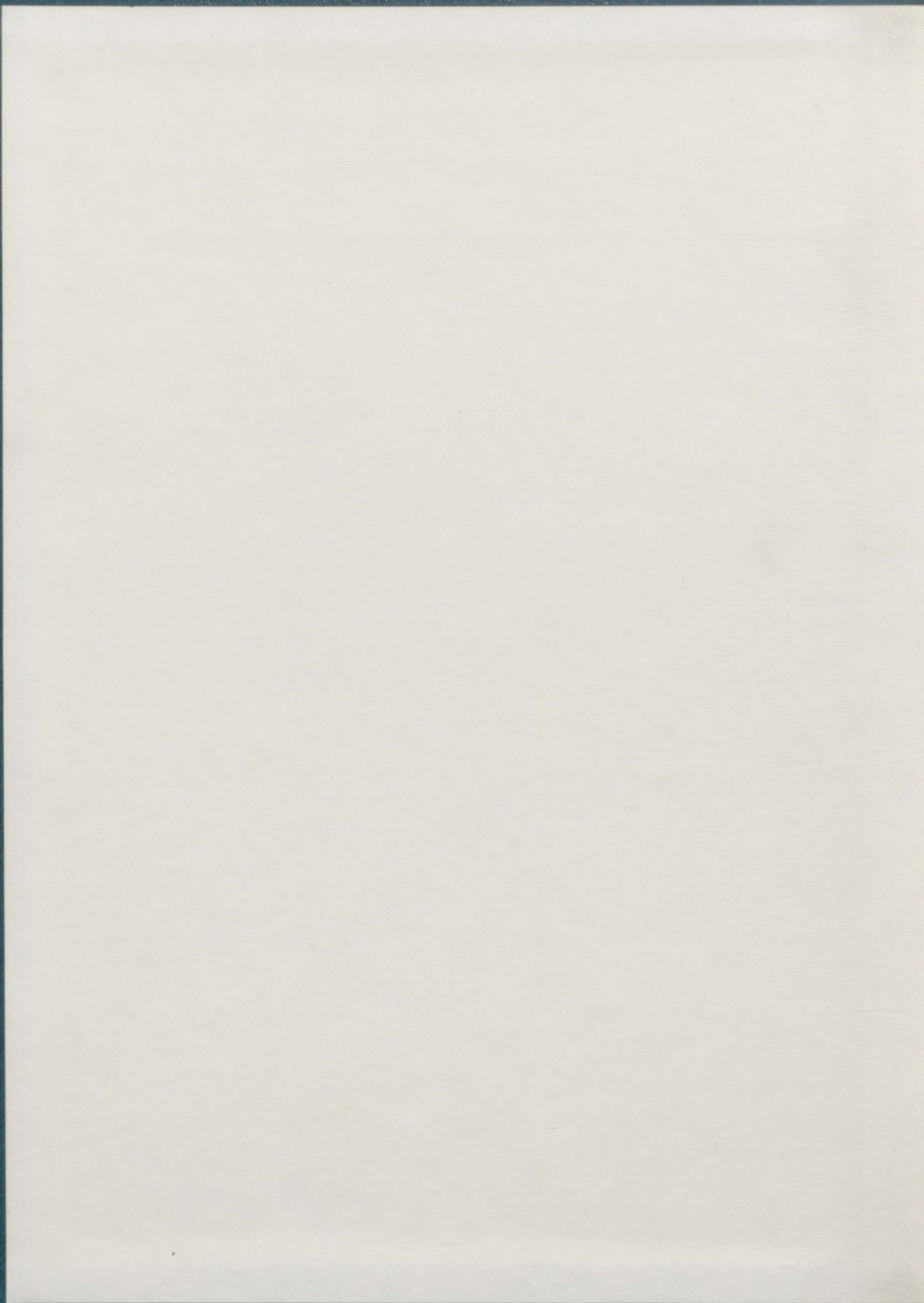
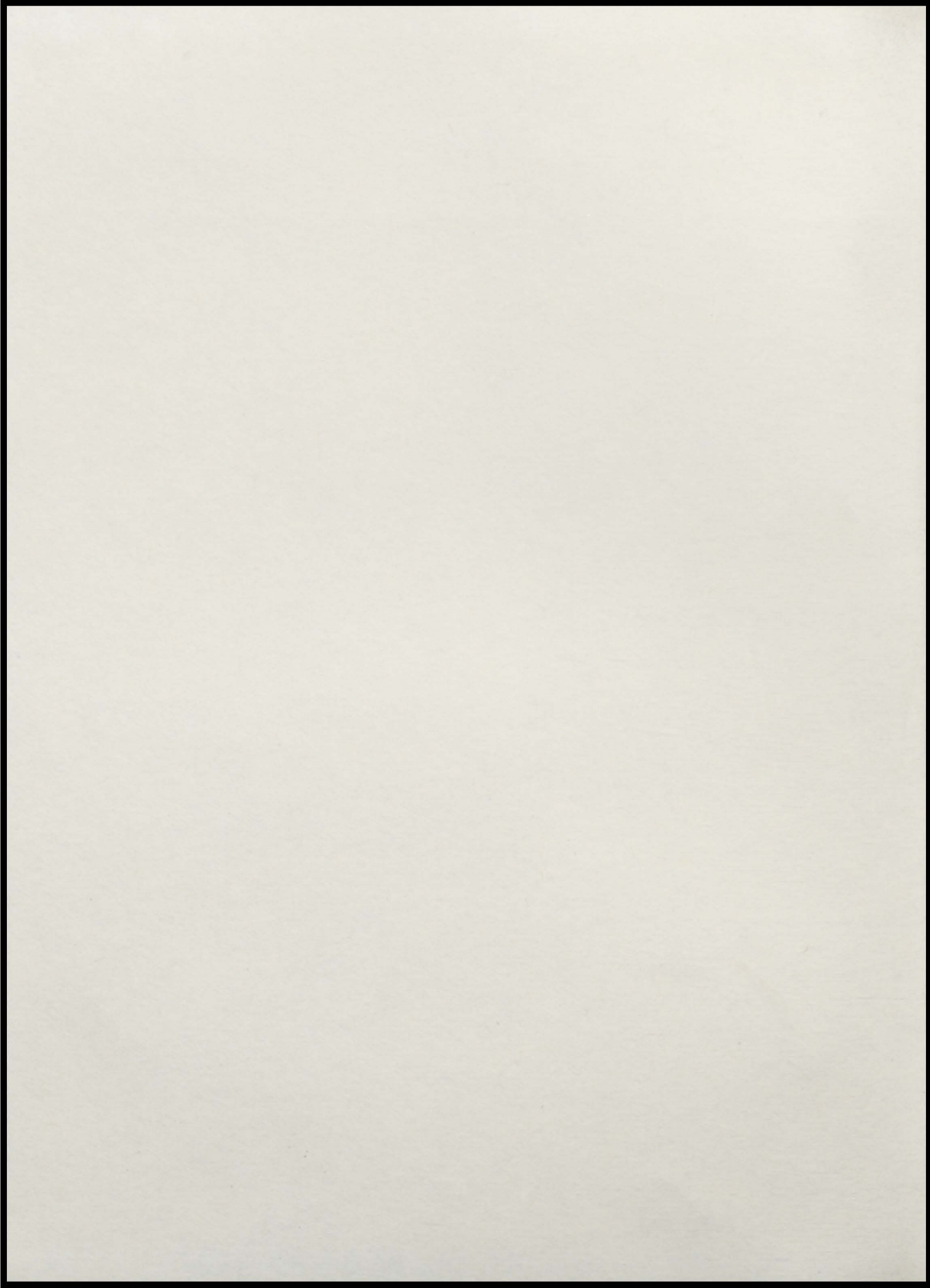




Once Upon Our Time

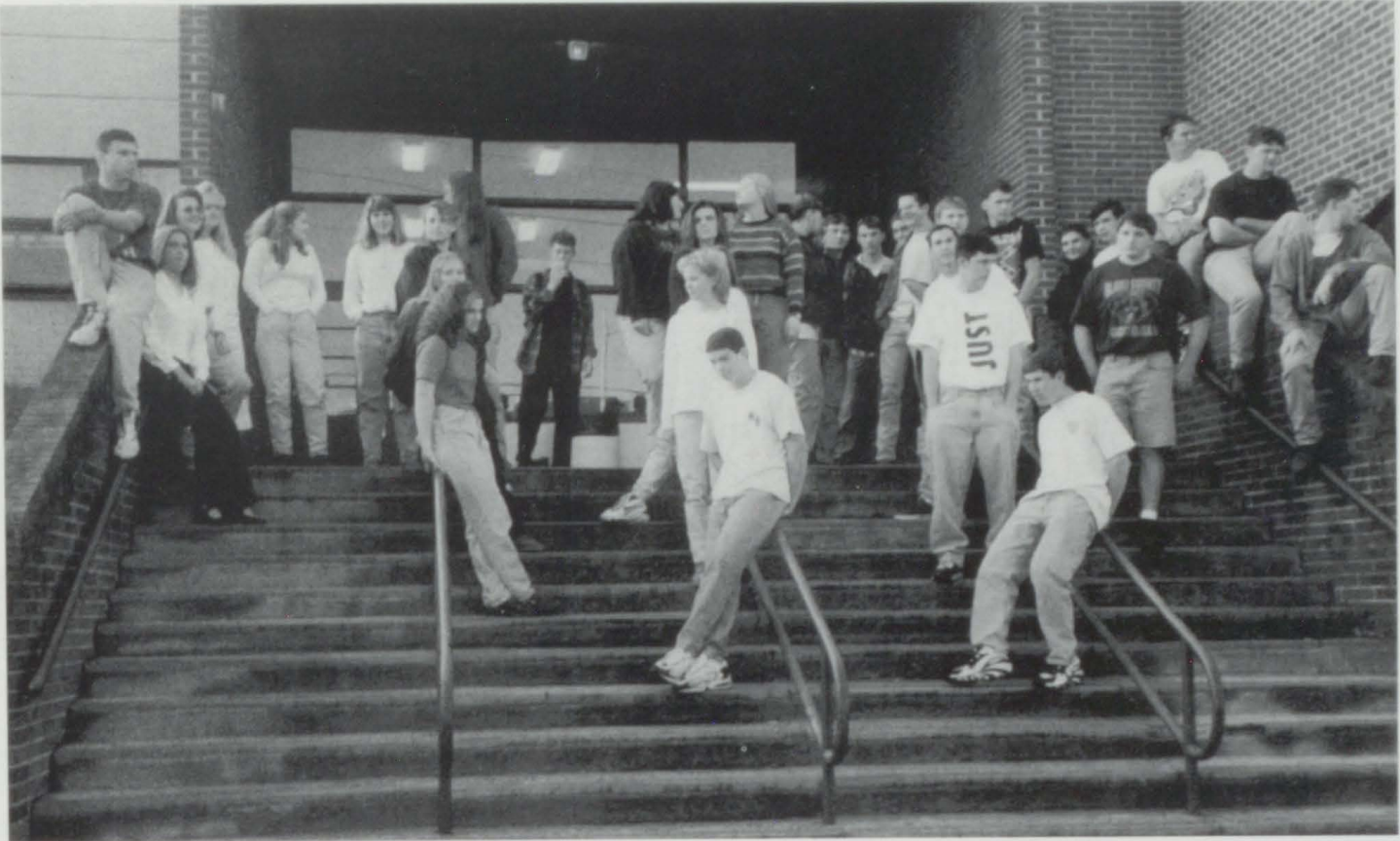
The Echo 1997







Once upon our time



The Echo 1997

Bland High School
Rt. 1 Box 14
540-688-3621

Bland Elementary School
P.O. 569
540-688-3032

The Gates of Knowledge are opened...

Bland High School chose an interesting and workable theme for this year's edition of "The Echo." The yearbook staff broke tradition when the 1996 staff selected the theme for the upcoming school year; however, our choice "Once Upon Our Time" seemed also to be the favored and unanimous decision of the 1997 staffers and Photo-Journalism class. The incoming staffers consisting of one Senior, six Juniors, and four Sophomores readily understood the diversity of our theme. The Echo Staff very much enjoyed working around the school as if it were indeed a wonderful kingdom from a magical past time and place. Production costs of our yearbook were in excess of \$13,000 and took approximately 180 labor hours per student. With 8 students enrolled in Photo Journalism, this interesting statistic totals 1440 hours of yearbook preparation which does not include extra out-of-class hours for completion of layouts or editing.

Students found a few changes at BHS upon arrival in the early fall. Miss Jean Greer, a native of Wythe County and a faculty member at Wytheville

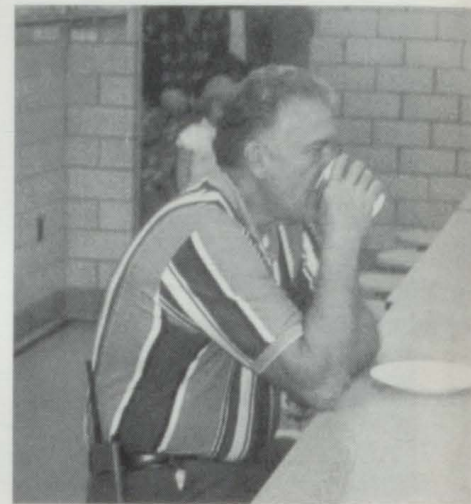
Community College, joined the faculty as a part-time employee responsible for teaching Calculus. Miss Greer adapted well to our kingdom and our students and staff welcomed her into our world of work. Also new to our school community was school nurse, Mrs. Juanita Branscome. Our Health Mobile could be seen on campus at least once a week and Mrs. Branscome was a respected figure who provided medicine, advice, and a friendly smile. Mr. Eric Brown replaced Mrs. Debbie Whitt, and Mrs. Brenda Tate came on board at mid-semester as a teacher's aid and connoisseur of fine baked goods. Mr. Jack Lane joined our staff as an elementary music teacher. He moved about the kingdom with his magical cart packed full of wonderful stories, and musical instruments. Mr. Lane indeed enchanted his audiences when he began his music classes.

Two staff members made preparations for retirement at the end of the school year. Dr. Dave Foltz, elementary guidance counselor, left at mid-year to retire to his home in Giles County, Virginia. Dr. Foltz retired with thirty-two years teaching experience and a storehouse of funny stories and fond

memories. Mr. John Chmara, football coach, finished the school year and retired in the spring of '97 with 41 years of teaching experience to his credit. Both Dr. Foltz and Mr. Chmara will be greatly missed by all the people whose lives they have touched.

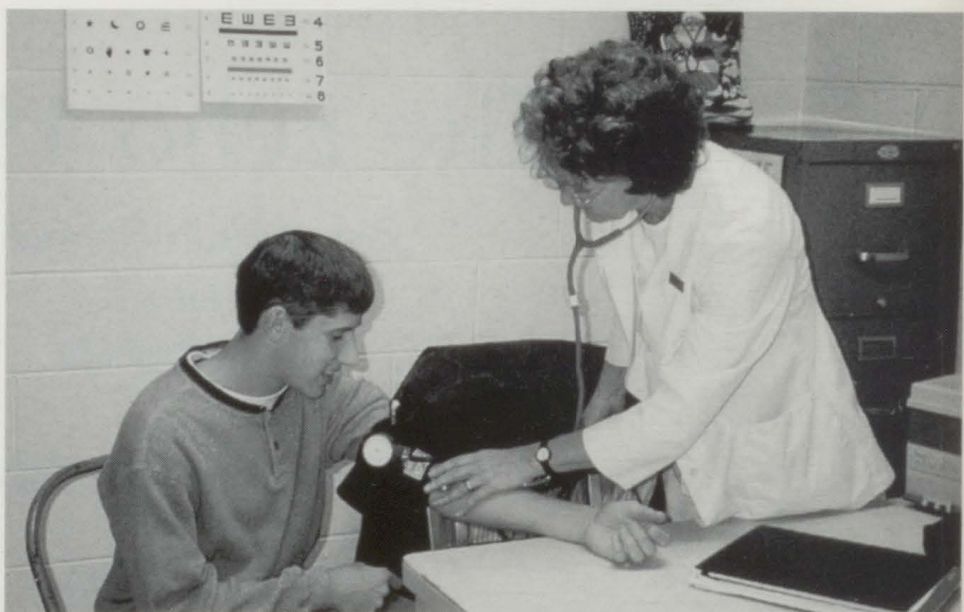
The school community at Bland was greatly saddened by the death of Mrs. Ruth Groseclose, Bland Elementary Principal, in May of 1996. Mrs. Groseclose died after a long and painful battle with cancer. She will forever be remembered in the hearts and minds of both colleagues and students.

Mr. Kenneth Munsey, Elementary Principal.



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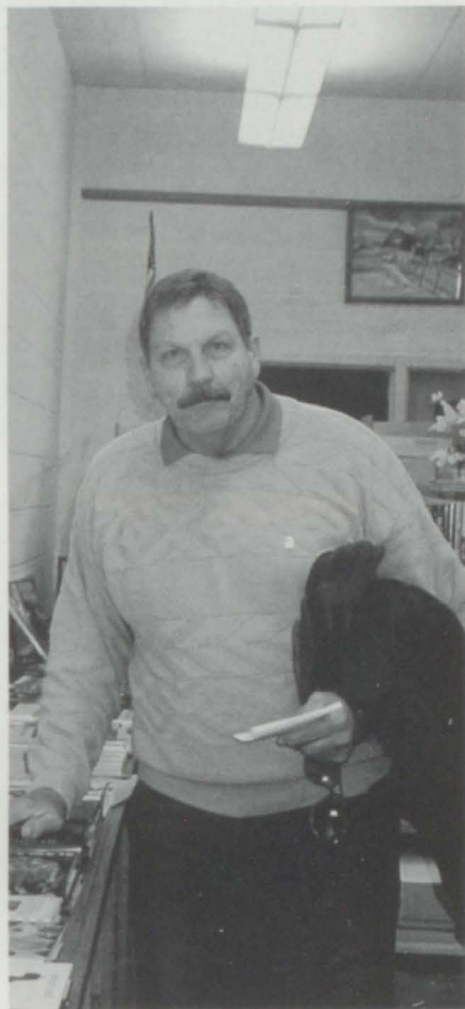
School nurse Juanita Branscome checks Jamie Dunn's blood pressure.

at Bland High & Bland Elementary

Students assist Mrs. Rachelle Nelson with sorting and setting up for the Academic Fair.

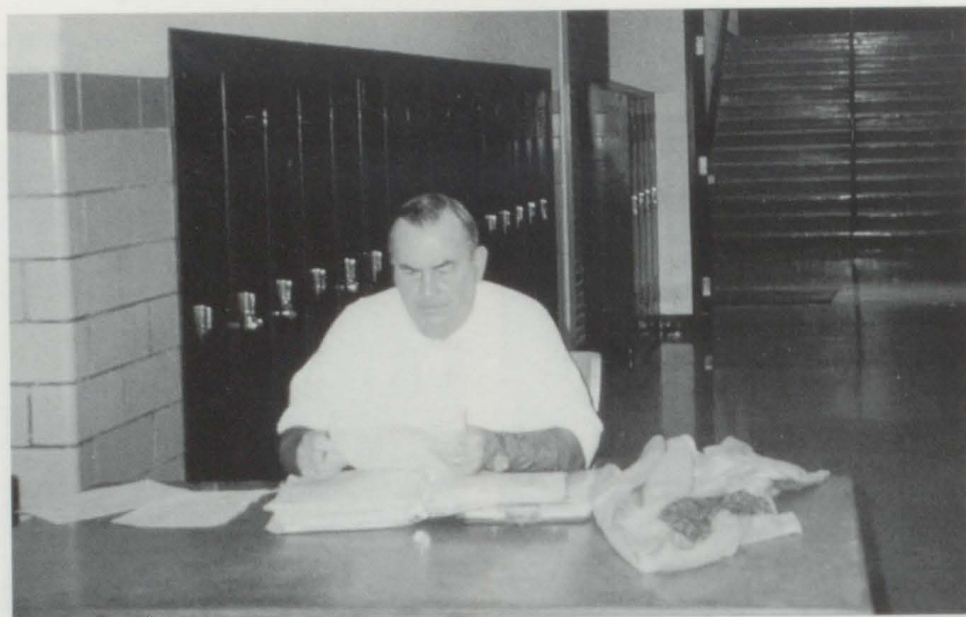


Dr. Dave Foltz's love of books is second only to a librarian. He consistently buys books whenever they are made available. Dr. Foltz retired in December.

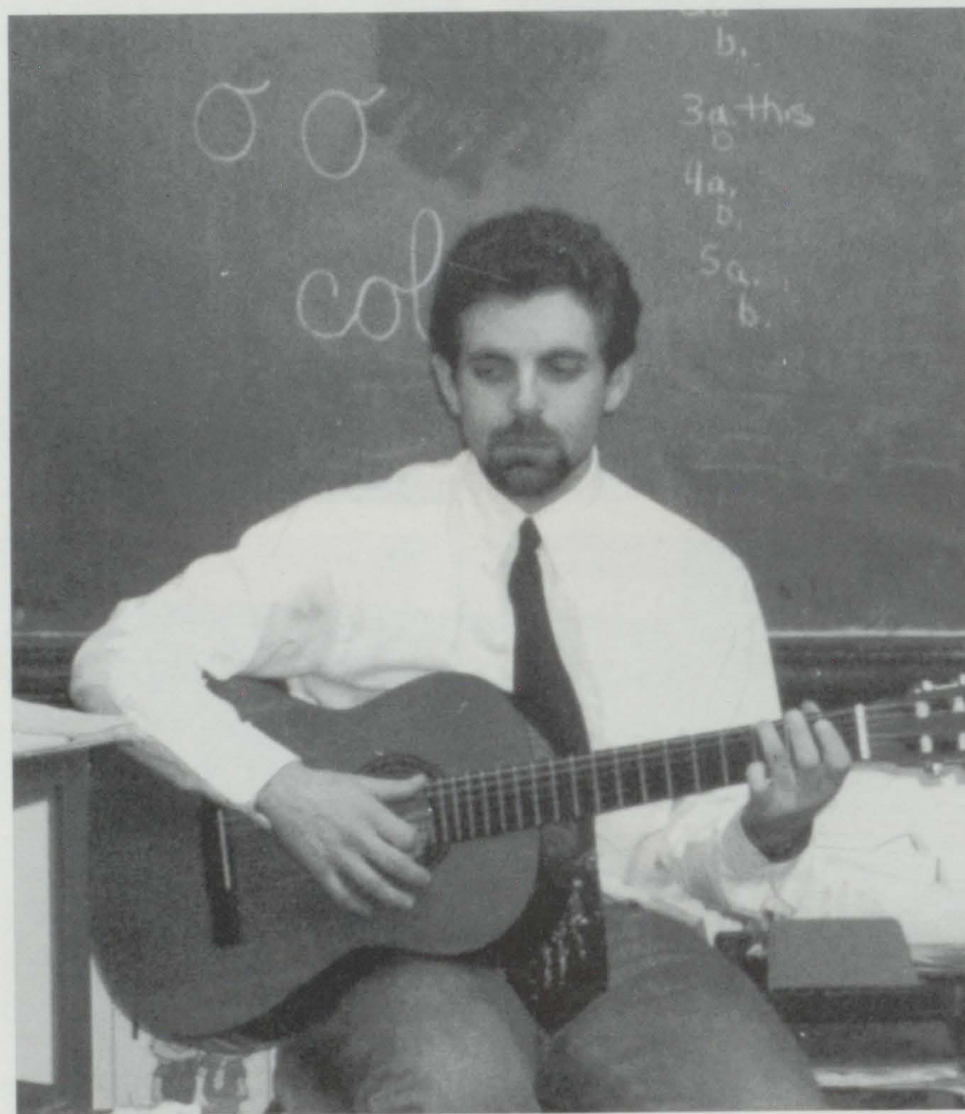


On stage are the competitors for the king and queen of the Fall Festival sponsored by the PTSO.

Mr. John Chmara grades his papers with a disturbed look on his face. Perhaps he is contemplating his retirement at the end of the year.



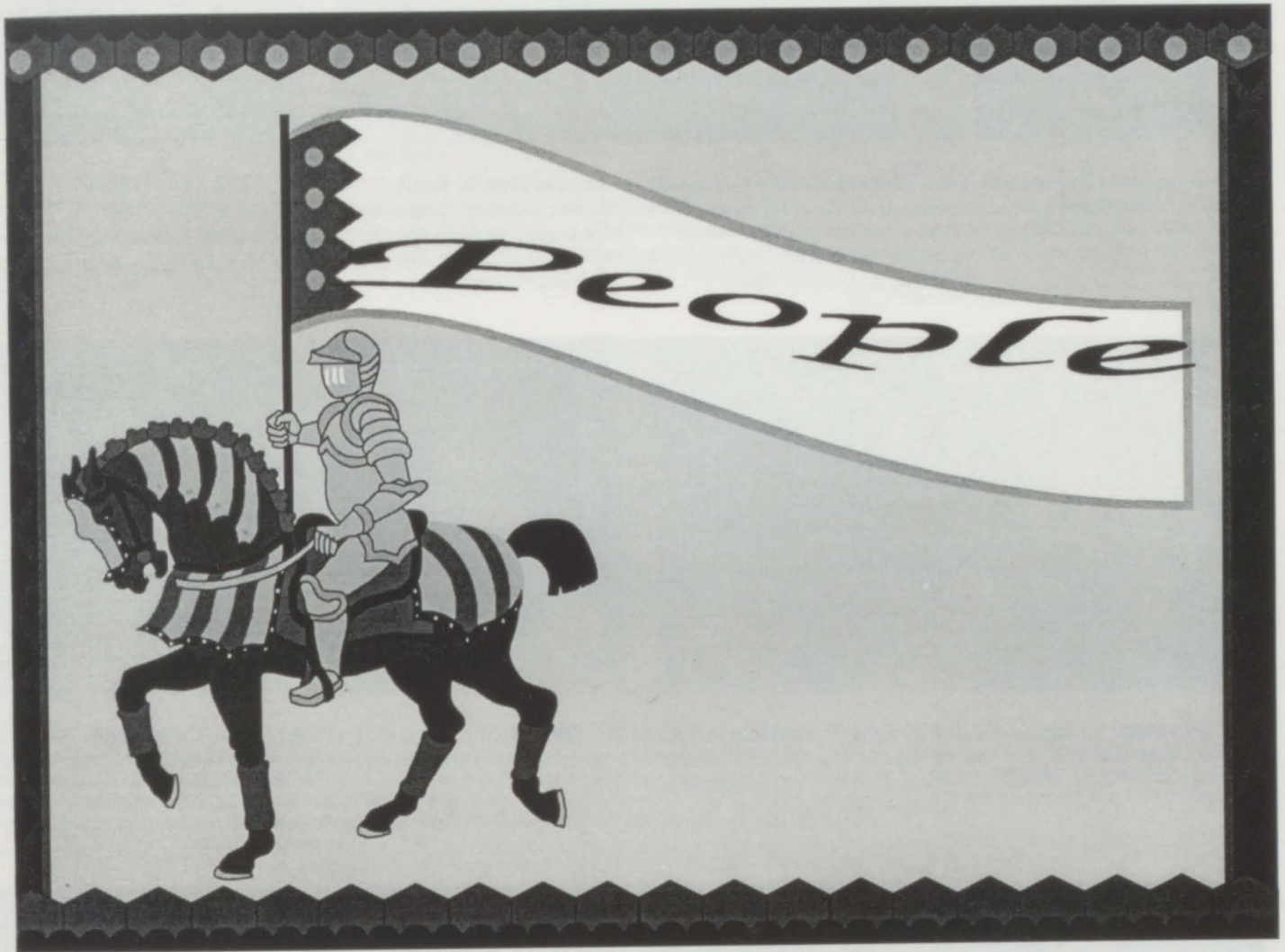
Ms. Jean Greer, a new part-time faculty member, instructs her Calculus class with a smile! The students eagerly apply their knowledge.



Mr. Jack Layne can be seen traversing the halls with music equipment on a cart to impart his music skills to grades K-4. Here he composes a birthday song for a second grader.

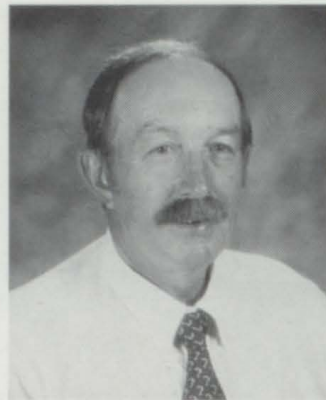


Mrs. Ruth Groseclose, BES Principal 1992-96.

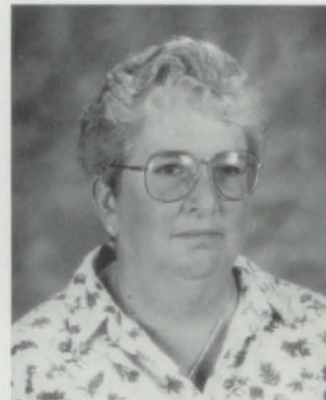




Mr. Roger Dale Thompson
30 years; Principal; Sponsor:
Golf, Baseball, BS-VPI, MS-
Radford U.



Mr. Richard Crockett Havens
28 years; Assistant Principal; US
History, Accounting, 8th History,
Sponsor: Senior Class, MACC Social
Studies; BS-Bluefield State.



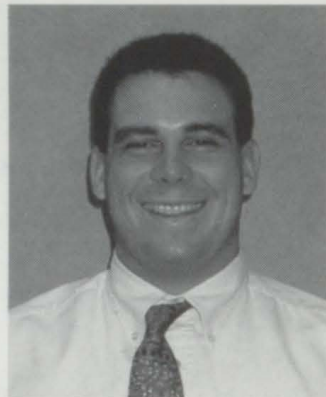
Mrs. Carolyn B. Bane
38 years; Industrial Cooperative
Coordinator; Sponsor: Vocational
Clubs of America, 8th Grade
Class; BS/MS-Radford U.



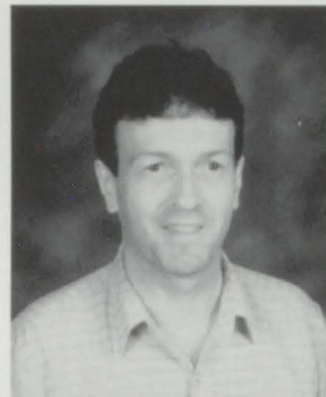
Mr. Fred Lee Beamer
Substitute: Economics,
Government, Civics, Sociology;
BS/MS-VPI & SU; BS/MS-Radford U.



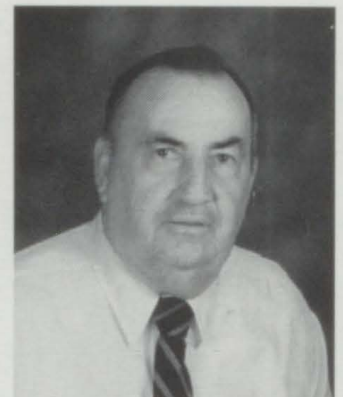
Mrs. Christine R. Bird
17 years; English 8, 9, 10;
Sponsor: Newspaper, Forensics;
BS-Radford U.



Mr. Eric T. Brown
3 Years; Economics, Govern-
ment, Civics, Sociology; Sponsor:
Junior Class; BS-Bluefield C.



Mr. Darrell Burnett
French I & II; Sponsor: French
Club; BA-Radford U.



Mr. John Chmara
40 years; Pre-Algebra, Math I &
II, Math Applications, World
History; Sponsor: 9th Grade
Class, Varsity Football Assistant;
BA/Marshall U.



Mr. Robert E. Correll
9 years; Beginning, Intermediate,
Secondary Band; BS-Austin Peay
State U.



Mr. William H. Crabtree
30 years; Agriculture; Sponsor:
FFA; BS/MS-VPI



Ms. Janet B. Faulkner
27 years; English 10, 11, 12,
Dual Credit English; Sponsor:
Senior Beta, Beta State Sponsor;
BS/MS-Radford U.



Mr. Richard Dale Hankins
11 years; Secondary Physical
Education, Consumer Math,
Algebra I; Sponsor: Varsity Boys
Basketball; BS-Bluefield State.

The Kingdom Scholars

The faculty of Bland High School is very proud of our school philosophy that stands to remind us of our purpose and plans for the education of our young people. The ultimate goal of secondary education is to prepare all students to be cognizant of their own problems and those of a democratic society, and to make effective contributions to the so-

lution of these problems. The school community should educate the student to understand that the rights and privileges of citizens in a democratic society are accompanied by duties and responsibilities. This understanding is necessary for the student to become an effective member of society.

Bland High School Student Handbook 1996-97.



Mrs. Sandra Green Harman
20 years; Secondary Adaptive, Photo-Journalism I and II, Sponsor: Sophomore Class, Yearbook Assistant; BS/MS-Radford U.



Mrs. Jessie Davis Kegley
33 years; Keyboarding, Office Administration, Computer Info. Systems; Sponsor: FBLA; BS-ETSU.



Mrs. Kay Mabe
16 years; Geometry, Algebra II, Advanced Math, Calculus; Sponsor: MACC Math; BS-Radford U.



Miss Teena Rae Morefield
19 years; Counselor; Secondary Gifted Coordinator, SPED Bldg. Coord. Sponsor: Jr. Beta, Volleyball, Softball; BS-Concord, MS-UVA.



Ms. LaMoore Muncy
4 years; Secondary Physical Education, World Geography; Sponsor: Junior Class, Varsity Girls Basketball; BS-Radford U.



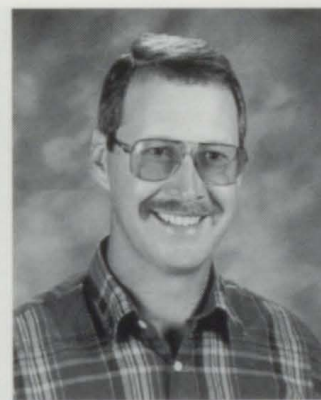
Ms. Elizabeth G. Newberry
30 years; Librarian-Secondary & Elementary; Sponsor: Yearbook; BS/MS-Radford U.



Ms. Rebecca M. Peery
15 years; French III, IV; Sponsor: French Club, English MACC; BS/MA-Radford U.



Mr. Alfred E. Smith
15 years; Biology I & II, Physical Science; Sponsor: SCA, All-Around MACC; BS-Concord C.



Mr. John Harkrader Wagoner
12 years; Chemistry, Earth Science, Physics; Sponsor: Science MACC; BS-Radford U.



Ms. Sylvia G. Williams
14 years; Family Relations, Family & Human Services, Elementary Computer Science; Sponsor: FHA; BS-JMU, MS-Indiana U.

Lords and Ladies of the Court...

Faculty members observe (and bid!) on Beta helpers. John Chmara, Carolyn Bane, Al Smith, Lana Hall.



Mr. Kenneth Muncy
33 years; Elementary Principal;
BS-Concord College, MA-WVU.



Mr. Fred J. Simpkins, III
19 years; Assistant Principal,
Seventh grade; AAS-WCC, BA-
Emory & Henry.



Mrs. Ruth Ann Barton
5 years; Second grade; BS-
Bluefield College.



Mrs. Rita C. Carver
6 years; Chapter I Reading; BS-
Bluefield College.



Mrs. Kimberly Dyane Cleary
8 years; Fifth grade;
BS-Radford U.



Mrs. Sue Coleman
18 years; Sp. Ed. Resource;
BS/MS-Radford U.



Mr. Robert E. Correll
10 years; Beginning,
Intermediate, Secondary Band;
BS-Austin Peay State U.



Mrs. Sue Dunford
29 years; Third grade; BS-
Radford U.



Mrs. Nadine Bridges works with the new computerized library system in the elementary library.

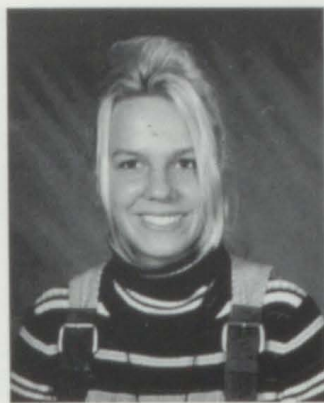
The Elementary Faculty at BES is very proud of their program

of strong academics and child development. From kindergarten through the seventh grade, these children are pre-

pared by faculty members to better meet the needs of their community.



Dr. David Clark Foltz
32 years; Elementary guidance; BA-Roanoke, MA-Kean, PhD-Southern Ill. U.



Mrs. Lana L. Hall
4 years; Third grade; BS-Bluefield College.



Mrs. Patricia S. Hankins
8 years; Elementary Physical Education; BS-Bluefield College.



Ms. Jo Ellen Harless
21 years; LD/EMH Modified Self-Contained; BS-Concord College, MS-Radford U.



Mrs. Elizabeth Johnson
2 years; 4th grade; BS-Bluefield.



Mrs. Barbara M. Justice
11 years; Fourth grade; BS-Pikeville College.



Mrs. Pamela L. Lambert
2 years; First grade; BA-Radford University.



Mrs. Deborah Diane Massie
8 years; Upper Elementary Self-Contained; BS-WVU.



Mrs. Deborah Maxfield
4 years; Sixth grade; BS-Bluefield C.



Mrs. Rachelle C. Nelson
8 years; Sixth grade; BA-Alice Lloyd College.



Mrs. Brenda Penley enjoys a tootsie pop while looking at graduation pictures.

Keepers of the Kingdom

The Kingdom Scholars held the keys to the kingdom of knowledge. The faculty at Bland Elementary School was committed to providing a quality education for each student. Teachers were dedicated to putting forth quality time and effort for young people. They formed the foundation on which students would grow and build. These teachers and personnel found themselves in the additional roles of parent, counselor, nurse, confidant, judge, and even student. In order to comply with state regulations to keep their certificates current, they had to complete six credit hours of classes every five years. They truly earned the title of "keepers of the kingdom." This kingdom was headed by newcomer, Mr. Kenneth Muncy, a "local boy come home."



Ms. Elizabeth G. Newberry
30 years; Librarian; BS/MS-Radford U.



Mrs. Norma Newberry
31 years; Fifth grade; BS-Radford U.



Mrs. Iris C. Pruett
26 years; Kindergarten; BS-Radford U.



Mrs. Laura Radford
6 years; Second grade; BS-Bluefield College.



Mrs. Barbara Ann Reed
10 years; SPED Handicapped self-contained; BA-Lambuth College.



Mrs. Rebecca W. Scott
23 years; Kindergarten; BA-King College, MA-Radford U.



Mrs. Michelle Thompson
11 years; Speech-language Pathologist; BS/MS-Radford U.



Mrs. Diana Tibbs
8 years; Seventh grade; BS-Bluefield State.



Mrs. Gwen Vicars
5 years social work; 12 years teaching; First grade; BS-ETSU, BS-Bluefield State.



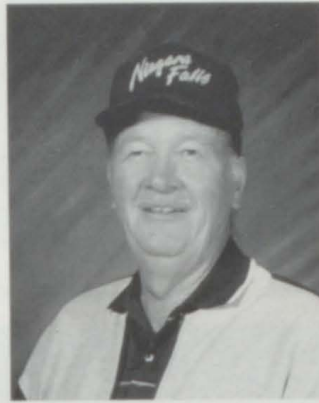
Ms. Sylvia G. Williams
14 years; Family Relations, Family & Human Services, Elementary Computer Science; Sponsor: FHA; BS-JMU, MS-Indiana U.



Mrs. Norma Sue Beavers
16 years; Chapter I Parent-Home Coordinator.



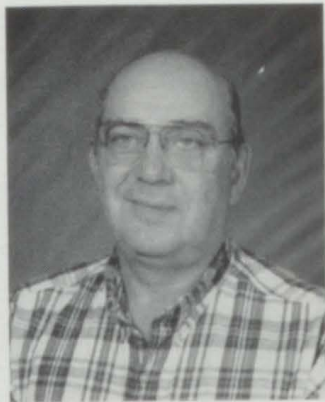
Mrs. Violet Bird
24 years; Instructional Aide.



Mr. Harold Bivens
14 years; Bus driver.



Mrs. Bonnie C. Blankenship
13 years; Secondary secretary/bookeeper.



Mr. Jack Blankenship
3 years; Bus driver.



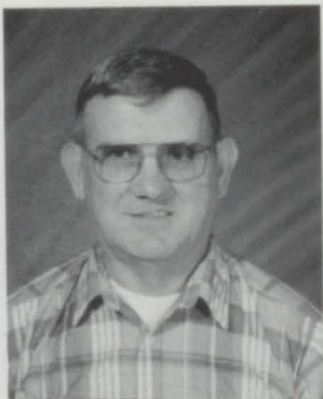
Mrs. Nadine L. Bridges
29 years; Instructional Aide; WCC.



Mrs. Nancy Brown
10 years; Lunchroom.



Mrs. Joyce Cassell
20 years; Instructional Aide.



Mr. William Moore Cregar
21 years; Remedial reading/math Aide; Bus driver; Marion C., WCC.



Mr. David Davidson
1 year; Maintenance.



Mrs. Pam Gore
28 years; Elementary secretary/bookeeper.



Mrs. Margaret L. Gravley
1 year; Lunchroom.

The Kingdom Keepers ...cont'd

In addition to assisting teachers and administration, the kingdom keepers had the responsibility of maintaining the physical operation of the buildings, keeping them clean, tran-

sporting students, and providing hot, nutritious meals on a daily basis.

Newcomers to the kingdom were Ms. Becky Harris, Mrs. Lisa McGuire, Mrs. Margaret Gravley, and Mr. David Davidson. There was also a name

change as Kadi Woods accepted the vows of matrimony in September and became Mrs. Kadi Cleary. In the secondary area, Mr. Eric Brown filled the vacancy left by Mrs. Debbie Whitt in social studies.

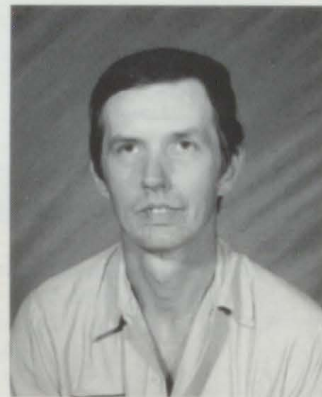
Teachers don the role of students.



Ms. Becky Harris
1 year; Bus driver



Mrs. Irma K. Havens
12 years; Bus driver



Mr. Johnny Hull
5 years; Custodian



Mrs. Pat Johnson
16 years; Instructional aide



Mrs. Flora Jones
4 years; Lunchroom



Mrs. Lisa D. McGuire
1 year; Lunchroom



Mr. Jimmy Michael
9 years; Bus driver, Substitute teacher



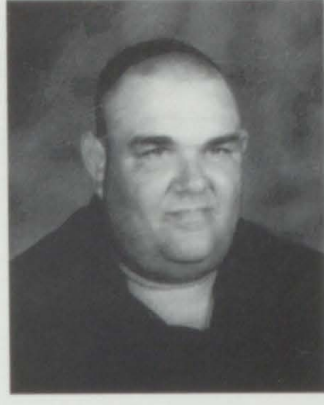
Mrs. Linda Moses
9 years; Bus driver



Mrs. Regina Newberry
20 years; Bus driver



Mrs. Mildred Owens
3 years; Custodian



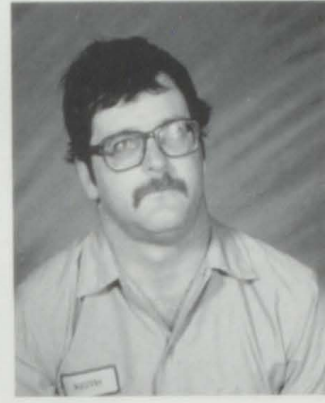
Mr. Bobby Penley
28 years sub. bus driver; 3 years
voc. trans.



Mrs. Brenda Penley
14 years; Bus driver, Substitute
teacher



Mrs. Brenda Pike
16 years; Bus driver



Mr. Keith Sargent
11 years; Custodian



Mrs. Nancy Stockner
24 years; Gifted educational assis-
tant



Mrs. Dot Tibbs
18 years; Lunchroom



Mrs. Mary Wimmer Bus
driver

Mrs. Nancy Stockner displays students' works completed during
a study of culture and heritage.

