

Students Labor For Luxuries

The average working student at Rocky Mount Senior High works 15-30 hours a week and does so to pay for luxuries and amusements.

The **Gryphon** drew this conclusion from a survey it conducted October 11 and 12. One thousand two hundred and ninety-one students responded to the survey, and of those 491 indicated that they worked. This means that close to 40% of the student body is part of the working class in the Rocky Mount area. The time that most students spend on leisure activities or academic studies is spent working by these young men and women.

The students worked from

less than 10 hours a week to over 40 hours a week. Sixty-six people work less than 10 hours, 105 work 10-15 hours, 138 work 15-20 hours, 121 work 20-30 hours, 47 work 30-40 hours, and 14 work over 40 hours a week.

Although most work to finance their leisure activities, 89 students indicated that they work to support a family, and 124 work to buy necessary clothing. The rest of the reasons that the students work were indicated as extra clothing — 299, car payments — 130, gas — 275, dating — 196, records and/or tapes — 256, C.B. radio equipment — 52, vacations, pleasure trips — 235, and party supplies — 226.



STUDENTS WORK IN LOCAL FIRMS — Look who's working at Bonanza: Walt White, Belinda Richardson, Pam Coley, Gary Brackett, Jamie Landis, Allen Salyer and Curt Todd. [Photo by Hutchisson]



MOREHEAD NOMINEES CHOSEN — Pictured above are the Morehead finalists at Senior High. Left to right: [top row] Danny McDonald, Paul Mayberry, Paul Sasser and Dee Rich; [bottom row] Cindy Hartmann, Natasha Matkin and Laura Hardy. [Photo by Bulluck]



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Seven Nominees Are Chosen

Cindy Hartman, Laura Hardy, Paul Mayberry, Danny McDonald, Natasha Matkin, Dee Rich and Paul Sasser have been nominated for the Morehead Scholarship sponsored by the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Mr. Elton Newbern selected the students basing his decision on the recommendations of 13 faculty members which he designated to review resumes of about 50 candidates. Class ranks, grade point average, scholastic aptitude

tests, I.Q. and school and community activities were utilized in determining the potential of each student to be awarded a Morehead Scholarship.

The Morehead Scholarship has a special meaning for each of the nominees. When interviewed, they emphasized honor, pride and fulfillment. Cindy Hartman said, "I would be very proud to attend U.N.C. as a Morehead Scholar." Laura Hardy stated, "The nomination

is truly a great honor, one I am truly appreciative for. I shall try to live up to the confidence placed in me." Paul Mayberry related, "I jumped into my car, drove out in the country, and yelled." Danny McDonald said, "The Morehead Scholarship would make me feel much more sure and confident about my future." Natasha Matkin reported, "I feel it's an honor to be nominated for such a prestigious scholarship at such a (Continued on page eleven)

School Board Approves Trip

The Rocky Mount Board of Education has approved a trip for the Rocky Mount Senior High Band to the Mardi Gras in New Orleans. Recently questions were raised about the trip due to some confusion concerning financial aid. Many believed that the request for the trip would be turned down. However, the positive decision was rendered during a Board of Education meeting Tuesday night, Oct. 5, 1976.

Dr. Ben Currin, Superintendent of Rocky Mount City Schools, said that there had not really been any controversy, but that questions had been raised by members not on the Board two years ago. He said there had been a misunderstanding as to who would finance the trip. Dr. Currin stated that the matter had been cleared up and that he had met with Rocky Mount Senior High Principal Elton Newbern and Rocky Mount Senior High Band Director John Sykes.

During a meeting with the Activities Committee of the School Board, Principal Newbern stated that he approved of the trip and has no reservations concerning it. He pointed out, for example, that the girls' tennis team will spend more time away from school this year than the band students. Mr. Newbern stated that he did not think that the band was being overemphasized. Most out-of-

town trips taken by the various classes never get to the Board. However, many of the students at Senior High are involved in such trips each year, depending on the membership in clubs or organizations or school-related activities. Mr. Newbern added that the band would not take their annual beach trip this year if they go to New Orleans. The following is an excerpt of information gathered by the Activities Committee:

"The proposed trip will involve a total of six days which includes four school days (schedule is not firm). Of the 163 band members that will be involved, 30 or 35 students participated in the trip to New Orleans two years ago.

The \$15,000 that the band hopes to raise for the trip will cover transportation and motel accommodations. Two years ago slightly less than \$9,000 was the actual cost of the transportation, and \$5,000 was the cost of the motel accommodations. The band members are not responsible for raising a predetermined amount of money and if the goal is not attained, they will plan to delay the trip until next year. Mr. Sykes emphasized that at no time have they considered asking the Board of Education for any funds to finance the trip, and they did not use any for the trip two years ago. All soliciting of

local business will be handled by Mr. Sykes and Mr. Woods, and the band members will not be involved in this in any way. They plan to write a letter to the various civic clubs and business firms, and that will be the extent of their solicitation for funds.

In addition to the over-all expense, each band member will be asked to take \$50 to cover food and incidental expenses. Mr. Newbern pointed out that they eat in cafeterias much of the time and \$7.50 per day will be adequate for their food. He stated, however, that many of the students will take more than \$50.

The band has not received any other invitations this year, so there are no other alternatives. Mr. Sykes presented the Committee with his evaluation of the educational facets of the trip.

The ratio of chaperones to students will be 1:8. Parents of the band students will have first priority as chaperones. Transportation is provided, but they will be expected to pay for their own meals. Motel accommodations for the chaperones will depend on the success of the fund-raising activities.

The buses remain available throughout their stay in New Orleans to provide the students with local transportation and to take the students on sight-seeing trips.



AWARD WINNING MARCHING — Band works vigorously for a good showing. The band went to the Mardi Gras two years ago, and with the recent School Board decision plans to go this school year. [Photo by Barnes]

In a report issued to the Committee, Mr. Sykes stated that the Rocky Mount Senior High School Band has been proud to represent the city of Rocky Mount, and it has supported its people by performing in the Fire Prevention Parade and the Christmas Parade each year as well as other functions from time to time. A large number of these students have Saturday jobs and, therefore, must sacrifice both time and money in order to perform on Saturday. The Christmas Parade is held each year on Saturday during the Thanksgiving holidays; therefore, students must sacrifice

vacation time in order to perform.

Over the past few years the band has received several awards:

Mardi Gras — 1976 — Harry S. Mendelson Mendosa Award for outstanding performance in marching. Citation for Excellence in performance.

General Awards — In Class Four competition at East Carolina University most outstanding performing band in the State. First Place Performance Award — State competition (for several years).

Individual Awards — For Outstanding Performance In Instrumental Music.