

National Merit Scholars chosen



Toni Strickland and David Goff have been chosen as National Merit Scholarship Winners. Photo by Hutchisson

For the first time in the memory of administrative personnel, Rocky Mount Senior High has two National Merit Scholarship Winners. David Goff and Toni Strickland have both landed scholarships to Duke and East Carolina University, respectively.

The National Merit Scholastic Corporation, established in 1955 with grants from the Forol Foundation and the Carnegie Corporation of New York, is the largest independently financed scholarship program in the United States. The scholarships are based on one's Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) scores.

Scoring a 1380 on the PSAT and a 1450 on the SAT, David

Goff explained, "home environment can either impede or speed-up a person's academic growth. If your parents don't stress doing work it can make a difference—but a lot of high test scoring has to do with using what you already have and doing well with it." Toni Strickland, with an equally impressive 1300 on the PSAT and a 1220 on the SAT stated, "I think scoring high on the tests helps if you have studied hard and taken college prep courses. A home where good grades and hard work are encouraged is also an added benefit. Also, I don't think that not working affected my scores any more or any less."

"Grade Point Averages and SAT scores usually go together. Some people," shared David Goff, "claim that a student can

test well and do better than the Grade Point Average would indicate; but for the most part, the two would follow naturally one from the other. A lot of people don't learn things until they have missed it on a test. Often they go back and learn it; which is good for their SAT score."

"Sometimes behavior," reports Toni Strickland, "might affect your grades. Often teachers give an objective grade but many adjust the grade slightly to show how they feel about you. The SAT, however, is strictly objective. Nobody's feelings enter into it but your own."

"If I was going to take it again, my plan would be to relax and not be so tensed up that you can't do your best," said Toni and David.

Four units now necessary for junior class status

The Rocky Mount City Board of Education recently adopted a new Promotion-Retention Policy requiring sophomores to have four units before promotion to a junior home room.

"It's an incentive program," said Principal Elton Newbern. "Some people come here and they have been passed from year to year, expecting the same thing to happen at the senior high level. It's not unreasonable to expect a student to pass something as a sophomore."

The high school graduation requirements for a diploma are fourteen units, including three units of English, one unit of science (Biology), two units of social studies: World Studies and American Studies, one unit of mathematics, one-half unit of physical education and six and one-half electives.

The new addition of one-half year of physical education was necessary because of the drivers education program in junior high. In the ninth grade students take only one-half year of physical education and one-half year of drivers education. The other one-half year must be made up in senior high to fulfill requirements for the ninth through twelfth grades.

"Some students are passed to the junior class with only one unit," said Mr. Newbern. "I don't think those students have much of a chance of passing the required competency test."

Those students who complete the Rocky Mount City Board of Education requirements for graduation but fail to pass the North Carolina Competency Test will be granted a certificate. A certificate only means that a student has attended senior high.

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The 1978-79 Gryphons Cheerleaders are: Jana Lucas, Cynthia Lloyd, Dorothy Brown, Kate Gregg, Gloria Barnes, Dorothy Joyner, Beth Berry, Lisa Horne, Donna Jackson, Holly Kelly, Mary Bulluck and Kathy Callahan. (Photo by Joyner.)

SRA officers chosen

After a week of voting, four students won office seats in the Student Representative Assembly. They are President-elect, Tina Ricks, Vice President-elect, Darius Miller, Secretary-elect, Cassandra Thorpe and Treasurer-elect, Donna Vestal.

Tina Ricks said, "I ran for the office of President because I have always wanted to run things, and I like to have my opinions heard. I've learned new ideas from other school student organizations, and I would like to put them into use here so different activities can be planned rather than repetition of activities previously used. I also would like for the minutes of the student organization meetings to be put on the bulletin so students would be more aware of what is going

on in student government."

Vice President-elect Darius Miller expressed several views of his newly elected position. "The old rumor that the Vice President's job is a nothing job is untrue unless the Vice President makes it a nothing job. The use of the office really depends on the person holding it. Many people pick this office because they think there is little to do, but the Vice President has some responsibilities that require a lot of work. I plan to offer my assistance to the president in any way I can, and I will be willing to do any job to the best of my ability," states Darius.

Cassandra Thorpe, newly elected secretary, sought the job of secretary because she thought it was the best way she could serve the school. "I

can handle the responsibilities of secretary, and I want to be a part of student government. Some of my responsibilities will include issuing credential cards to the student representatives, keeping the minutes of the meetings, taking roll call and making a seating arrangement for the representatives if possible," said Thorpe.

Donna Vestal will act as next year's student organization treasurer. "I hope the four officers can work together and accomplish a lot next year. My main desire is to get the things done that the students want and to get students involved. But often it is hard to get people moving so the student organization will have to work hard on that. Overall, I'm looking for a good year," said Donna.



The new SRA officers are as follows: President, Tina Ricks; Vice President, Darris Miller; Secretary, Cassandra Thorpe; and Treasurer, Donna Vestal. (Photo by Joyner.)