Those Magical Moments

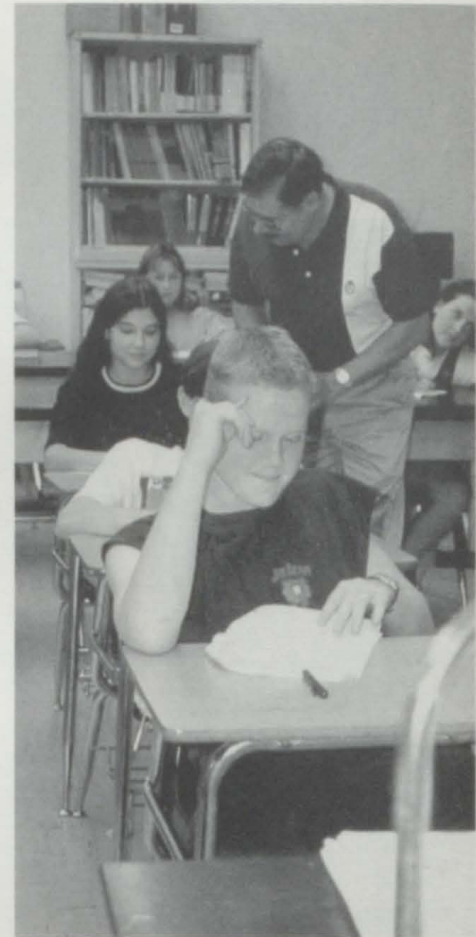
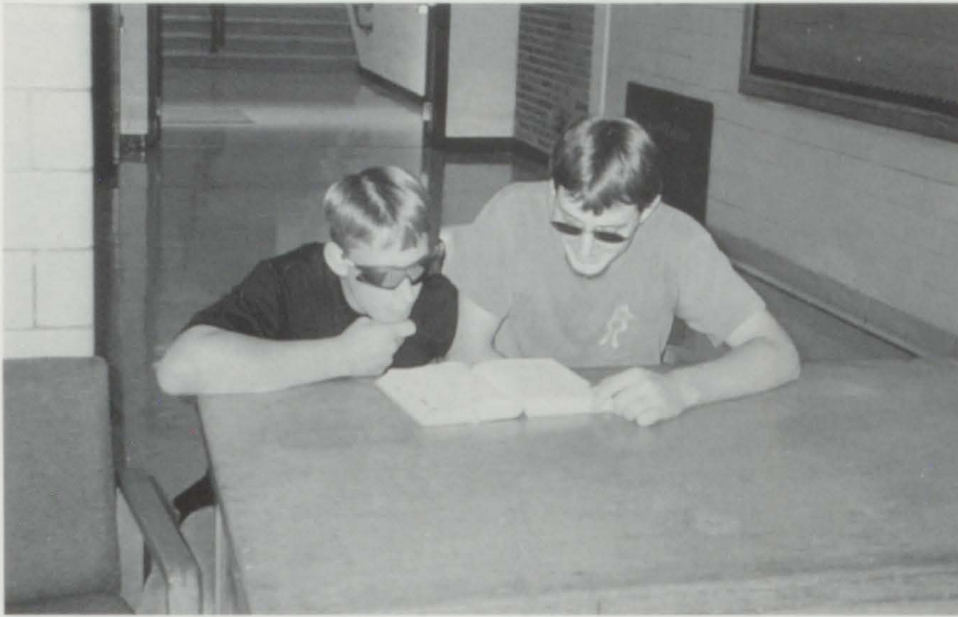
Those magical moments occurred at the onset of something special or for no reason at all. Whenever you least expected it

"smile, you're on candid camera." Yearbook staffers toted cameras (including the new zoom lens one) to the halls and classrooms to capture the usual and not so usual everyday hap-

penings. Their efforts and goals were to include as many different people as possible. Proper lighting and environmental control were essential to capture the precise moment with good quality pictures.

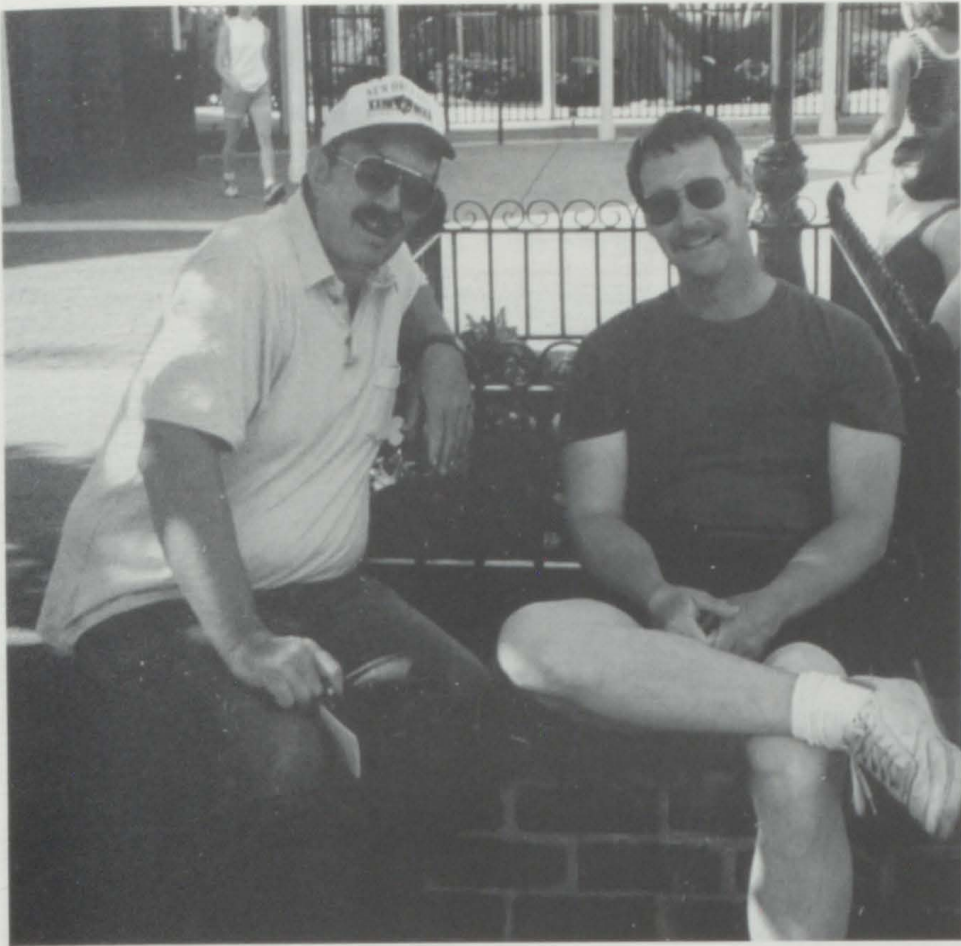
TOP LEFT: John Kelly Thompson and Jeremy Blankenship.

TOP RIGHT: Mr. Al Smith assists Rachel Mullins while Donny Higgins ponders a test question.



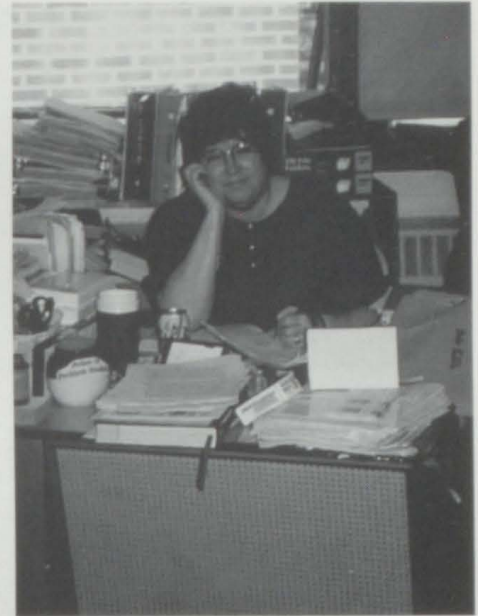
Mrs. Penny Shannon of Shanaki Karate Studios captures the attention of students when she tells them how it is possible to do the impossible with dedication, determination, and complete concentration.

Ms Foli Taylor and Virginia Presley attend to the historical room during the Festival of Leaves.



TOP LEFT: Mr. Richard Havens and Mr. John Wagoner relax in the shade on an FHA trip to Carowinds. Mr. Havens said he thought they would never get back to Bland — too many pit stops and thirst quenchers...!

TOP RIGHT: Fatigue takes over as Ms. Janet Faulkner grades papers and works on Beta materials.



Photography Club members traveled to Staunton to the Museum of American Culture where they viewed transported dwellings from other countries. Posing before the German house are: sponsor, Mr. John Wagoner, April Blankenship, Missy Woods, Leisa Hagy, Jenny Walker, Kelly Woods, Nikki Howell. *Not pictured: Ms. Elizabeth Newberry, sponsor.*

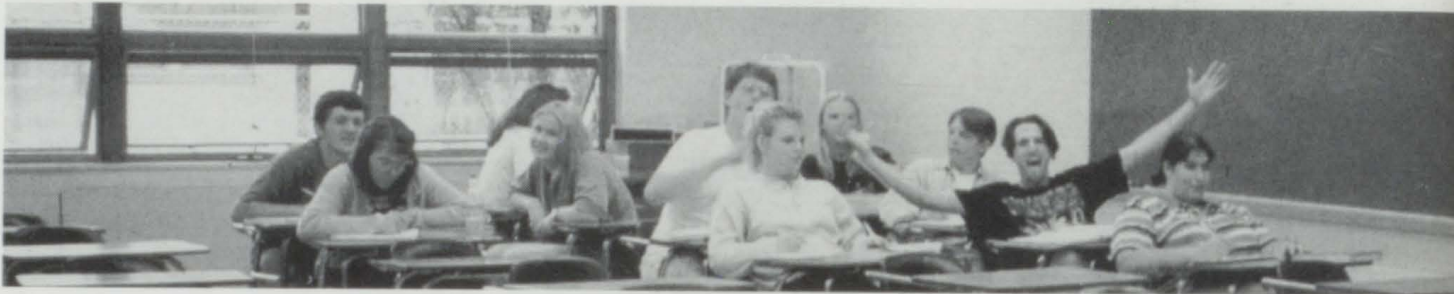
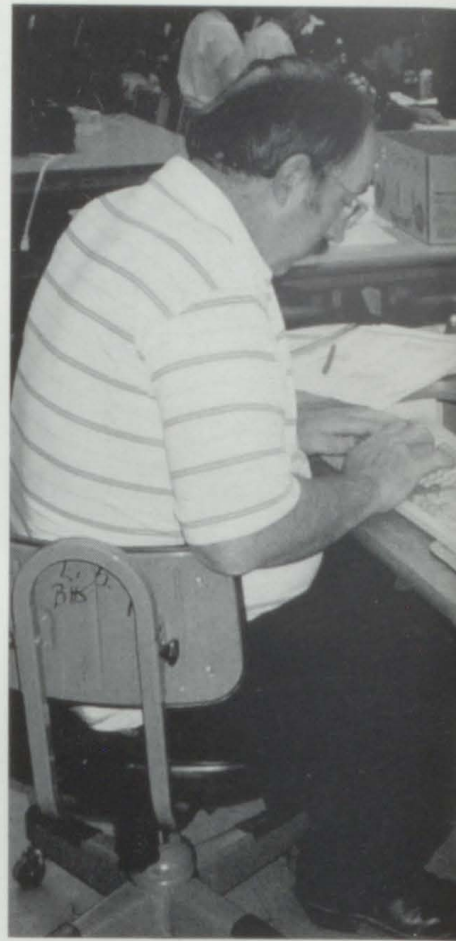
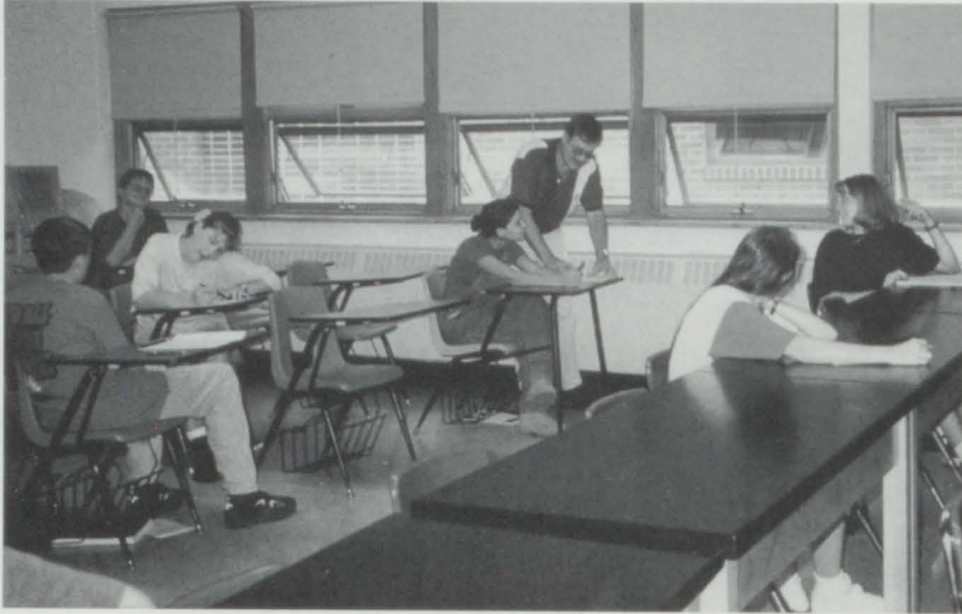
...More of the same

...and so the candids continue with additional coverage, alternate people, and different situations.

TOP RIGHT: Mr. Richard Havens pores over his computer classwork in a Tuesday night class.

TOP LEFT: Mr. Al Smith explains the science procedure to Megan Shewey.

CENTER: Economics class should be busy instead of clowning for the camera.



ABOVE: Like a frog, Rachel Munsey catches a peppermint candy ball with her tongue.

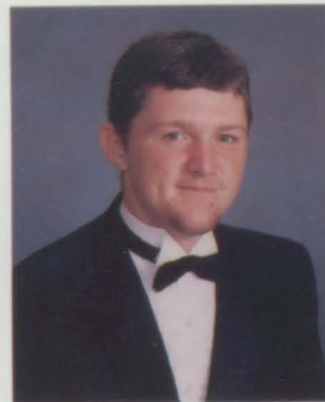
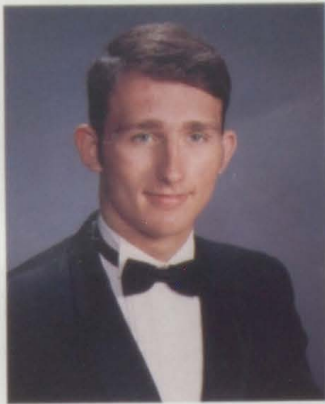
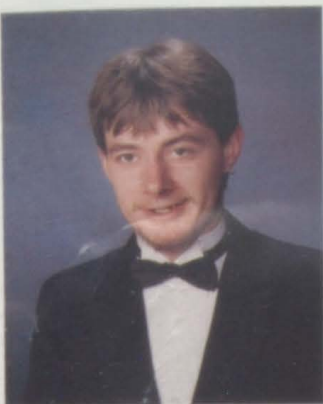
BOTTOM CENTER: Jeb Hodges (with Curtis

Brewer behind him) in physical education class. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** Mr. Weatherman, Kellen Shewey takes a stroll down the hall after doing his morning weather report.

A Kingdom of Future Leaders

The graduating class of 1997

faced the awesome responsibility of leaving their kingdom of learning and advancing into the changing world of higher learning, work, and family. As Mrs. Hilary Clinton reminded us, "it takes a Village to raise a child."

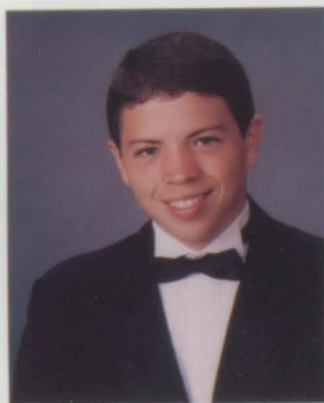
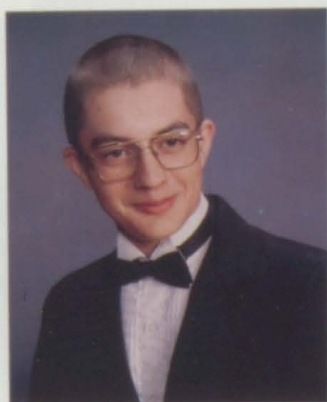


Jeremy Lane Blankenship
D.O.B.: 9-26-77
Ambition: To be a Cowboy

Barry Keith Bourne
D.O.B.: 11-1-79
Ambition: Rocket Scientist

Amanda Leigh Brown
D.O.B.: 7-29-79
Ambition: To survive in life

Benjamin Wylie Chewing
D.O.B.: 7-14-79
Ambition: Have an exciting sports career

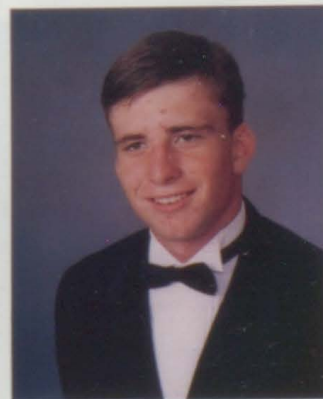
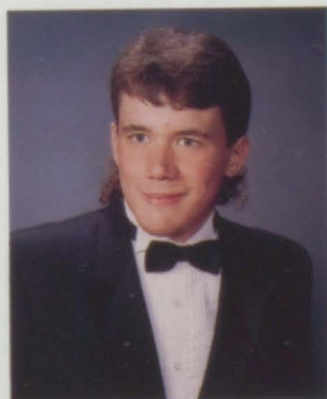
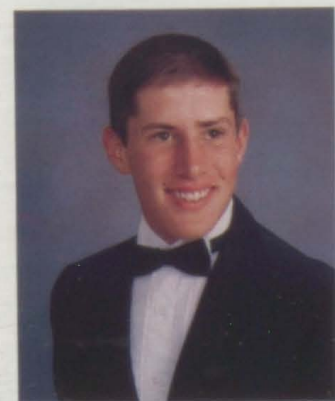


Mary Jane Chewing
D.O.B. 10-21-79
Ambition: Great Family and Career

Benjamin Allen Davis
D.O.B.: 10-12-79
Ambition: Become a big game hunter

Derrick Allan DeHart
D.O.B.: 7-5-79
Ambition: To be on T. V.

Marie Allene Renae Dotson
D.O.B.: 9-23-79
Ambition: To have my own talk show



Jamie Carl Dunn
D.O.B: 3-16-79
Ambition: To be rich

Jason Mack Epling
D.O.B: 9-13-78
Ambition: To rebuild my car

Melissa Dawn French
D.O.B.: 10-26-79
Ambition: To be a light un-to others

Jason Lee Hancock
D.O.B.: 5-21-79
Ambition: College Baseball Player

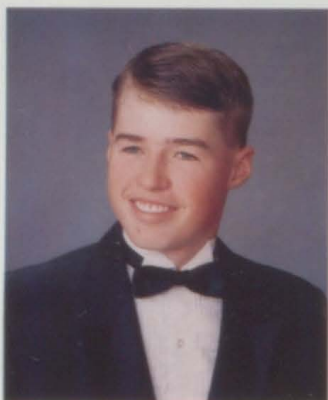
Class officers: John Curtis Thompson, president; Amy Hanshew, secretary; Mr. Richard Havens, sponsor; Jennifer Winters, treasurer; Ben Chewning, vice-president.



Amy Lynn Hanshew
D.O.B.: 3-31-79
Ambition: To win a basketball game



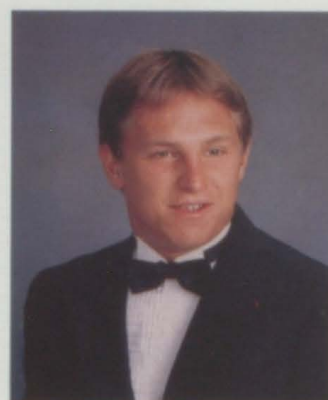
Tracie Lynn Jones
D.O.B.: 9-16-79
Ambition: Obstetric Nurse



Jason Edward Kidd
D.O.B.: 5-4-79
Ambition: To take over as principal



Frances Lucinda King
D.O.B.: 10-28-80
Ambition: To meet Jon Stewart



James Brandon Lambert
D.O.B.: 10-21-78
Ambition: To be a college athlete



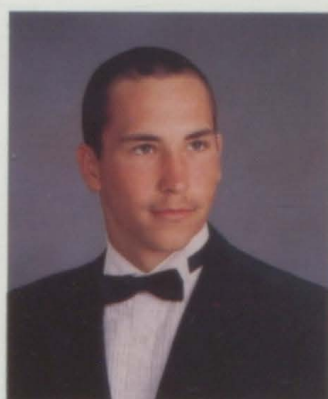
Michael Kay Mabe
D.O.B.: 10-15-79
Ambition: To be happy and rich



Jamie Elizabeth McMillan
D.O.B.: 2-17-79
Ambition: Life's road be filled with hopes & dreams



Ralph Lee Meadows
D.O.B.: 2-22-79
Ambition: To be a college athlete



JonMichael Newberry
D.O.B.: 2-20-79
Ambition: To play NFL football



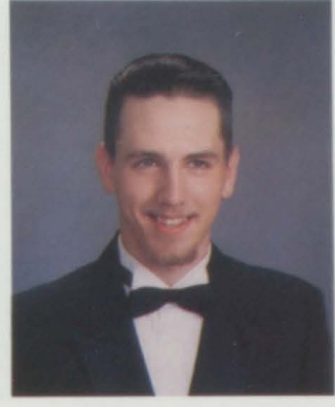
Holly Ann Pauley
D.O.B.: 8 - 18 - 79
Ambition: Take the road less traveled



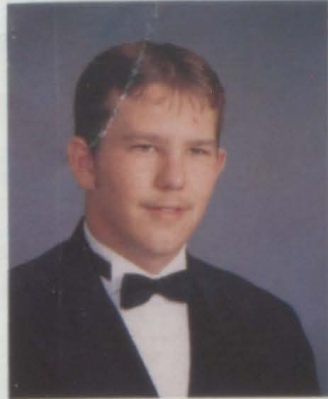
James Howard Payne
D.O.B.: 8 - 16 - 79
Ambition: Computer Programmer



Michael Allan Purret
D.O.B.: 12 - 6 - 79
Ambition: Live to a ripe old age



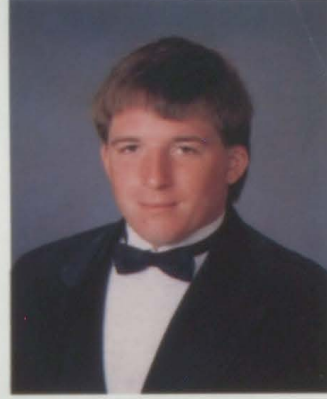
Wesley David Quinn
D.O.B.: 8 - 29 - 77
Ambition: Be happy & little money



Jermey Ross Reed
D.O.B.: 2-2-79
Ambition: Guitar player in a band



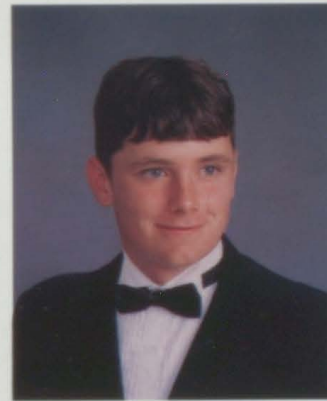
Rae Hylton Romano
D.O.B.: 9-9-79
Ambition: To learn how to drive



Jacob Nathaniel Scott
D.O.B.: 4-2-79
Ambition: To retire by the age 25



Kristina Lee St. Clair
D.O.B.: 1-8-79
Ambition: To survive every weekend

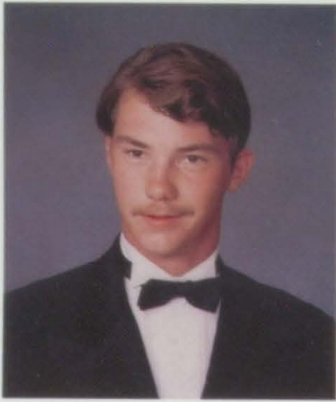


John Curtis Thompson
D.O.B.: 7-29-79
Ambition: To own a golf course



Amanda Jane Umberger
D.O.B.: 10-6-79
Ambition: To be happy forever

Amanda Brown receives a medal for French II. Mr. Richard Havens assists in the presentation.



Darrell Lee Wellman
D.O.B.: 8-31-78
Ambition: To be a billion-
aire



Eric Steven Wimmer
D.O.B.: 10-21-79
Ambition: To be a Million-
aire



Jennifer Mae Winters
D.O.B.: 8-28-80
Ambition: To own the
Cleveland Indians



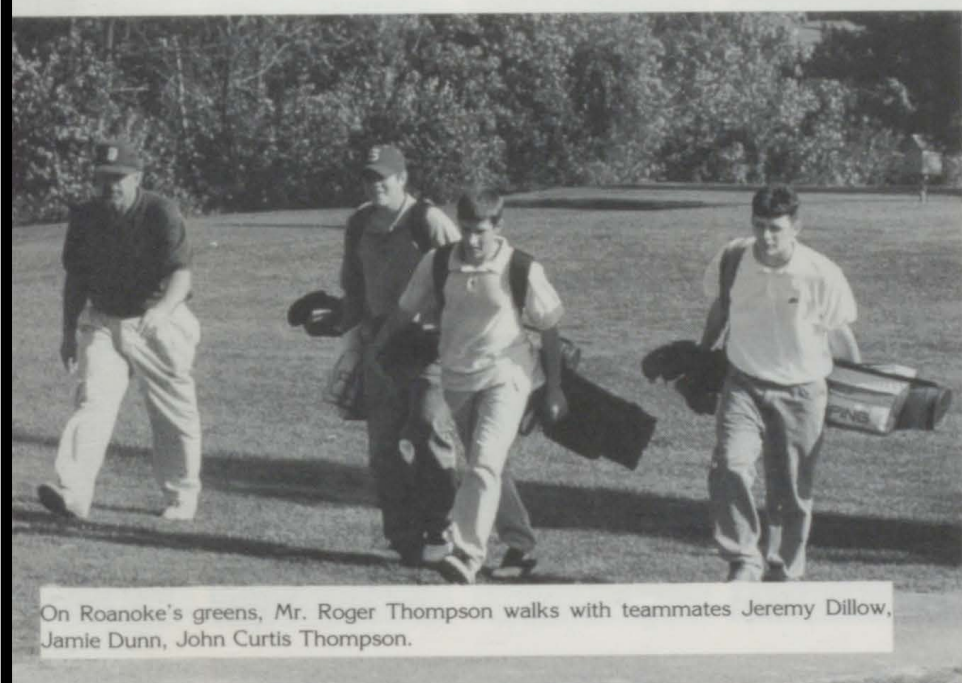
Faye Ann Wolfe
D.O.B.: 11-26-78
Ambition: To have courage
and independence



Center left: Missy French completes work on senior pages for the 1997 yearbook.
Center right: These shy beauties are dressed up for the football's "Mister Beautiful" competition held in the spring of 1996. Don't recognize them? Check the senior class members for identification.
Bottom left: Jason Hancock got caught in a state of "undress" while preparing for the "beautiful" competition.

TOP LEFT: Jesse Goss reaches for a slam.

TOP RIGHT: The Indians came to Bland for a "pow-wow". This one performs a ritual dance.



On Roanoke's greens, Mr. Roger Thompson walks with teammates Jeremy Dillow, Jamie Dunn, John Curtis Thompson.



Mr. Roger Thompson, principal, lounges in the office after another busy day.

In a Tiny Kingdom

Even in a tiny kingdom becoming Seniors would seem to take forever, and BHS Juniors found that the keys to the kingdom would not be far away. Junior year proved to be a

challenge trying to make ends meet. The hardest part of the Junior year was making preparations for the Senior year. There were colleges to be decided upon and tests to be taken. The Junior-Senior Prom proved to be expensive, but well worth the effort. This magical

year kept students on the edge of adventure.

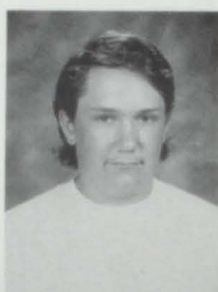
Juniors also felt the rewards of advancement within the kingdom when they were awarded parking spaces in the student parking lot.



Sarah Bird



Jesse Blankenship



Kris Blankenship



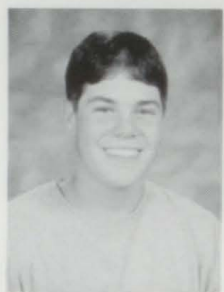
Mandy Blankenship



Adam Carroll



Leslie Carroll



Jeremy Dillow



Kelly Dunn



Adam Faulkner



Stephanie Ferrari



Michael Fulford



Whitney Gamble



Jason Groseclose



Josh Gusler



Leisa Hagy



Evan Hall



Ashley Havens



Nikki Howell



Stephanie Kelley



Kelli King



Sara King



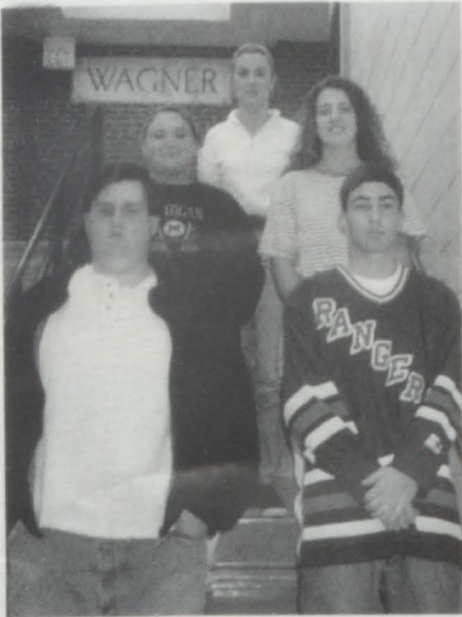
Brooke Kitts



Paul Lindamood



Phillip Meadows



Class officers-Front row: Josh Gusler, president; Chad Perkey, vice-president. **2d row:** Sara King, treasurer; Ashley Havens, secretary;. **Back row:** Ms. LaMoore Muncy, sponsor. *Not pictured: Mr. Eric Brown, sponsor.*



Sandra Melvin



Stacey Miller



Debbie Munsey



David Neel



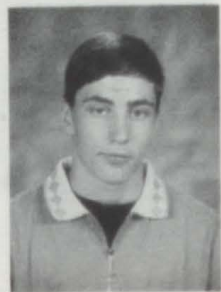
April Nelson



Ryan Newberry



Jim Bob Penley



Chad Perkey



Kim Pohlman



Eric Reed



Tanya Sarver



Andrew Schoeneman



Megan Shewey



Sharon Shewey



Sarah Grey Smith



Heather Stiltner



Lorie Tabor



Erin Thompson



Jeremy Thompson



John Kelly Thompson



Isaac Tyeryar



Jennifer Walker



Ronnie Wolfe



Sondra Wolfe



Missy Woods

Long Ago

Class officers-Front row: Olena Sexton, vice-president; Ashleigh Sarver, secretary; Michael Lambert, treasurer. **Back row:** Erin Johnson, reporter; Heath Puckett, president; Mrs. Sandra Harman, sponsor.



Long ago the Sophomore Class dreamed of moving up in the kingdom. This year that dream

seemed to have a more realistic view as this class joined the ranks of upper-classmen. The tenth-grade class is our largest class group.



Randy Berrington



D. J. Belcher



Chris Berg



April Blankenship



Josh Breedlove



Chad Brewer



Stella Bruce



Jeff Brunk



Jeremlah Clemons



Laura Clifton



Jessica Crawford



Mark Davidson



Nikki Elliott



Billy Floyd



Leslie Gordon



Jesse Goss



Renee Gross



Clinton Hagy



Kari Harner



Cicely Havens



Lynda Holt



Erin Johnson



Mandy Jones



Shasta Jones



Michael Lambert



Joshwa Lester



Benjamin Lowe



Josie Mcmillian



Kent McPeak



Joe Meadows



Katie Muncy



Westen Patton



Tina Pauley



Shelly Payne



Casie Pruitt



Heath Puckett



Titus Ramsey



Joshua Richardson



Ashleigh Sarver



Rikki Sarver



Olena Sexton



Allison Sheets



Amber Simmons



Brent Tate



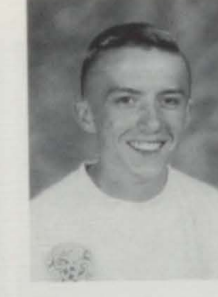
Jeremiah Tate



Daniel Thompson



T.J. Thompson



Michael Toohey



Jessica Umbarger



Christa Winesett



Nathan Winters



Kelly Woods

In A Far Away Place

Long ago, in a far away land lived a group of young, intelligent Freshmen who had their tasks ahead of them. As they got older their lives became more challenging. They learned the rights and wrongs of the land and

prepared for the future. They realized that not only were they older but wiser too. They had to work hard to get to the ninth grade and were determined nothing was going to stop them from going to the top. They soon realized, in the eighth grade, that each year created this same challenge to advance to

the upper classes. Even though they had to learn the law of the land, their hard work and dedication paid off. They are now on their way to the very top and nothing will stop their graduation goals. While the road ahead is long and rough, this year's Freshmen were willing to make a stand.



Cary Berg



Will Blankenship



Allesha Bourne



Heather Clemons



Sarah Coffman



Lian Cole



Brandon Faulkner



Brian Faulkner



James Faulkner



Josh Faulkner



Jason Hagy



Kelli Hall



Crystal Hancock



Nehemiah Hickman



Jeb Hodges



Nathan Justice



Rob Kegley



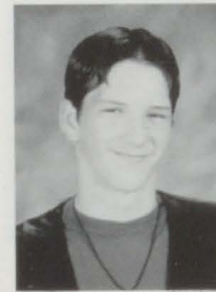
Jessica Kidd



Heather Morehead



Stuart Morehead



Robert Newberry



Chris Pauley



Aaron Pauley



Will Pauley

Class officers-Front row: Josiah Smith, president; Jeb Hodges, vice-president; Brandon Faulkner, secretary. **2d row:** Mr. John Chmara, sponsor; Virginia Presley, treasurer.



Meagan Penley



Virginia Presley



Lila Ramsey



Monica Reed



Kellen Shewey



Kelly Sluss



Josiah Smith



Ted Sparks



Susan Stanley



Crystal Stiltner



Ashley Tate



April Umbarger



Amy Viar



Shayla Williams



Dawn Wright



Mindy Wyllie



Ashley Tate models a black lace dress owned and worn by her grandmother, Mrs. Nancy Tate. The matching black hat belongs to Mrs. Ellen Walls. This was during the Festival of Leaves fashion show.

Once Upon Their Time

Many years ago these 8th graders never dreamed of joining the secondary program. Their elementary lives seemed to go on forever. They found themselves in a new enchanted land with many new

discoveries. As they entered the new land they were all happy and excited. But, as the year progressed, they found that the tough classwork assignments, and the many hours of hard work, required them to completely change their lifestyles. Equipped with the

information they needed and the necessary elementary background these eighth graders soon found their niche in the exciting world of high school.

Kristen Altizer models a hat made by her mother and sold during the Festival of Leaves.



Kristen Altizer



Shelley Atwell



Samantha Bird



Kurt Blankenship



Curtis Brewer



Laura Bridges



Aaron Clemons



Jacob Davidson



Albert Davis



Kari Hagy



Eisle Havens



Monica Havens



Donny Higgins



Amy Johnson



Elizabeth Lambert



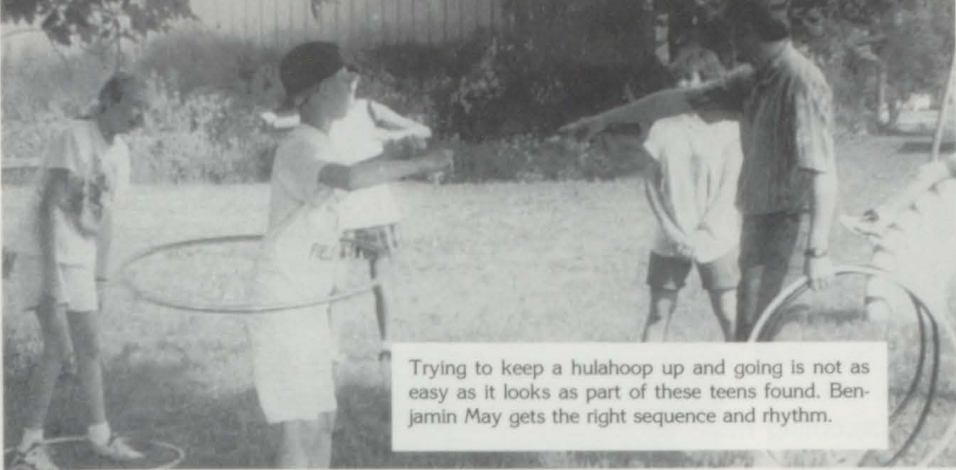
Benjamin May



Vanessa McBride



Kristen Songer during band half-time exercises at homecoming. They performed a skit of "Take me out to the ballgame."



Trying to keep a hula hoop up and going is not as easy as it looks as part of these teens found. Benjamin May gets the right sequence and rhythm.



Brett McPeak



Kirstie Meadows



Hope Melvin



Rachel Mullins



Zachary Pauley



Sarah Pruet



Chris Reese



Matthew Richardson



Jeeze Rudder



Katie Scott



Kristen Songer



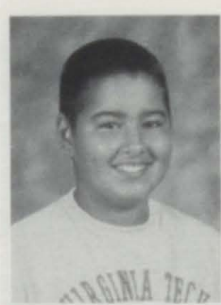
Charlie Stiltner



Ashley Strock



Shane Thompson



Matthew Tickle



Daniel Toohey



James Williams



Erica Vanover



Class Officers-Front row: Monica Havens, secretary; Amy Johnson, treasurer; Laura Bridges, reporter. **Back row:** Curtis Brewer, president. *Not pictured:* Benjamin May, vice-president; Carolyn Bane, sponsor.

A Day in the Life of a Seventh Grader

A day in the life of a seventh grader at Bland Elementary School was very hectic. For the first time, students were offered more in-depth subjects, such as Pre-Algebra, Life Science, and Virginia History and Government.

After school, many extra-curricular

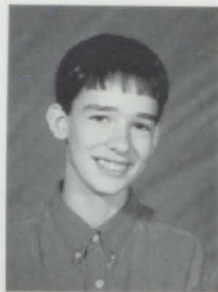
activities were offered to these students. Several of the seventh graders participated in the Band, and some were actively involved in the Eighth grade basketball or Pee-Wee football teams. The life of a seventh grader is truly becoming more complicated as time goes on.



Seventh graders ponder the pieces of a puzzle



Shanna Brown



John Clemons



John Brandon Dillow



Casey Elliott



Ben Foglesong



Miranda Foley



Eric Gray



Shawn Helbert



Thomas Johnson



Corey Maddox



Tonya Millirons



Elisha Pauley



Tarah Pauley



Travis Pauley



Melissa Sadler



J. R. Shewey



Todd Simmons



Bryan Simms



Ronald Spain



Danielle Underwood



Craig Winesett



David Wolcott



Students assemble their poetry quilt



Brandon Anders



Wesley Armstrong



Seth Baker



Jodi Crabtree



Amie Cregger



Amanda Fisher



Denita Harden



Paul Harless



Adam Harman



Jessica Hounshell



Amber Hutchins



Christina King



Tim McGlothlin



Reggie Meadows



Anthony Newberry



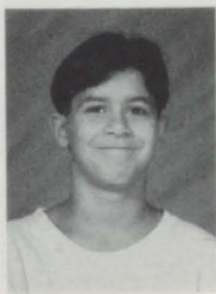
Linda Nottingham



Andy Sarver



Hunter Stuart



Chase Thomas



Dorothy Umbarger



Joey Walker



D. J. Wright



Sam Wright

Travels and Adventures

The sixth grade spent most of their school year preparing for many exciting travels and adventures. Sixth graders were engaged in a full year of fund raising activities and

strong academic studies. They were excited when spring finally came and they were rewarded with a trip to Williamsburg, VA. This was also the first year these students got to participate in the Sweetheart dance which was held in February.



J. P. Agee



Jacob Begley



Keri Blankenship



Zachary Breedlove



Jonathan Cook



Christina Cregar



Ashlee Drummond



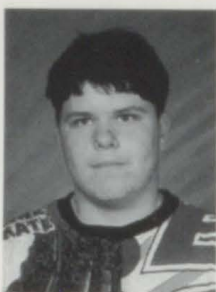
Sheri Faulkner



Christopher Harman



Laura Hatcher



Larry Howell



Serina Morris



Amanda Scott



Bridget Stiltner



Crystal Stuart



James Thompson



Jessica Umbarger



Erin Wilson



Kimberly Wright



Sheri Faulkner and Bridget Stiltner decked out for Fall Festival..



Tonya Adams



Cy Bowlin



Eugene Brunk



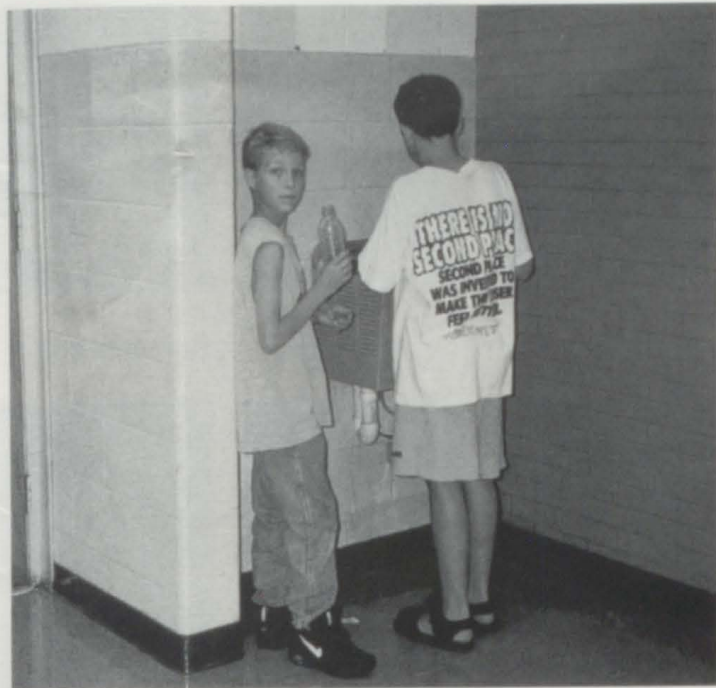
Amanda Call



Scottie Clemons



Amanda Foglesong



Kevin Wimmer and Kolt Walker take time out for a refreshing drink before class.



Samantha Harner



Stephen Howell



Brandon Kelley



David Pike



Shauna Puckett



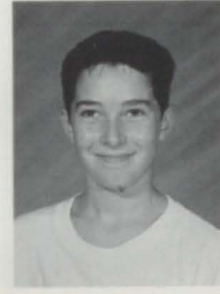
Adam Six



Trista Six



Brandy Tate



Kolt Walker



Brandon Webb



Kevin Wimmer



Heather Wright



Brandon Webb models his Fall Festival costume.

Over the River and Through the Woods

Fifth grade students spent a typical year building traditional Indian Villages and more contemporary Leaf Monsters. These activities were built around a strong academic program that consisted of their stan-

dard SOL's. The Bland County Fair and the Festival of Leaves were interesting events for the fifth graders. They won awards and most of them placed highly with this year's projects. Even though next year will be more intriguing and more mind challenging than ever,

hopefully it will be as much fun and as exciting as the years in the past. They are more prepared for next year's tasks than ever. They are making high plans for the future and going along with today's plans of greater technology. Fifth graders are ready for the years ahead.



Lee Bailey



Magnum Bivens



Angela Blankenship



Kelly N. Blankenship



Tara Clemons



Travis Coffman



Christopher Dillow



Jackie Duncan



Melissa Foglesong



Stephanie Foglesong



Jeremiah Hickman



Brandon Hounshell



Ben Johnson



Jonathan Kidd



Andy Mutter



Aaron Parks



Erica Pauley



Angel Sparks



Alice Jinne Stone



Roy Stuart



Logan Tate



Dana Umbarger



Christopher Viar



Danny Williams

Mrs. Newberry's fifth grade enjoys a daily working period.



Kelly Blankenship



Shaun Carroll



Jerrica Crabtree



Kimberly Crusenberry



Matt Dalton



Amber Groseclose



Kelly Harless



Autumn Haynes



Daniel Johnson



Sean Littreal



Jessica Melvin



Justin Morehead



Joey Pauley



David Peery



Erin Pruett



Vada Ramsey



Dustin Riggins



Jerrod Sadler



Todd Scott



R. J. Stanley



Travis Thompson



Robbie Wolfe



Chuck Young



Jessie Umbarger and Sean Littreal play a game of "Operation."

The Young And Noble

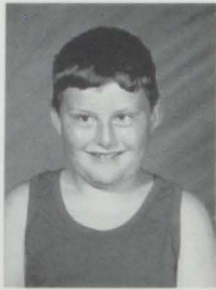
The fourth grade classes at Bland Elementary School were vital members of their little kingdom. Each student participated in a full day of learning and fun. The fourth grade was

a new and exciting adventure. Gone were the early years of primary school and entered into were the grades of the elementary school. Taught by Mrs. Elizabeth Johnson and Mrs. Barbara Justice, these classes found the year exciting as they studied rain forests, the

solar system, and ordered a solarium to study throughout the year. Travel brochures and painted rocks were part of the Festival of Leaves contribution. In addition to these activities these classes found themselves busy with computers.



Brittany Allen



Bobby Baker



Kasey Crider



Ashley Dillow



Brent Emerson



Caleb Epling



Becky Goss



Madeline Harden



Nicky Joyce



Daniel King



Krystal McGuire



Jerrod Miller



Robert Morehead



Lesley Repass



Purcella Smith



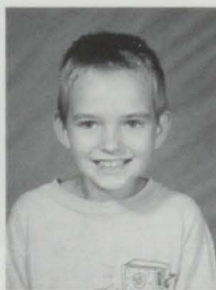
Carmella Thompson



Jeremiah Thompson



Paul Thompson



Derek Tibbs



Angela Walker



Gabrielle Dean models an outfit for the Fashion Show.



TOP: Ashley Tickle at the county fair.

ABOVE: Mrs. Barbara Justice's class — historical characters.

RIGHT: Mrs. Elizabeth Johnson's class in historical attire.



