



These are three of the students who have been nominated by the English department of Rocky Mount Senior High to compete in a contest sponsored by the National Council of Teachers of English for achievement awards in writing. They are, from left to right, Eddie Wilson, Marion Blackburn, and Brooks Pierce. The department also nominated another student, Angela Ryals. (Photo by Hutchisson.)

## Five Students Receive NCTE Writing Awards

To encourage high school students in their writing skills and to recognize publicly some of the best student writers in the nation, the National Council of Teachers of English will give achievement awards in writing to approximately 876 students who will graduate from high school in 1979. The English department at RMSH has nominated Brooks Pierce, Marion Blackburn, Eddie Wilson and Angela Ryals to compete in this writing contest.

Each high school selects its own nominees. These nominees

who are juniors are agreed upon by the English department. In the selection of these nominees many things were considered. The student should be able to write clearly and effectively, revealing the ability to think for oneself and demonstrating competence in a wide range of writing skills.

The nominees are required to submit two written compositions, as impromptu theme and one sample of writing that the student considers his best work. The impromptu theme must be written in no more than one hour under a teacher's

supervision and it must be submitted in longhand without revision. The topic of this theme is designated by NCTE.

Because NCTE is a non-profit educational association it has no funds to award scholarships to the winners. However, the names of the winners are placed in a booklet that is mailed in October to directors of admissions and to English department heads in 3000 colleges and junior colleges in the United States. The finalists will be notified and announced in October.

## City Program Opens

Applications for the Mayor's Fellows Program are now being taken. If a student wishes to apply for this program, he should see Mrs. Laura Watts in the guidance center.

The purpose of the Mayor's Fellows program is to provide interested young people with some first hand experience in the processes of governing the city and a sense of personal involvement in the leadership of the community. It is not necessary that you be an accelerated student, any average

student who wishes to be involved in the program should apply.

All applications will be screened. Finalists will be interviewed and final selections will be based upon leadership, academic preparedness and interest in the city as Mayor's Fellows.

Fellows will work two hours after school each day for six weeks. Attendance at City Council meetings will be required.

Applications must be returned to Mrs. Watts no later than Thursday, Feb. 16. Students selected will begin the program on March 20, and the program will end April 28.

## Students Surveyed Concerning Exams

Mrs. Nancy Jones, Latin and English teacher, recently surveyed her students concerning the exam in those classes.

Questions on the survey included items on study time, rating the exam as to the degree of difficulty, and fairness of the exam. Mrs. Jones also asked her students if they had been told what to review for the test and to predict their grade.

The survey showed the most students making grades below 50 studied less than one-half hour, and students surveyed that made between 50-59 showed the same results.

The survey indicated that as study time increased, the grades were higher. However, while many people making in the 90's studied two to three hours, many people scoring in the 60's claimed to have studied the same amount of time.

Most students with grades in the average range, 75-85, studied from one to two hours. However, some studied less than one-half hour and some more than three.

Almost all of the students felt that the exam was fair, and approximately the same amount answered that the teacher had told them the material to review.

In rating the degree of difficulty for the exam, answers ranged from easy to very hard. Some students who felt that the test was easy made low grades, while students who answered that the exam was hard made higher grades.

Many students came close to predicting their grades. Some felt that their grade was higher than it actually was, while some predicted a lower grade.

## Seniors Voice Concerns

How do you feel about the Senior Class Bumper Stickers? The GRYPHON asked a few members of the senior class their opinion of the stickers.

Pam Barnes stated, "I don't think of them." Keith Rivenbark said, "I think they're unprofessionally done." David Bagley stated, "They stink." Hugh Nobles said, "My car doesn't look very good but they don't compliment the beauty of my car." Cythia Whitley said, "I don't think about them much."

The Senior class of Rocky Mount Senior High is considering the possibility of a trip to Six Flags over Georgia, according to Mrs. Erma Dudley, adviser to the class.

Six Flags over Georgia is an amusement park located in Atlanta, Ga. Mrs. Dudley also stated that for the present she and other senior officers are just trying to get a list of names of those who would go if such a trip were possible. Nothing else about the trip has been determined.

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