

Typical Tar Heel Teacher Works Long Hours

By Karen Maxwell

Special to the Post
 Raleigh — The typical Tar Heel Teacher has 11 years experience and works seven and a half hours a day at school without a lunch break, research by the North Carolina Association of Educators shows.

Lloyd S. Isaacs, executive secretary of the North Carolina Association of Educators (NCAE) said the study illustrates some of the very real hazards of teaching: "No one ought to have to spend that long with children without a lunch break," he said.

The typical teacher spends between four and 12 hours a week working on school tasks outside of the required school day, the study shows. The typical teacher holds a bachelor's degree and has been back to college for more study since graduation. The extra study has been on the teacher's own personal time and money.

teacher was drawn by a scientific random-sample survey of all teachers in North Carolina. NCAE's research staff made the survey.

The survey found the average age of teachers to be 37 and the median age to be 34. More than half of all teachers — 62 percent — are under age 40. The average teacher has 11 years of experience and has been in the current school system for eight years.

More than 83 percent of all teachers are teaching in their major fields. More than 90 percent of North Carolina's teachers expect to continue teaching in their current positions next year.

Obviously this data indicates that North Carolina is blessed with a teaching force of career professionals," Isaacs concluded.

"It can no longer be said that teachers are just young women marking time while they catch a husband. Neither

can it be said that teachers are wives working for pin money or just to get out of the house," he added.

"Teachers spend long hours after school working on school work. Teachers are every bit as professional as the physician who doesn't quit until the last patient is seen. Teachers

work right through lunch when they take the children to the cafeteria. Almost every other occupation at least provides a duty-free lunch," he said.

The survey shows that 68.5 percent of all teachers supervise children during their lunch periods. Almost half — 43 percent — have no free time

during the school day to prepare future lesson plans, which means that has to be done after hours.

Fifty-two percent of all teachers are the major wage earners in their households. And 16 percent of all teachers find it necessary to hold second jobs during the school year.

You Can Voice Your Problems On Discrimination

Citizens of Mecklenburg County and surrounding areas will have an opportunity to voice their problems concerning discriminations and other social grievances when the N.C. Human Relations Council meets in Charlotte Saturday, August 26.

The council will meet at 9 a.m. at the Holiday Inn at I-77 and Woodlawn. The agenda includes a status report on the placement of black teachers, principals, superintendents and counselors in the public schools.

Council director Henry McKay will also report on studies concerning voter participation by minorities and socioeconomic make-up of the state's 100 counties. Other reports involve fair housing and the effect of migrant camp conditions on the academic development of children of migratory farm workers.

The public hearing will be held at 1:30 p.m. "The council meets in various locations in the state to bring the council closer to"

people," said council chairman Dr. Jerry Drayton.

The N.C. Human Relations Council is composed of 20 persons appointed by Governor Jim Hunt to strengthen interracial communications and to promote good will and equal opportunities in such areas as employment and housing throughout the state.

Keep your out-of-town friends informed on what's happening in Charlotte by sending them a copy of the Charlotte Post each week.



Shari Garnett
 Test is easy

Karen Maxwell
 Post Teen Writer

The High School Scene

Are You Competent Enough?

Many viewpoints have been agreed upon and argued about on how solid the foundation of the competency test stands. Is the test given to evaluate how capable a person is, of completing questions that are stated on how well he or she can perform educational skills, that has been taught throughout his school years in a few hours, or is it deter-

mined to show what person or race of people, scores higher in the complexion of inferiority, to a given status?

Some think that this type thing, that has arisen recently, may be a threat to others, and to some an advantage to know whether or not, if they have really gotten the proper attention towards learning. Shari Garnett, the daughter

of Mrs. Lilly Garnett and Jacob Hamilton of 2706 Rozzells Ferry Rd., admits that the test is an easy one, and that it is very good for the students. She says that it should be given in the eighth grade as well as the eleventh. The Garnett family attends Greater Providence Baptist Church in where the beloved Rev. Johnnie Wallace Jr. ministers.

Brenda Howze, a senior at Myers Park High School, agrees that the test should be given in Elementary and Junior High Schools as well as to eleventh graders. She is the daughter of Virginia Howze, who resides at 430 Fairwood Ave. The Howze family attends, and are members of the Redoak Baptist Church.

All in all, the test and other concerns, that are associated with the school system, is a part of learning and participation. Urging yourself to be self-reliant, self-sufficient and in control of everything you do, is a great remedy for your needs.

Jessie Jackson, president of operation PUSH: People United to Save Humanity, stressed that "positive thinking, and self-motivation is the only resolution for progress." The opportunity, for a black person, is great now to move forward in today's society. Step right up, brothers and sisters! and recognize this fact. Why should we stop in the middle of the struggle and not carry our pride along the way?

The high school students I've talked to this week seem to be of the opinion that "The passage is wide open and a future can be seen."

Accordingly they...at least, the black students...are urging all students to look towards that "straight and narrow path of a dream come true without doubtful thoughts and side views to throw us back into a downtrodden past."

I would like to add that all students in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg School System should remember that "nothing from nothing leaves nothing." This is especially true if there is no desire to improve our efforts. Such thoughts as "I'm afraid to challenge the world" and "It isn't worth the time or effort" only derives from ignorance. The young black person doesn't have to challenge the world; just life and his conscience.

When high school days are over, and the average person assumes the usual 9 to 5 in his daily work routine on the job, many may wonder if they are satisfied with the pay, or their actual job performance. He, or she, could have done better but they survive on what little their life offers, with only a diploma to verify that the 12 years required were completed.

To have high hopes of advancing beyond the average being and to succeed in a goal of becoming a doctor or lawyer, and being the best in a chosen field without being afraid of competition or the competitor is very healthy, its neither far-fetched nor impossible.

Education is the answer and problem solver. Now is the time, for black people, to realize where we are...and which direction we are turning to for guidance. It's just fine to acquire the essentials of learning, like reading, writing and arithmetic, but to develop these skills and to use this knowledge in production, is a step forward.

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