Kayla Anders



Adam Baker



Gabrielle Dean



Jenna Dunn



Justin Dunn



Sara Malmberg



Amanda Milliron



Zachary Neal



Lindsey Newberry



Cynthia Nottingham



Derek Parker



Joshua Pauley



Nicholas Pauley



Jock Songer



Ashley Tickle



Billy Umberger



Jared Umberger



Adrienne Woodie

As The Years Went By...

As those early primary years passed on, 3rd graders still felt like they were at the bottom of the sea. They had been busy learning basic skills, and building a framework for more involved studies. As the year moved on, they found themselves busier with harder studies. Learning how to do math and getting along with others was a big challenge for these 3rd graders. They had fun while making Fall projects with dried fruits for the Fall Festival of Leaves.

Soon, the feeling of being at the bottom of the sea quickly vanished. Third graders became more confident with the skills that they had acquired.



ABOVE: A fashion show was a new event for the Fall Festival of Leaves. Brenna Collins models an outfit from the past.



Ari Bowlin



Kayla Bridges



James Brunk



Tiffany Casey



Ashley Cox



Keith Dalton



Teresa Duncan



Robert Faulkner



Kelsey Groseclose



Jason Henson



Maxie Hopkins



Stephanie Johnson



M.J. Mallory



Robert Riggins



Timothy Romano



Joshua Shelton



Becky Simmons



Joseph Stowers



William Vanover



Tonya Wright



ABOVE: Third grade waits for introductions.



James Belcher



Staci Bowlin



Shawn Brewer



Kayla Clemons



Brenna Collins



Tiffany Davidson



Jessica Davis



Brandon Faulkner



Kyle Foglesong



Phillip Henson



Shana Jones



Robert Morehead



Ashley Neel



Aimee Tate



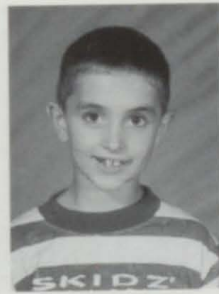
Joshua Thompson



Nathan Tickle



William Turner



Shane Umbarger



Chelsea Wright



ABOVE: Shawn Brewer, a third grade student, dresses up as Aladdin for the elementary Fall Festival costume display. Students were judged on originality, humor, and appeal.

Their Story Began..

Mrs. Ruth Barton's class celebrated Halloween in a very different way. The children chose a favorite storybook character and dressed up as that character. They later displayed their reading talents by reading to the class. Kimberly Harman, Ashley Davis, Kendall Stuart, Samantha Foglesong, Sondra Harman, Adrienne Cox.



Their story began a few years back when Mommies and Daddies were no longer a main priority. This year proved that these little princes and princesses were really starting to get the hang of things. Throughout the school year, Mrs. Barton's little people stayed as busy as elves. Some of their projects included Family Trees, Indian Projects, Dinosaurs, and even Solar System Models. They also dressed up as a favorite fairy tale character. Mrs. Radford's class worked just as hard at the same things, as well as Leaves, Oceans, and Kites. Both groups worked very diligently to accomplish everything second grade students should learn. Now thanks to these two royal teachers and many Mommies and Daddies these second graders will soon become third graders.



Samantha Arney



Joey Cole



Adrienne Cox



Jaron Crider



Ashley Davis



Joshua Dillow



Samantha Foglesong



Morgan Harless



Kimberly Harman



Sondra Harman



Zeke Harman



Chelsea Havens



Joshua May



Justin May



Erin Stiltner



Kendall Stuart



Damion Toldert



Brandi Walker



Storytime

Mrs. Laura Radford's class has story time each day with students reading to the class. Here John Goss reads while his classmates listen and work on other projects.



Katie Bailey



Brandy Cassell



Randa Collins



April Doss



John Goss



Adam Hutchins



Jessica Joyce



Shane Kincaid



Anna Laura May



Amy McPeak



Jock Mutter



Laura Peery



Eli Quigg



Heather Rhodes



Justin Webb



Jamie White



Tasha Woolwine



Juanita Harman and daughter, Sondra, find shelter from the torrential rains during the Festival of Leaves and eat lunch. In the background are Janice King and Lisa Harman preparing food for their church booth.

The Little People

The little people began to seriously study and learn during school year 96-97. With kindergarten behind them, they were prepared to focus on reading and other primary academics. They became active in the annual festival making sponge leaves and Leaf People. This was a very busy year for the first grade

classes. They also became involved in creating a Dinosaur Diorama. Another interesting aspect of the first grade was their storytelling and plays in which they altered favorite nursery rhymes.

Both Mrs. Lambert and Mrs. Vicars felt that the 96-97 school year was a successful and inspirational year. Many first graders advanced to the next grade level for yet further academics.



Brandon Bailey



John Brunk



Jessica Coburn



Joshua Coffman



Sarah Collins



Glen Davis



Geneva Earls



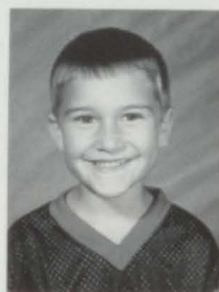
Tyler Eastep



Bobby Gibson



Samantha Gray



Coleman Hamilton



Adrianna Hutchins



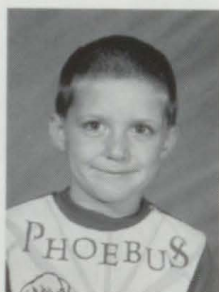
Deanna May



Cari Neal



John Reed



Jerry Woodie

RIGHT: BES turns out in full force for the Fall Festival Costume display. Each teacher accompanied her class onto the stage for introductions and judging. Wagner Auditorium looked like a miniature masquerade ball with a wide variety of crowns, dresses, and disguises. Mrs. Gwen Vicar's class is ready for the competition. Mrs. Vicars can be seen dressed as a young gentleman.



BELOW: First graders acquaint themselves with Mrs. Lambert's classroom.

BOTTOM RIGHT: These elementary students seem to be enjoying themselves as they listen and dance to the music of a live band.



Jonathan Baker



Courtney Callahan



Jessica Dillow



Calvin Duncan



Timothy Gill



Farah Hopkins



C.W. Hounshell



Mathew Hounshell



Anna Micheal



Jessica Mitchell



Debra Roope



Zachery Stuart



Casey Tate



Christopher Walls



Stephen Wolfe



Heather Wright





Harley Davis and Alex Vaughn prepare drawings for the magic of Halloween.



Natasha Boyd



Dylan Bruce



Kenneth Crusenberry



Harley Davis



Kimmy Davis



Kristen Dunn



Cody Farlow



Booker Fritz



Luke Gibson



Kayla Gilman



Brittany Harmon



Justin Hounshell



Erica Jones



Ethan Jones



Kaitlyn McGuire



Stephen Mustard



Music man,
Mr. Jack Layne



Ashely Potoker



Allyson Repass



Alex Vaughn



Benjamin Whited



Stephanie Wright

Magical, mystical world opens for munchkins

In the magical world of the munchkins (the little people), life took on new meaning. Here they learned behavior modification in the form of fol-

lowing directions, sharing and working together, and obedience. They explored the mystical world of computers and libraries in addition to their regular classroom skills, and they were intro-

duced to new concepts in music with Mr. Jack Layne. Mrs. Iris Pruett and Mrs. Becky Scott guided these youngsters to a new level of life and learning in the castle.



William Arney



Michael Cassell



Brittany Conley



Vanessa Conley



Amiee Crider



Megan Davis



Amanda Duncan



Marissa Haun



T. J. Justice



Kirsten Miller



Trenton Miller



Brittni Mustard



Vanessa Conley and Justin Umbarger find new ways to learn with a computer.



Caleb Pauley



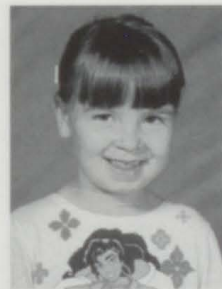
Ian Reed



Courtney Sargent



Mitch Simmons



Carolyn Tickle



Justin Umbarger



Sam Vaught



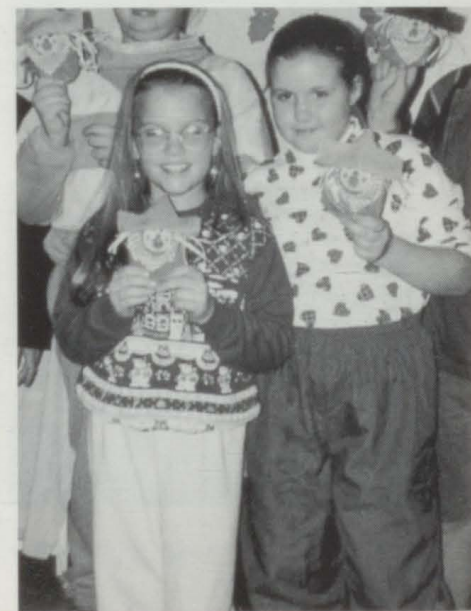
Tiffany Wright

TOP LEFT: Purcella Smith - 2nd runner up, Heather Wright 1996-1997 Junior Miss, Sarah Austin - 1st runner up. **TOP RIGHT:** Pageant beauties prepare backstage. **MIDDLE RIGHT:** Emily Williams - Little Miss Audience Choice, Cindy Nottingham - Jr. Miss Audience Choice. **MIDDLE LEFT:** Brittni Mustard - 2nd runner up, Ashley Davis 1996-1997 Little Miss, Jessica Davis - 1st runner up. **BOTTOM RIGHT & LEFT:** With the help of Mrs. Gibson these students made scarecrows and modeled them proudly.

Wee People Out & About

The students of Bland Elementary School enjoyed the 1996-1997 school year filled with fun-filled

activities such as the beauty pageant, making scarecrows, and other creative activities throughout the year. Parents and young ladies will have many fond memories for years to come.





As They Rode Into The Sunset

Having reached the status of alumni, the 1996 graduates bid farewell to Bland High School on June 8. Forty-two diplomas were presented by principal, Mr. Roger Thompson and scholarships from WCC, Bluefield State College, Retired Teacher's, Eastern Star, Stephen Lindamood Memorial, Jan Scott Memorial, and Concord College were received by Melissa Richardson, Amie and Jamie Goss, Sheri Blankenship, Sam Tickle, Smokey Parmenter, and Pachess Umbarger. Academic, athletic, yearbook, and perfect attendance medals and awards were presented for outstanding participation. Eleven graduates received the advanced credit diploma. Following orations from Melissa Richardson, valedictorian, Cheryl Winesett, salutatorian, and Leslie Kelley, historian, graduates filed from the gym with dignity and pride. On the outside, however, tearful goodbyes were said as they rode into the sunset.

RIGHT: Becky Penley, a 1996 graduate, is recognized during graduation exercises. Becky received an award for academic excellence.



ABOVE: Marshalls Debbie Munsey and Jim Bob Penley lead the 1996 graduates into the gym.
RIGHT: Salutatorian Cheryl Winesett gives thanks to teachers and parents for the support and instruction provided over the past thirteen years.



TOP LEFT: For her valedictory speech Melissa Richardson read Dr. Seuss's book, Oh, the Places You'll Go.

TOP RIGHT: Mike Munsey receives a certificate of recognition for participation in VHSL activity and maintaining a 92 or above average.

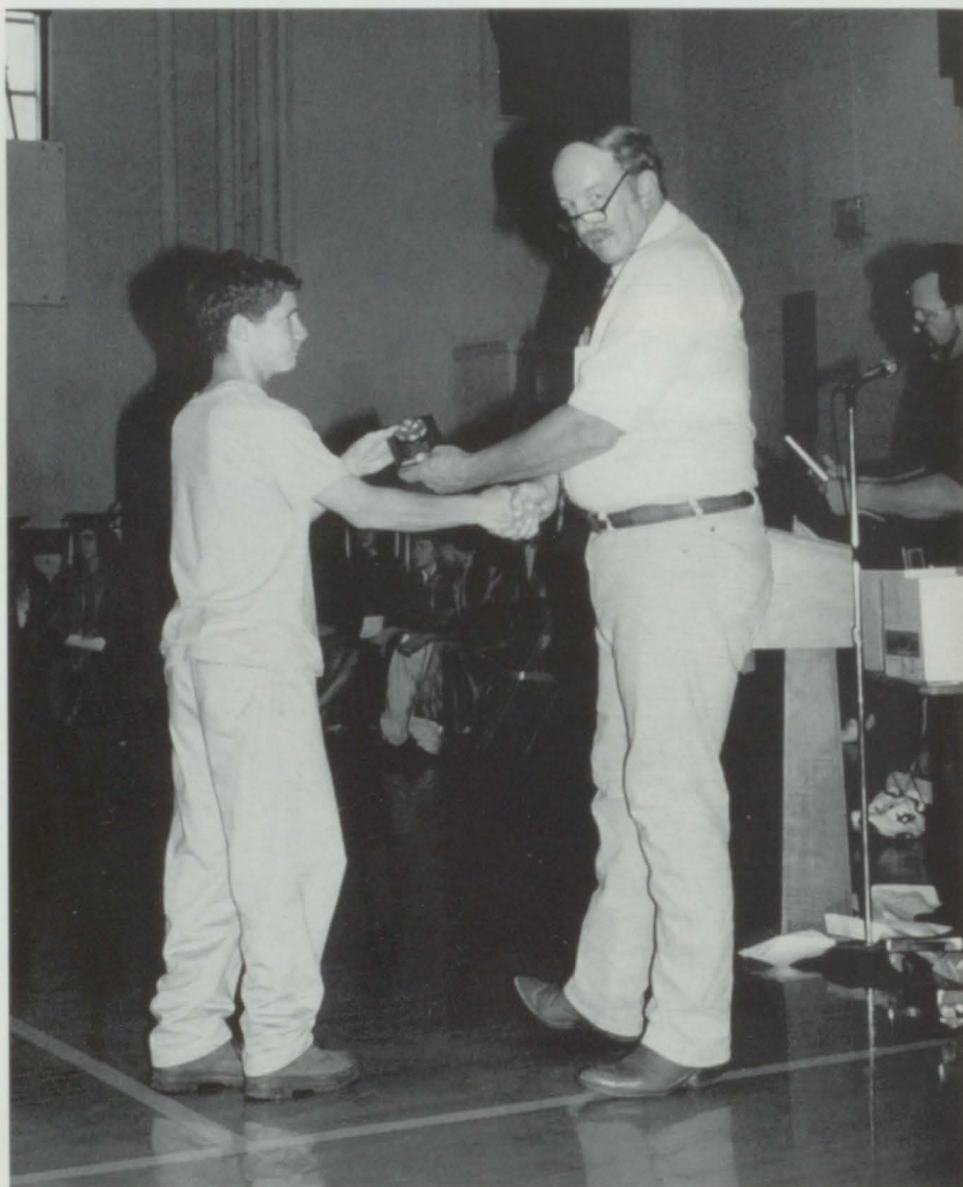


BOTTOM LEFT: Leslie Kelley recalls the history of the class of 1996.

BOTTOM RIGHT: The graduates of 1996.

Academic Excellence Is Rewarded

As the story came to an end everyone gathered in the gym to receive their awards for persistence and achievements. Seniors began the program by giving their farewell speeches. Mr. Al Smith, Mr. Richard Havens, and Mr. Roger Thompson presented honors and awards for academic excellence and extra-curricular activities. The day ended with satisfied students who were rewarded for a job well done.



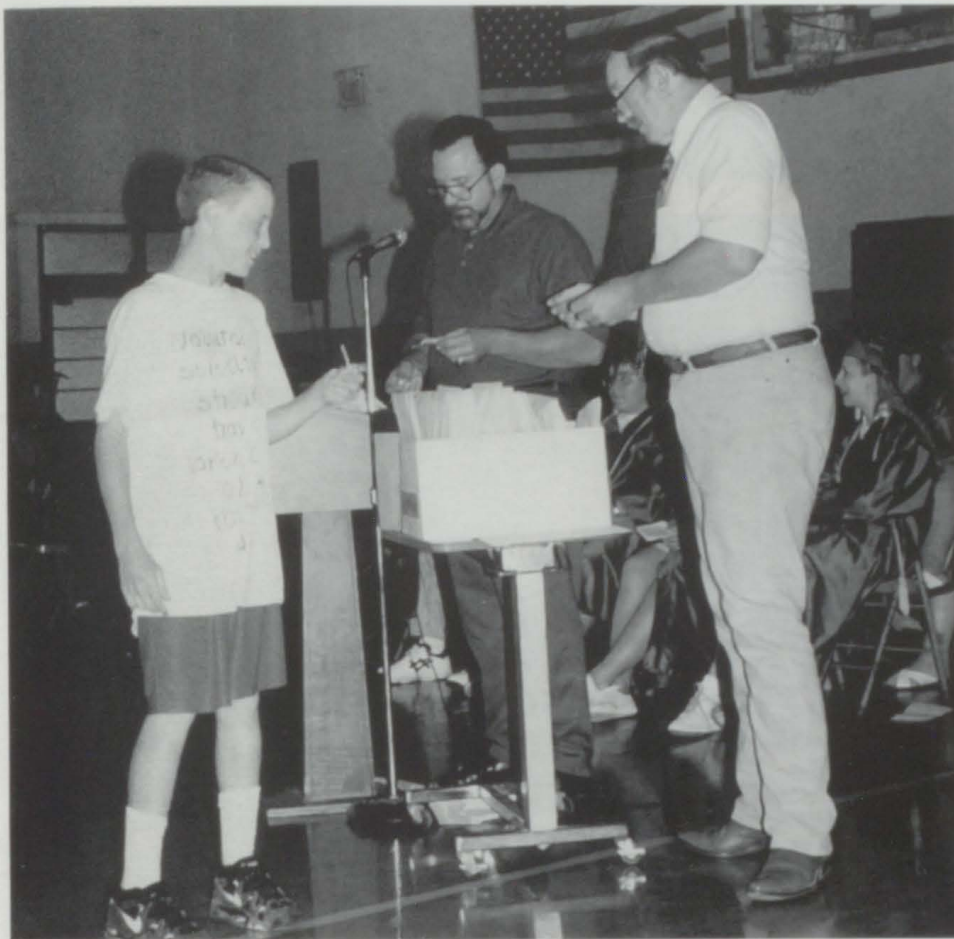
TOP RIGHT: Leslie Kelley gives class Historian address.
CENTER LEFT: Ashleigh Sarver is honored with multiple tennis awards. **ABOVE:** Joe Meadows, an upcoming Junior receives tennis award.
BOTTOM LEFT: Josh Breedlove is presented the French I Award.

Bland High Recognizes...

TOP LEFT: Susan Stanley and Cicely Havens receive Health and P.E. awards.

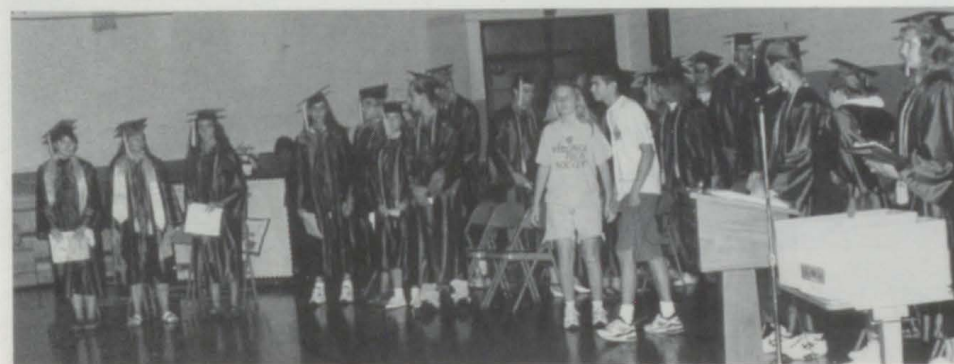
CENTER: Adam Faulkner receives a sport's award.

As Bland High students departed for their evening celebrations, they gathered diplomas, awards, certificates, and various honors for the last time at BHS. Award's day was a magical moment for all of the students. For a short period of time, the gym was transformed into a tiny kingdom full of precious and wonderful memories.



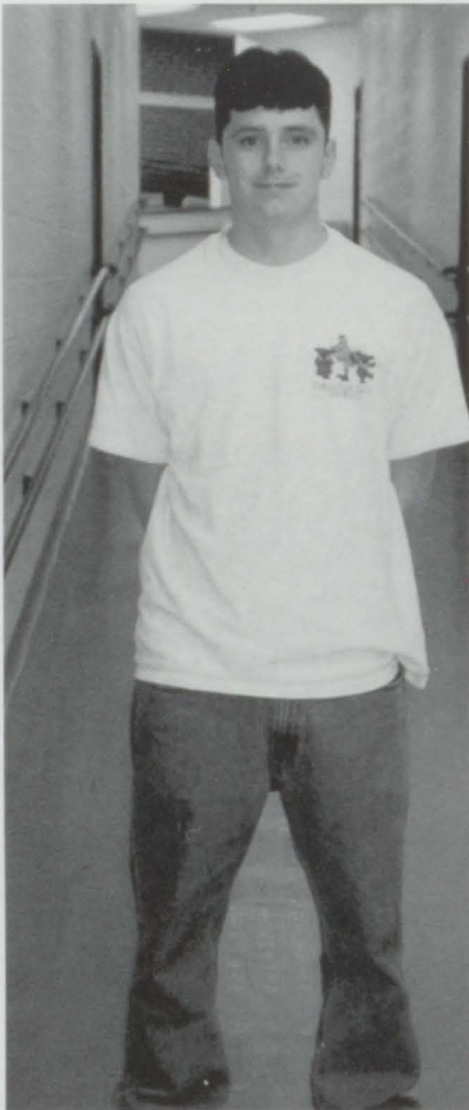
ABOVE: Virginia Presely, an up-coming Sophomore, accepts an award for Mountain Academic Conference Competition (MACC). Virginia was competing in the area of Social Studies.

BOTTOM LEFT: Stacey Miller and Jesse Goss as ushers for awards day. Ushers are selected by being siblings of a senior class member. Stacey is the sister of Eric Miller a 1996 graduate. Jesse is the brother of Amie and Jamie Goss both 1996 graduates.



TOP CENTER - Double bar recipients: Jacob Scott, Jennifer Winters, Michael Kay Mabe, Keith Bourne.

BOTTOM LEFT - DAR AWARD: John Curtis Thompson



FIRST-YEAR HONOR LETTER - Front row: Joe Meadows, Ashleigh Sarver, Josh Richardson, Sarah Bird. **2d row:** Kari Harner, Erin Johnson, Olena Sexton, Cindy King. **Back row:** Natha Winters, Jason Groseclose, Heath Puckett, Lee Meadows.

Recognizing outstanding

students

Each year Bland High School recognizes its most outstanding academic students by presenting them with honor letters or bars. If a student achieves and maintains a 95 overall average, they are presented with a letter. They receive a bar for each year after that if they continue to maintain the 95 or above average.

Also, each year a senior is recognized with the DAR award. This honor is given by the Daughters of the American Revolution to the student who is viewed as an epitome of a good citizen. The student's grades, extra-curricular activities, and community service are the major factors that decide who receives this award. The DAR award is voted on by the seniors and faculty.



ABOVE: Having lobbed and swatted her way to the top notch for State tennis honors, Ashleigh Sarver shows off her trophies. Ashleigh is only a sophomore this year so we hope to keep her as State champ for three more years.

LEFT - BAR HONORS - Front row: Jamie Dunn, Ryan Newberry. **Back row:** Ashley Havens, Missy Woods, Debbie Munsey.

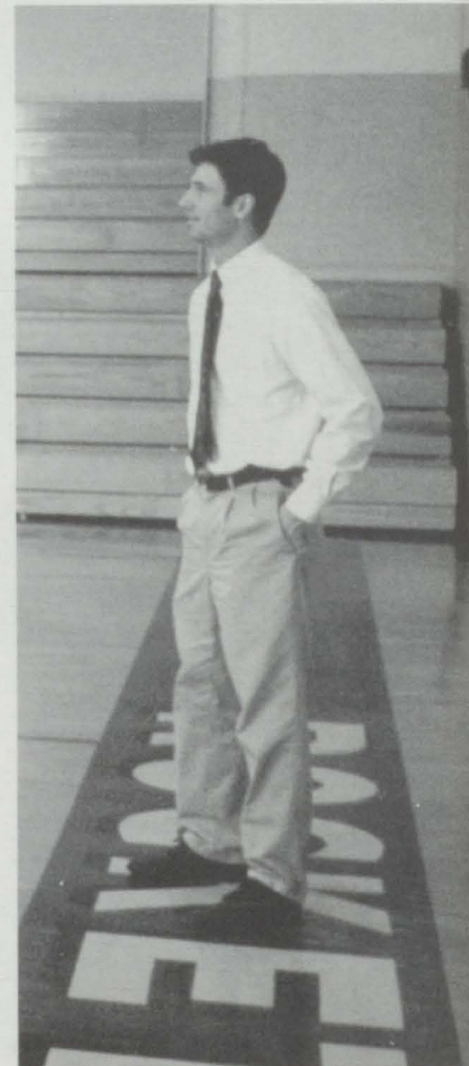
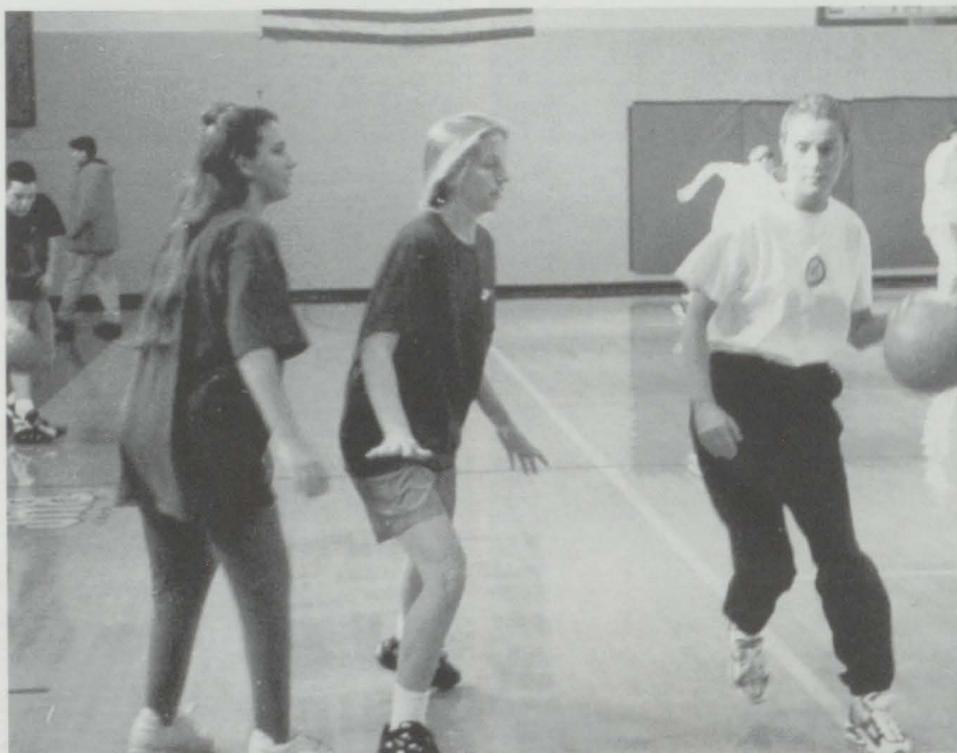


Keeping bodies and environment fit

Learning about our bodies, environment, and how to utilize our

resources for better health started at an early age and continued through the high school years. Keeping their bodies fit and healthy through gym classes,

students used science classes to find better ways to control health and environment.



TOP LEFT: Shane Hall works with elementary class on the parachute lift.

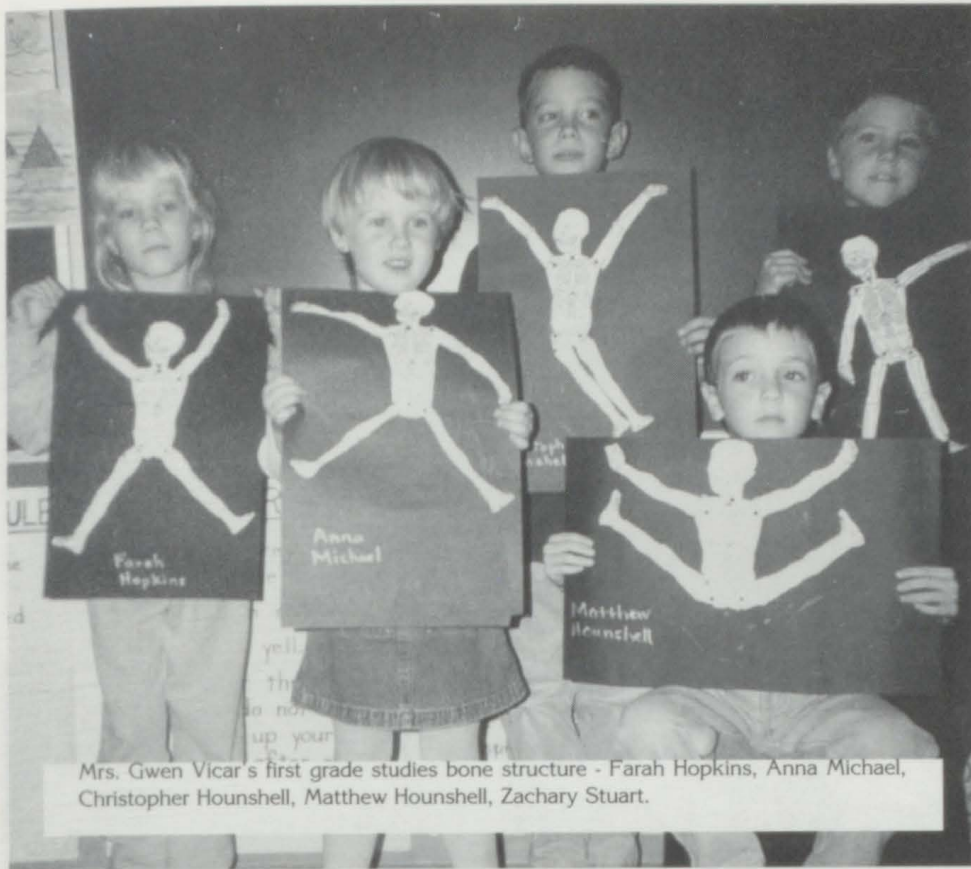
TOP RIGHT: Laura Peery intently watches the ball.

BOTTOM LEFT: Olena Sexton and Leslie Gordon guard instructor, LaMoore Muncy.

BOTTOM RIGHT: Shane Hall, in the role of student teacher.

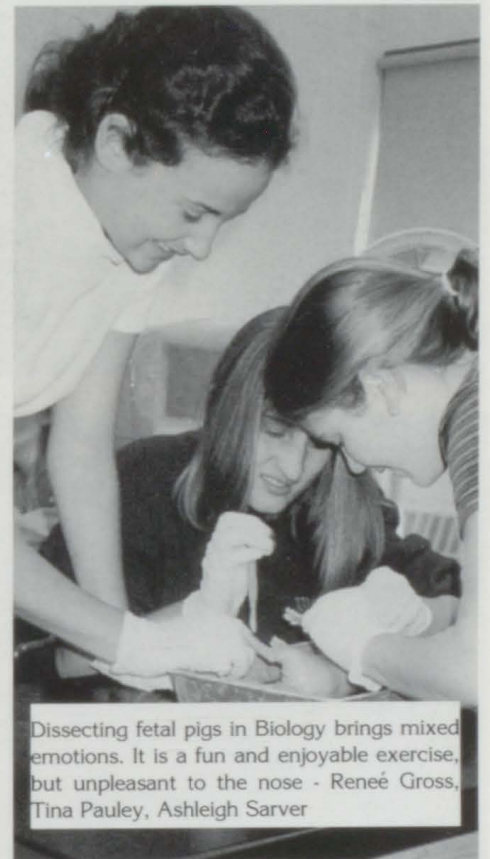
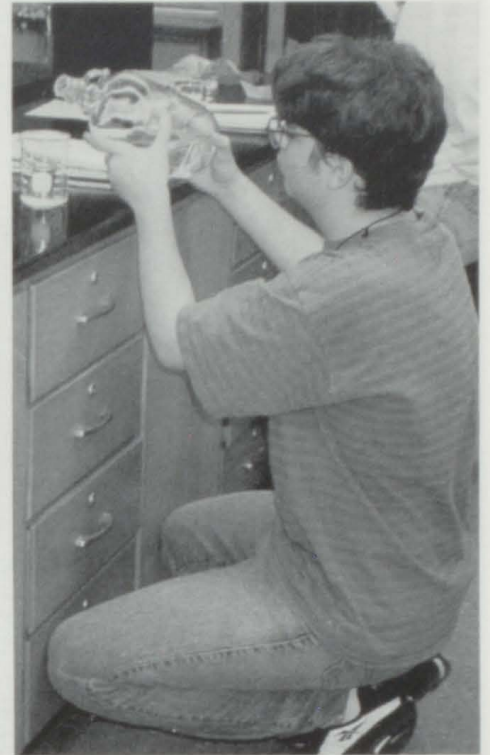
BOTTOM CENTER: Gym class with Josh Breedlove, Michael Lambert, Will Pauley.





Mrs. Gwen Vicar's first grade studies bone structure - Farah Hopkins, Anna Michael, Christopher Hounshell, Matthew Hounshell, Zachary Stuart.

Andrew Schoeneman measures ingredients for Chemistry experiment.



Dissecting fetal pigs in Biology brings mixed emotions. It is a fun and enjoyable exercise, but unpleasant to the nose - Reneé Gross, Tina Pauley, Ashleigh Sarver



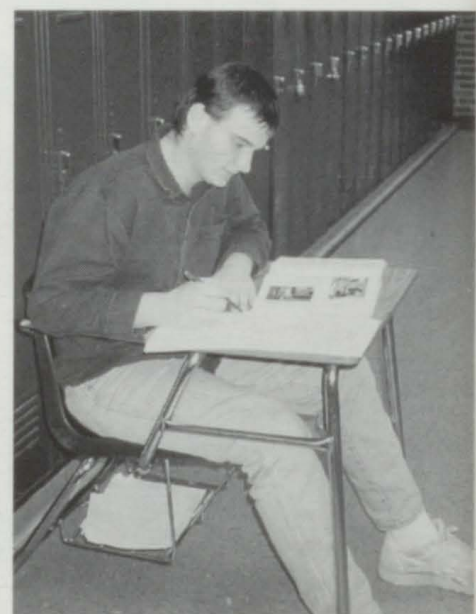
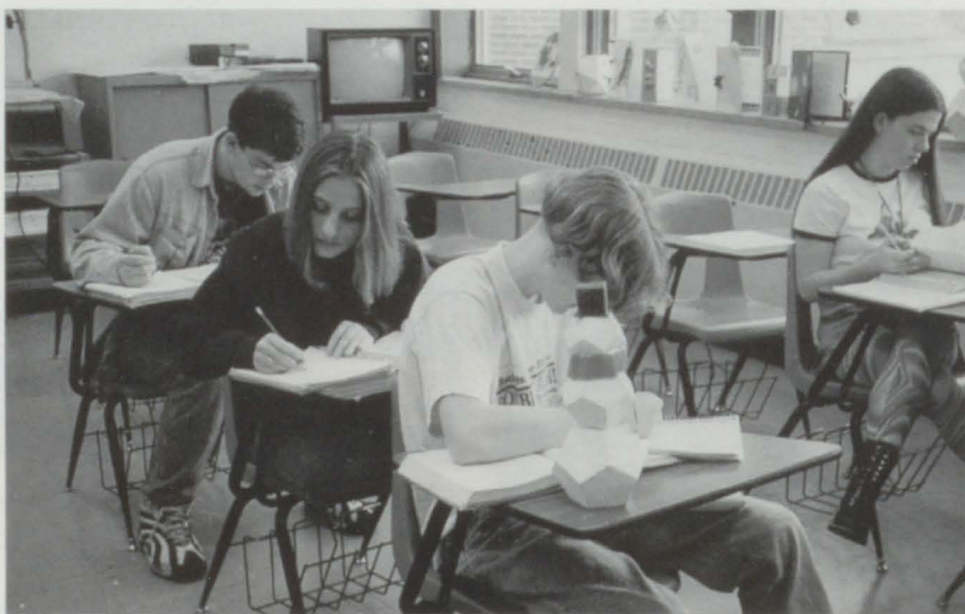
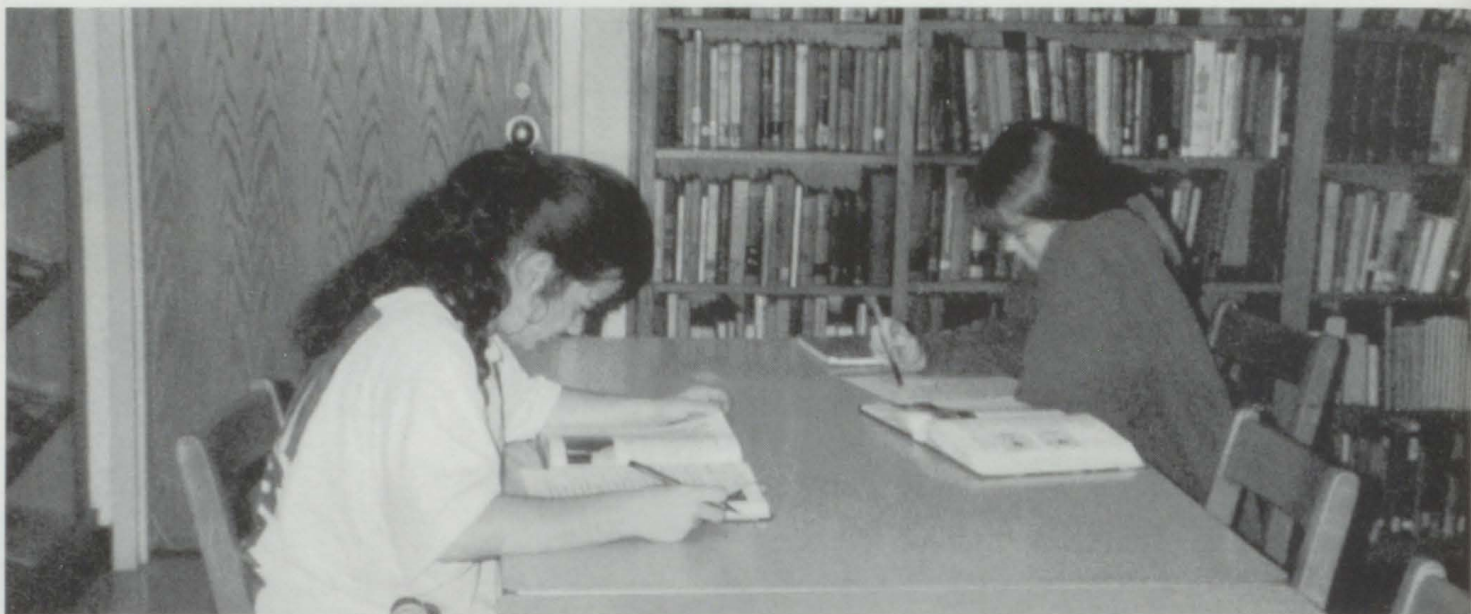
CENTER LEFT: Mr. John Wagoner checks Chemistry experiments with Ashley Havens and Tracie Jones.

BOTTOM LEFT: Jeff Brunk questions Mark Davidson on the located part of the fetal pig.

Academics

Whether studying the history of our nation, the politics of the government, the economics or social mores, or working out the mechanics of a difficult math equation, Bland students were exposed to the expertise of their mentors. From their teachers they discovered a sense of humor as well as the necessary knowledge for success. Here, students found the correct formulas for accomplishment.

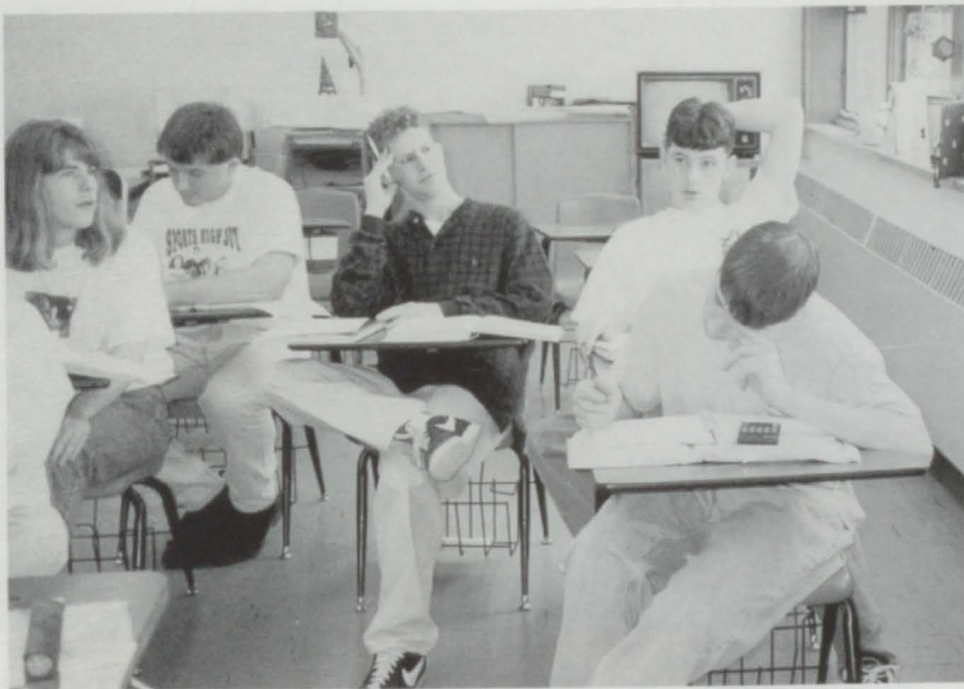
BELOW: Mr. Havens' fifth period class reading their History assignment.
CENTER: Virginia Presley and Jessica Kidd are working on an Earth Science test.



David Olinger, Tina Pauley, Billy Floyd, and Katie Muncy work out a challenging problem.

Mark Davidson working hard on his Sociology.

Nikki Howell gives her full attention to the tasks at hand. Many students still find that the BHS Library is the best place to sit and quietly focus on work.



ABOVE: Rob Kegley works on his project for Mrs. Mabe.

LEFT: This advanced math classroom is focused on what Ms. Greer is teaching.

Hard work leads to success

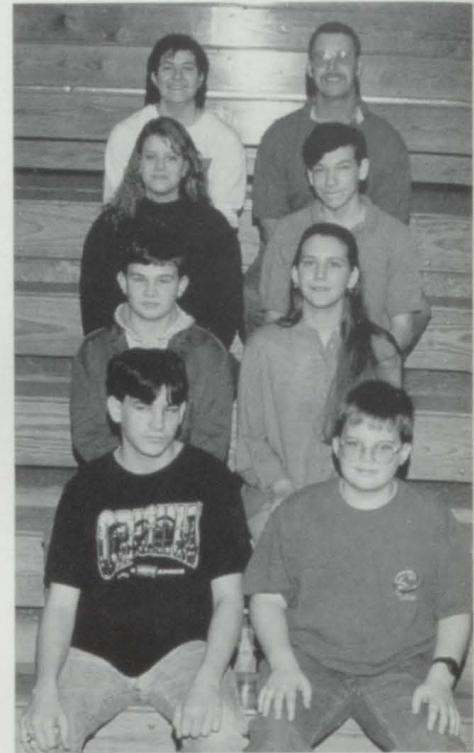
As you walked through the halls of Bland High after school had dismissed, you may have noticed students pondering over various Literature, Social Studies, Science, and Math books. These students were not on some type of detention; instead, they were the dedicated members of the MACC teams.

