

Tense Moment . . .

For the first few moments everyone was just shocked at the announcements. One member even fainted, others just stood stunned. Every member was silent for a few seconds not knowing what to do or say. To the surprise of everyone, except the judges, the Band of Blue had received a 3rd place rating. They received this rating at the South Carolina State Band Contest on October 31, 1981.

The band was mostly shocked and surprised because they had received a 2nd place rating the year before. "We should have done better because the show was harder and more exciting than last year.", says **George Hamilton**.

The Band of Blue has placed in the prestigious contest for the second year in a row. Summerville repeated as State Champions, while Richard Northeast swapped positions with Walterboro. "We had hopes of placing higher. I think the audience thought we should have also, but after I overcame the shock I was happy that we are 3rd in the state", says **Jowanda Cockrum**.

"I was very disappointed and hurt after receiving 3rd, I thought we would do better in my senior year.", remarked **Judy Conrad**.

For some band members it was a long trip back home. After spending the night at Days Inn. The Band of Blue left for home about 9:30 the next morning. The ride to Walterboro was quieter than it was leaving.

After entering Walterboro, there was a police escort to the band room. At the band room there was posters everywhere mostly saying "We Love You Big Blue."

When asked about the whole situation, **Renee Baker** replied "I feel it is a real privilege to be in, what I feel is, the best band in the state. I like going to contests because of the excitement and trophies; (especially first place trophies).

That about sums up the feelings for every band members this year.

Best of luck to the Band of Blue next year!

1. Displaying their showmanship, the Band of Blue performs expertly.



2. Enjoying the activities, **Rhonda Jones**, **Jennifer Ilderton**, and **Cheri Hudson** watch what's going on.

3. Feeling the cold weather and wind, **Mazie Shider** wraps up in a blanket.