From September to January these MACC members looked up various information and practiced with buzzers to ready themselves for the MACC season, which began in January and ended in March with the district tournaments. MACC, which has a similar format to the game show "Jeopardy,"

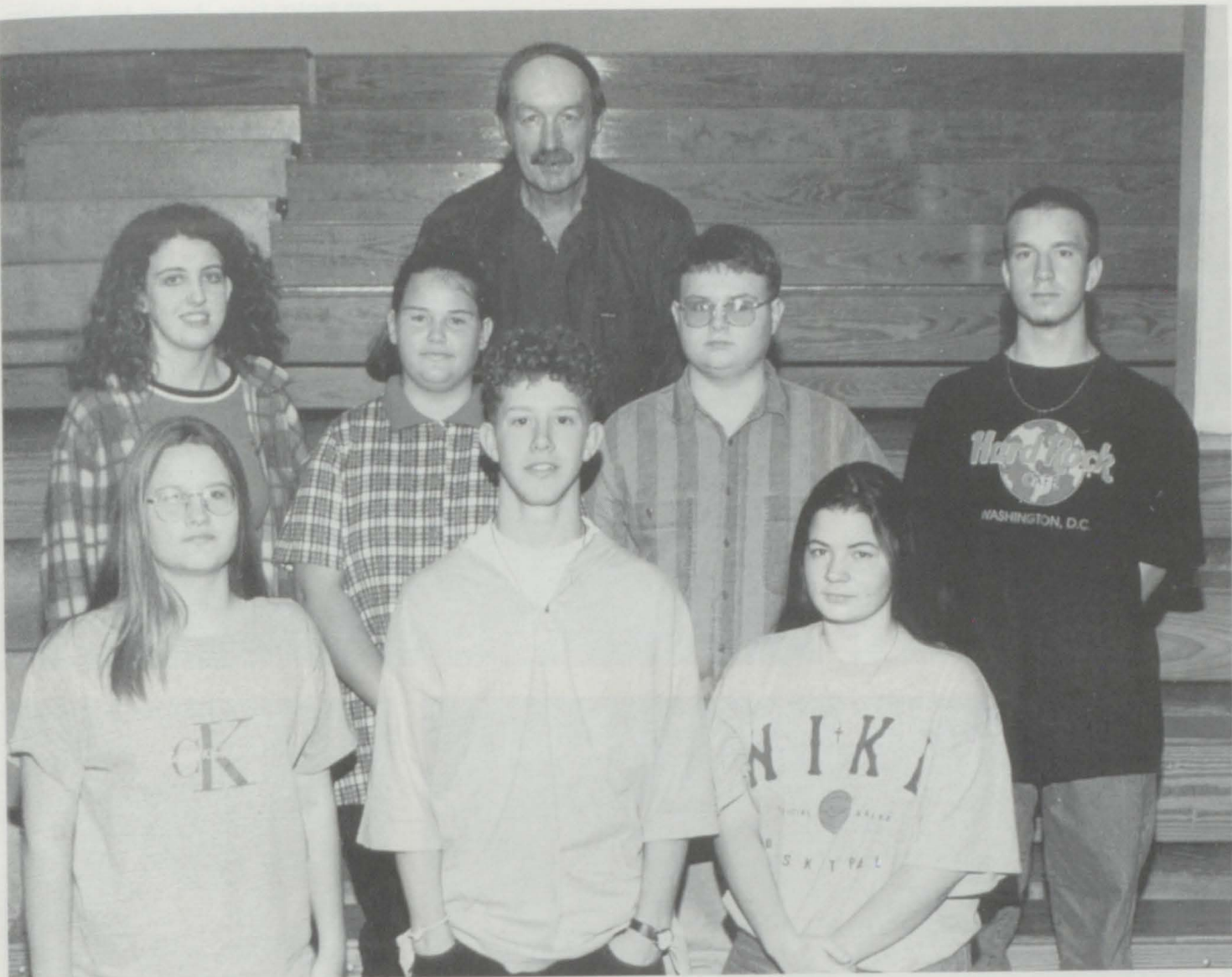
provided much entertainment to spectators because of close scores, intense pressure, and drama.

SCIENCE MACC TEAM - Front row: Michael Fulford, Zachary Pauley. 2nd row: Matthew Richardson, Olena Sexton. 3rd row: Missy Woods, Michael Pruett. Back row: Kari Harner, Coach Mr. John Wagoner.

ENGLISH MACC TEAM - Front row: Sarah Bird, Leisa Hagy, Laura Clifton. Back row: Cindy King, Mrs. Bekkie Peery, coach, April Blankenship.



MATH MACC TEAM: Heath Puckett, Keith Bourne, Nathan Winters, Jennifer Winters, Michael Kay Mabe, Mrs. Kay Mabe, coach.



TOP - SOCIAL STUDIES MACC TEAM-

Front row: April Umbarger, Lee Meadows, Virginia Presley. **2d row:** Ashley Havens, Kelly Sluss, Josh Richardson, Ryan Newberry. **Back row:** Coach Mr. Richard Havens.

BOTTOM - ALL-AROUND MACC TEAM-

Front row: Zachary Pauley, Virginia Presley, Michael Kay Mabe. **2d row:** Michael Fulford, Sarah Bird, Ryan Newberry. **Back row:** Coach Mr. Al Smith, Michael Pruet, Cindy King, Sharon Shewey.



Whistle While You Work

Bland High School had a variety of many different vocational classes such as agriculture, life skills, and a diversity of business classes. In addition to these classes, students could choose to attend the vocational classes at Wytheville having hands-on experience in their selected field and receive practical training. First year students attended classes in the morning and veteran students attended in the afternoon. Students in ICT worked at jobs after school in order to earn money and learn job skills. Business classes provided students with an office type environment where students learned basic computer skills.



TOP RIGHT: Kellen Shewey, Jamie McMillian, Faye Wolfe seem interested in the hard work going on in the ag shop while learning to use machinery.

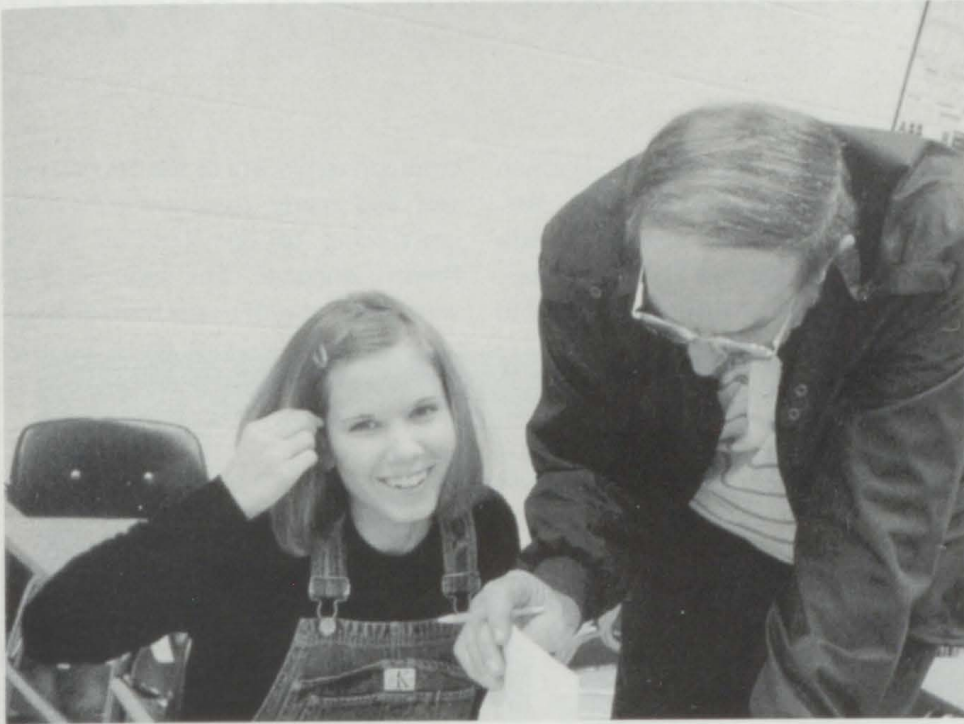


Mrs. Jessie Kegley gets excited at what is happening with Mary Chewning and her computer.



Laura Bridges paints her ceramics creation for Life Skills class.

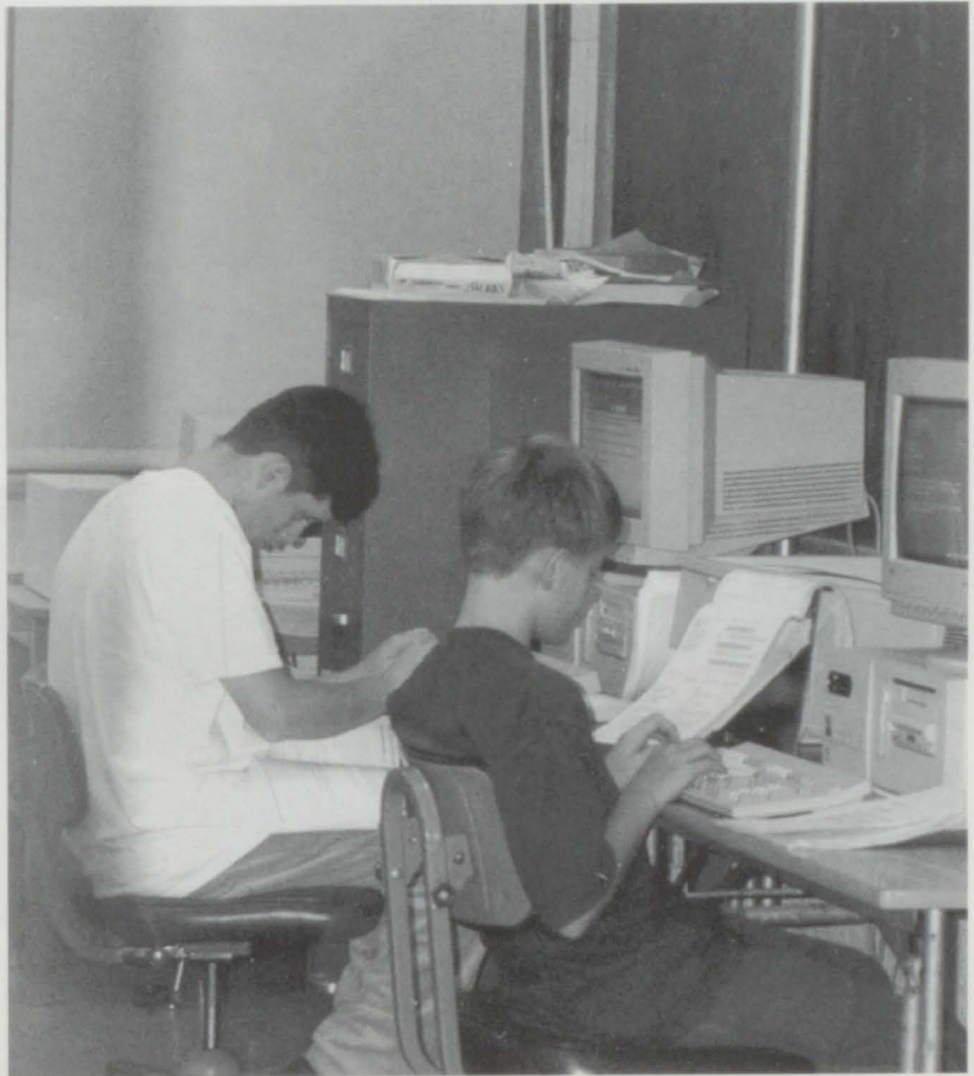
Mr. Richard Havens gives Sarah Gray Smith individual instruction in Accounting.



Jeb Hodges and Ted Sparks split boards in shop class.



Ashley Strock puts finishing touches to her Santa.



John Curtis Thompson and Chris Pauley working on their computer skills.

English and French dominate the school year

Bland High students were exposed to two languages as opposed to three for the '96-'97 school year. Latin was eliminated and no longer offered as a class at Bland.

However, students still remained occupied. Mrs. Chris Bird, Ms. Janet

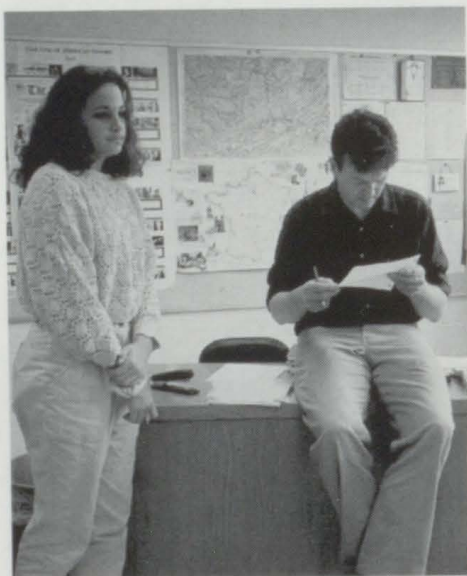
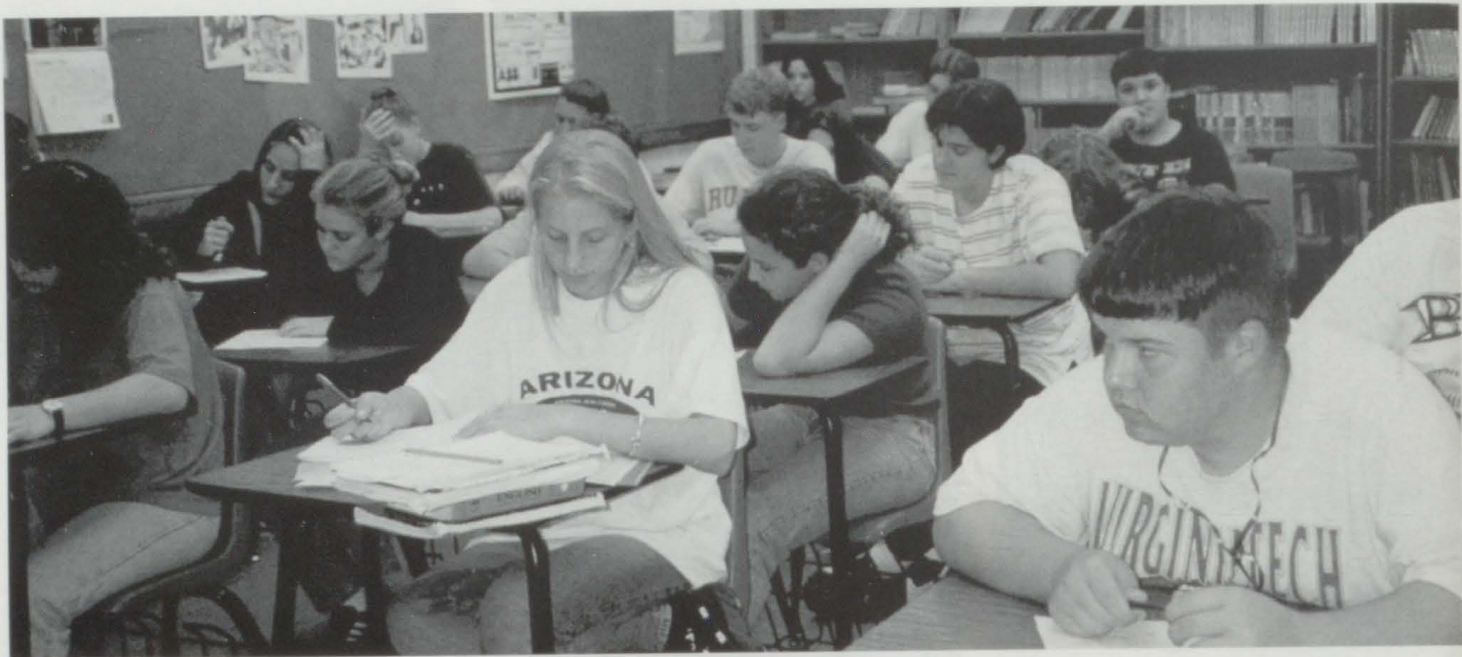
Faulkner, and Mrs. Sandra Harman controlled English 8-12, while Mrs. Bekkie Peery and Mr. Darrell Burnette took account for the French classes. Also, Dual Credit English was offered to seniors by Ms. Janet Faulkner.

Book reports and vocabulary were

common reminders of the English classes, and many students were heard conversing to one another in the French language. The halls at Bland were blended with a spectrum of languages as each student mastered their newly found language skills.

CENTER: Sophomores in Ms. Janet Faulkner's English class ponder on getting correct responses to an assignment.

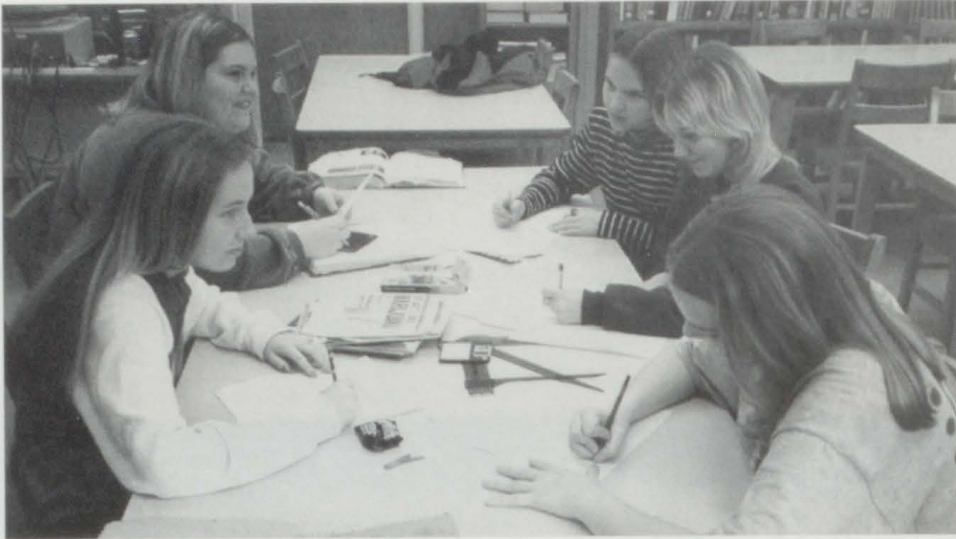
BOTTOM RIGHT: Mrs. Debbie Massie's elementary students diligently prepare notebook worksheets.



Reneé Gross patiently waits while Mr. Darrell Burnette checks her French work.







PhotoJournalism students work on the yearbook.



Missy French, efficient working editor of the Yearbook Staff.

Pictures are worth a thousand words

In the beginning of the 1995 school year the French Club had planned an exciting trip to Canada, but first it had to be approved by the school board. While waiting they not only learned a new language, but began to earn money for the trip by selling doughnuts, jewelry, and other odds and ends. They even gathered and recycled aluminum cans. Later in the year the trip was finally approved. By June 26 they were well on their way to Canada. They spent seven days touring parts of Montreal and Quebec City.

To help students and faculty members remember the accomplishments of Bland High School's 1997 school year, the yearbook staff kept occupied planning pages and deciding what pictures to place on the pages, knowing that pictures are worth a thousand words. Snow days meant staffers had to double up on duties in order to meet the deadline of March 1. At last with all pages completed and mailed, they gave a sigh of relief only to be told they had to start all over again on the 1998 yearbook.



YEARBOOK STAFF - Front row: Stacey Miller, Jessica Umbarger **2d row:** Casie Pruitt, Stephanie Ferrari, Meagan Shewey **3d row:** Ryan Newberry, Debbie Munsey, Ashley Havens **Back row:** Jessica Crawford, Missy French, Allison Sheets.



FRENCH CLUB - Front row: Leslie Carroll, Ashley Havens, Samantha Bird, Laura Clifton, Rae Romano, Amy Hanshew, Whitney Gamble, Ashley Tate **2d row:** Josh Breedlove, Sarah Bird, Missy Woods, Erin Thompson, Debbie Munsey, Kelly Dunn, Stephanie Kelley **3d row:** Erin Johnson, Olena Sexton, Allesha Bourne, Cindy King, Crystal Stiltner, Monica Reed, Susan Stanley, April Umbarger **Back row:** Michael Fulford, Ben Chewing, Derrick DeHart, Brent Tate, Paul Lindamood, J. B. Lambert, Amanda Brown.

CENTER: A well known building in Canada, The Chateau Frontenac, as seen by members on the French trip.



ABOVE: Ashley Havens, along with other French Club students, admire Canada's wildlife.



BOTTOM LEFT: The Canadian Flag posted on a ferry crossing the St. Lawrence River.

There is Music In The Air

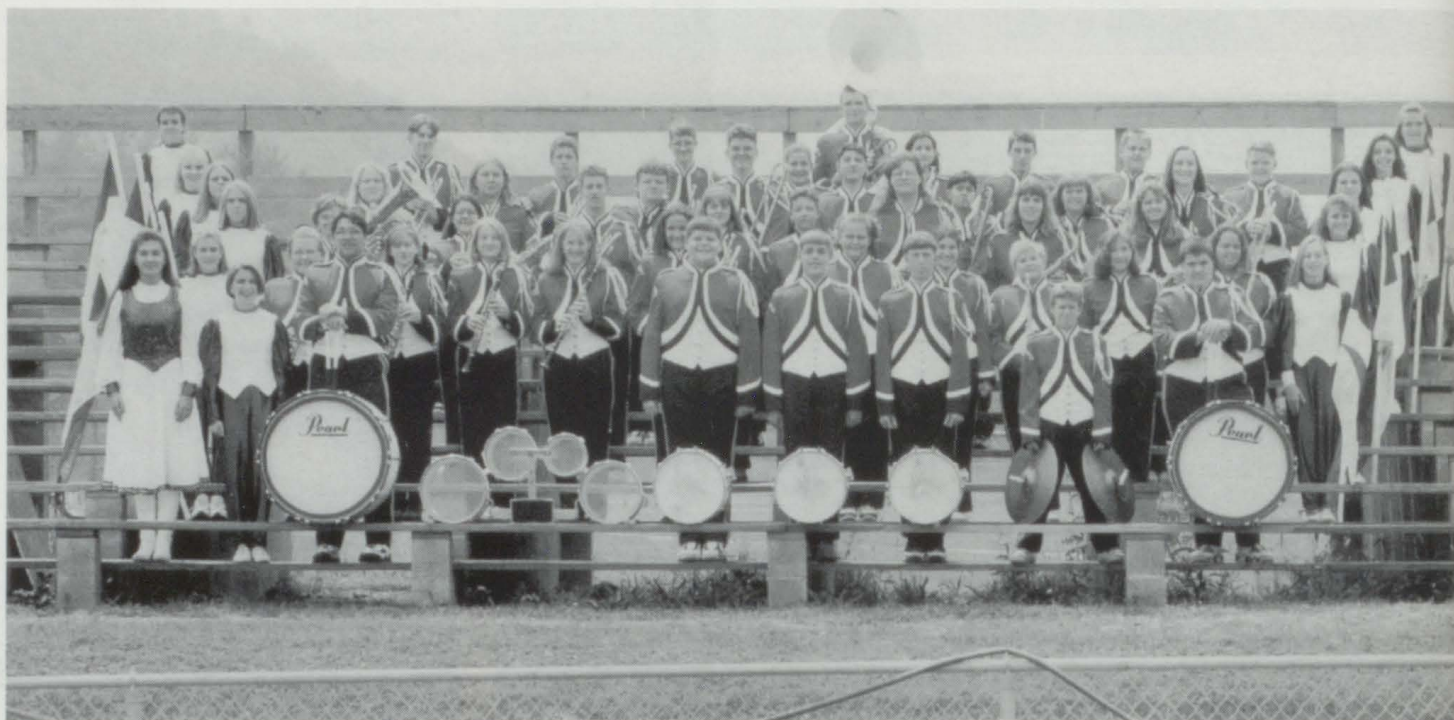
Music was in the air this year as Mr. Bob Correll led our band from one competition to another winning many awards. Not only were these young people to be

commended for a job well done, but also many thanks were extended to those who made many events possible for Bland County's band.

The secret of their successes was

due to dedicated leaders, students, parents, and many extra practice hours spent after school. In just a few short years these students have attained skills and achievements that are unbelievable.

BELOW - BLAND COUNTY BAND: (Left side front to back) Tonya Bradshaw, Misty Balas, Ashleigh Sarver, Kelly Lambert, Christa Winesett, Amy Kitts, Angela Mercer; (Right side front to back) Kristen Songer, Courtney Brizendine, Katie Muncy, Sara Boone, Jamie Price. **Front row:** Daniel Thompson, Charlie Stiltner, Shane Thompson, Kent McPeak, Andy Sarver, Chad Brewer. **2d row:** Brett McPeak, Eisle Havens, Heather Morehead, Melissa Leedy, Reneé Gross, Kelly Sluss, Adrian Faulkner, Samantha Bird, Crystal Hancock, Mollie Neal. **3d row:** Denita Harden, Tonya White, Lee Meadows, Shanda Ball, Ben May, Crystal Stiltner, Jennifer Winters, Shannell Ball. **4th row:** Sarah Bird, Terry Bradshaw, Michael Lambert, Andrew Schoeneman, Nathan Justice, Chase Thomas, Constance Whitt, Sarah French. **Back row:** Nathan Winters, Joe Meadows, Curtis Brewer, Virginia Presley, Ben Leighton, Kathy Starks, Eric Thompson, Carol Hess, Joe Marley.



BOTTOM RIGHT - INTERMEDIATE BAND

Front row: Michelle Lee, Jodi Crabtree, Denita Harden, Amanda Scott, Heather Wright, Christopher Harman, Serina Morris. **2d row:** David Wolcott, Amber Hutchins, Bryan Simms, Zachary Breedlove, Scottie Clemons, Brandon Webb. **Back row:** Andy Sarver, Seth Baker, Joey Walker, Ronald Spain, Chase Thomas, John Clemons, Jonathan Cook. *Not pictured Brandon Anders.*



Band members prepare for a drumroll after a good field play.



ABOVE: Flag girls are vital to the Bland County Band. These girls provide entertainment and learn skills for use in band competitions and competitive performances. Sarah Boone, Christa Winesett, Amy Kitts, Kristen Songer, and Katie Muncy dance during half time.

LEFT - BEGINNING BAND - Front row: Amber Groseclose, Vada Ramsey, Erin Pruett, Tara Clemons. **2d row:** Erica Pauley, Dana Umbarger, Autumn Haynes, Travis Thompson. **Back row:** Jeremiah Hickman, Lee Bailey, Jerrica Crabtree, Christopher Viar, Daniel Williams. *Not pictured David Peery.*



CENTER LEFT - VICA - Front row: Amanda Brown, Holly Pauley. **2d row:** Jermey Reed, Stephanie Ferrarri. **3d row:** Jeremy Blankenship, Jason Kidd. **Back row:** Eric Wimmer, JonMichael Newberry, Evan Hall.

TOP - BLAND 4-H - Front row: Erin Thompson, president; Debbie Munsey, vice-president; Erin Johnson, secretary; Cicely Havens, treasurer; Jessica Kidd, reporter. **2d row:** Amy Hanshew, Stephanie Kelley, Ashley Havens, Kari Harner, Laura Bridges, Ashley Strock, Kristen Altizer, Amy Viar. **3d row:** Vanessa McBride, Sarah Bird, Allesha Bourne, Crystal Hancock, Virginia Presley, Rob Kegley, Brian Faulkner, Zachary Pauley. **Back row:** Matthew Tickle, Sarah Pruet, Amanda Brown, Crystal Stiltner, Aaron Pauley, Brandon Faulkner, Olena Sexton.

CENTER RIGHT - MECHANICSBURG 4-H - Front row: Sara King, president; Leslie Gordon, secretary; Sandra Melvin, treasurer; Kristin Songer, reporter; Ryan Newberry, chaplain, Amanda Blankenship, recreation leader. **2d row:** Laura Clifton, Amy Johnston, Sarah Bird, Susan Stanley, Sondra Wolfe, Kim Polhman. **Back row:** Debbie Munsey, Hope Melvin, Jamie McMillan. *Not pictured Kelli Hall, vice-president.* **BELOW:** Sandra Melvin works with junior 4-Hers.

Leadership and performance

"It's off to work we go" for VICA members (Vocational Industrial Clubs of America). After attending morning classes these students went to work at various jobs. Their VICA experience strengthened the training they

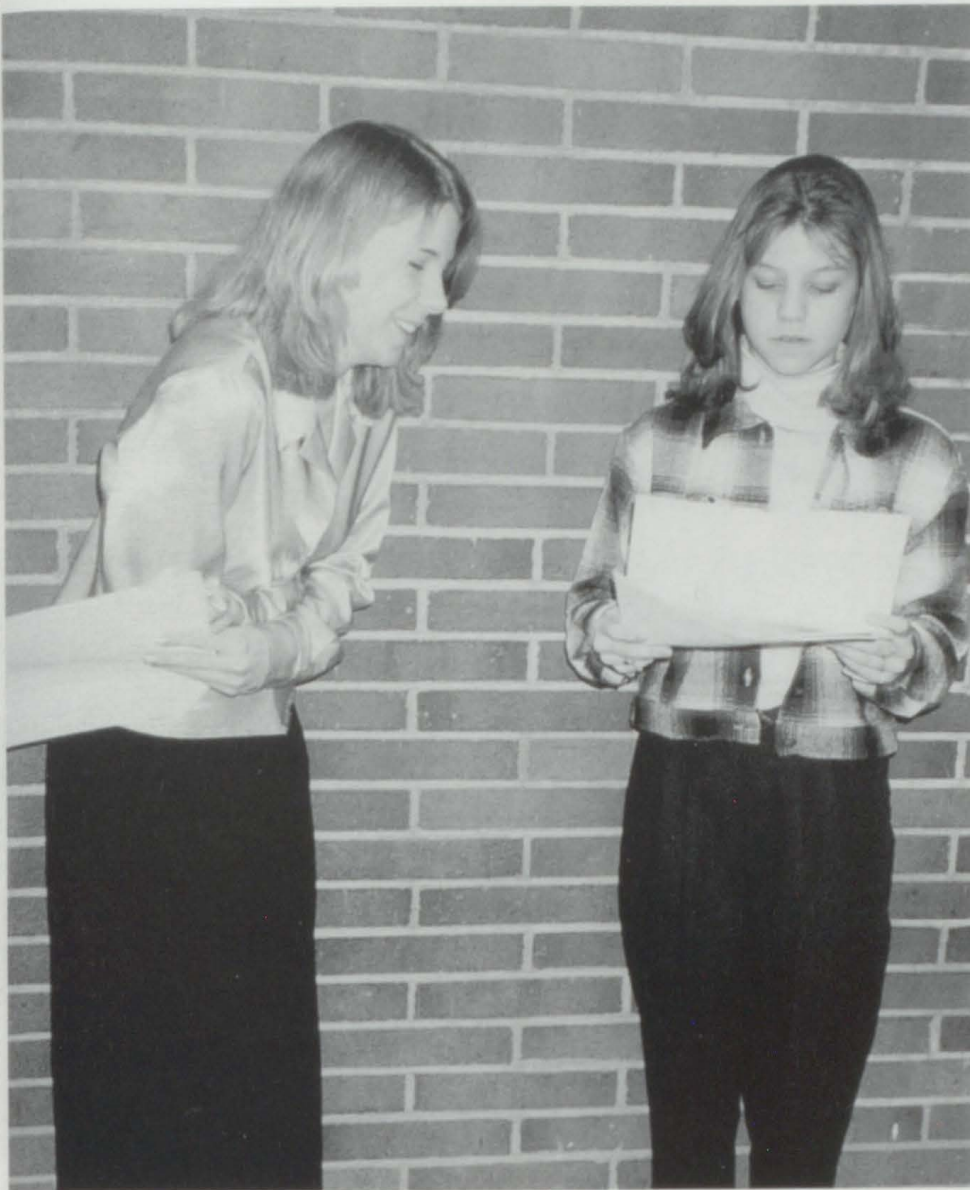
received on their jobs. Their club advisor was Mrs. Carolyn Bane.

Over 50 high school students belonged to Bland and Mechanicsburg Senior 4-H Clubs. They received leadership training, performed community service projects, and generally had a good time, including interstate exchange trips. They were frequently seen assisting younger students with

(continued on next page)



Kelli Hall and Ashley Tate practice for forensics. They are in a new category "Duo", where they are experiencing the directions and happenings of riding in a vehicle.



their speeches, demonstrations, or talent acts.

The latest edition of the Rocket Rapp circulated throughout school. The 31 members of the newspaper staff were hard at work collecting and publishing the latest news from BHS. Chris Bird, sponsor, urged the students to look for news in the ordinary happenings on the hill.

When you saw time cards being printed, stop watches being tested, and Mrs. Chris Bird hurrying through the halls, you knew it was time for forensics competition. Whether it was extemporaneous, prose, or humorous, Bland students were known to excel in forensics.

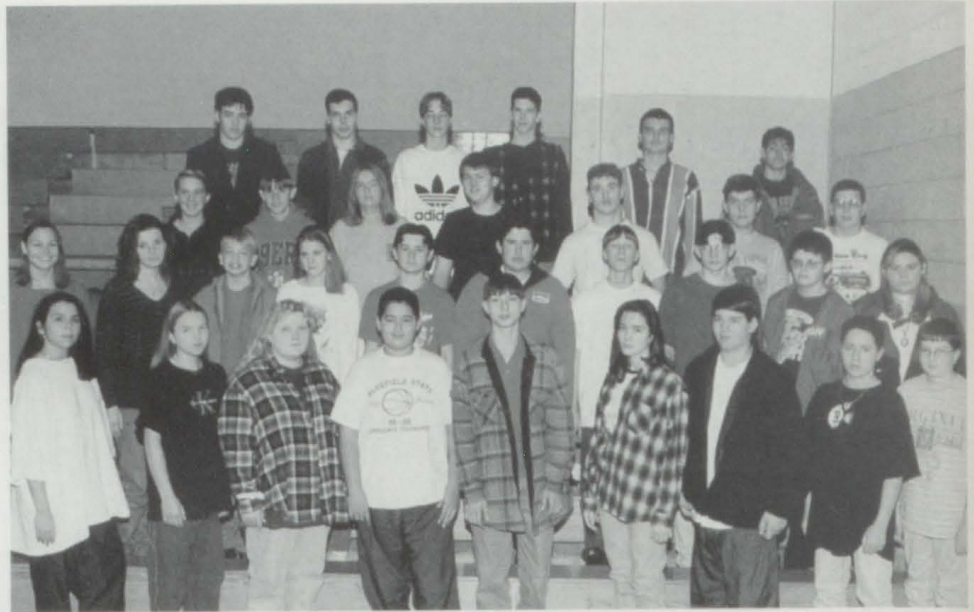
BOTTOM LEFT - NEWSPAPER STAFF -
Front row: Amy Hanshew, Rae Romano, Sarah Smith, Sara King, Mandy Blankenship, Susan Stanley. **2d row:** Jennifer Winters, Josh Richardson, Sharon Shewey, Cindy King, Kelli King, Laura Clifton. **3d row:** Rob Kegley, Dawn Wright, Rachel Mullins, Crystal Hancock, Kelly Sluss, Virginia Presley. **4th row:** April Blankenship, Kellen Shewey, Ashleigh Sarver, Meagan Penley, Heather Morehead, Allesha Bourne, Crystal Stiltner. **Back row:** Leslie Carroll, Stephanie Kelley, Ashley Havens, Monica Reed, Ashley Tate, April Umbarger.

BOTTOM RIGHT — FORENSICS TEAM -
Front row: Leslie Gordon, Michael Mabe, Ashleigh Sarver, Laura Clifton. **2d row:** Michael Pruett, Sarah Bird, Renee Gross, Debbie Munsey. **3d row:** Olena Sexton, Stephanie Kelley, Ashley Tate, Monica Reed. **4th row:** Ashley Havens, Leslie Carroll, April Blankenship, Mindy Wyllie. **Back row:** Kari Harner, Erin Thompson. *Not pictured Kelli Hall.*



FFA - FIRST, SECOND & THIRD YEAR -

Front row: Megan Shewey, Jessica Umbarger, Amber Simmons, Matthew Tickle, Nathan Justice, Lori Tabor, James Williams, Daniel Toohey, Albert Davis. **2d row:** Mandy Jones, Jamie McMillan, Jeb Hodges, Kelly Woods, Randy Bearrington, Josh Faulkner, Kent McPeak, Joshew Olinger, Kellen Shewey, Lynda Holt. **3d row:** Aaron Pauley, Ricky Olivo, Jessica Crawford, Aaron Clemons, Ben Lowe, Jason Hagy, Jacob Davidson. **Back row:** Josiah Smith, Ted Sparks, Kurt Blankenship, Robert Newberry, Mark Davidson, Jesse Goss.



FFA - FOURTH, FIFTH MEMBERS -

Front row: Rikki Sarver, Kris Blankenship, T. J. Thompson, Philip Meadows, Isaac Tyeryar, Adam Carroll. **2d row:** Benjamin Davis, Jeff Brunk, Jermey Reed, Will Blankenship, Joshwa Lester, David Olinger. **3d row:** Chad Perkey, Jason Kidd, JonMichael Newberry, Jeremy Blankenship, Eric Wimmer, Evan Hall, Wes Quinn. **Back row:** Jason Hancock, D. J. Belcher, Jeremiah Tate, Jason Epling.



Leadership skills mastered by members

FFA members have had a series of exciting events. To begin the year, Bland County Fair and Festival of leaves involved students in events, setting up, cleaning the grounds, and numerous other activities.

FFA members and the Senior Class traveled to VPI & SU. There, the Senior Class explored the college campus while FFA members learned more about agriculture in Virginia. Selected members were picked to go on a forestry judging trip.

These members went to great lengths in order to raise money to send two young men to the National FFA Convention in Kansas City, Missouri, by selling raffle tickets and fruit boxes to the community. New members have learned the importance of agricultural leadership and many other valuable skills.

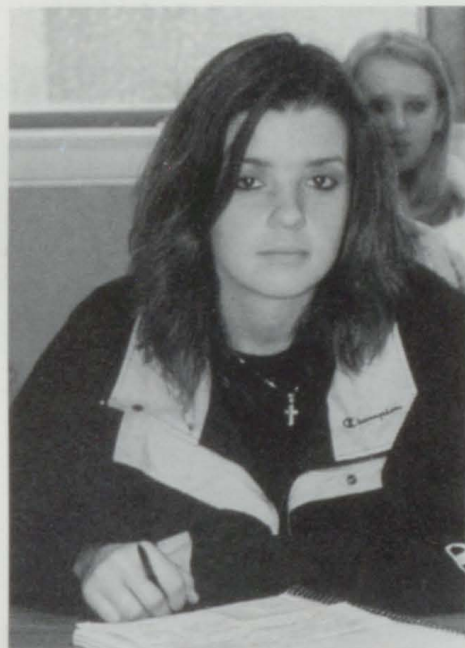


FFA OFFICERS - Front row: Jim Bob Penley, president; Jason Hancock, vice-president; Jason Kidd, 2nd vice-president; **2d row:** Kris Blankenship, sentinel; Chad Perky, secretary; **3d row:** Kellen Shewey, reporter; T.J. Thompson, treasurer.

Club members combined with Life Skills classes to learn the skills of ceramics painting and glazing. Crystal Hancock puts finishing touches on her project.



FHA - Front row: Amanda Umbarger, president; Jamie McMillan, 1st vice-president; Ben Chewning, 2nd vice-president; Ashley Havens, secretary; Missy Woods, treasurer; Erin Johnson, reporter; Missy French, chaplain; Kari Harner and Jessica Umbarger, recreation leaders. **2d row:** Rachel Mullins, Sarah Smith, Crystal Hancock, Kristin Altizer, Erin Thompson, Laura Bridges, Isaac Tyeryar, Katie Muncy, Nikki Elliott, Heather Clemons, Shelly Payne. **3d row:** Dawn Wright, Zachary Pauley, Allesha Bourne, Mindy Wyllie, Sarah Coffman, Amy Viar, Sarah Pruett, Brooke Kitts, Kelli King, Lian Cole. **4th row:** Lila Ramsey, Ashley Strock, Shelley Atwell, Paul Lindamood, Kirsten Meadows, Carey Berg, Jessica Crawford, J. B. Lambert, Allison Sheets. **5th row:** Joe Meadows, Stacey Miller, Stephanie Ferrarri, Cindy King, Casie Pruitt, Rae Romano, Erica Vanover, Sharon Shewey. **Back row:** Eric Reed, James Faulkner, Jacob Scott, Marie Dotson, Jason Kidd.



Jamie McMillan, 1st vice-president of Future Homemakers of America.

Senior Beta is successful at convention

Ending the year '96 found much activity for the Junior and Senior Betas. Along with their advisor, Ms. Teena Morefield, Junior Betas decided on Pipestem for their annual trip. Students were eligible for Junior Beta in their Freshman year based on academic grades from the previous year.

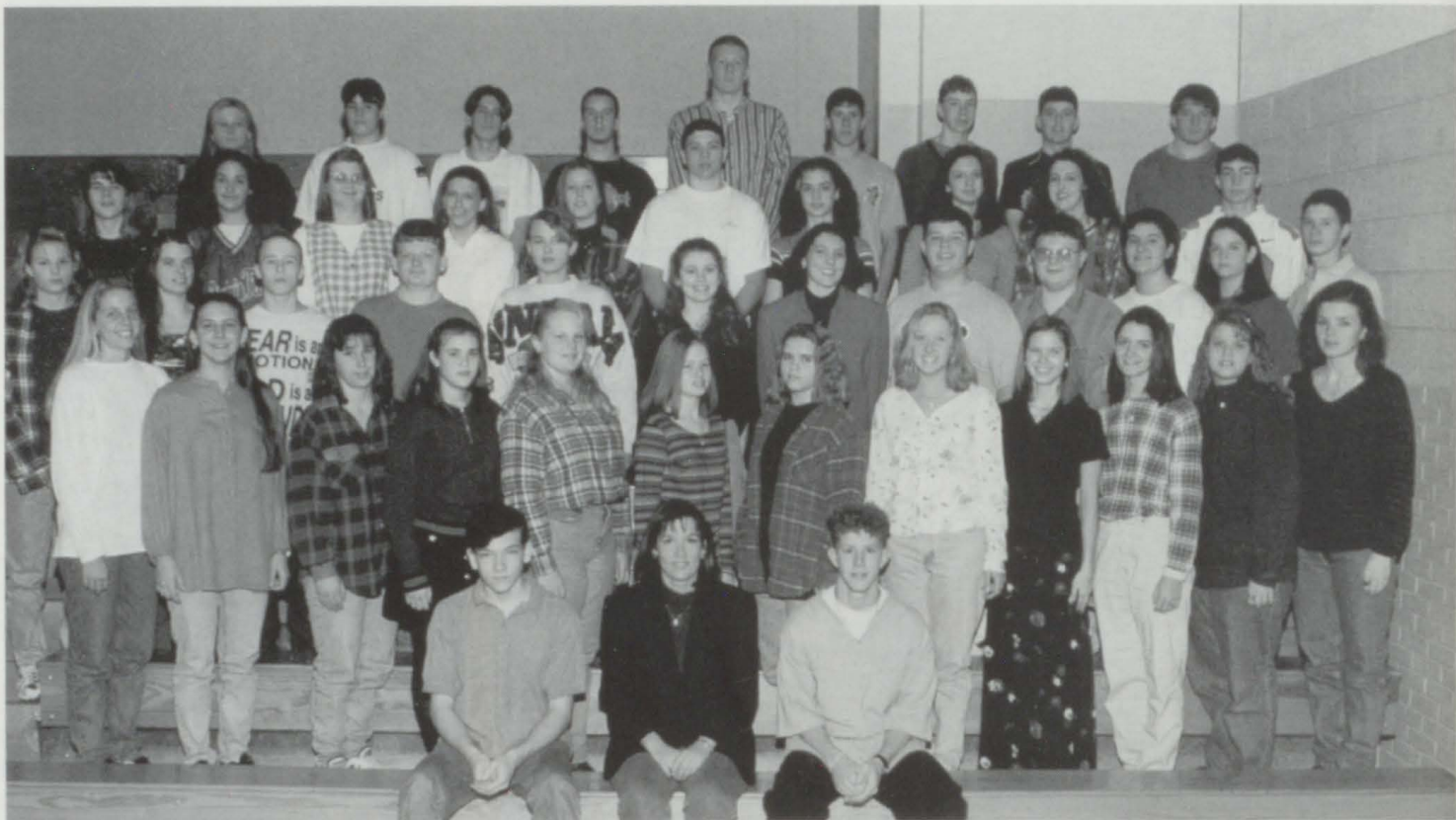
Senior Betas were quite occupied

planning for state and national conventions. Completing the '96 year they traveled to Williamsburg for the state convention where they placed in several competitions. These included first place on their banner and oratory, and second place on their scrapbook. In June they competed on the national level in St. Louis. There the club captured second in banner competition and sixth in oratory and scrapbook.

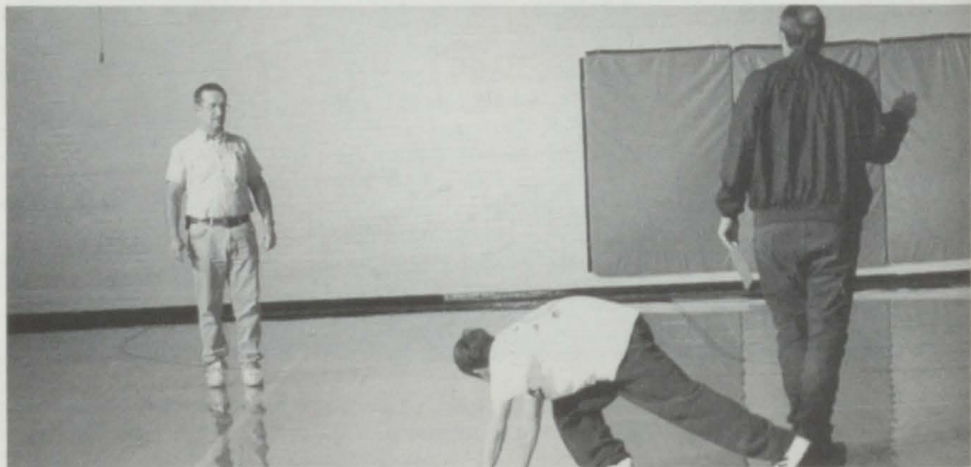
Betas were accompanied and supervised by Ms. Janet Faulkner, advisor and state sponsor, and Mr. and Mrs. Bob Kegley.

Betas earned funds for their trips through annual fruit sales, concession sales, and auctioning new Betas as workers for three days. Faculty members got involved in the auction and used these workers to help clean their classrooms.

CENTER - SENIOR BETA - *Front row:* Michael Pruett, president; Debbie Munsey, vice-president; Lee Meadows, secretary/treasurer. *2d row:* Leslie Gordon, Olena Sexton, Cicely Havens, Ashleigh Sarver, Sarah Bird, Laura Clifton, Whitney Gamble, Kelly Dunn, Sarah Smith, Erin Thompson, Missy Woods, Jamie McMillan. *3d row:* Amanda Umbarger, Katie Muncy, Adam Faulkner, Michael Lambert, Amanda Brown, Michael Kay Mabe, Stephanie Kelley, Josh Breedlove, Josh Richardson, Kari Harner, Erin Johnson, Joe Meadows. *4th row:* Jennifer Winters, Renee Gross, Mary Chewning, Amy Hanshew, Holly Pauley, Derrick DeHart, Rae Romano, Leslie Carroll, Ashley Havens, Chad Perkey. *Back row:* Cindy King, Jeremy Dillow, Nathan Winters, Ryan Newberry, Heath Puckett, Jamie Dunn, Brent Tate, John C. Thompson, Jacob Scott.



ABOVE: Hope Melvin and Shelley Atwell watch interestedly as Brett McPeak bids on a Beta worker. **RIGHT:** Joe Meadows does the "required" pushups.





TOP - JUNIOR BETA - Front row: Will Pauley, president; Ashley Tate, vice-president; Susan Stanley, secretary; April Umberger, treasurer. **2d row:** Dawn Wright, Crystal Hancock, Virginia Presley, Meagan Penley, Heather Morehead, Amy Vlar. **Back row:** Crystal Stiltner, Monica Reed, Lian Cole, Kelly Sluss, Mindy Wyllie.

CENTER: Having been purchased by Ms. Sylvia Williams, Joe Meadows finds his 'work' involves cleaning the computer lab.

BOTTOM LEFT: Betas on their trip to St. Louis for the national convention.

BOTTOM RIGHT: Ashleigh Sarver "walks the line" while Mr. Bill Crabtree and Mr. Richard Havens accept bids.



Climbing the beanstalk to success

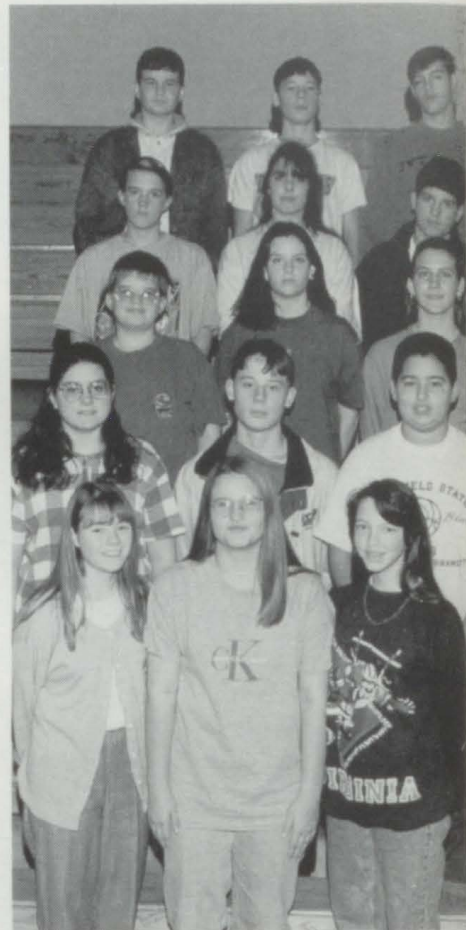
Climbing a beanstalk or a ladder brought success to those students in Upward Bound, SCA, and FBLA. They were not afraid to try

something new and by doing so, often found success at the top. The secret was to do, not to sit and wait for success to find them.

UPWARD BOUND - Front row: Jessica Kidd, April Umbarger, Vanessa McBride. **2d row:** Amy Viar, Brian Faulkner, Matthew Tickle. **3d row:** Zachary Pauley, Erin Johnson, Olena Sexton. **4th row:** Aaron Pauley, Carey Berg. **Back row:** Matthew Richardson, Brandon Faulkner, Shane Thompson.



ABOVE: Lian Cole and Dawn Wright at FBLA pizza luncheon.



RIGHT - SCA - Front row: Ashley Tate, Sarah Smith, Whitney Gamble, Michael Kay Mabe. **2d row:** Susan Stanley, Michael Pruett, Stephanie Kelley, Amy Hanshew. **3d row:** Matthew Richardon, Lee Meadows, Joe Meadows, Leslie Carroll, Debbie Munsey. **Back row:** Ashley Havens, Brent Tate, Rae Romano, Holly Pauley, Brooke Kitts.



Climbing the FBLA beanstalk brought success to Whitney Gamble, Brooke Kitts, Debbie Munsey, and Becky Penley.



FBLA - Front row: Jamie Dunn, president; John C. Thompson, vice-president; Debbie Munsey, secretary; Jacob Scott, treasurer; Michael Kay Mabe, reporter; Ryan Newberry, historian; Heath Puckett, parliamentarian. **2d row:** Kelly Dunn, Brian Faulkner, Chris Pauley, Jessica Kidd, Sarah Smith, Whitney Gamble, Dawn Wright, Laura Clifton, Adam Faulkner, Lian Cole. **3d row:** Rob Kegley, Stephanie Kelley, Kari Harner, Erin Johnson, Sharon Shewey, Renee Gross, Brooke Kitts, Kelli King, Joe Meadows. **Back row:** Chad Perkey, Lee Meadows, Josh Breedlove, Leslie Carroll, Ashley Havens, Brent Tate, Nathan Winters.

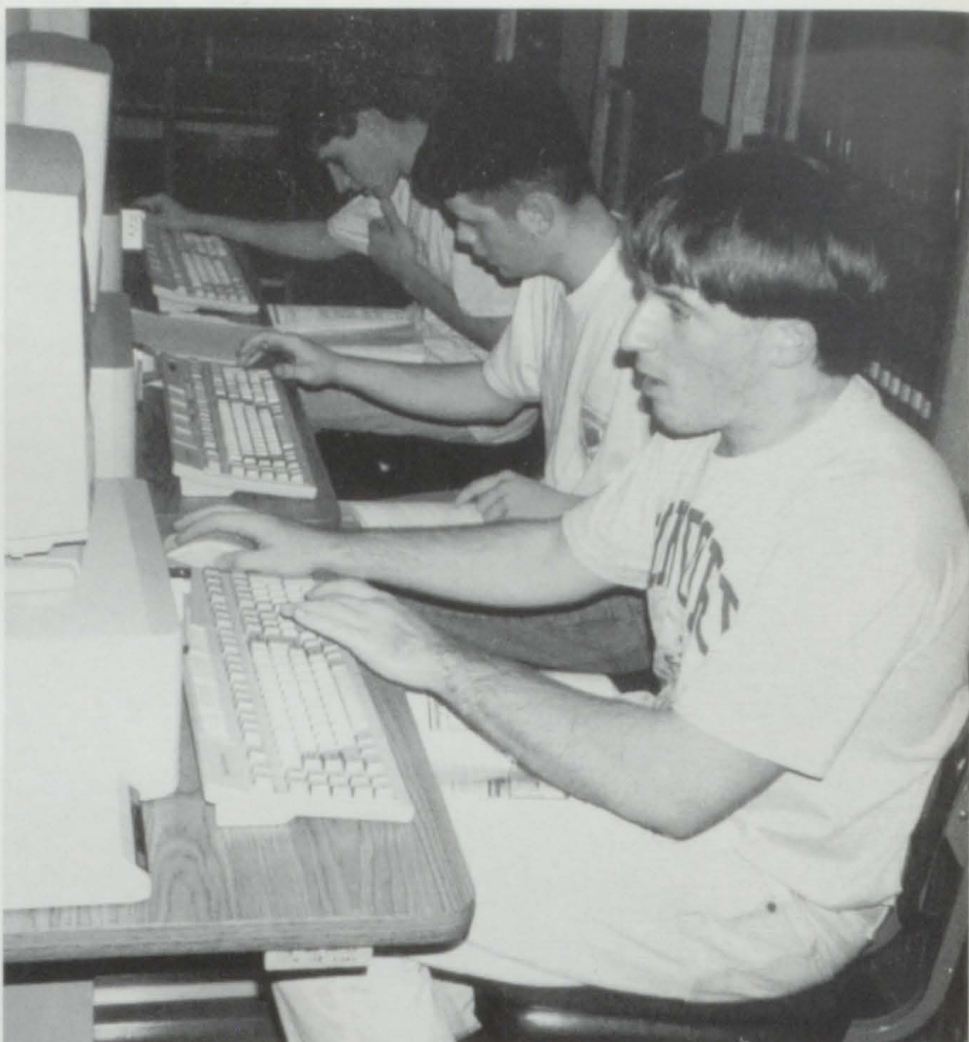
Enchanting moments were made from the heart, and it is those moments we will hold forever in our memories. When we hear fairy tales in distant years, the memories of this book will be brought to mind.

Monica Havens carefully works on ceramics.



Enchanting Moments

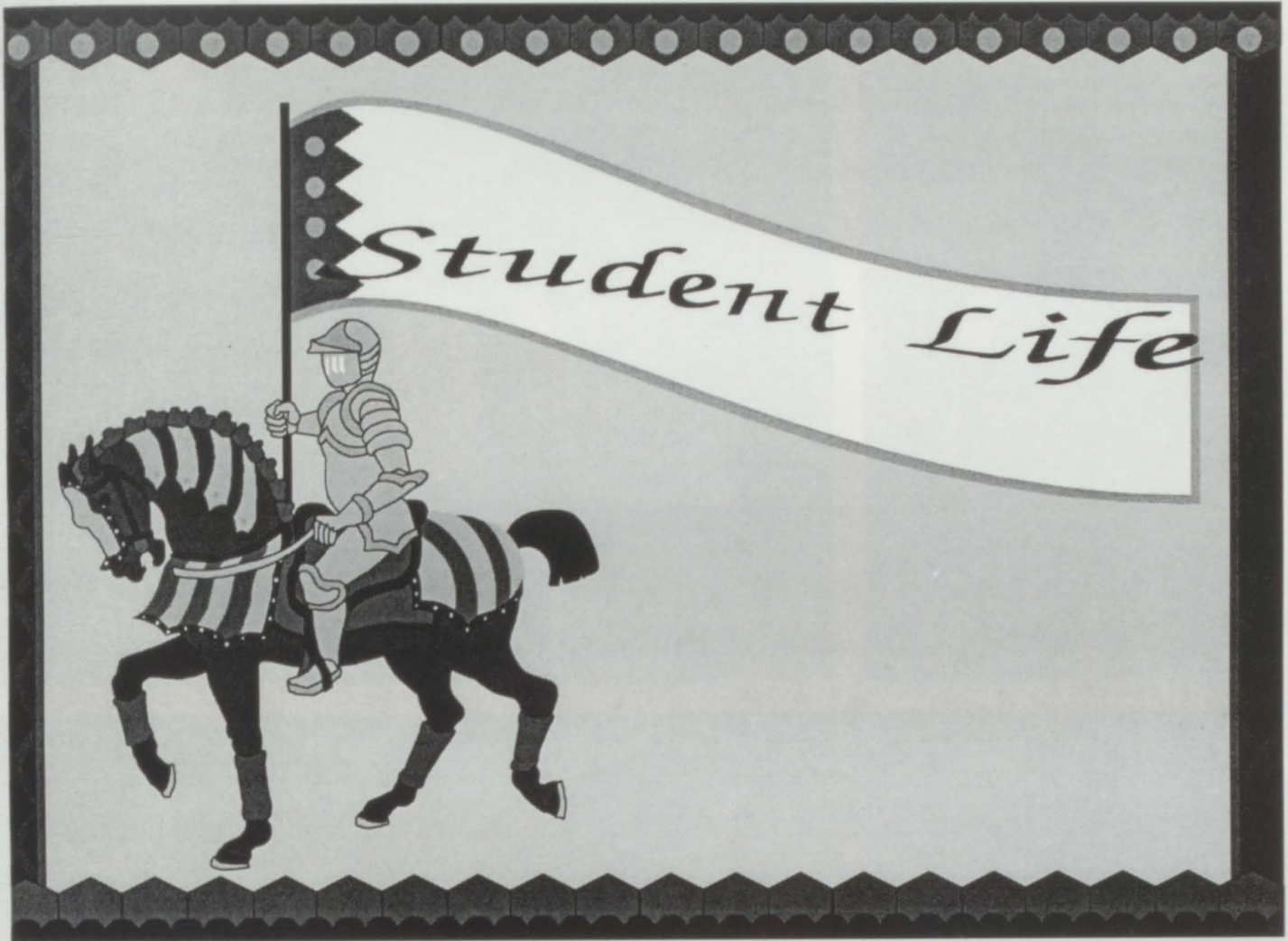
Jamie Dunn, John C. Thompson, Jacob Scott use technology to complete class requirements.



The Chemistry class enjoys their work.



Bland High shows many emotions and cheers everyone on during the game.



An Enchanted Evening at BHS

The week prior to the 1996 Junior-Senior Prom found many students busy renting tuxedos, shopping for the perfect gown, or trying to match shoes and accessories for the total "look." Mrs. Whitt and Miss

Muncy found themselves occupied with decorations, decisions, and financial affairs.

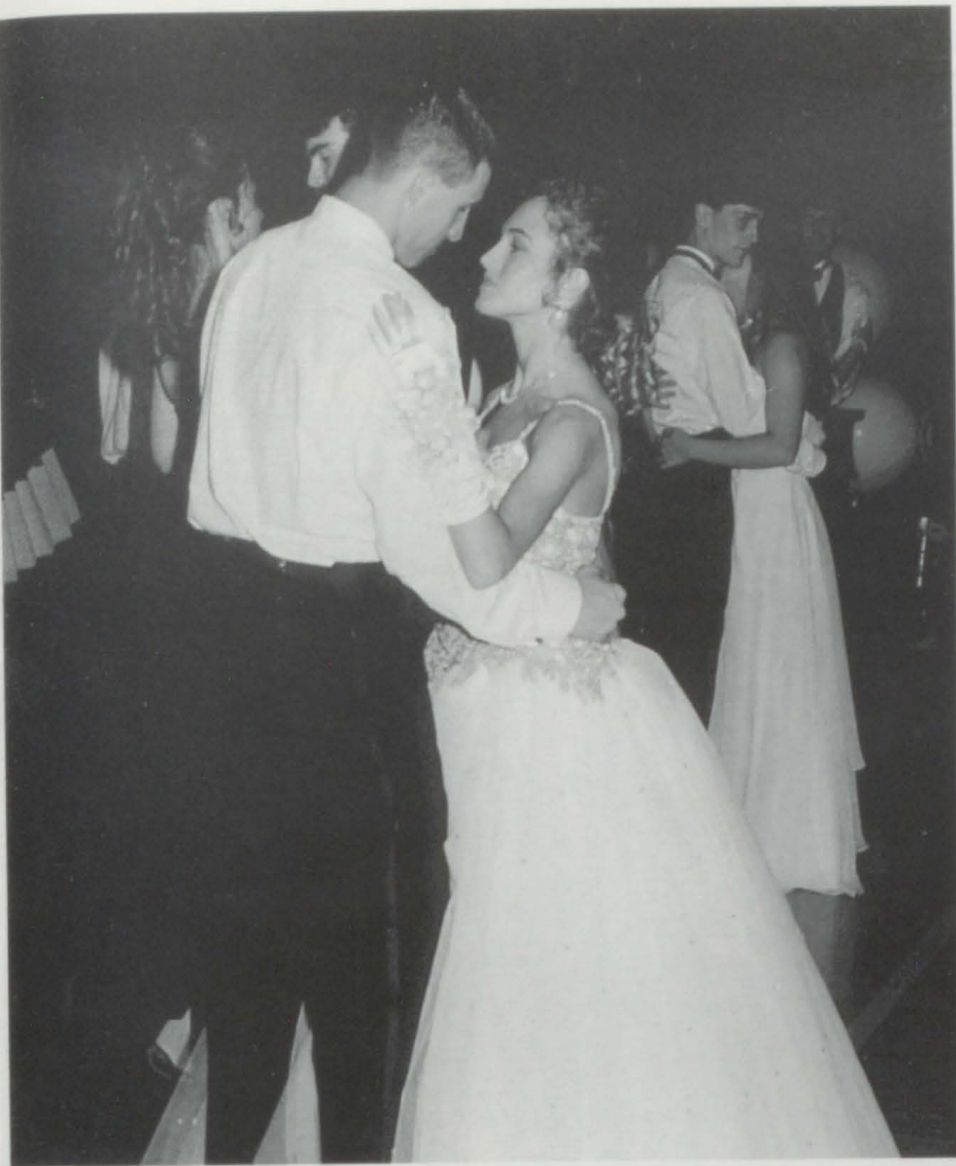
The tolling of the bell signaled the arrival of many coaches. BHS high school students were transformed into kings, queens, princes, and princesses. An onlooker could find golden slippers,

satin, lace, and various jewels. The theme "Can't Help Falling In Love" was appropriate for the romantic evening. Prom King Todd Morehead and Queen Sheri Blankenship reigned over the evening. Michael Kay Mabe and Derrick Dehart were crowned Prince and Princess for the magical night!



CENTER LEFT: Stephanie Kelley and Chris Beaman charmingly arrive at the prom.
CENTER RIGHT: J.B Lambert and Leisa Hagy "Can't Help Falling in Love". Behind them, John Thompson and Leslie Carroll dance the night away.

BOTTOM LEFT: "I'm the man!" Michael Pruett dominates the pool table with his cunning skills.
BOTTOM RIGHT: Hail the 1996 Prom King and Queen: Todd Morehead and Sheri Blankenship accompanied by the Princess and Prince : Michael Kay Mabe and Derrick DeHart.

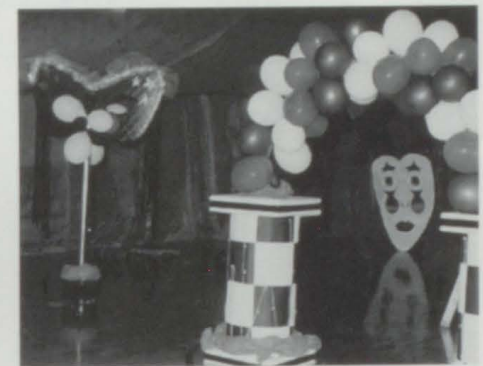
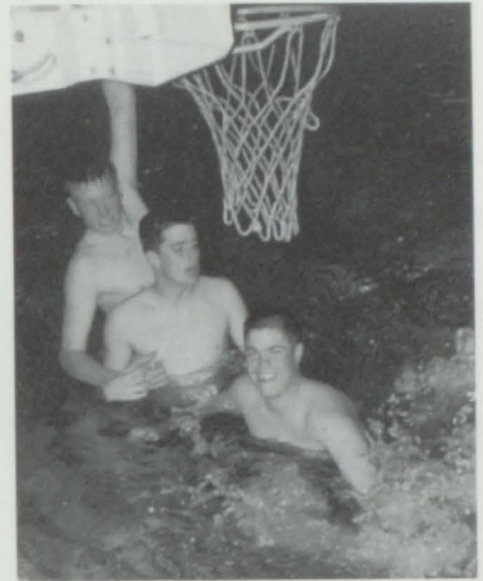


TOP LEFT: Leslie Kelley and Smokey Parmenter grace the prom with a perfect "fairytale" image.

TOP RIGHT: Heath Puckett, John Thompson and Jeremy Dillow play water basketball.

CENTER RIGHT: Decorations for prom 1996

BOTTOM: Juniors at the prom are full of smiles.



Football Homecoming: King Anthony Kidd and Queen Rae Romano.



Above: Christa Winesett, along with other flag and band members have a great performance at Homecoming.

Below: Joe Meadows, a trumpet player for the band, keeps right in tune.



1996 Homecoming King and Queen, Smoky Parmenter and Leslie Kelley.



Looks like Ronald Spain is going for a T.K.O. Will he get it or will he be the only one Knocked out at Homecoming.

The Glamour Of Homecoming

Homecoming began with spirit week and ended with terrific games as well as entertainment for all of Bland County. Both Homecoming games were ended with a

crowning of the Homecoming queen and a dance. Football queen was Rae Romano escorted by Anthony Kidd and basketball queen was Holly Pauley escorted by JonMichael Newberry with

first runner up as Amy Hanshew escorted by Derrick DeHart. Both Homecoming games were a great excitement for the students as well as staff members and parents.

HOMECOMING CONTESTANTS: Kari Hagy, Brent Tate, Lila Ramsey, Jason Hancock, Whitney Gamble, Jason Groseclose, Holly Pauley, JonMichael Newberry, Mary Jane Chewing, John Thompson, Amy Hanshew, Derrick DeHart, Ashley Havens, Lee Meadows, Kelli Hall, Jamie Dunn, Laura Bridges, Chad Perkey. *Not pictured 10th grade contestants: Ashleigh Sarver, Olena Sexton.*



Basketball Homecoming Queen/King, Holly Pauley and JonMichael Newberry



CENTER: Looks like everyone enjoys a nice slow dance.
ABOVE: Some of the students at Bland High School are in the spotlight tonight.

Heath Puckett and Melissa Leedy



Chris Pauley, Jason Hagy, and Michael Kay Mabe maintain the refreshment sales during the Snow Dance.



ABOVE: Kelli Hall and Jamie Dunn.

RIGHT: Sharon Shewey relaxes with the pause that refreshes and quenches the thirst.

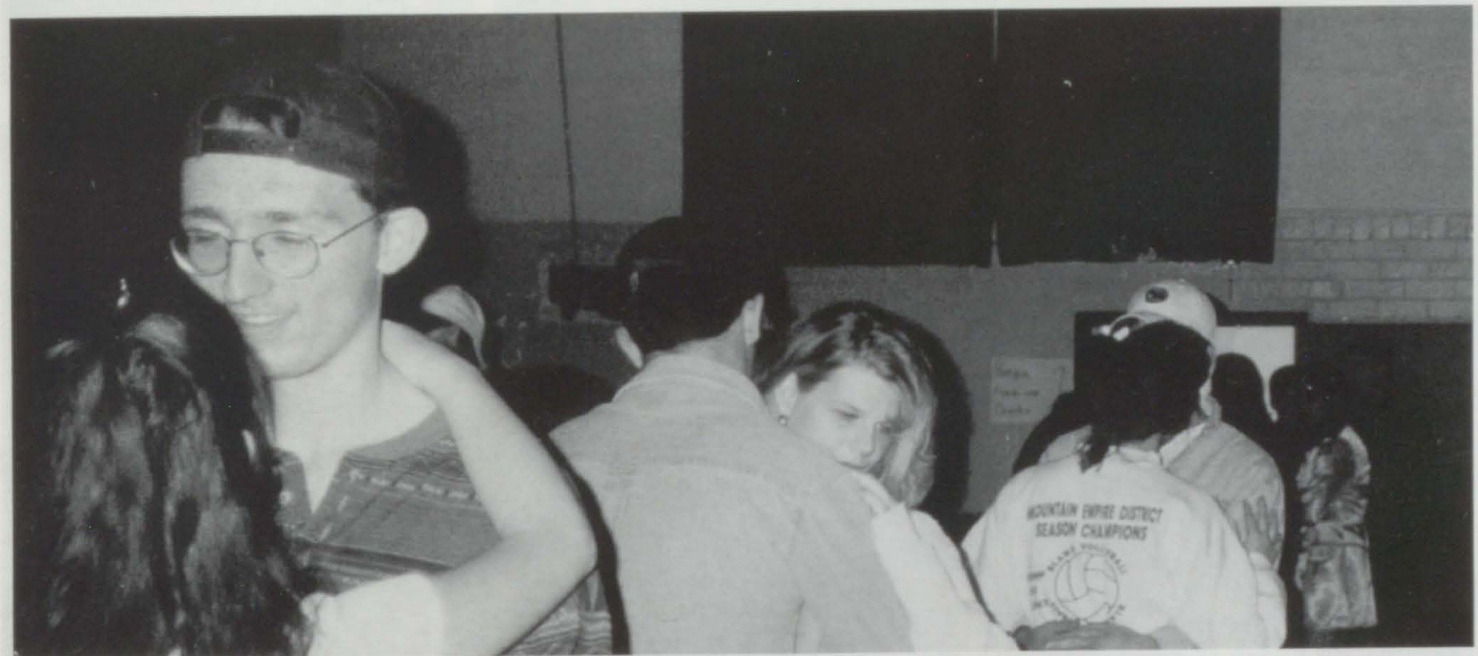
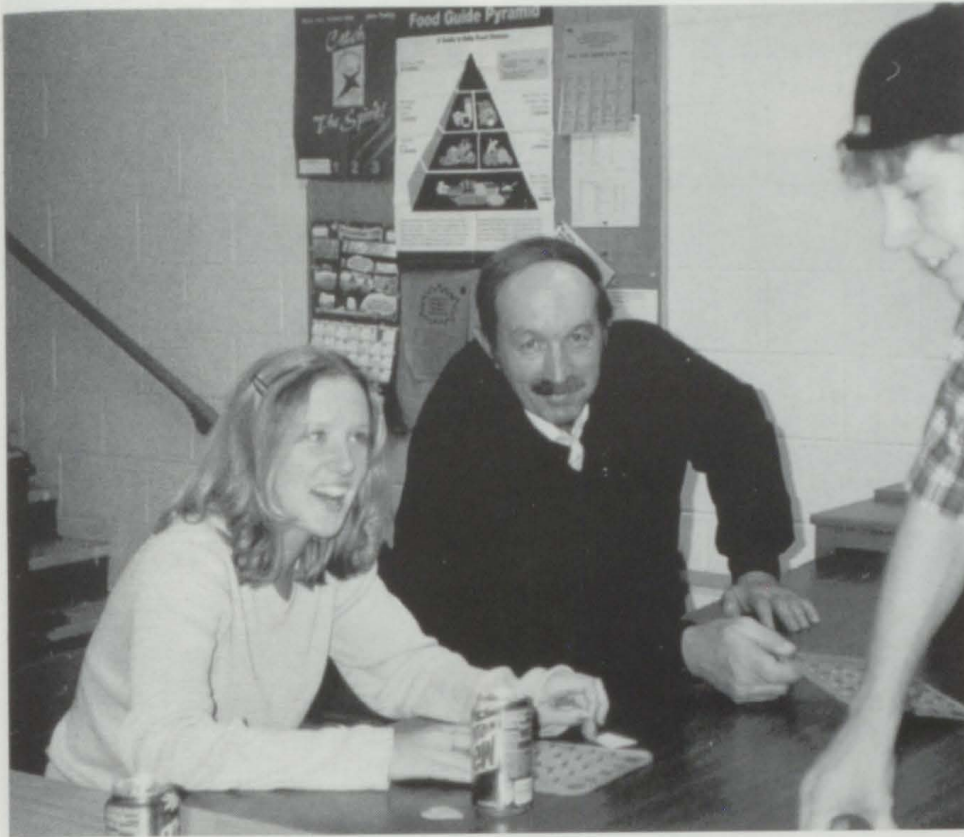


Snow White - Snow Bright

Procedures changed for the FBLA when only three clubs showed interest in Snow Court participation. Thus was eliminated the

hectic food sales and counting pennies to find a queen. Instead FBLAers planned a dance with refreshment sales and bingo games.

Snowflakes and a snow scene mural decorated the stage in Wagner Auditorium. The four-hour dance was held on December 14, 1996.



TOP LEFT: Kelly Dunn, Mr. Richard Havens, and Lee Meadows enjoy a game of bingo.
TOP RIGHT: Brooke Kitts and Josh Breedlove with a background of snow scenery.
BOTTOM: Students find a partner in preference for slow dancing.

The Royal Dynasty Continues at BHS

Winning the title of Miss Echo required more than a winning smile and a pretty dress. Each candidate was tasked with salemanship, record keeping, and handling large amounts of money.

This year's title went to Miss Michael

Kay Mabe who sold a total of 90 yearbooks. Casie Pruitt was first runner up having sold 78 yearbooks. In addition to a tiara, banner, and appreciation gift, they earned a \$75 and \$50 US Savings Bond.

The entire student body and some of the elementary classes were enter-

tained at the Miss Echo program on October 11 by the Shanaki Karate Studios of Wytheville and Bland. Students were given a demonstration of mental and personal discipline through the use of self-defense and weapons.

Ashley Havens introduces candidates.



Ashleigh Sarver relinquishes the Miss Echo title to Michael Kay Mabe.



Demo members demonstrate defense tactics.



Scott Shannon shows use of discipline and weaponry.

Shanaki Karate Demo Team demonstrates the art and discipline used to break a board. They used hands and feet and this 15-year old green belt uses her elbow with a snap clean break.



Miss Echo 1997
Michael Kay Mabe



1997 Candidates and escorts: Monica Havens, Ryan Newberry, Jessica Kidd, Joe Meadows, Casie Pruitt, Derrick DeHart, Leslie Carroll, Chad Perkey, Michael Kay Mabe, Heath Puckett.



Miss BHS 1996, Casie Pruitt; first runner-up, Leisa Hagy; second runner-up, Michael Kay Mabe.



Miss BHS contestants: Casie Pruitt, Leisa Hagy, Michael Kay Mabe, Crystal Hancock; Allesha Bourne; Jessica Kidd; Lorie Tabor; Kim Pohlman; Libby Whittaker; Rachel Munsey.

At The Royal Ball... All The Queens... Are In Full Splendor.

The Miss BHS contestants line up while Allesha Bourne announces her name and sponsor. The line up is B.J. Crabtree, Leisa Hagy, Libby Whittaker, Allesha Bourne, Rachel Munsey, Samantha Thompson, Amanda Jackson, Michael Kay Mabe, Kim Pohlman, Jessica Kidd, Lorie Tabor, and Crystal Hancock.



A magical evening began on May 3, 1996, when thirteen self-confident girls waltzed across the stage. They were dressed as if their Fairy God Mother had come and granted their every wish. Wagner Auditorium was transformed into a charming palace ballroom. There was a variety of purple balloons flowing all around. The night began with a show of all the contestants in evening gowns. Each contestant introduced herself and her sponsor. This was a great beginning and an ice breaker for the contestants as well as the audience. Following the announcements, the girls modeled their casual outfits. These were selected by each young lady and displayed her individual taste in attire. Contestants felt that this was a trying time, but the excitement and tension offered relief for judges, scorers, and the contestants. Following the casual attire, each contestant was asked a question concerning an important issue within their community or nation. As the tension built, and the pressure was on, the girls endured the question and answer period.

The evening's entertainment was provided by Christa Winsett, Katie Muncy, and Sarah Pruett. Christa and Katie performed a dance routine and Sarah entertained the contestants and audience with her vocal talent. Intermission and talent offered the audience an opportunity to sample the delicious refreshments from the concession stand.



Refreshments and pleasant conversation keep contestants tranquil while waiting to compete. Allesha Bourne, Michael Kay Mabe, and Crystal Hancock



Miss BHS 1995, Marie Dotson, waits patiently while the pageant proceeds.

TOP RIGHT: "Ladies in waiting" smile beautifully in anticipation of the pageant.

CENTER LEFT: Heather Wright (right) steps forward to claim her place as Junior Miss B.E.S 1996.



CENTER RIGHT-Front Row: Carmella Thompson, Krystal McGuire, Ashley Tickle, Lindsey Newberry. **Back Row:** Jackie Duncan, Alice Jinne Stone, Erica Pauley, Vada Ramsey, Erin Pruett, Angela Walker.

BOTTOM RIGHT: Carmella Thompson and Lindsey Newberry receive last minute instruction from Cindy Wright.



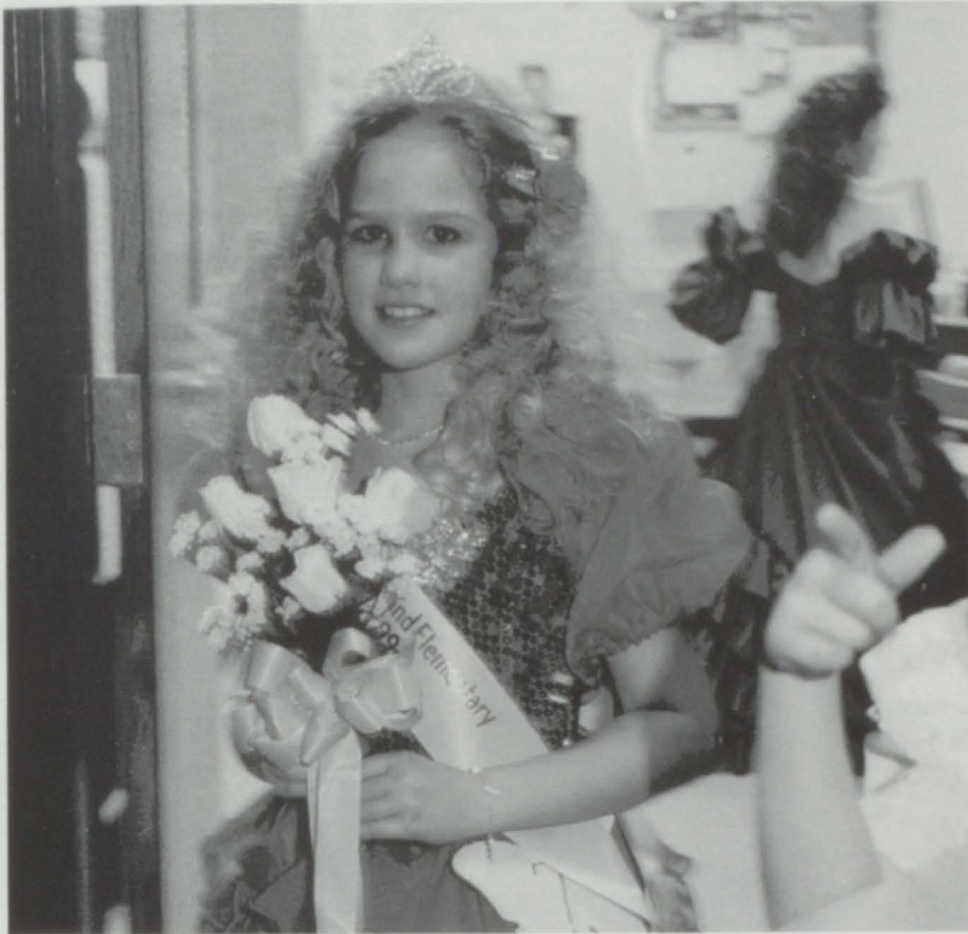
Little Beauties of BES

Magical moments are forever treasured by young ladies. May 4, 1996, was a night that will forever be reflected upon by many elementary princesses. It was a night of

royalty! Young ladies competed for the crown in the Tiny Miss, Little Miss, and Junior Miss Bland Elementary School. The air was thick with anticipation as each young lady awaited her turn to walk, speak, and most importantly . . .

smile!

This was a first for Bland Elementary with categories of preschool - second grades (Tiny Miss), third - fourth grades (Little Miss), and fifth - seventh grades (Junior Miss).



CENTER LEFT: She's a winner! Angela Walker poses beautifully as Little Miss Bland Elementary.

CENTER RIGHT: Pam Lambert stands with Christy Michael before she takes her place in the pageant.

BOTTOM LEFT: Tiny Miss winner, Jessica Davis (left).

Fashion and Trends

The fashions seen throughout the halls and classrooms of BHS for the 1996-97 school year looked remarkably similar to those worn two to three decades ago. Not only a "soap" but the "bold and beautiful" was a term applied to colors and styles. The "trendy" looks for the 1996-97 school year included clogs, bell bottoms, cropped tops, and baggy jeans. Still most commonly seen were logo T-shirts with jeans and designer

tennis shoes.

Girls hairstyles went from curly spiral perms to the straight and natural, while guys often sported the shaved look. Hair fashions were diverse and interesting in both the males and the females.

Because of the diversity of fashion, a passer-by at BHS may have felt uncertain of which decade he was viewing. Alternative styles and fashions led the way this year at BHS as students expressed their creativity and individuality through their choices in fashions.

Rae Romano models the casual look with khaki pants and platform shoes.



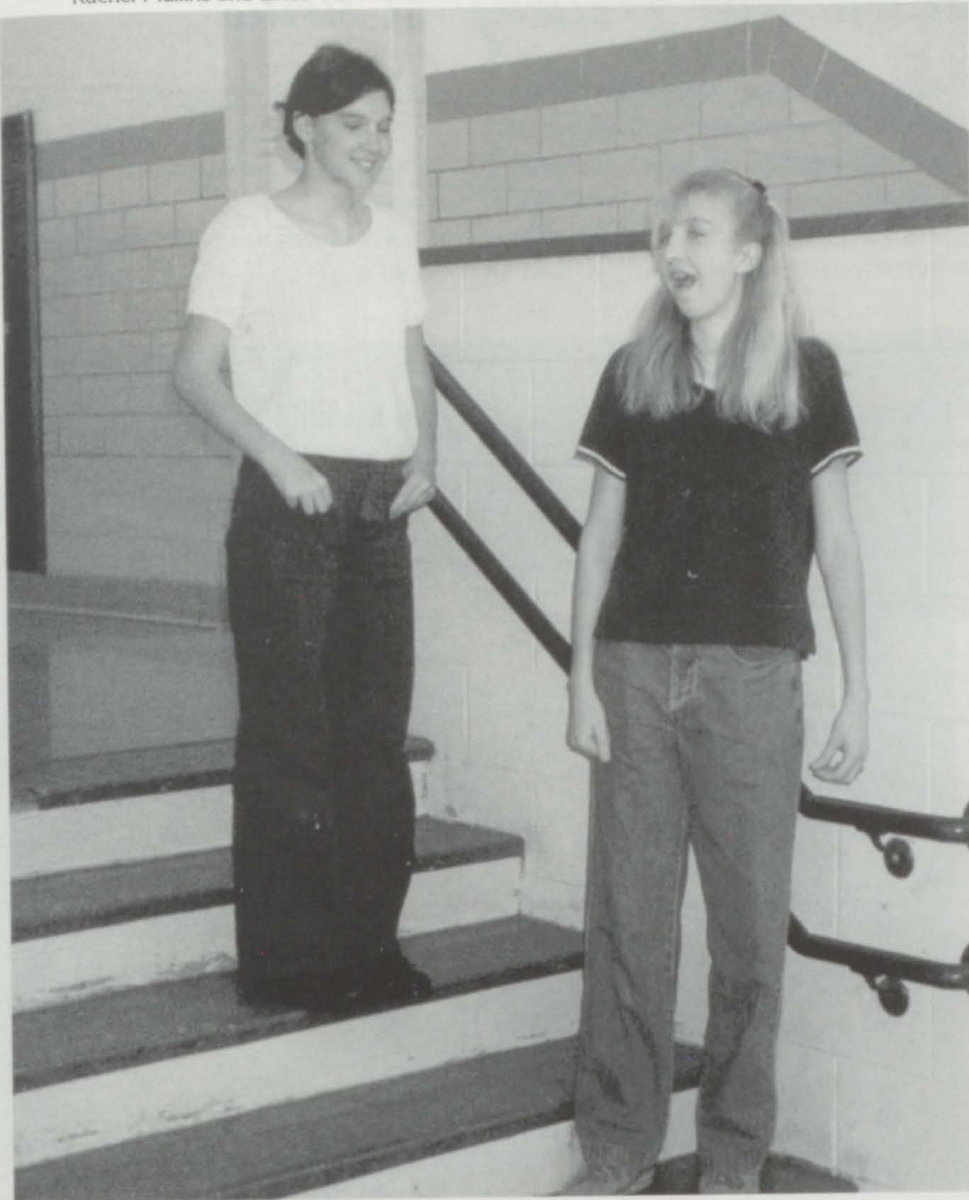
The foot fashions at BHS vary from tennis shoes to platforms.

Katie Muncy wearing her fashionable attire.



Faye Wolfe finds time to relax.

Rachel Mullins and Erica Vanover model the look for bell bottoms and cropped tops.



Heath Puckett shows BHS the baggy jeans, and tie dye.



Jessica Umbarger, Chad Perkey, Stacey Miller and Joe Meadows show off the modern look at BHS with John Kelly Thompson and Stephanie Ferrari in the background.

Throughout the Many Lands

Throughout the many lands of our kingdom, an innocent observer may have witnessed many strange and wonderful happenings. One may also have encountered

many interesting characters some of which are identifiable and others that are mystical and unknown. Our school campus was never a quiet or peaceful kingdom. The many workers, rulers, and royal travelers could be seen at

different times throughout the day.

Teachers were no exception to the strangeness around and about our kingdom. Their presence was always known as well as understood. Teachers could show up just about anywhere!

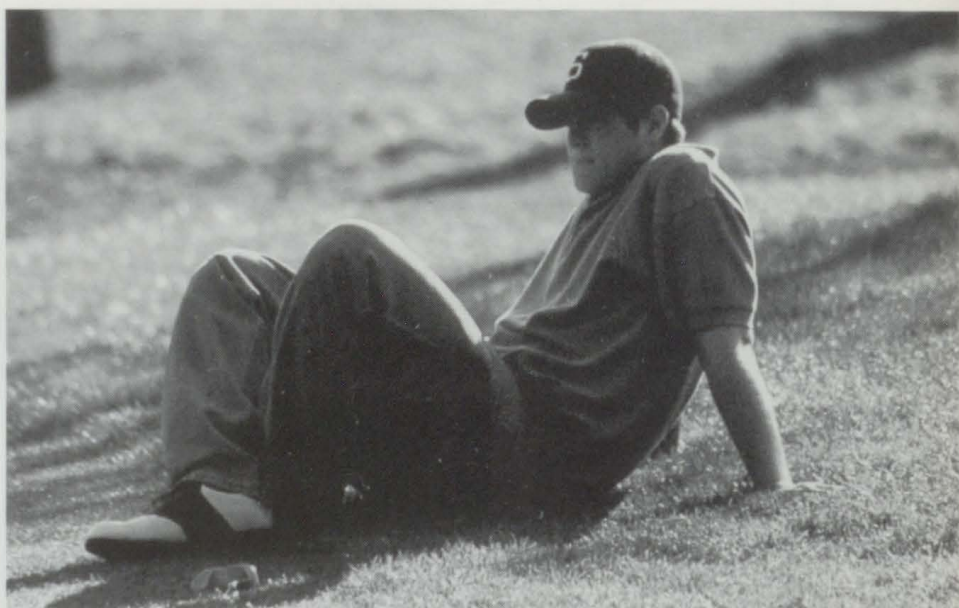
Sarah Smith and Ashleigh Sarver are "bonded."



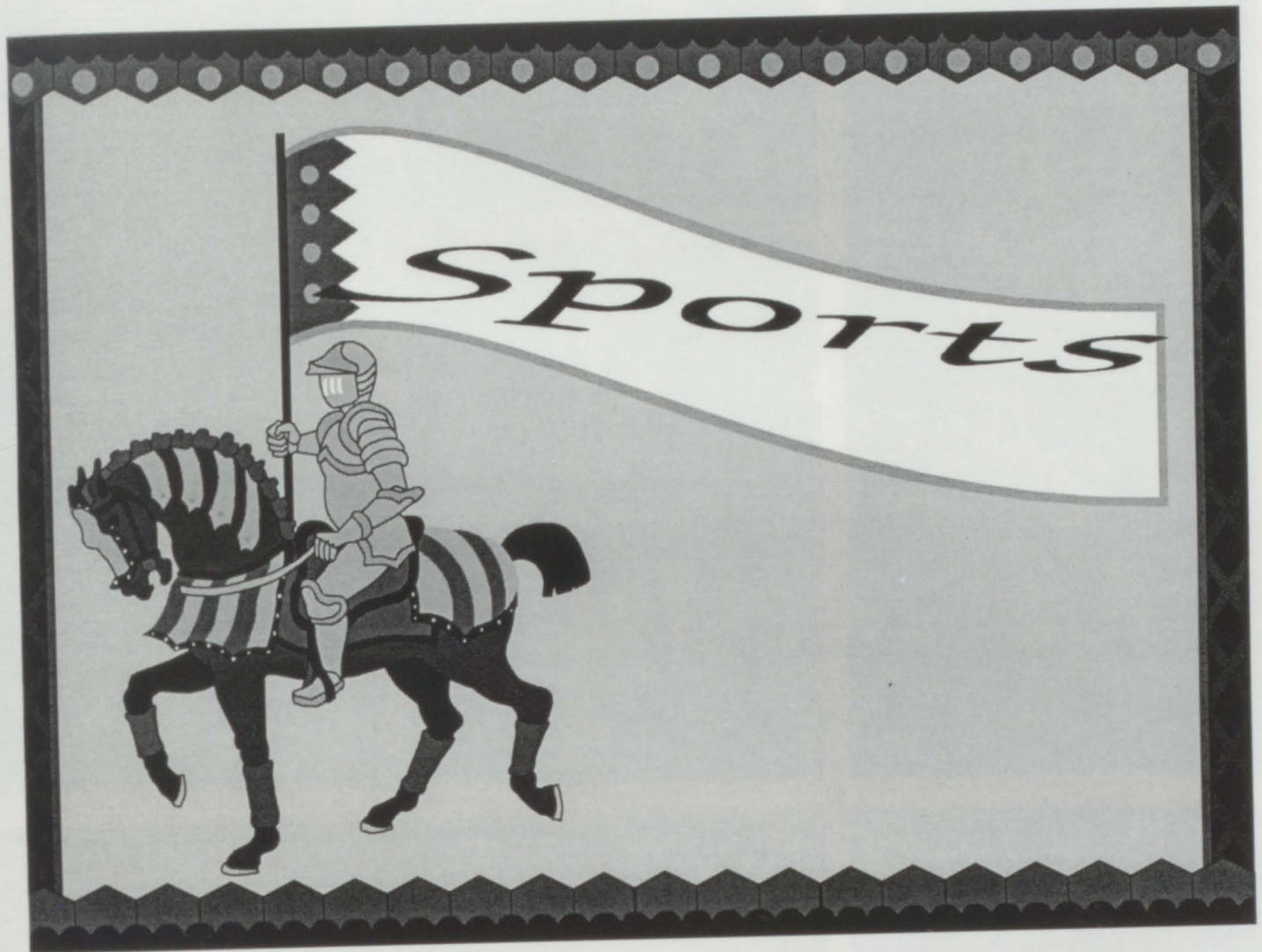
Amy Hanshew takes the ride of her life at the BHS '96 After Prom Party held at the Bluefield YMCA.



Mrs. Sylvia Williams talking to...herself?



Jeremy Dillow watches intently as the golf match proceeds...or is he just taking a quick rest!



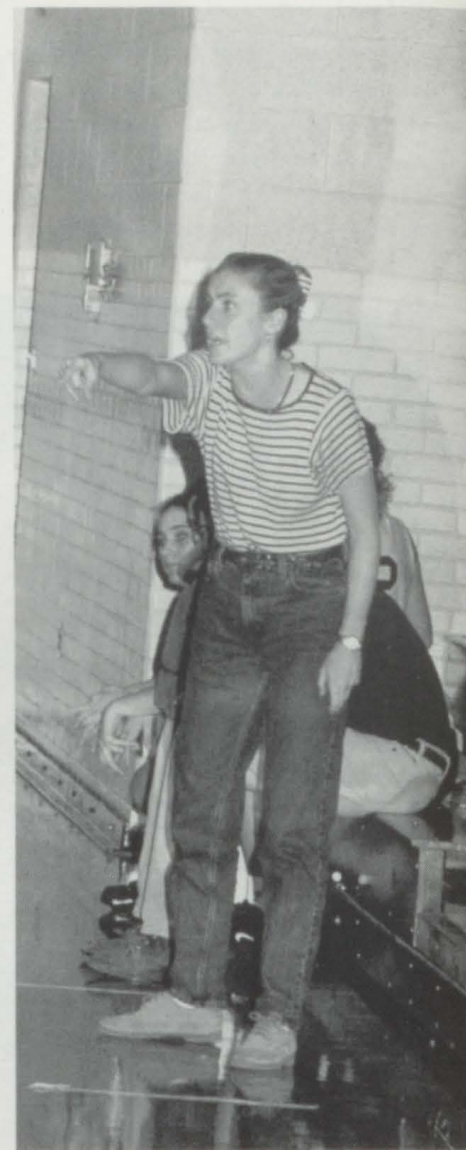
BELOW: Ashley Havens moves cautiously up the court recognizing where each of her fellow players are located.

RIGHT: Whitney Gamble runs eagerly up the court with full intentions of scoring a basket.

CENTER: Amy Hanshaw is not about to let that opponent get by her.



Miss LaMoore Muncy, coach for the varsity Rockettes, takes her coaching very seriously. Sometimes things get emotional!



**Girls' Varsity Basketball
Scoreboard**

US	OPPONENT	THEM
20	Shawsville	8
44	Grayson	63
27	Fort Chiswell	84
46	Narrows	64
32	Shawsville	83
39	Galax	63
39	Chilhowie	56
28	Pocohontas	52
29	Rocky Gap	59
29	Giles	61
33	Grayson	60
33	Fort Chiswell	78
41	Narrows	68
45	Galax	93
52	Pocohontas	63
29	Rocky Gap	55
31	Galax	75

Let The Games Begin.

The first game for the 1996 varsity Rockettes began with a tournament against Carroll County on August the twenty-eighth. Their first regular season game was against Chilhowie on September the fifth. This group of juniors and seniors worked very hard for their school as well as their community. There were eighteen games in the season and none turned out for the best but that didn't stop the mighty Rockettes. The lady Rockettes consisted of only two seniors and eight

juniors. These girls worked very hard to have the best season ever. Some of them had part-time jobs and still managed to make it to each and every practice. Not only did each young lady work hard, but so did the parents, getting home from work and making it to each game. Three other people need to be recognized for their dedication and support, Miss LaMoore Muncy, assistant coach Kevin Johnson, and Jeff Fanning. The players, coaches, parents, and fans are to be commended for a terrific season as well as a job well done.



VARSITY GIRLS' BASKETBALL TEAM - Front row: Jennifer Winters, Amy Hanshew. Back row: Mandy Blankenship, Brooke Kitts, Kelli King, Ashley Havens, Leslie Carroll, Stephanie Kelley, Kelly Dunn, Whitney Gamble.

BELOW: Amy Hanshew shoots for two.
CENTER: The Bland Rockettes and Miss LaMoore Muncy begin each game with a chant of team spirit.



Looks like the people on the floor aren't the only ones doing all of the hard work. They have the help of a few team members.



Pocahontas players attempt a block over Leslie Carroll's toss-up.

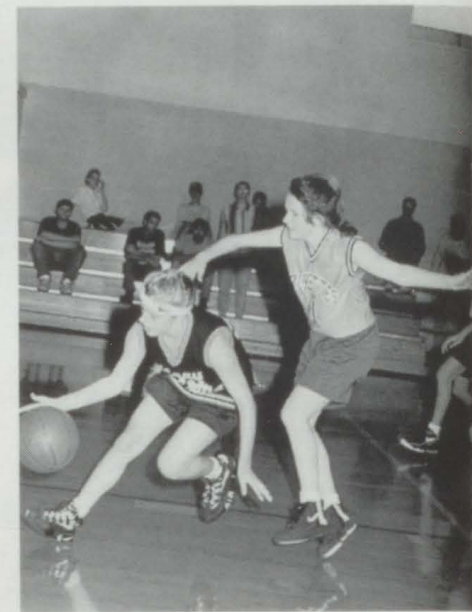
Rockettes = sportsmanship

Bland JV Rockettes put their best feet forward as the team strived to excel in sportsmanship, teamwork, and determination. With three Sophomores, six Freshman, and four 8th graders, the JV team worked hard through an extraordinary season. With 18 games, the Rockettes played their hearts out in hopes that they could win a few games. Winning only one game, the Bland Rockettes never put their heads down. They just put forth a little more effort each time. With only one game left in

the season and all spirits high, the final game started off very well against the Rocky Gap Eagles. However it ended rather sadly with a one point victory for the Eagles.

The JV team worked very hard this season with the help of coach Kevin Johnson. This team is to be commended for a season of good sportsmanship and effort. Our girl's were never without the cheers of support from their parents and community for a job well done.

BELOW: Monica Reed goes for a goal in spite of Rocky Gap's tough defense.



CENTER LEFT: Coach Kevin Johnson offers support and effort for the team. **CENTER RIGHT:** Kristen Altizer reaches for the ball in defense. **BOTTOM LEFT:** The three sophomores Casie Pruitt, Jessica Crawford and Allison Sheets. **ABOVE:** Crystal Hancock stands firm in the midst of opposition with additional support from Sarah Prueett.

TOP LEFT: JV girls watch and wait patiently from the bench as the game progresses. Each girl rotated in and out of the game giving them an opportunity to perfect their skills.
CENTER: Susan Stanley and Jessica Crawford wait for rebound.



JV GIRLS' SCOREBOARD		
US	OPPONENT	THEM
10	Giles	24
11	Shawsville	34
12	Grayson	33
9	Ft. Chiswell	51
4	Narrows	27
6	Shawsville	38
13	Galax	46
14	Chilhowie	36
12	Pocahontas	35
22	Rocky Gap	20
2	Giles	23
10	Grayson	25
6	Ft. Chiswell	46
10	Narrows	27
9	Galax	43
10	Pocahontas	36
14	Rocky Gap	15



JV GIRLS' BASKETBALL TEAM - FRONT ROW: Casie Pruitt, Allison Sheets, Jessica Crawford.
BACK ROW: Kristen Altizer, Laura Bridges, Jessica Kidd, Susan Stanley, Crystal Stiltner, Monica Reed, Ashley Strock, Sarah Pruett, Crystal Hancock. *Not pictured Kelli Hall.*

Jessica Crawford puts a tough block on the opposing team with great confidence as the Pocahontas player makes a dive for the ball..

In the Heart of the Arena.

The 1997 Varsity Volleyball Team had a very exciting season. Coach Teena Morefield had to get eleven Juniors, who had

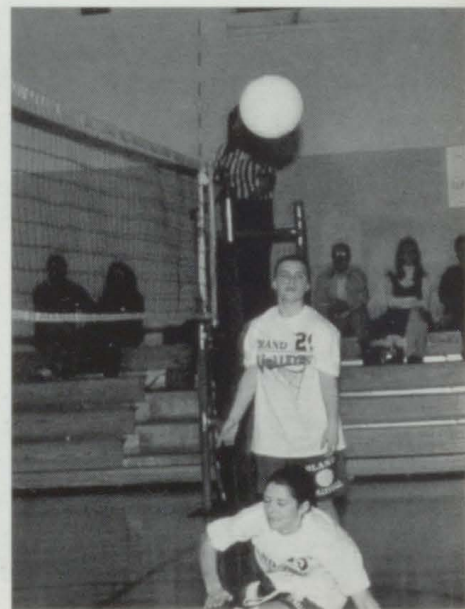
never played on the varsity team, ready for a challenging season. With a 13 and 0 season these girls, coaches, and parents should be commended. Everyone involved contributed a lot of

hard work. Volleyball required plenty of determination, skill, stamina and a strong desire to win. These girls proved they had all of the above along with other good qualities off the court.

Front Row: Whitney Gamble, Kim Pohlman, Faye Wolfe, Rae Romano, Jamie McMillon, Sara King, Erin Thompson.
Back Row: Tanya Sarver, Sarah Gray Smith, Debbie Munsey, Ashley Havens Mandy Blankenship, Sondra Wolfe, Lorie Tabor.



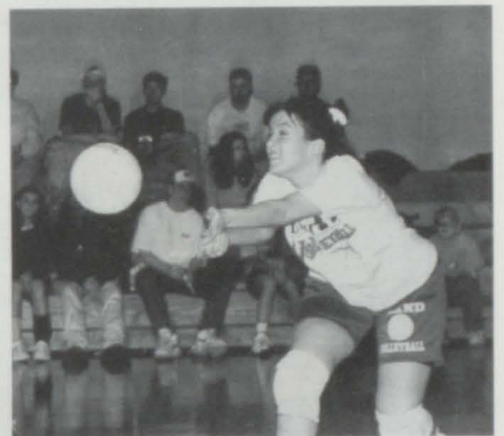
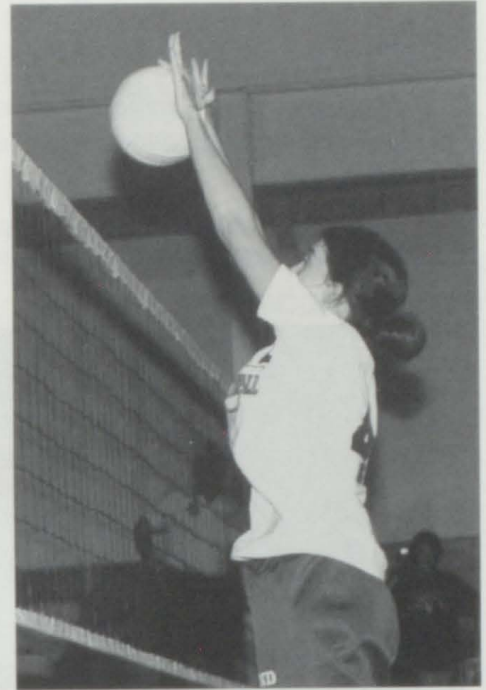
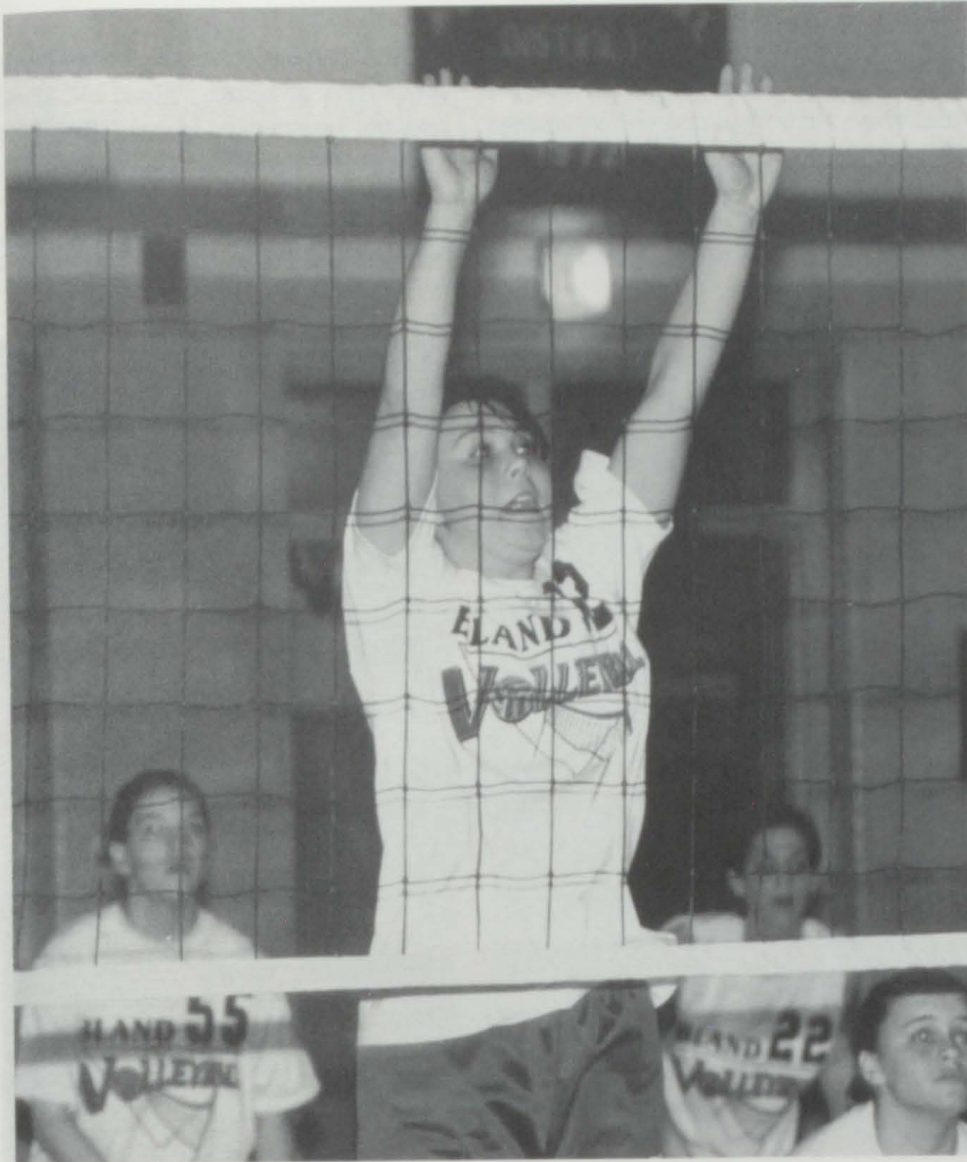
Rae Romano goes up for a kill, but dinks the ball to keep from being blocked by the opponent.



Erin Thompson hustles to save the ball.

Bellow: Ashley Havens blocks the opposing team.
Center Right: Debbie Munsey struggles for the ball.

Tanya Sarver proves that not only do you Bump, Set, and Kill but block the opposing team as well.



Coach Teena Morefield keeps her team on the go with her great teaching techniques.

VARSITY GIRLS' VOLLEYBALL SCOREBOARD

US		THEM
2	Pocahontas	0
2	Grayson	0
0	Galax	2
2	Pocahontas	0
2	Rocky Gap	0
0	Grayson	2
1	Ft. Chiswell	2
0	Narrows	2
2	Ft. Chiswell	0
2	Rocky Gap	1
0	Galax	2
1	Narrows	2
2	Ft. Chiswell	1
1	Narrows	2
4th in District		

What Goes Up.. Must Come Down

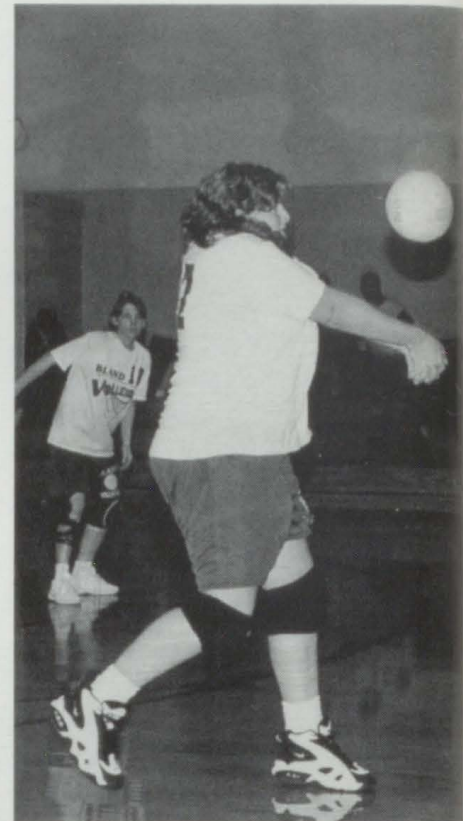
The Bland J.V. Volleyball team started off the season with a

victory over Pocahontas. The team consisted of 6 sophomores and 11 freshman. These young ladies worked hard and developed their skills in order

to be competitive on the Varsity level. Seventeen students, fifteen of whom had no experience, learned the game and will be ready for next year.

Monica Reed goes for a Bump-Set-Kill while Ashley Tate prepares for the set. The J.V. team played an extraordinary game against the Maroon Tide, with all the skills they possessed, but victory eluded them.

Crystal Stiltner bumps for a set to Heather Morehead and Monica Reed with Kelli Hall in readiness to assist.



J.V. GIRLS' VOLLEYBALL SCOREBOARD

US		THEM
2	Pocahontas	0
0	Grayson	2
1	Galax	2
2	Pocahontas	1
0	Rocky Gap	2
2	Grayson	0
0	Ft. Chiswell	2
0	Narrows	2
0	Ft. Chiswell	2
1	Rocky Gap	2
2	Galax	1
0	Narrows	2

5th in District



Front Row: Casie Pruitt, April Blankenship, Ashleigh Sarver, Allison Sheets, Reneé Gross, Jessica Crawford.

Back Row: April Umbarger, Heather Morehead, Amy Viar, Kelli Hall, Monica Reed, Crystal Stiltner, Susan Stanley, Kelly Sluss, Jessica Kidd, Lian Cole, Ashley Tate.

New Team Organized at the Castle

The resuscitation of boys' tennis in the castle revived memories of former teams from the 70's and 80's. Whether it was lack of inter-

est or unavailable coaching, it died a quick death in 1980. With quickened interest, these young men assembled, practiced, and met the challenges with dignity and expertise.

Having Patrick Smith at the helm the

team placed second in the district. MED singles champions were Lee and Joe Meadows who advanced to regionals only to be overcome by tough competitors.

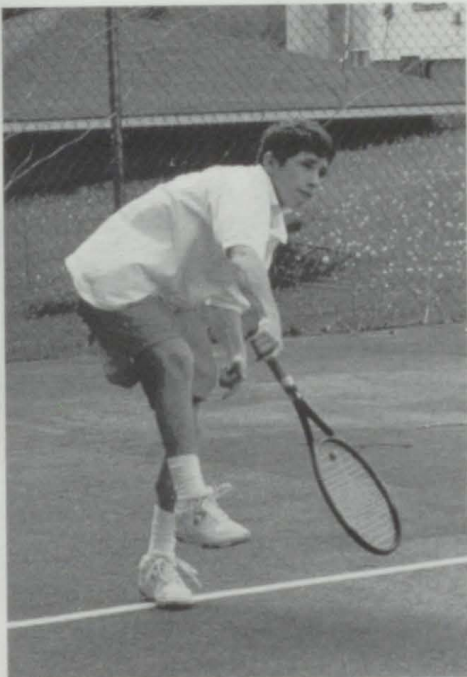
BELOW - BOYS' TENNIS TEAM - Front row: Joe Meadows, Nathan Winters, Chad Perkey, Jesse Goss. **Back row:** Lee Meadows, Andy Selfe, Coach Patrick Smith, Heath Puckett, Brent Tate.



BOYS' TENNIS SCOREBOARD

US		THEM
4	Narrows	5
6	Grayson	3
3	Galax	6
5	Narrows	4
6	Grayson	3
4	Galax	5

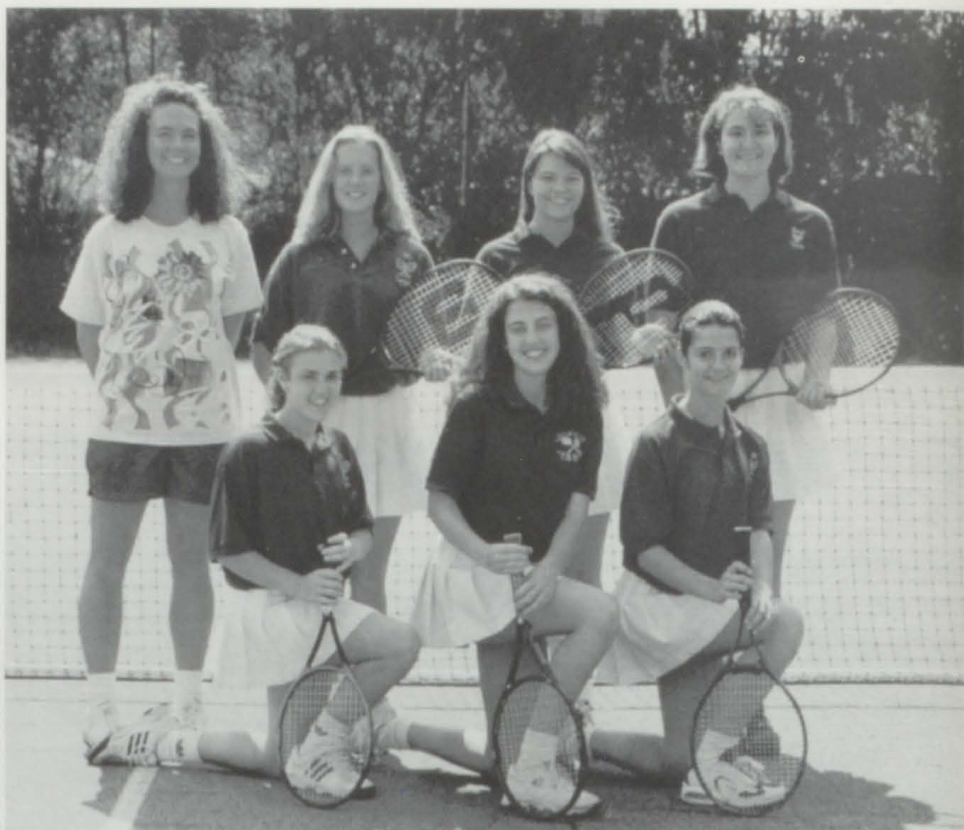
WON - 3 LOST - 3



BOTTOM LEFT: Joe Meadows thoroughly executes the return to his opponent.

BOTTOM RIGHT: Lee Meadows scrambles to connect and lob to a Giles player.

RIGHT - GIRLS' TENNIS TEAM - Front Row: Ashleigh Sarver, Ashley Havens, Erin Thompson
Back Row: Coach-Mrs. Patty Hankins, Kelly Dunn, Leisa Hagy, Kari Harner.



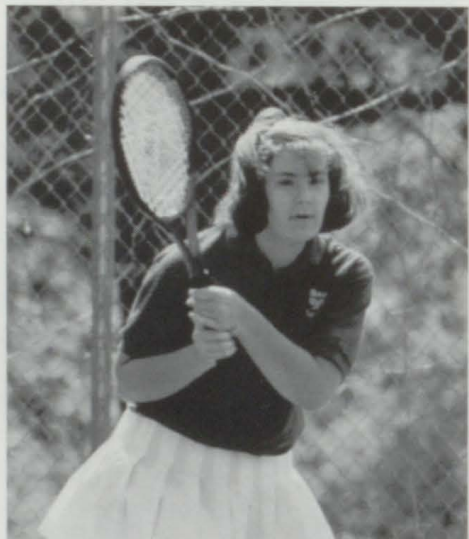
SCOREBOARD		
US	OPPONENT	THEM
8	Narrows	1
2	Grayson	7
2	Galax	7
6	Fort Chiswell	3
2	Grayson	7
4	Shawsville	5
7	Narrows	1
2	Galax	7
7	Fort Chiswell	2
Overall - 4-5		
District - 4-4		
Third in District		

A Dream of Wimbledon

Swing, score, love! With a successful year behind them the Bland Tennis Team dreamed of a future at Wimbledon. Backhands and forehands improved greatly with determination and muscle as Coach Patty Hankins trained the young athletes, all first timers except for veteran Ashley Havens. The team combined to master

their fullest potential whether playing singles or doubles. Each girl contributed to the success of this team and they were very proud of their achievements at the end of the season. Every backhand, every lunge, every sunburned shoulder made the year a dream to remember. Ashleigh Sarver remained

undefeated through District, Regionals, and easily captured the State championship title. Ashleigh Sarver and Ashley Havens were undefeated in Doubles through District and Regionals. They were beaten in State semifinals and finished 3rd in State.



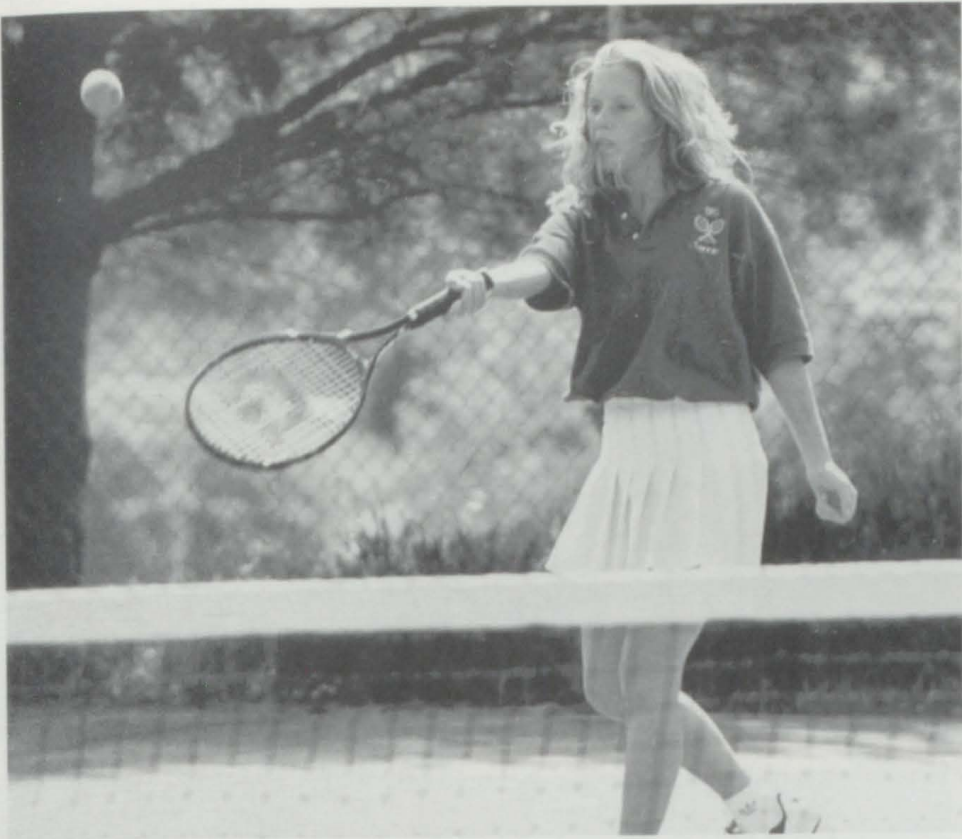
BOTTOM LEFT: Kari Harner focuses on her upcoming forehand.



BOTTOM CENTER: Reach for your goals Leisa Hagy!

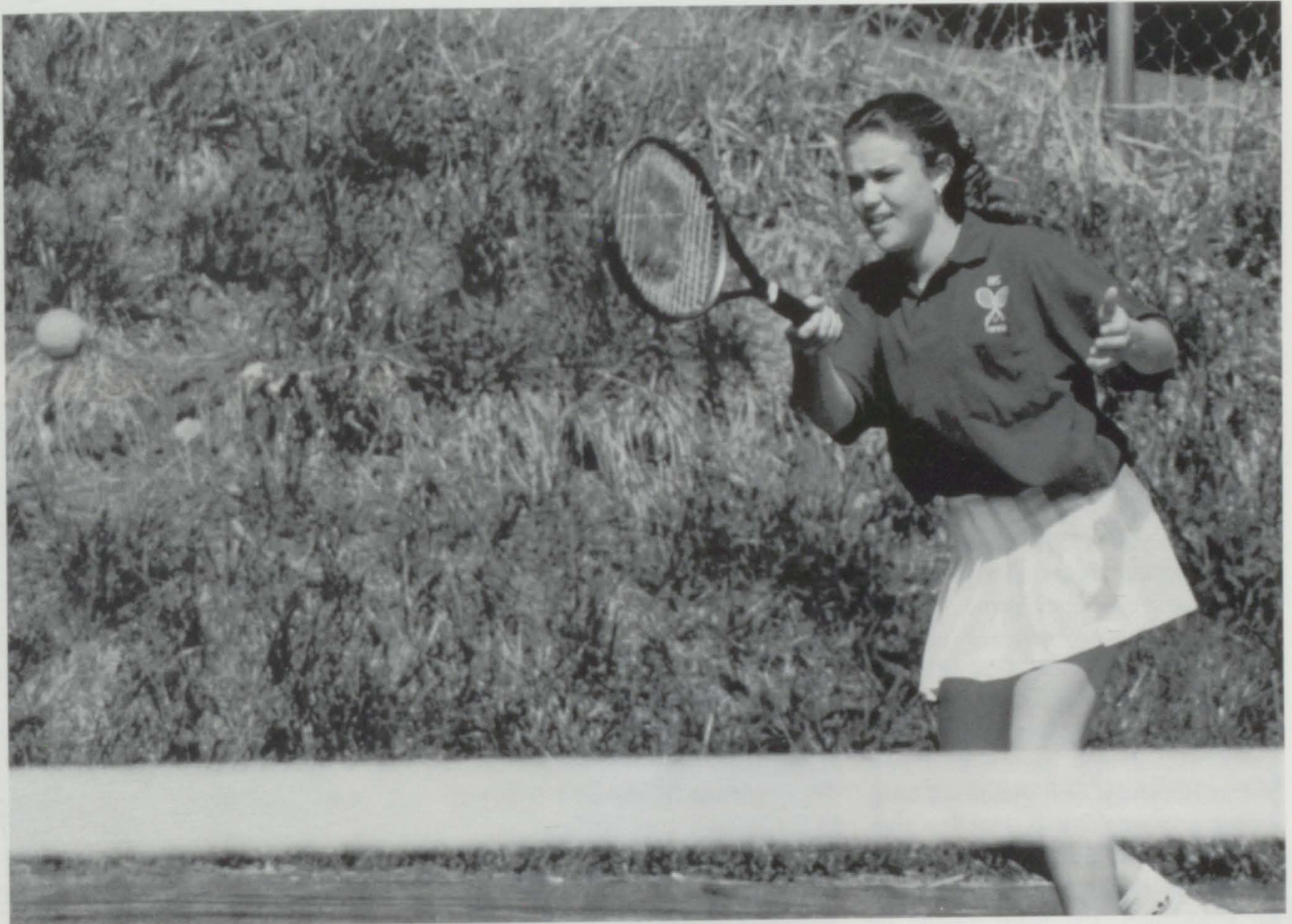


BOTTOM RIGHT: Erin Thompson puts all she has into the game.



TOP LEFT: Kelly Dunn returns with a graceful easy swing.

TOP RIGHT: Ashley Havens swoops down for a successful upside-down backhand.



Ashleigh Sarver proves her rights to the State championship title with an intensely executed forehand.

SCOREBOARD

US	Opponent	THEM
6	Shawsville	16
8	Galax	15
10	Narrows	11
0	Shawsville	10
3	Fort	13
	Chiswell	
7	Auburn	8
11	Rocky Gap	0
0	Grayson	16
2	Grayson	3
13	Rocky Gap	2
0	Fort	6
	Chiswell	
0	Narrows	9
5	Galax	7
5	Galax	6
7	Narrows	3

WON - 3 LOST - 12

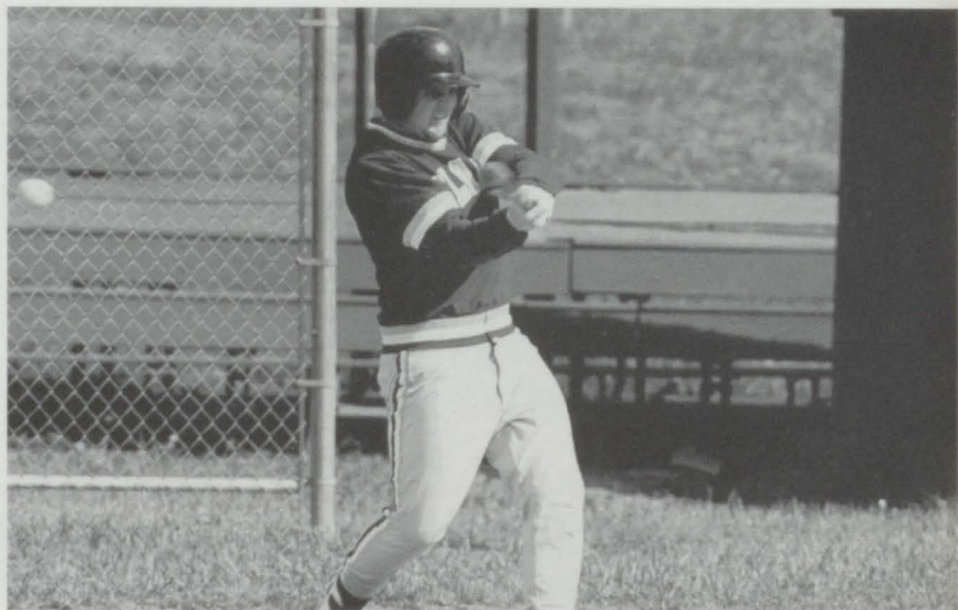
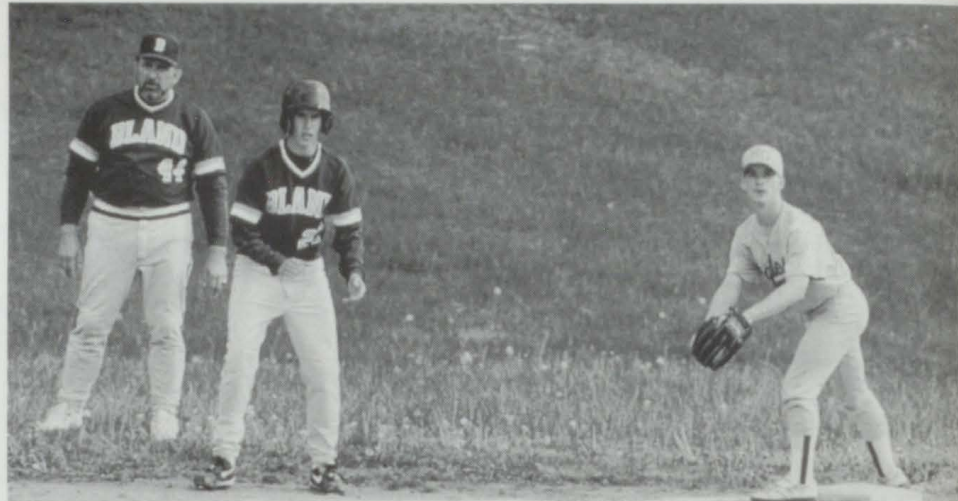
BELOW - Front: Jamie Dunn, Ryan Newberry, Jody Lambert, Derrick DeHart, Adam Carroll. **2d:** Adam Faulkner, Jeremy Dillow, John Curtis Thompson, Ben Chewning, Jason Hancock, Josh Breedlove. **Back row:** Jon Michael Newberry, Roger Thompson, coach, Lester Hancock, Shane Hall, assistant coaches.



RIGHT: Jamie Dunn hopes to steal home while watching the pitcher, but the third base man has his eye on the pitcher as well.

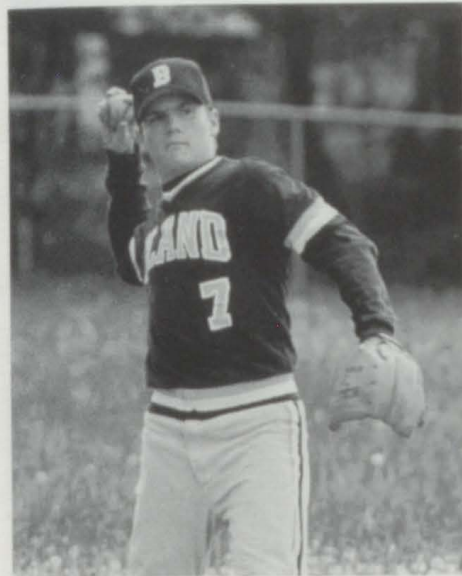
Strike and You're Out!

The Bland Rockets baseball teams had a slow season. The varsity only won three games and the junior varsity one, but their spirit was always high. They tried their best and that's all they could ask for. Even though the year wasn't very successful, all that mattered was that they had fun and enjoyed playing the game. Winning wasn't everything, and the baseball team proved that with their attitudes. They played hard and tried their best. A rainy spring cancelled many of their practices but they gave it their best swing. Hopefully, next season will bring home a championship. Practice does make perfect, and attitude means everything. Having lost only one player to graduation, the team should be strong and powerful.



ABOVE: Ben Chewning swings with all his might but it's a foul ball.

TOP LEFT: Adam Faulkner catches the pop up ball and returns it to the pitching mound.
BELOW: Adam Carroll makes the catch.



BELOW: John Curtis Thompson pitches the ball with a power arm.



ABOVE: Front Row: Rob Kegley, Brian Faulkner, Aaron Pauley, T.J. Thompson. **2d:** Josh Breedlove, Brandon Faulkner, Ryan Newberry, Clint Hagy. **3d:** Isaac Tyeryar, Titus Ramsey, David Neel, Stuart Morehead. **Back Row:** Kevin Pauley, mgr.; Shane Hall, asst. coach; Skip Dillow, asst. coach; Roger Thompson, coach; Lester Hancock, asst. coach.

SCOREBOARD		
US	Opponent	THEM
13	Narrows	3
0	Carroll Co.	11
5	Fort Chiswell	13
0	Carroll Co.	13
WON - 1 LOST - 3		

Bland County Bears are Chosen...

Having lost nine key players to graduation, the Bear's prospects looked slim for a winning season;

Bland County's Jon Michael Newberry helps the Bears through a tough game against the Rural Retreat Indians. Our school is extremely proud of these young men who were not only outstanding athletes, but were excellent role models.

however, the Bears managed to make it all the way to regional playoffs at Rural Retreat, Virginia.

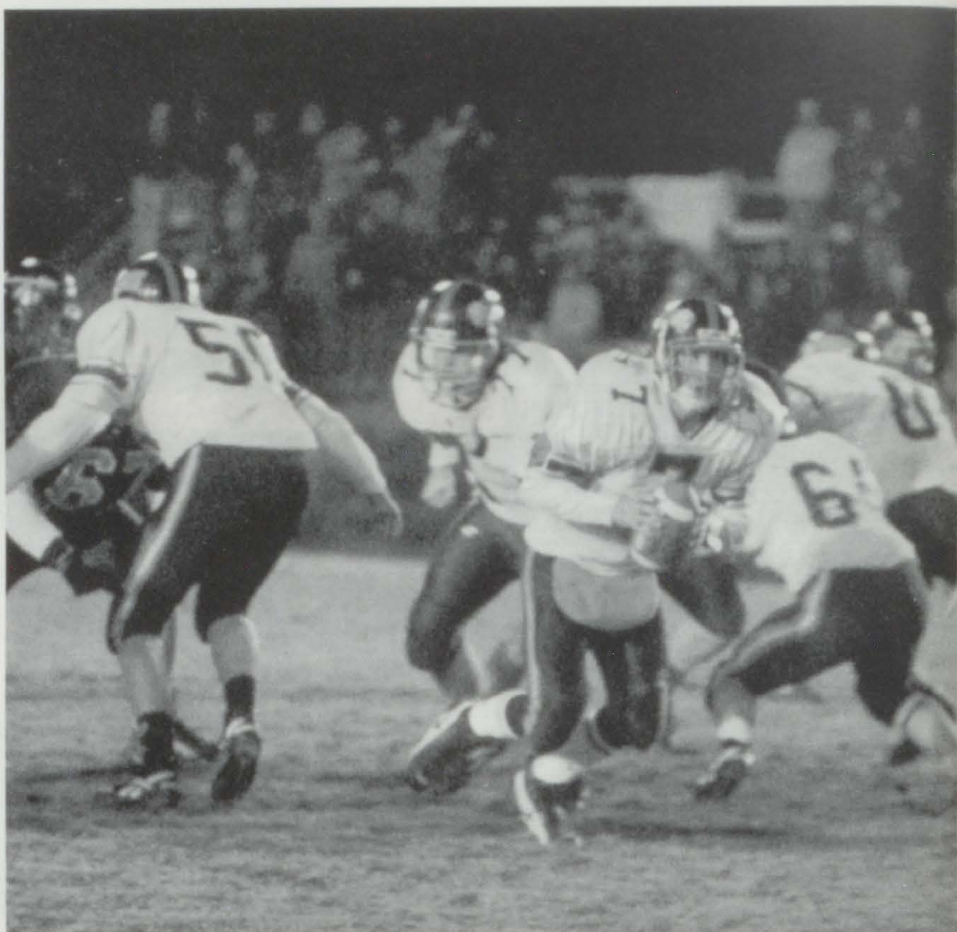
Their eight and four season stands as

proof of their hard team work, dedication, and desire to win. Their community following was apparent when "Bear Lovers" filled the stands.

VARSITY FOOTBALL SCOREBOARD

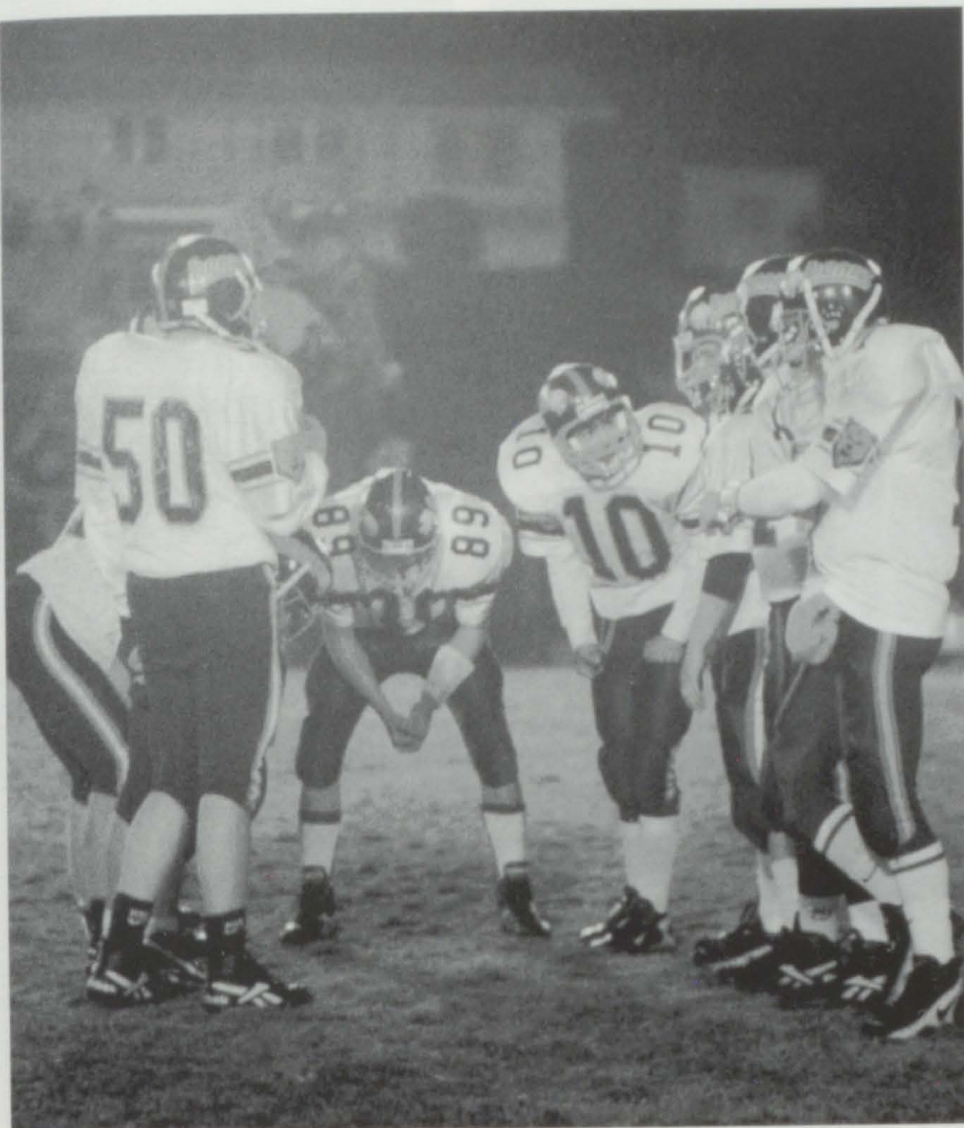
US	OPPONENT	THEM
27	Galax	8
6	Grayson	27
0	Pocahontas	20
41	Shawsville	20
50	Craig	16
12	George Wythe	8
39	Narrows	12
22	Giles	50
36	Auburn	8
34	Ft. Chiswell	22
Tournament		
14	Parry McCluer	7
0	Rural Retreat	22

WON - 8 LOST - 4



VARSITY FOOTBALL TEAM - FRONT ROW - Managers: Brandon Kelley, Jackie Lester, Kevin Pauley, Joshua Neff, Kara Perkins (Bear mascot). **2nd row:** Jeremy Neal, J. B. Lambert, Titus Ramsey, Mark McKee, Zane Perkins. **3rd row:** Jacob Scott, Nick Bruffy, Jerry Walker, Anthony Kidd, Philip Reed. **4th row:** Bradley Dillow, Jason Hancock, Derrick DeHart, Keith Bourne, JonMichael Newberry, Michael Nelson. **5th row:** Jesse Goss, Lee Hankins, Zachary Perkins, Ben Chewing, Gary Cole. **Coaching staff - 6th row:** Stephen Kelley, Ed Selfe, Dave Lambert, Bob Beaman. **Back row:** John Goins, Lester Hancock, Terry Akers, Tim Richardson, Maggie Harless.

To Champion For the County.



LEFT: Strategy and teamwork are discussed during timeout.

BELOW: Derrick DeHart is in position at the kickoff.



ABOVE: During final tournament game with the Rural Retreat Indians J. B. Lambert (32) eludes a Rural Retreat player with Keith Bourne (42) providing backup.



RIGHT: Derrick DeHart (89) and Ben Chewning (77) bring down a running Rural Retreat Indian.

TOP LEFT: Bland County J.V. football team, while rushing out onto the field, is cheered on by fans and cheerleaders .

RIGHT: Zane Perkins, J.V. captian, is trying for a victory.



Ben Leighton (60) attempts to thwart George Wythe's pass.



Coach Bob Beaman gives his team a little pep talk during a time out, as they make their final plans.

"The Call of the Wild"

The Bland County Junior Varsity football team had an interesting year. With an 8-3 season, the Bears

managed to pull through and keep their heads up. These guys tried their best and gave it all they had. Even though they didn't make it all the way to the top, they were still victorious. Our

school and community remain proud of our Bland County Bears. Parents and students could be seen wearing everything from blue and orange hats to pendants or sweatshirts.



CENTER: Bland County Bears group on the field during the game as one player passes the ball to facing teammate.

BELOW: The Bears are playing strong offense against their opponents.



Bears block and outmanouver George Wythe for a successful run.

They Huffed, and They Puffed, and They Didn't Fall

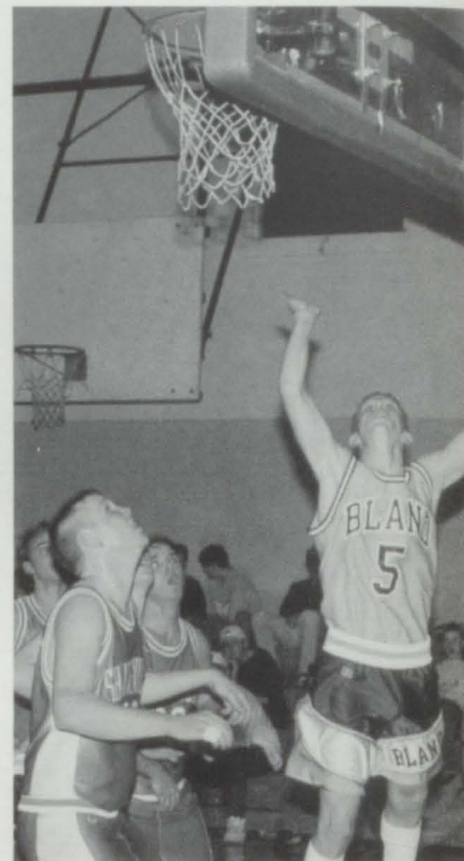
John C. Thompson puts force on the ball to make a layup while Jamie Dunn prepares for the rebound. John received All-District Honorable Mention.



This 96-97 year for the varsity boy's basketball team was very challenging and rewarding. Even though the long hours and tiring practices were rough, they were worth every ounce of effort. The team stayed in the top ten during most of the sea-

(continued on next page)

Lee Meadows goes up for a defensive rebound. Lee was selected for the All-District 1st team.



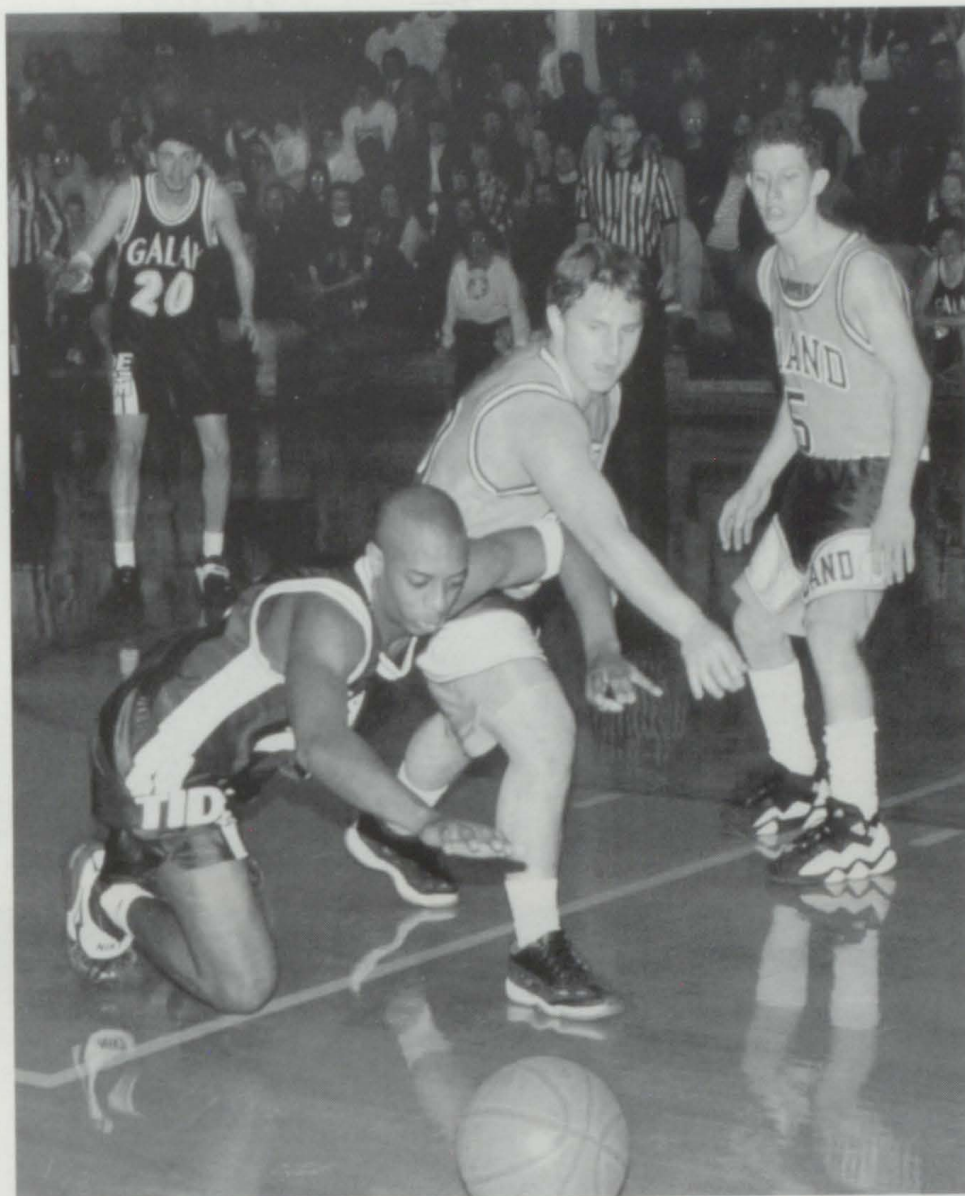
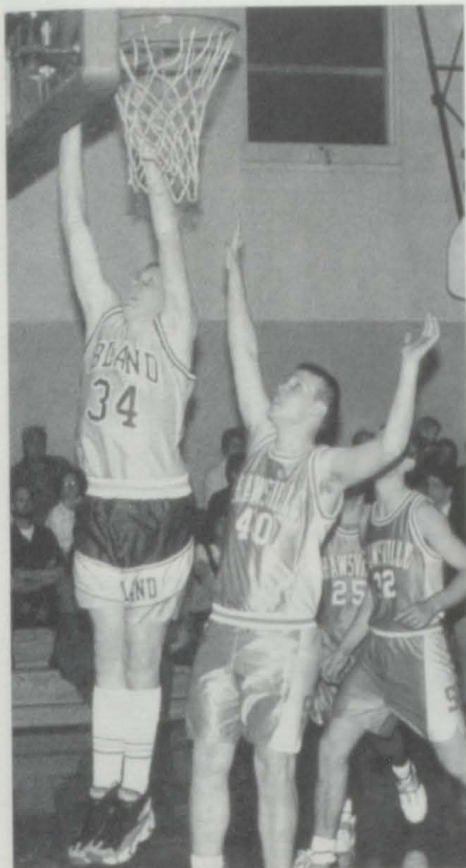
Bland Countians were very proud of the 1996-1997 Boy's Basketball Season. Support was strong and the roar of the crowd could be heard upon entering the BHS gym. Coach Rich Hankins, assisted by Coach William Ray Puckett spent many long hours pouring over drills, practicing, and enduring long bus trips. Their hard work and dedication combined with the skills and abilities of our Rockets proved more than effective. BHS experienced their first victorious season since 1991 when the Rockets were in the state championship games. Community assistance through concession, presence, or just encouragement was welcomed by the entire staff and faculty at our school. Our Rockets, through sheer dedication and teamwork proved themselves worthy of wearing the maroon and gold colors that symbolize our pride in basketball.

VARSITY BOYS' BASKETBALL - Front Row: Jamie Dunn, Chad Perky, Lee Meadows, Joe Meadows, Adam Faulkner, Isaac Tyeryar, J. B. Lambert. **Back Row:** Paul Lindamood, John C. Thompson, Jeremiah Tate, Jason Groseclose, Heath Puckett, Jason Hancock, Brent Tate, JonMichael Newberry.



son. Their first defeat was Galax on home court, but the varsity boys came back to continue with their winning streak. With this winning team, Coach Rich Hankins had an abundance of support. His diligent work and commitment to his sport's philosophy made this one of BHS's best seasons placing first in tournament playoffs against Galax and Fort Chiswell. Coach Hankins received the Coach of the Year award. Sophomore Heath Puckett makes it to the goal. Heath received an All-District Honorable Mention.

Taking an elbow jab J.B. Lambert plays hard defense on a Galax opponent, while Lee Meadows watches the action.



The varsity team seems to be enthused with winning the game while Coach Hankins explains strategy, and the importance of attitude in team sports. It appears that the team is giving their undivided attention.

VARSITY BOYS' BASKETBALL SCOREBOARD

US	OPPONENT	THEM
68	Giles	74
66	Auburn	58
57	Rocky Gap	37
61	Chilhowie	70
48	Giles	47
67	Shawsville	62
69	Chilhowie	57
57	Shawsville	44
64	Narrows	57
67	Pocahontas	42
74	Ft. Chiswell	52
57	Galax	62
53	Rocky Gap	48
78	Auburn	55
74	Narrows	62
43	Galax	41
53	Grayson	55
76	Pocahontas	62
67	Grayson	56
70	Ft. Chiswell	72

The Rocket Ladder

The Bland JV Boys' Basketball team had a successful season as they struggled with aggressive competition. As these young men looked forward to becoming better athletes and learning out-

standing sportsmanship, they climbed the Rocket ladder of basketball. This JV team consisted of 15 players: nine Sophomores, and six Freshmen. Behind the leadership of Coach Kevin

Johnson gives instructions from the bench with the help of other team players.



Johnson and the team captains, Titus Ramsey, Josh Breedlove and Nathan Winters, this seemed to be the start of a good season. Parents, students and fans supported these guys through wins and losses. They are to be commended for a well played season enjoyed by the many who followed them.

JV BOYS' BASKETBALL SCORE BOARD

US	OPPONENT	THEM
33	Giles	37
18	Auburn	62
25	Rocky Gap	54
11	Chilhowie	60
25	Giles	51
30	Shawsville	36
39	Chilhowie	50
48	Shawsville	42
37	Narrows	52
56	Pocahontas	46
44	Ft. Chiswell	49
35	Galax	46
48	Rocky Gap	50
38	Auburn	61
30	Narrows	41
20	Galax	61
25	Grayson	55
24	Pocahontas	50
32	Grayson	53
31	Ft. Chiswell	60

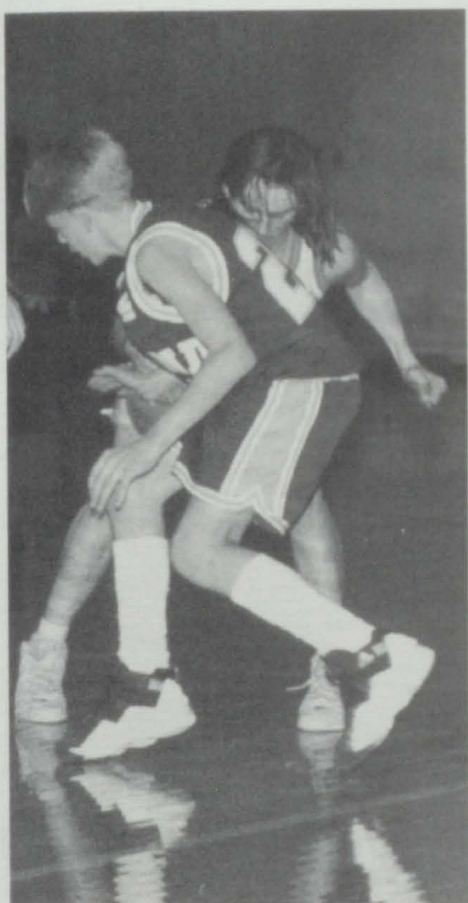


JV Boy's Basketball team - Front row: Rob Kegley, Titus Ramsey, Brian Faulkner, Jeb Hodges, Brandon Faulkner, Aaron Pauley. **Back row:** Chad Brewer, Josh Breedlove, Nathan Winters, Robert Newberry, Stuart Morehead, Jesse Goss, Michael Lambert.

Nathan Winters holds the opponent with a strong defensive stance that seems to work.



Titus Ramsey shoots high for two.



Jeb Hodges shuffles for the ball to gain control.



Titus Ramsey and Joe Meadows keep the ball in bounds as Shawsville player loses ground.

Coach Shane Hall gathers his team for a time of instruction and guidance.

A Challenging Young Team

The eighth grade boy's basketball team consisted of five eighth graders and seven seventh graders. This young group of boys set out to challenge the skills and talents of all opposition. With Shane Hall as their mentor they practiced diligently after school, learning the plays and working as a team. While the scoreboard reflects only four wins, the closeness of the scores reveals a different story. It tells of successful teamwork that didn't relinquish a hold to their foes.

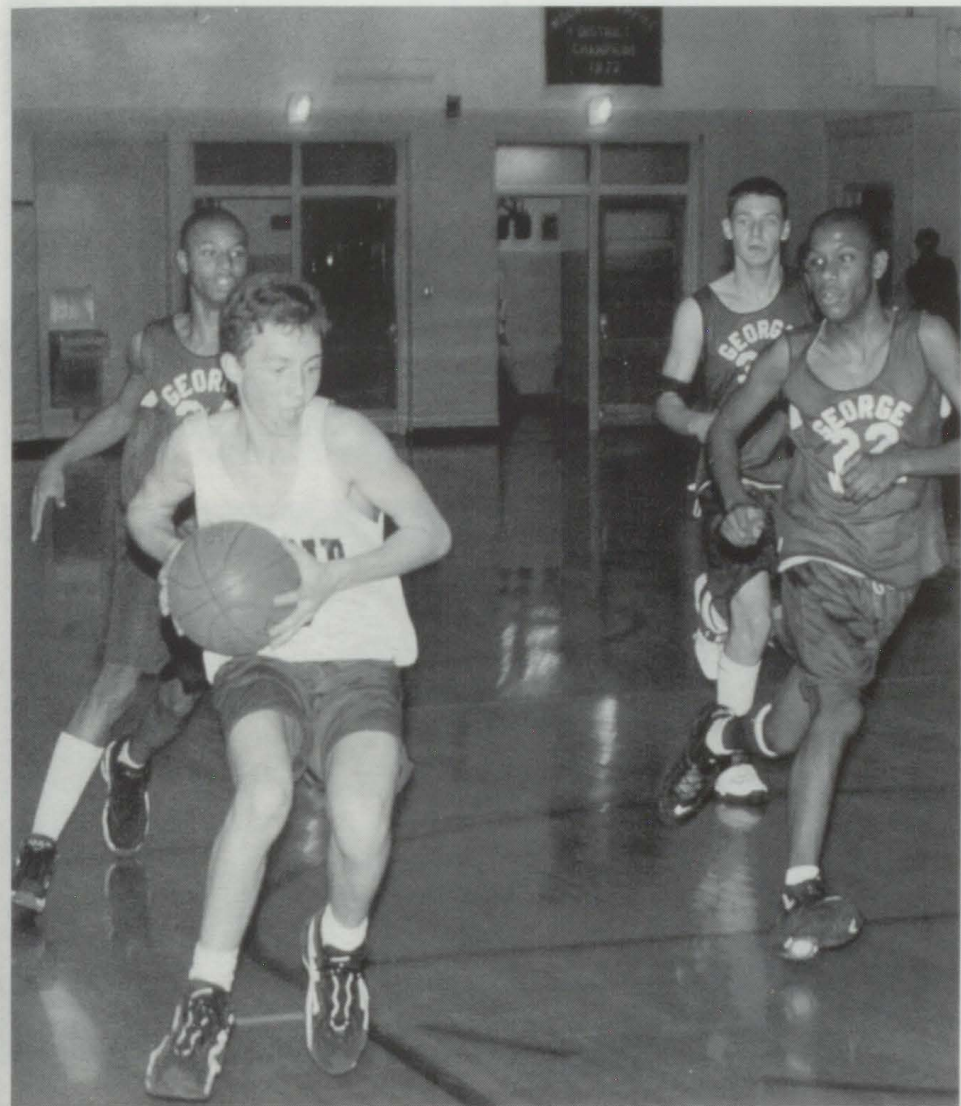


Hunter Stuart leads the way to the goal closely pursued by an aggressive George Wythe player.

TOP RIGHT: Ben May takes a giant two point leap.

CENTER RIGHT: Andy Sarver takes an "out of sight" shot against George Wythe.

8TH GRADE BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM - Front: Reggie Meadows, Anthony Newberry, David Wolcott, Brandon Anders, Hunter Stuart, Andy Sarver. Back: Ben May, Matthew Tickle, Seth Baker, Coach Shane Hall, Chris Reese, Shane Thompson, Curtis Brewer.



**8TH GRADE BASKETBALL
SCOREBOARD**

US	OPPONENT	THEM
41	Sugar Grove	26
37	Narrows	38
27	Pocahontas	36
20	Ft. Chiswell	38
34	Sugar Grove	37
29	Galax	25
32	Rocky Gap	25
35	Narrows	37
43	Galax	48
24	Grayson	38
42	Pocahontas	47
43	Grayson	36
22	Ft. Chiswell	46

Seth Baker, surrounded by the opposition, heads for the goal.

Brent Tate in a powerful swing.

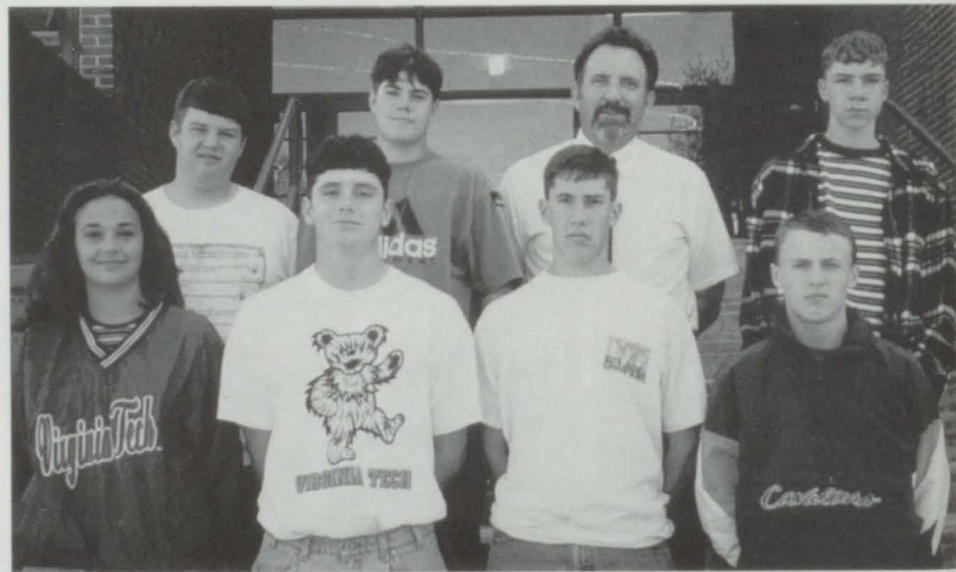


TOP: The only female team member, Renee Gross, puts emphasis on her drive.

BELOW: Team members get in a little putting practice prior to the match. Josh Breedlove, Renee Gross, Brent Tate, and assistant coach, Rich Hankins.



Adam Faulkner drives with easy effort.



GOLF TEAM-Front row: Renee Gross, John Curtis Thompson, Jamie Dunn, Adam Faulkner. **Back row:** Josh Breedlove, Jeremy Dillow, Coach Mr. Roger Thompson, Brent Tate.

Royal sports take royal honors

A small number of the student body spent a good part of their summer practicing driving and putting at the local golf course. This was time well spent as they lost only one game during the season and finished as Mountain Empire District Golf Champions.

Playing the regional tournaments at Roanoke in beautiful weather, they placed seventh. John Curtis Thompson was named Player of the Year, a prestigious honor for this small school.

This seven member team was coached by principal, Mr. Roger Thompson, and assisted by Mr. Rich Hankins. The loss of two key senior players prompts the remaining members to work diligently for another great season.

TOP LEFT: Golf Player of the Year, John Curtis Thompson, with good position, drives with perfection.

BOTTOM LEFT: Jamie Dunn sizes up the distance.

BOTTOM CENTER: Jeremy Dillow strikes out of the sand trap.

GOLF SCOREBOARD

US		THEM
2	Shawsville	0
2	Shawsville	0
2	Shawsville	0
1	Grayson	0
3	Ft. Chiswell	0
2	Rocky Gap, Tazewell	0
1	Grayson	0
2	George Wythe	0
1	George Wythe	0
2	Galax	0
0	Princeton	1
6	Med	0
Tournament		

WON - 24

LOST - 1

Kingdom playtime

BES students realized spring was in full force when May brought a "buzz" throughout the land. There

was a hum in the air of competition, excitement, and refreshments for all.

Students competed in elementary field day events as well as just plain 'ole play and fun. Parents and teachers ser-

ved as scorekeepers and judges of each event. No one had an idle moment. At any time one could find all BES busy at competing or serving cool drinks.

Upper Elementary 4 - 7

BELOW: Desiring to be first, girls compete in the 50-yard dash.



ABOVE-Standing Broadjump: Patrick Smith and Vickie Tate measure distances as Samantha Harner gives a great big leap.

RIGHT-Softball Throw: Kristen Altizer watches the ball up and into the distance while her classmates wait for a turn.



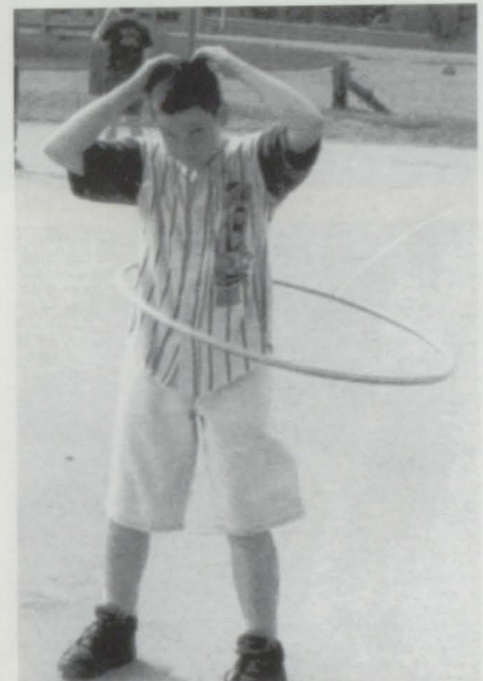


TOP LEFT: Jock Mutter hits the finish line just seconds before Shane Kincaid in the 50-yard dash.

TOP RIGHT: Katie Bailey barely inches ahead of Randa Collins in the girls' division of the 50-yard dash.



Primary K - 3



CENTER LEFT: Taking part in the sack race are Randa Collins and Katie Bailey.

CENTER: With his classmates behind him, B.J. Gibson prepares for the big jump.

CENTER RIGHT: Upper grade Tim McGlothin has everything in control as he swirls the hoop.

BOTTOM: These preschoolers enjoy the beautiful day while their parents help with field day - James Walker Stowers, Josh Mutter.

Music routines and daring formations dominate cheerleaders life

As our cheerleaders at Bland High School showed tremendous support to the teams, they also gave encouragement to each

of the players. With long practices these young ladies worked diligently to be the best at their cheerleading skills. They prepared music routines, exciting

and daring formations and involved the fans in the games. These squads were advised and coached by Mrs. Iris Strock.

VARSITY CHEERLEADERS-Front row: Michael Kay Mabe, Marie Dotson. **2d row:** Sarah Smith, Whitney Gamble. **Back row:** Brooke Kitts, Leslie Carroll, Ashley Havens, Debbie Munsey.

JV Football Cheerleader - Allesha Bourne.



ABOVE: Ashley Strock and Kari Hagy encourage team through a saluting cheer.

BOTTOM RIGHT - JV CHEERLEADERS - Front row: Laura Clifton, Katie Muncy. **2d row:** Renee Gross, Leslie Gordon. **Back row:** Heather Morehead, Susan Stanley, April Umbarger (Rocketman), Kelli Hall, Ashley Tate.



JV Football Cheerleaders Stephanie Kelley and Ashley Tate flank the Bland County Bear's mascot, the big brown bear (Kari Perkins).



8TH GRADE CHEERLEADERS - Front row: Samantha Bird, Eisle Havens, Laura Bridges. Back row: Kari Hagy, Ashley Strock.



JV Football Cheerleader, Laura Clifton carries the mark of the bear's paw on her cheek.

Diversity

Students at Bland High School stayed involved with many exciting activities and extra curricular events throughout the year. At the beginning of the year, students were excited to see what the year would bring. With football season, basketball, volleyball, and tennis, students, as well as teachers, had to prepare for concessions, pep rallies, and dances. Holidays were also well recognized with the giving of gifts and candy as well as dressing up in adorable Halloween costumes. Although the school year went by rather quickly, every student was content with what they had accomplished.

Kelly Sluss just asks for a few minutes of rest.



Below: Kelli King takes part in Halloween activities such as costume contests.

Center: Students get into the Bland County Bear spirit when football season arrives.

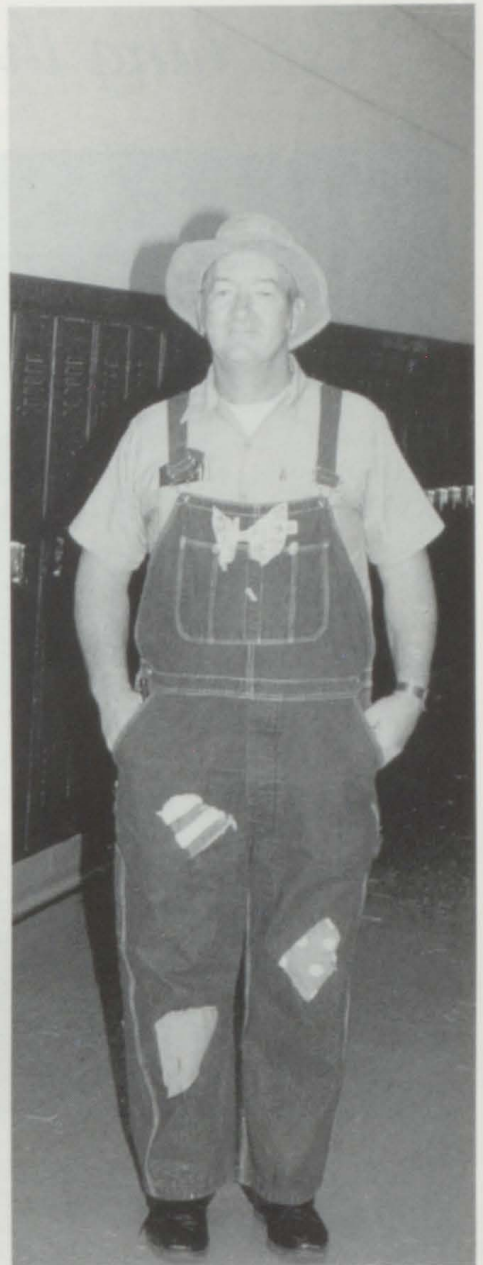


Rook has definitely become a popular leisure sport at Bland High School.

Is this surgery or murder? Cindy King dresses up as a bloody surgeon for Halloween.

BELOW: Leslie Gordon shows her stuff at the West Virginia State Fair. She was awarded Juvenile 3-Gated Grand Champion.

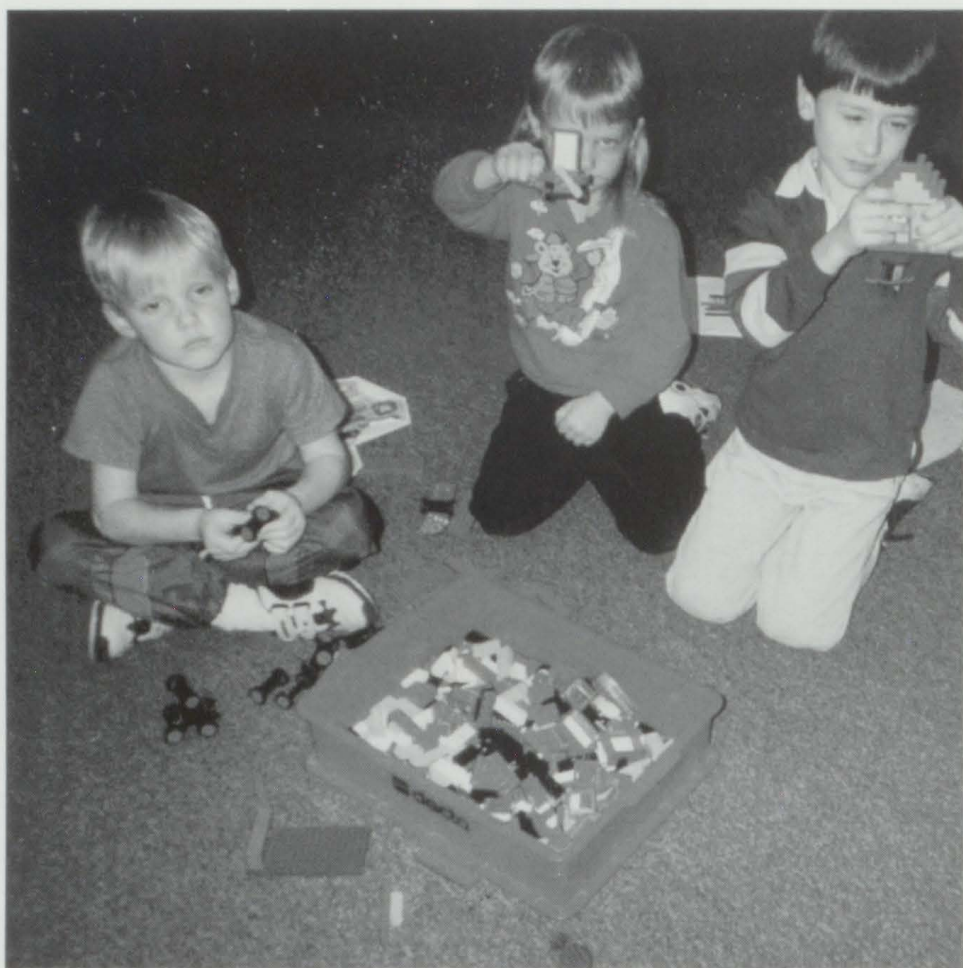
RIGHT: Mr. Dave Davidson participates in Halloween activities.



Mandy Blankenship and Stephanie Ferrarri work on their ceramics taught by Helen Howell.

Twin mummies, Sarah Grey Smith and Ashleigh Sarver, get high marks in the competition.

Catching the unsuspecting



TOP LEFT: Kindergarteners get out the building blocks for preschool play — Caleb Pauley, T. J. Justice, William Arney.

BOTTOM LEFT: A broken arm did not hamper Vanessa Conley's playtime.

BOTTOM RIGHT: Mrs. Iris Pruett as "The Cat in the Hat" leads Kirsten Miller back to the classroom.

Catching the unsuspecting action was what staffers enjoyed most. The hard part was getting those great shots to fit the required spot.

David Pike and Heather Wright captured the title of elementary Sweetheart King and Queen in 1996.





Steeped In Tradition

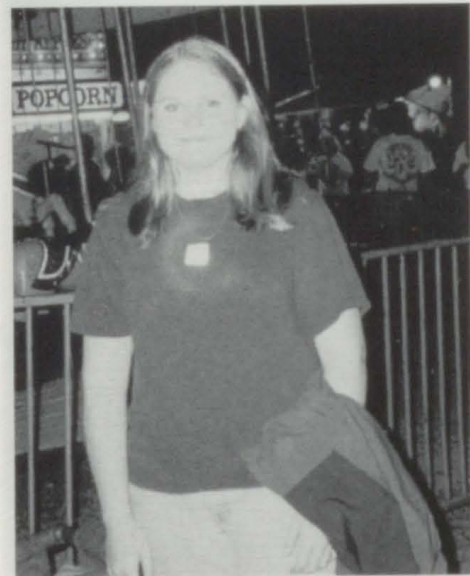
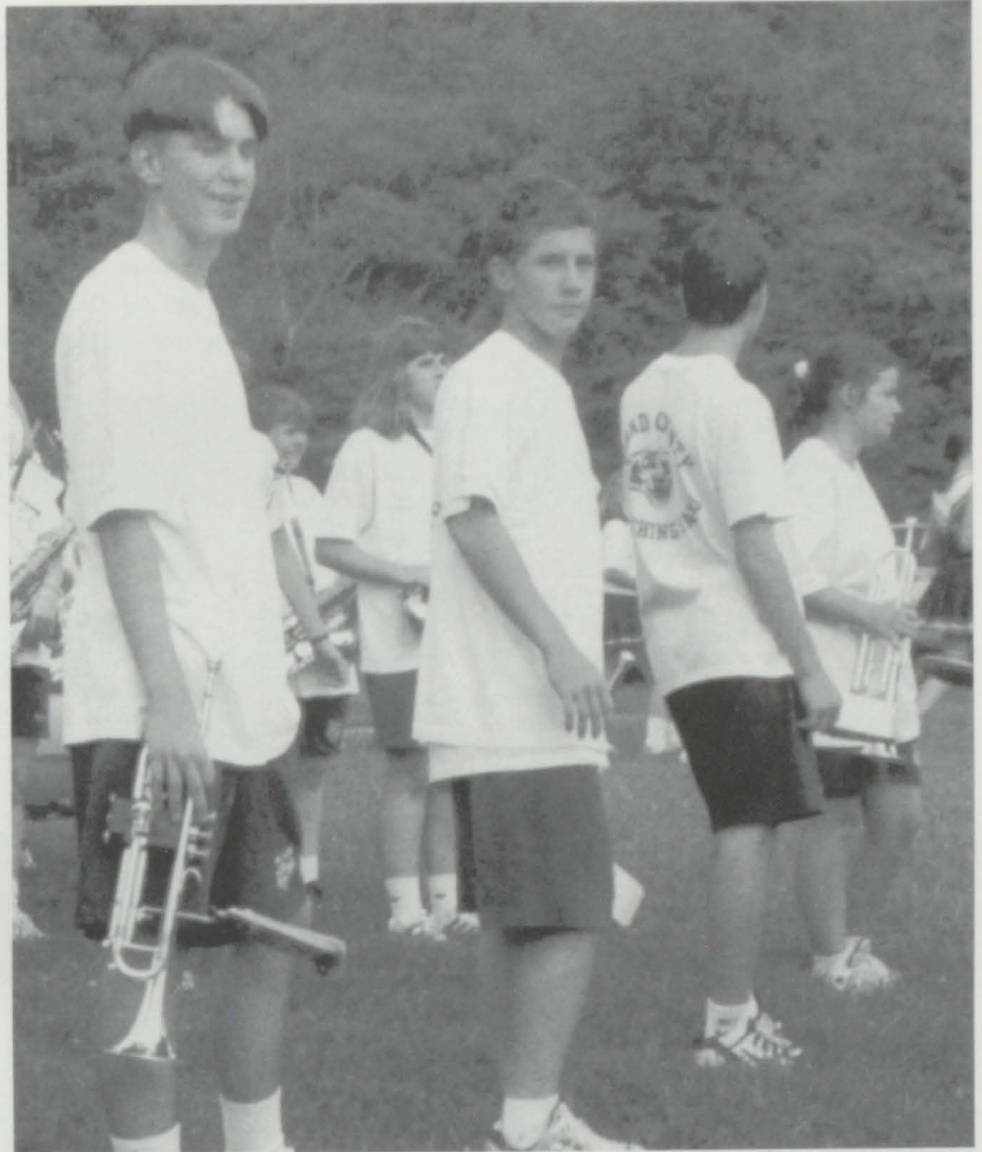
The Bland County Fair was held Labor Day Weekend on the fairgrounds as usual with the traditional community event being a full weekend of family fun and entertainment. Community members and the school population enjoyed a weekend of good weather, good friends, and good food. Home "folks" came from near and far to be entertained by the horses, dogs, exhibits, and music provided during this event.

BELOW: Bryan Simms, Larry Henderson, and Adam Harman may be thinking about mischief at the fair.



Left: Cicely Havens proudly drives her horse to accept her second place ribbon. **Above:** Elizabeth Tickle finds enjoyment at the Bland County Fair while watching the parade and enjoying the music of the Bland Band.

LEFT: Kent McPeak finds time to strike a pose for the camera. **BELOW:** Joe Meadows and Nathan Winters standing at ease while waiting for instructions from Mr. Correll.



ABOVE: Christa Winesett enjoys the fair while smiling for the camera. **RIGHT:** Angie Don and Adrienne Green babysit their goldfish.

Events added to annual Festival of leaves.

As the seasons changed and with the coming of fall came a display of many beautiful and enchanting colors in the small village of Bland. When the villagers began to take notice of this colorful change in the landscape, they hurried about the tasks of pre-

paring for the third annual Fall Festival of Leaves. Many were involved in food sales, crafts, games, and music. Others were actively involved in decorating, setting up the tents and chairs, or just cleaning up. Whatever the task, the festival workers didn't allow the first rainy day to destroy their efforts.

Sunday brought better weather and

spirits for the festival. Festival goers found several new events added to this year's festivities. The duck race got underway and was quite successful. Also added this year were the giant colorful balloons which lifted off from the fairgrounds. Square dancing and gospel singing added spice to an already rich weekend of fun and fantasy.

For the fashion show Erin Thompson models an ivory brocade wedding dress worn by Mary Ward Dunn.



ABOVE:Ashley Havens takes part in crafts.
LEFT:Balloons add splendor during the Fall Festival.

TOP: The duck race added excitement during the festivities. This year was the first annual duck race which began at the town bridge.
TOP: Mrs. Vicars used simple crafts and lots of first grade help to create the colors of the season.
CENTER LEFT: Bell ringers from Ceres United Methodist Church youth make a joyful noise to the Lord with their music.



Students' research and handcrafts depict the history of Bland County in buildings, stories, and art.

A Collection of Tales

The year 1997 proved to be as exciting and provocative as the years before. With many vibrant world events, this year kept everyone on edge. The Mike Tyson, Evander Holyfield fight was unexpected and unforgettable; after 10 excruciating rounds Evander Holyfield came out on top.

A very moving event this year was the battle of former Superman (Christopher Reeve) to rebuild his life after his devastating accident during an equestrian event that left him paralyzed

from the neck down. This was a tragic but inspirational event for everyone.

On September 7, 1996, Gangsta Rap star Tupac Amaru Shakur was fatally shot while riding in the passenger's side of Marion Knights' BMW in Las Vegas, Nevada.

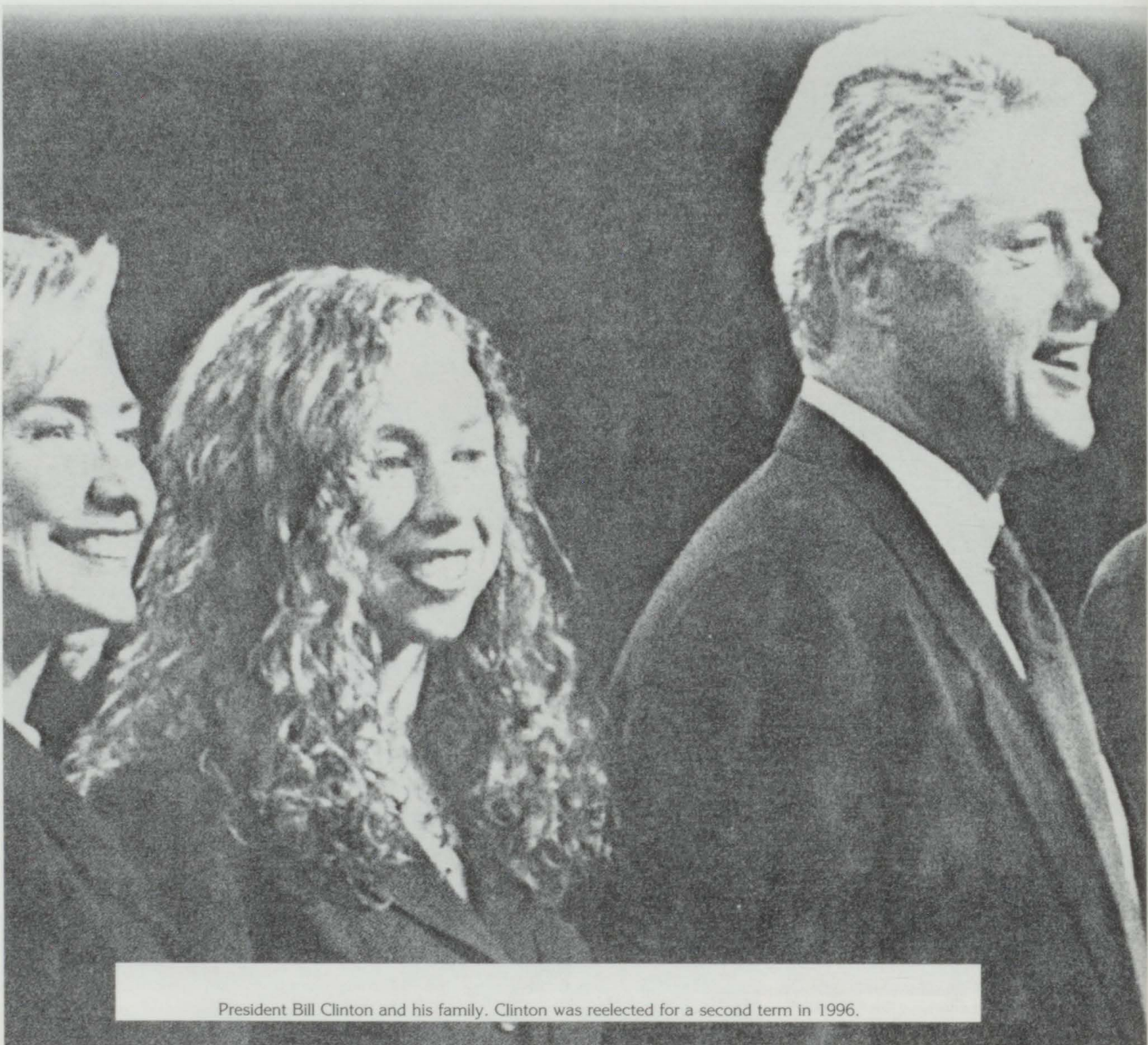
Another groundbreaking story in 1997 was the re-election of Democrat, Bill Clinton, over Bob Dole, and Ross Perot. Clinton took the oath of office on Monday, January 20, 1997. Everyone was saddened by the death of Jon-Benet Ramsey, six-year old beauty

queen, who was found murdered in her home the day after Christmas.

With the pace of life getting faster, people found themselves using computer internet services for everyday things like shopping, work, and entertainment.

The 1996 Olympics were a huge success for the United States with winning 44 gold, 32 silver, and 27 bronze medals. Kerri Strug, part of the Gymnastics Team clinched the gold after competing with a badly sprained ankle.

TWA flight 800 exploded a few minutes after takeoff. Everyone on the plane was killed, with the cause of the explosion undetermined.

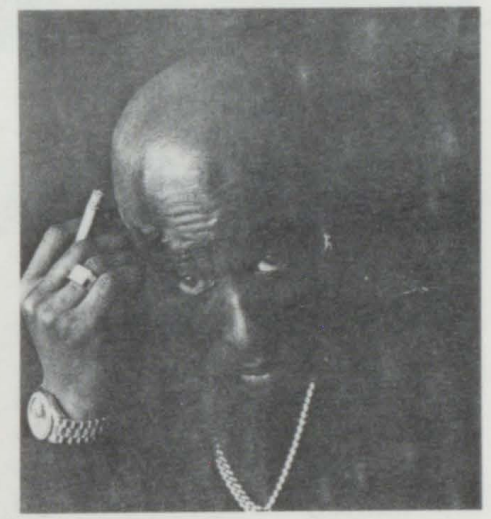
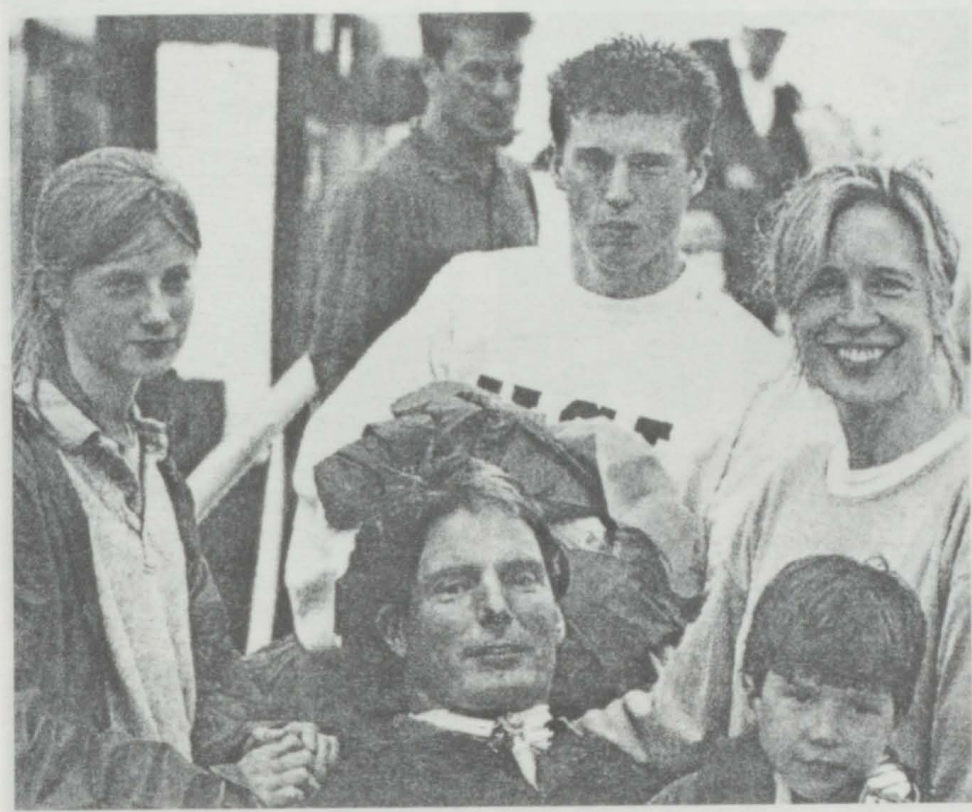
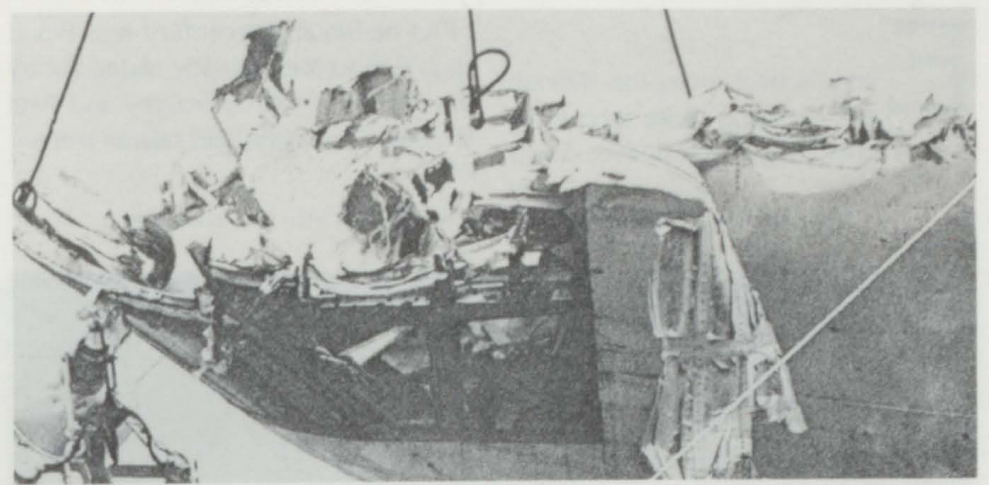


President Bill Clinton and his family. Clinton was reelected for a second term in 1996.



LEFT: Following an off-balance landing which injured an ankle, Kerri Strug gave her all as a last chance for the USA gymnastics team to win a gold. Kerri held her landing but her agony held the crowd spellbound as her coach carried her to the stands.

BELOW: TWA flight 800 exploded minutes after take-off from La Guardia Airport on July 17, 1996. All persons aboard lost their lives.



CENTER LEFT: Christopher Reeve spends time with his family.

CENTER RIGHT: JonBenet Ramsey six-year old beauty queen tragedy.

ABOVE: Gangsta Rap star Tupac Shakur was killed on September 7, 1996.

LEFT: Holyfield plants a right hook on Tyson in the 11th round that ensured the victory.

Unforgettable Impressions

Every school faces the difficulties of losing those who have greatly touched our lives. Each

of us at Bland Elementary and Bland High School were greatly saddened by the loss of Mrs. Ruth Kegley and Paul Harless. Their skills and talents will be

remembered as well as their loving presence. Their lives most assuredly left lasting and unforgettable impressions.

Mrs. Ruth Brown Kegley accepts a gift of appreciation from Mr. Thompson.

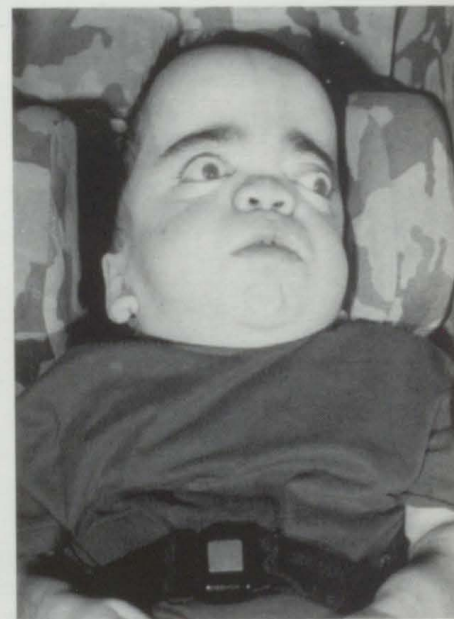
Mrs. Ruth Brown Kegley
July 13, 1907 - January 8, 1997



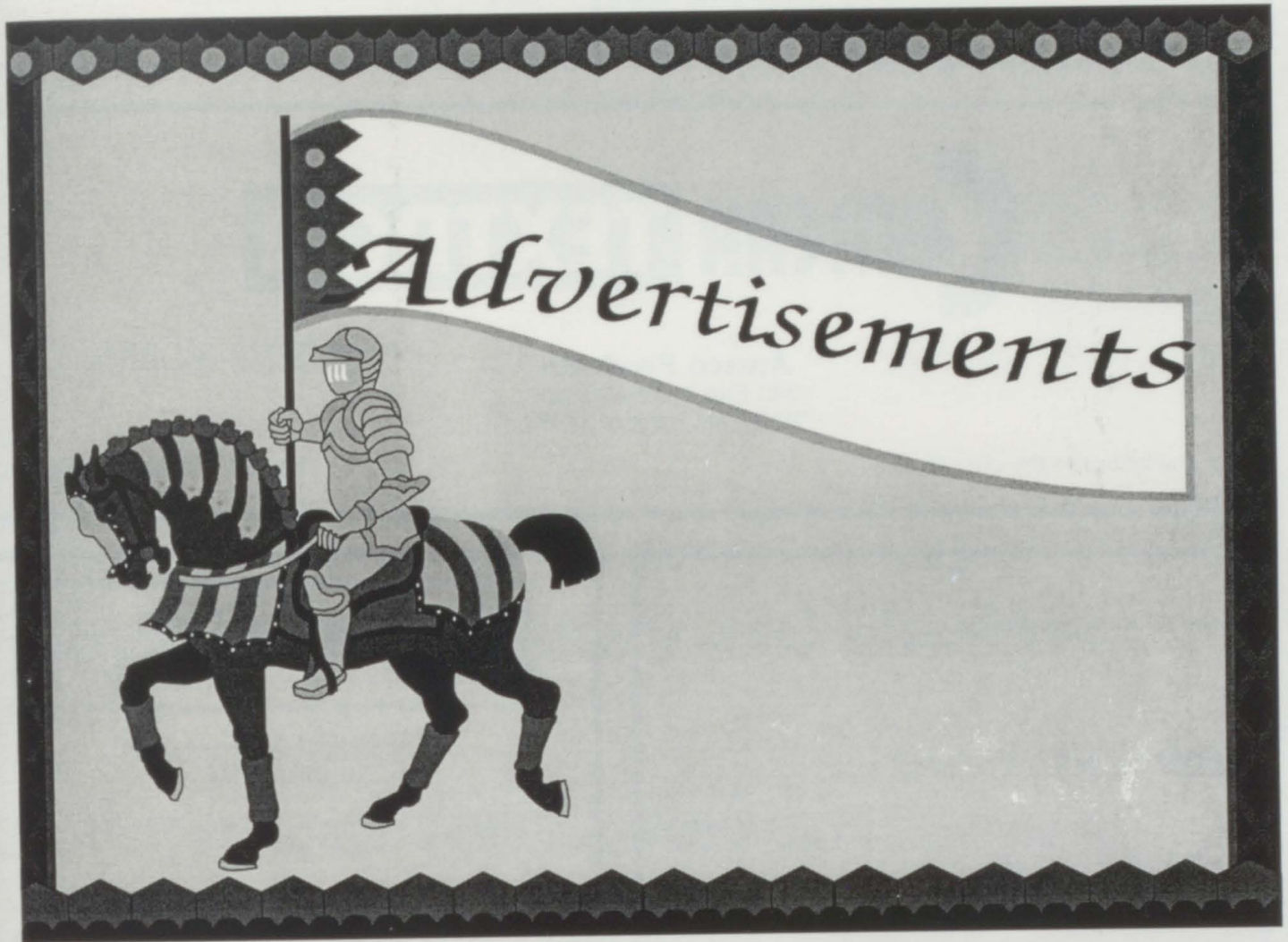
Ruth Brown Kegley, a legendary name and friend of Bland High School who will always be remembered for *outstanding school performances*, died January 8, 1997. Ruth was born in Portsmouth, Virginia, on July 13, 1907. She graduated from Woodrow Wilson High School and Mary Washington College. She came to Bland County Schools in 1942 and taught until her retirement in 1972. She was a popular substitute teacher for an additional 18 years. She was a very versatile person, adapting from teaching any subject to coaching basketball, or introducing gymnastics. She assisted in the writing and directing of

"Down Through The Ages," the 1961 Bland County Bicentennial Pageant. For 11 years, Ruth wrote and directed the program for the school's Harvest Festival production, a combined effort of students and faculty to raise money for school supplies and equipment.

Christopher Paul Harless entered Bland Elementary School at the kindergarten level. Paul was a favorite with his teachers and students. His classmates were especially helpful, wanting to assist him whenever they could. For the past three years, Paul was rarely able to attend school, but his loving mother worked with him at home. Paul died on January 21, 1997.



Christopher Paul Harless
June 13, 1983 - January 21, 1997



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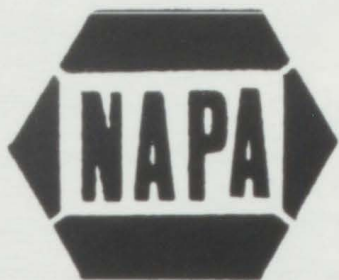
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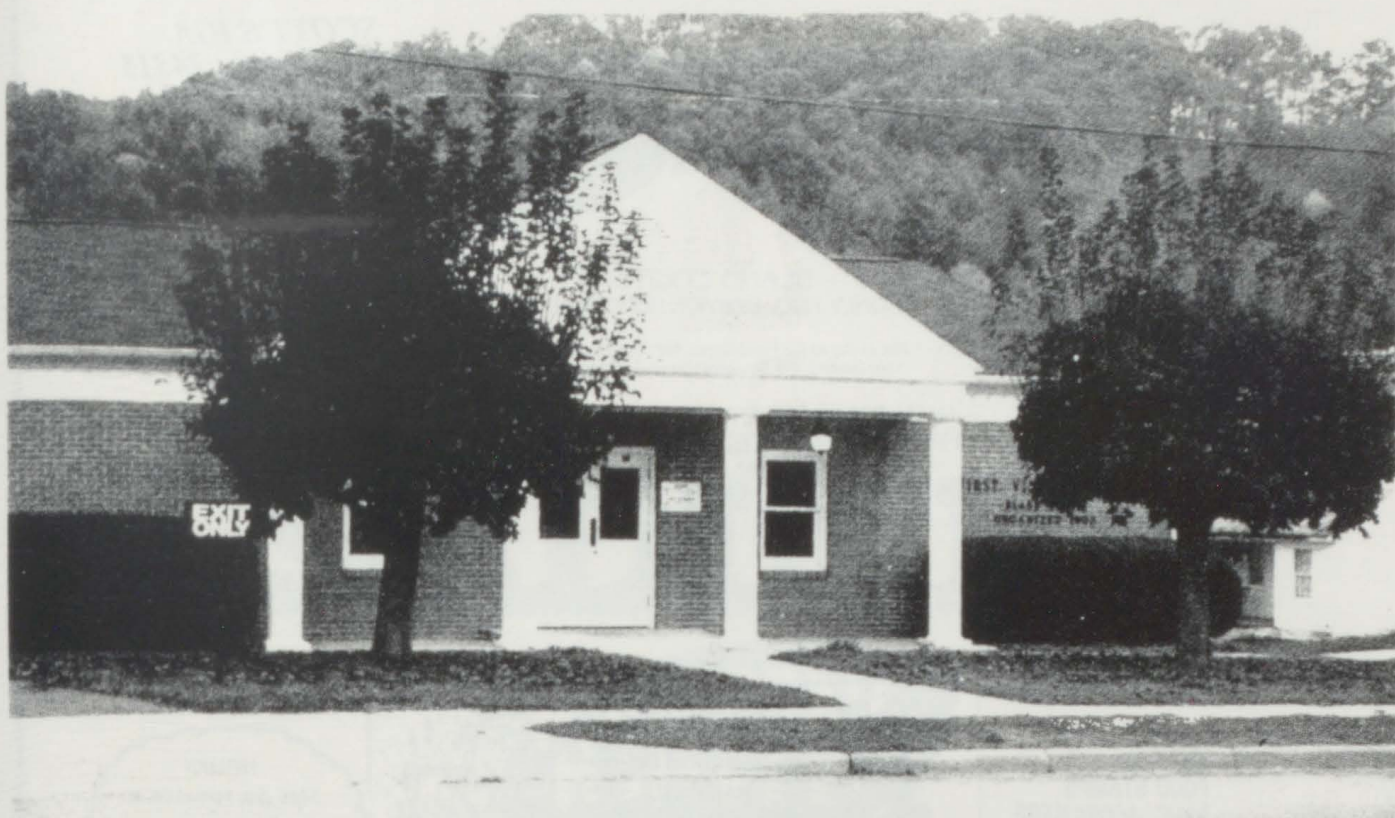
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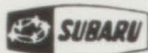
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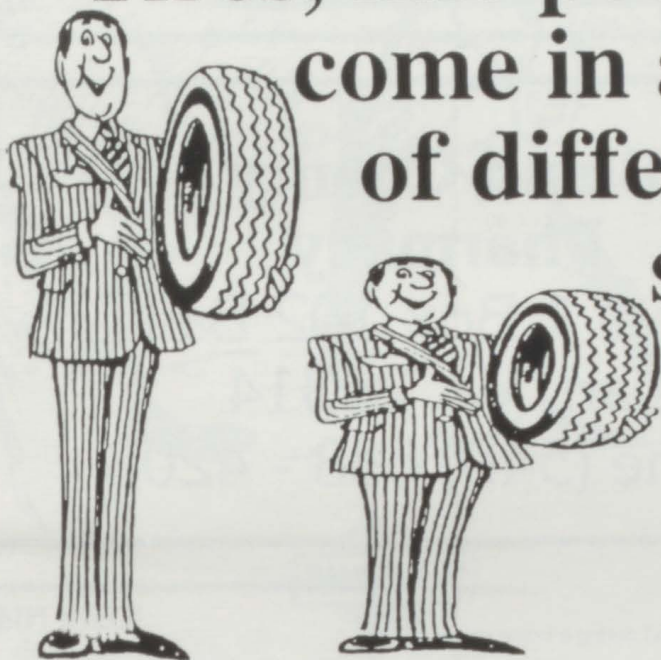
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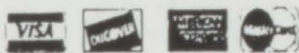
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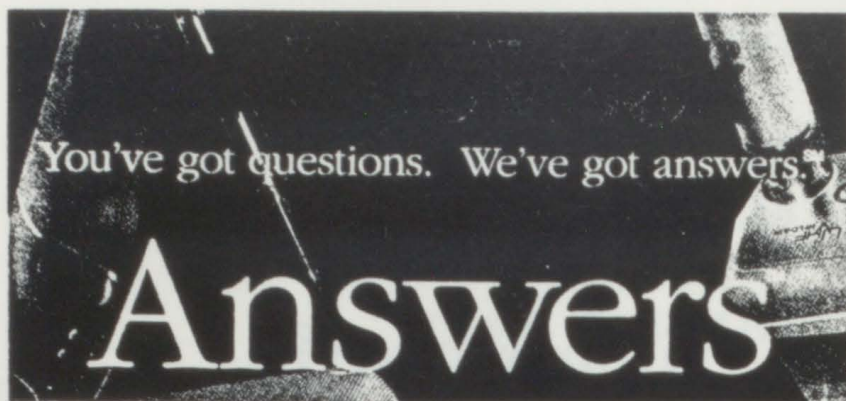


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BHS Varsity Cheerleaders build a human pyramid during a home game.

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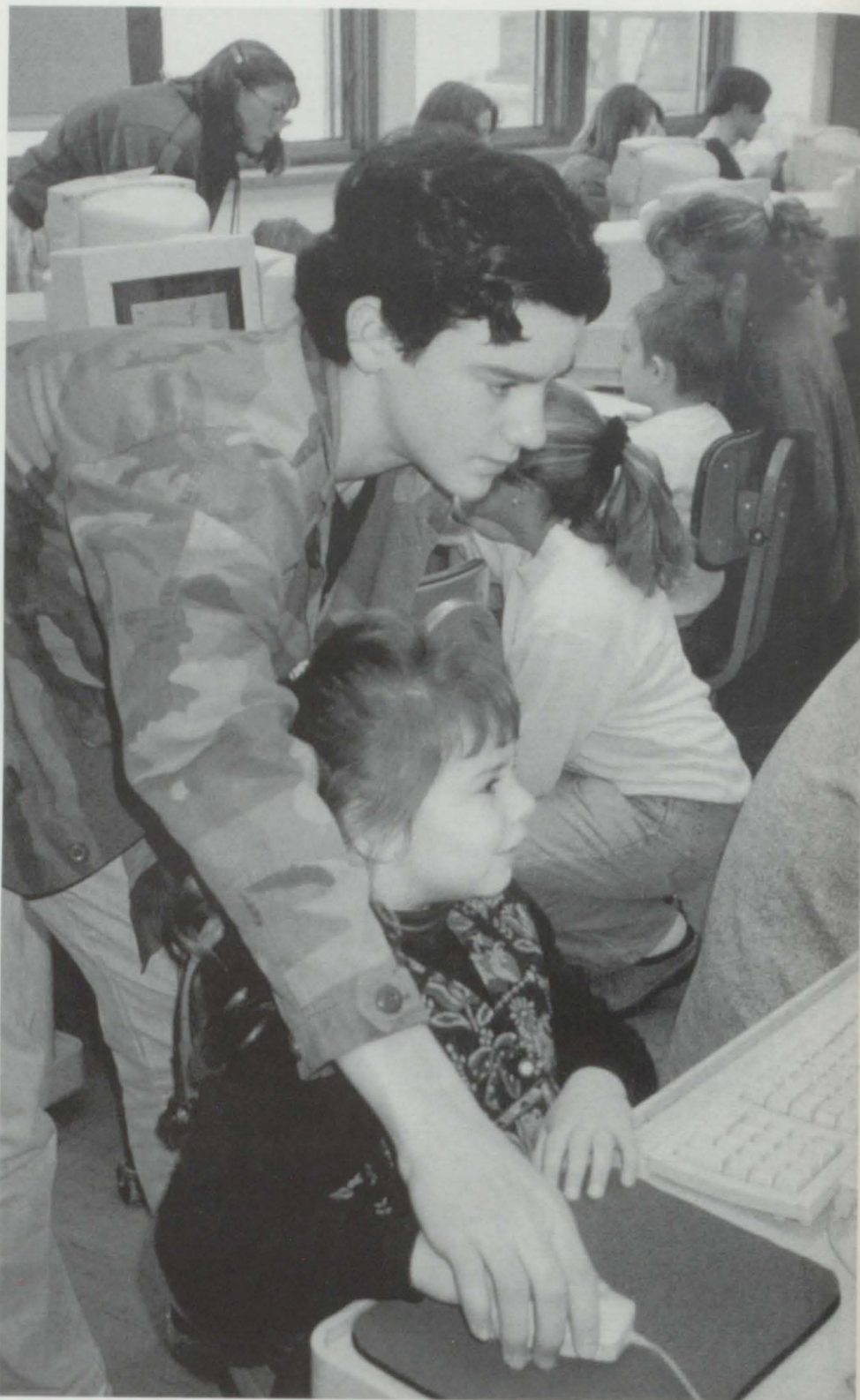
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RIGHT: Randy Barrington demonstrates "directing the mouse" to an elementary student during their lab time.

BELOW: Brazil exchange student, Luciana Campos joins our BHS campus at the beginning of the second semester.

BOTTOM LEFT: Many problems and situations were informally solved at the most important desk in the entire school... "The Hall Duty Desk"
BOTTOM RIGHT: Amanda Scott wins the elementary Spelling Bee.



The Lilliputians

Not to be outdone by the "big ones", Bland's "Lilliputians" formed Midget and Pee Wee football teams, complete with cheer-

leaders. Parents and interested citizens coached and nurtured children through the plays and exercises for a successful season.

TOP LEFT - Pee Wee Cheerleaders - Front row: Becky Goss, Melissa Hagy, Amber Looney, Naomi Clevinger, Kayla Anders. **Back row:** Amber Groseclose, Amy Looney.
TOP RIGHT - Pee Wee Football Players - Front row: Roy Stuart, Matthew McKee, Derek Parker, Josh Neal, Daniel Rife, Jordan Keene. **2d row:** Brandon Morris, Trey Morehead, Dustin Carter, Todd Scott, David Gore, Brandon Webb, Logan Tate. **3d row:** Lee Bailey, Roger Richards, Dustin Riggins, Chuck Young, Aaron Wright, Shaun Carroll, Jerrod Miller, Edward Farmer. **Back row - Coaches:** Todd Parker, Kevin May, and Chris Carter.



CENTER - Midget Football team - Front row: Bryan Simms, David Pike, Daryl Stanley, Cody Agee, Magnum Bivens, Jason Musick, Stevie Howell, Kevin Wimmer.
2d row: Adam Gore, Paul Hull, Joe Jackson, Sam Wright, Aaron Wolfe, Brandon Kelley, Robbie Wolfe.
3d row: Ben Foglesong, Matthew Dent, Ben May, Reggie Meadows, J. R. Shewey, Larry Howell, Casey Elliott, J. P. Agee.
Back row - Coaches: Kim Wright, Steven Kelley. *Not pictured Will Neal and Coach Jason Hancock.*

BOTTOM - Midget Cheerleaders - Front row: Jessica Harner, Jessica Bradshaw, Amy Wilson.
2d row: Brandy Tate, Angela Nunn, Nikki Bailey.
Back row: Amy Johnson, Ashley Blankenship, Amanda Looney.

Mirror, mirror on the wall. . .

Barry Keith Bourne, II

Mr. & Mrs. Barry Keith Bourne; **HONORS:** French I, Algebra II, Geometry, Civics, World History, Physics, Calculus Physical Science, Awards: Football - 2nd Team All-District Defensive Player, 3rd Place Math Rally award. **OFFICES HELD:** Jr Beta Treasurer. **CLUBS:** French, Beta, Math Macc, All-Around Macc, Jr. Beta, Forensics. **SPORTS:** JV Football, Varsity Football.

Amanda Leigh Brown

Sharon G. Harman and Colby D. Brown; **HONORS:** Who's Who Among American High School Students 9th - 11th grade, Accounting Award 11th grade, **CLUBS:** Jr. Beta 9th grade, Sr. Beta 10th-12th grade, FHA 8th - 12th grade, FBLA 9th grade, Newspaper staff 10th grade, French club 10th - 12th grade, VICA 12th grade. **SPORTS:** JV football cheerleader 8th- 10th grade, Basketball cheerleader 8th grade.

Benjamin Wylie Chewning

Robert and Cathy Chewning; **HONORS:** 1st Team all District Football, Honorable Mention Baseball, Perfect Attendance. **OFFICES HELD:** 8th grade Class Vice President, 10th grade Class President, 11th grade Class Vice President, 12th grade Class Vice President, 12th grade Class 2nd Vice President FHA. **CLUBS:** FFA, FHA, French Club. **SPORTS:** Football J.V. and Varsity 8-12th grade, Baseball J.V. and Varsity 9-12th grade, Softball, Bowling.

Mary Jane Chewning

Elizabeth Harless and Robert Chewning Sr. **HONORS:** English 8th grade, Math I 8th grade, Pre Algebra 9th grade, Biology I 10th grade, Who's Who Among American High School Students 10-11th grade. **OFFICES HELD:** HOSA (Parliamentarian) **CLUBS:** Sr. Beta 10-12th grade, Jr. Beta 9th grade, FHA 8-10th grade, HOSA (Health Occupations Students of America) 11th grade

Benjamin Allen Davis

Louis V. and Patricia V. Davis; **HONORS:** Earth Science 9, Civics 8, U.S. History 11, Greenhand (FFA) 8, FFA Chapter Degree 9, Forestry 11; **CLUBS:** FFA 8-12, Junior Beta 9.

Derrick Allan DeHart

Orville DeHart and Connie DeHart **HONORS:** Who's Who Among American High School Students, Sociology Award. **OFFICES HELD:** 11th grade President, 8th grade Secretary, 10th grade-Treasurer. **CLUBS:** 10th - 12th grade Beta, 8th grade FFA, 10th - 12th grade French. **SPORTS:** Varsity Football, Varsity Baseball, J.V. Basketball, Bowling, Softball.

Marie Allene Renae Dotson

Kevin Dotson **HONORS:** Ms. Echo candidate 9th, 11th grades, Basketball Homecoming Court 9th grade, Football Homecoming Court 10th grade, Miss BHS 1995, Football Homecoming

ing Candidate 12th grade, Basketball Homecoming Candidate 11th grade. **OFFICES HELD:** Vice President 10th grade class. **CLUBS:** FHA, 8th - 12th grade, Photo Club 9th, 10th grade, French Club 10th grade. **SPORTS:** Cheerleader 8th - 12th grade, Co-Captain 12th grade.

James Carl Dunn

Tommy and Karen Dunn **HONORS:** Honorable Mention All - District Baseball 10th grade, 2nd Team All - District Baseball 11th grade, P.E. award 10th grade, Mountain Empire Academic Excellence award 9th - 11th grade, Honor Letter 10th grade, Who's Who Among American High School Students 11th - 12th grade. **OFFICES HELD:** President of FBLA 12th grade. **CLUBS:** Jr. Beta 9th grade, Sr. Beta 10th - 12th grade, FBLA 10th - 12th grade, Band 8th - 9th grade. **SPORTS:** 8th grade Basketball, J.V. Basketball 9th - 10th grade, Varsity Basketball 10th - 12th grade, Golf 8th - 12th grade. **OTHER:** FBLA Entrepreneurship 1st Place Region 10th grade, Snow Court 9th grade, Prom Committee 11th grade.

Jason Mack Epling

Jesse Mack Epling and Linda Lo Jackson; **CLUBS:** Vocational School 10th - 12th, FFA 12th grade.

Melissa Dawn French

Mr. and Mrs. Wallace French; **OFFICES HELD:** FHA Chaplain 12th grade, Yearbook Editor 12th grade; **CLUBS:** FHA 8th - 12th grade, Yearbook 11-12; **OTHER:** Talent Search 9th - 12th grade.

Jason Lee Hancock

Lester and Rosemary Hancock; **HONORS:** Football 10th grade Honorable Mention, 11th grade 2nd Team Defensive Back, 12th grade Honorable Mention, Baseball, 11th grade Honorable Mention, 12th grade 2nd team Pitcher, 11th grade most hits in Season and home run's Awards, Basketball 11th grade, Heart hustle Award, 1 letter and bar in every sport, Perfect Attendance 9 - 11th grade. **OFFICES HELD:** FFA: 8th grade, Reporter, 9th grade, Treasurer, 10th grade, Secretary, 12th grade, Vice - President; **CLUBS:** 8th - 12th grade FFA, 9th - 11th grade French Club, Jr. Beta, 9th grade, Member of the KVG team, Member of the Forestry Team. **SPORTS:** Baseball 8th - 10th grade (JV), 11th - 12th grade (Varsity), Basketball 8th (8th Grade), 9th - 10th grade (JV), 11th - 12th grade (Varsity), Football 8th - 12th grade, Bowling Team, Softball Team. **OTHER:** Jr Member of the Little Creek Fire Dept.

Amy Lynn Hanshew

Larry and Donna Hanshew **HONORS:** Honor Bar 11th grade, Honor Letter 10th grade, Keyboarding 9th grade, Office System 10th grade, Word Processing 11th grade, World Geography 9th grade, Who's Who Among American High School Stu-

dents 9th - 11th grade, Mountain Empire All - District Honorable Girl's Basketball, 10th grade Perfect Attendance. **OFFICES HELD:** Class Secretary 12th - 9th grade, Basketball Captain, 12th grade, Newspaper Editor, FBLA Historian 11th grade, FHA Sgt. of arms, 9th, FHA Treasurer 10th grade. **CLUBS:** Newspaper 8th - 12th grade, Jr. Beta 9th grade, Beta 10th - 12th grade, 4-H 8th - 12th grade, SCA 12th grade, FHA 8th - 11th grade, FBLA 9th - 11th grade, French Club 11th - 12th grade. **SPORTS:** J.V. Basketball 8th grade, Varsity Basketball 9th - 12th grade, Eighth Grade Basketball, Cheerleader 8th grade, J.V. Cheerleader 8th - 10th grade, Varsity Cheerleader 11th grade, Tennis 9th - 12th grade. **OTHER:** Homecoming Court 8th, 10th - 12th grade, Miss Echo Candidate 8th grade.

Tracie Lynn Jones

Mary and Jerry Stowers; **CLUBS:** FHA 8th - 9th grade, **SPORTS:** 8th - 11th grade, Football Cheerleading.

Jason Edward Kidd

Jimmy and Jennifer Kidd; **CLUBS:** FFA 8-12, FHA 12, VICA 11-12.

Frances Lucinda King

Grant and Barbara King; **HONORS:** Pre - Algebra Award 8th, Us History Award 11th grade, French III Award 11th grade **OFFICES HELD:** English MACC Captain 11th - 12th grade; **CLUBS:** 4-H 10th - 12th grade, FBLA 9th grade, FHA 11th - 12th grade, Jr. Beta 9th grade, Sr. Beta 10th - 12th grade, French Club 9th - 12th grade, Who's Who Among American High School Students 11th - 12th grade, English MACC 10th - 12th grade, and All - Around MACC 12th grade.

James Brandon Lambert

James Raymond Lambert; **HONORS:** Who's Who Among American High School Students 10th - 12th grade **OFFICES HELD:** 10th grade Secretary, 11th Treasurer **CLUBS:** 11th grade FBLA, 12th grade French, FHA, 8th - 10th grade FFA; **SPORTS:** Football 8th - 12th, Captain 12th, Basketball 10th - 12th grade.

Michael Kay Mabe

Kay Smith and Michael Humphrey Mabe; **HONORS:** 8th grade Algebra 1, 9th grade Geometry, 9th grade Algebra II, 10th grade Trigonometry, 11th grade Calculus, 8th grade English 8, 9th grade English 9, 10th grade English 10, 11th grade English 11, 8th grade Latin I, 10th grade Latin III, 8th grade History 8, World Geography, 11th grade U.S. History 11, 10th grade Keyboarding, 11th grade Office Administration, 8th grade Physical Science, 9th grade Earth Science, 10th grade Biology I, 11th grade Chemistry, 9th grade P.E. Award, "Cum Laude" Certificate on Letter, 9th - 11th grade First place in district Forensic Competition, Second place in regional Forensic Competition, 1year Outstanding Latin II Student of the year, Second place for

FBLA Career Manual, Honorable Mention in Young Lawyers in Virginia Essay Contest, 1996, 1996 Prom Season, 2nd place in Math Macc tournament for the 1994 - 1995 season, Nominated for Washington, D.C. National Young Leaders Spring Conference, Miss Echo 12th Grade. **OFFICES HELD:** Beta Secretary/ Treasurer 11th grade, FBLA Treasurer 11th grade, FBLA Reporter 12th grade, Jr. Beta President 9th grade, Class President 9th grade, Class Treasurer 8th grade; **CLUBS:** Beta 10th - 12 grade, FBLA 10th - 12th grade, SCA 10th - 12th grade, Jr. Beta 9th grade, Math Macc 8th - 12th grade, All-Around Macc 8th - 12 grade, Forensics 9th - 12th grade, Newspaper Staff 8th - 10th grade, Yearbook 9th - 10th grade. **SPORTS:** J.V. Cheerleader 9th grade, Varsity Cheerleader 10th - 12th grade, Co-Captain 12th. **OTHER:** Won State essay contest in 1995 "How I Benefited from the Electronic Classroom."

Jamie Elizabeth McMillan

Mary Jane McMillan **OFFICES HELD:** Vice President FHA 12th grade. **CLUBS:** 4-H 8th - 12th grade, FHA 8th - 12th grade, FFA 12th grade, Beta 11th - 12th grade. **SPORTS:** Volleyball 9th - 12th grade. **OTHER:** Talent search 9th - 12th grade.

Ralph Lee Medows

Lee and Sharon Meadows; **HONORS:** Baseball 9th grade, Basketball - Defense award, 4.0 Award 10th grade, All - District Honorable mention 11th - 12th grade, Tennis Regional Runner - up Singles, Regional team Champions 10th grade, District Champion Singles and Doubles 11th grade, Regional Band 10th - 12th grade, Most Outstanding Musician 8th - 12th grade, Perfect Attendance P.E. Award. **OFFICES HELD:** Vice President - Beta 12th grade, Brigade Commander 11th grade. **CLUBS:** Jr. Beta 9th grade, Beta 10th - 12th grade, Band 5th - 12th grade. **SPORTS:** 8th grade Basketball 6th - 8th grade, J.V. Baseball 8th - 9th grade, Varsity Basketball 10th - 12th grade, Varsity Tennis 10th - 12th grade, Varsity Baseball 9th grade.

JonMichael Newberry

Larry and Regina Newberry; **HONORS:** Second team All-District Football Offense & Defense 11, First team All-District Football Quarterback 12, Second team All-District Football Defensive Back; **CLUBS:** FFA 10-12; **SPORTS:** Basketball 8-12, Football 8-12, Baseball 11.

Holly Ann Pauley

Jeffery D. Pauley and Robin T. Pauley; **HONORS:** Who's Who Among American High School Students 9th - 11th grade, Homecoming Queen - 12th. **OFFICES HELD:** President of the 8th grade class. **CLUBS:** Jr. Beta 9th grade, Sr. Beta 10th - 12th grade, SCA 8th - 12th grade, Newspaper Staff 8th grade, FBLA 9th - 10th grade, VICA 12th grade. **SPORTS:** 8th - 10th grade Basketball Cheerleader.

James Howard Payne

Shelea And James H. Payne, Sr. **OFFICES HELD:** Reporter 4-H 11th grade. **CLUBS:** 4-H 8th - 12th grade, Chess club 8th grade. **SPORTS:** 8th - 9th grade Football.

Micheal Andrew Pruett

H. Micheal and Iris Pruett; **HONORS:** Who's Who Among American High School Students 12th grade. **OFFICES HELD:** President Sr. Beta 12th grade. **CLUBS:** Beta 10th - 12th grade, Forensics 10th- 12th grade, Science Macc 11th-12th grade, FFA 8th grade. **OTHER:** Region 3 Governor School 9th - 11th grade.

Wesley David Quinn

Susan Martin; **CLUBS:** 8th - 12th grade FFA.

Jermey Ross Reed

Thomas and Charlene Reed; **CLUBS:** FFA 8th - 12th grade.

Rae Hynton Romano

Vince and Denise Romano; **HONORS:** P.E. award 10th, All-District Volleyball 11th-12th, 1993 Snow Queen, 1996 Football Homecoming Queen, Who's Who Among American High School Students; **OFFICES HELD:** 9th Jr. Beta secretary, 10th FBLA Parliamentarian, 10th French Club reporter, 11th French club secretary, 11th SCA secretary, 9th Class Vice President; **CLUBS:** Senior Beta 10-12, FBLA 9-11, FHA 12, French Club 10-12, 4-H 10-12, Newspaper 8-12, Junior Beta 9, SCA 9-12; **SPORTS:** 8th grade - Cheerleading, JV Basketball; JV Cheerleading 9-10, JV Volleyball 9-10, Varsity Basketball 9-11, Varsity Cheerleading 11, Varsity Volleyball 11-12.

Jacob Nathaniel Scott

Tom and Becky Scott **HONORS:** 10th Honor letter, English 10th grade, French I, Who's Who Among American High School Students, 11th grade Honor bar, perfect Attendance, Biology II, English II, Office Administration, Who's Who Among American High School Students 12th grade, Who's Who in Sports Among American High School Students. **OFFICES HELD:** 11th grade FBLA Parliamentarian, 12th grade FBLA Treasurer. **CLUBS:** 9th grade Jr. Beta, 9th grade Band, 10th - 12th grade Beta, 10th - 12th grade FBLA, 8th grade Band. **SPORTS:** 9th grade J.V. Football, 10th - 12th grade Varsity Football.

Kristina Lea St.Clair

Timothy and Diana Gill; **HONORS:** Perfect attendance 9, Good Behavior and Perfect Attendance 10. **CLUBS:** Spanish Club and Pep Club 8th - 9th, 11th grade FBLA. **SPORTS:** Girls Basketball and Baseball 8th grade.

John Curtis Tompson

Roger and Dolores Thompson; **HONORS:** DAR 12, Baseball All - District 2nd team 9th - 10th grade, 1st Team 11th grade, All Region Honorable Mention 11th grade, Basketball 1st team All - District 11th grade, Golf - Mt. Empire Player of the year 12th grade. **OFFICES HELD:** 11th grade class Secretary, 12 grade president, 11th grade Beta President, 11th grade FBLA Vice - president, 12th grade FBLA Vice - President. **CLUBS:** Beta 10th - 12th grade, FBLA 10th - 12th grade, Jr. Beta 9th grade. **SPORTS:** Basketball 8 6th - 8th grade, J.V. Basketball 9th - 10th grade, Varsity Basketball 11th - 12th grade, Baseball 7th - 8th grade, J.V. Baseball 8th grade, Varsity Baseball 9th - 12th grade. **OTHER:** Perfect attendance 10th - 11th grade.

Amanda Jane Umbarger

Mr. and Mrs. Woodson M. Umbarger **HONORS:** 9th Grade Basketball Homecoming Candidate, 10th Grade Homecoming Candidate, 8th Grade SCA Sweetheart Candidate. **OFFICES HELD:** 12th grade President of FHA, 11th grade 2nd Vice President of FHA, 10th grade recreation leader of FHA. **CLUBS:** 8th - 12th grade FHA, 10th - 12th grade Senior Beta, 12th Bland 4-H, 8th Bland 4-H, 9th - 10th grade Photography Club, 9th grade Newspaper Staff.

Darrell Lee Wellman

Darrell Wellman; **CLUBS:** 8th - 12th grade FFA

Eric Steven Wimmer

Bobbie Wimmer and Mary Wimmer; **CLUBS:** 8th - 12th grade FFA. **SPORTS:** 8th - 9th grade J.V. Football.

Jennifer Anne Winters

Ellen Winters and Barry Winters; **HONORS:** English award 10th grade, Biology I award 10th grade, Algebra II award 10th grade, Perfect Attendance 11th grade, Who's Who Among American High School Students 11th grade, Mountain Empire District Honorable Mention, Girls Basketball 12th grade, Honor Bars 11th - 12th grade, Most Improved Musician 9th grade, Mountain Empire District Academic Excellence Award 9th - 12th grade, United States National Mathematics Award 11th grade. **OFFICES HELD:** Class treasurer 12th grade, Band Section leader 12th grade, Varsity Basketball Captain 12th grade. **CLUBS:** Jr. Beta 9th grade, Senior Beta 10th - 12th grade, Jazz, Marching, and Concert Band 7th - 12th grade, All-around Macc 9th - 10th grade, Math Macc 11th - 12th grade, Newspaper 9th grade, and 12th grade. **SPORTS:** J.V. Girls Basketball 8th grade, Varsity Girls Basketball 9th - 12th grade, Varsity Girls Tennis 12th grade. **OTHER:** Region III Governor's School - Summer Session 9th - 10th grade.

Faye Ann Wolfe

Albert and Barbara Wolfe; **OFFICES HELD:** 11th grade Recreation Leader 4-H. **CLUBS:** 8th-12th FHA, 9th - 12th grade 4-H, 11th grade Photography, 12th grade FFA. **SPORTS:** 10th - 12th grade Volleyball.

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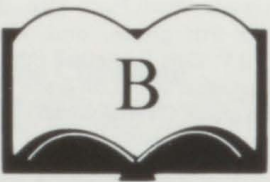


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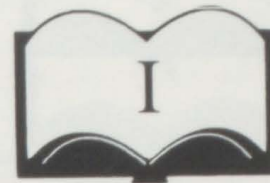
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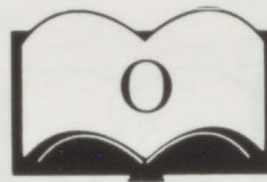


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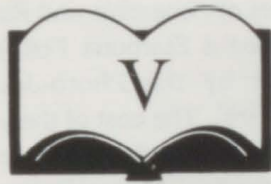
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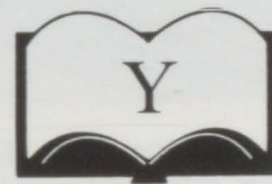


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...And They Lived Happily Ever After

With a step that is steady and strong, ole' Bland High marches along. True to the colors we wear, to Maroon and Gold so fair. United in true Fellowship, that the days and the years may not sever. To you we will always be true..to Bland High..to Bland High forever.

BHS School Song.

Our tiny kingdom seemed ever so

large as we explored and ventured into each and every aspect of both Bland Elementary and Bland High School. Our adventures into learning reached far beyond our expectations. We learned not only our academic courses, but ourselves as well. We learned the importance of others and cooperative efforts. The emotional impacts of winning and losing not only in competitions but in our own lives as well, stirred our emotions. In essence,

we learned how to learn.

Our methods of thinking advanced from the *Dependence* that we left in the elementary halls to the sophistication of high school *Independence*. We knew the kingdom was truly ours when we discovered our need for friendship, teamwork, connectedness, and bonding relationships...We had reached the summit of *Interdependence*.



COLOPHON: *The Echo 1997* was printed and published by Taylor Publishing Company of Dallas, TX, at a cost in excess of \$15,000. It was designed by students entirely on IBM compatible computers with ULTRAVISION, a program developed exclusively for Taylor Publishing patrons. It was printed on 20 lb. gloss paper, 7 3/4 X 10 1/2 inches in size, and used

typefaces of Amazonia and Rinna. The cover used a Starburst Foil, and was designed by the Photo-Journalism Class at BHS. The cost of the yearbook was \$30 - \$36 to the purchaser.

The yearbook representative was Richard Elliott of Knoxville, TN. Photographers were LifeTouch of Roanoke, and School Pictures of Bristol. The staff consisted of one Senior, six Juniors,

and four Sophomores, and two faculty advisers.

The theme, "Once Upon Our Time" was an original idea from Missy French, editor of the 1997 Yearbook. Students and advisers spent far in excess of 200 clock hours in preparing this book.



AUTOGRAPHS









