

by Sherri Belfield
Staff Writer

Hinton James gets Black area director

Hinton James has it's first Black Area Director since academic year 1973-74, Vernon Wall.

Wall attended undergraduate school at North Carolina State University and received his bachelor's degree in Political Science in 1981. In 1983 he received his master's in Education with a concentration in Student Personnel from Indiana University.

There have been Black A.D.S. in other dorms, but this is the first time in a long time that Hinton James has had one, said Collin E. Ruston, Associate Director for contracts and assignments.

Wall, hardly a newcomer to overseeing the lives of college students, was director of housing in the summer of 1982 at the University of California at Berkeley. For three years, he was the residence coordinator at Moore Hall, a dorm of 500 men, at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

Wall said he has chosen the field

of College Student Personnel because, "I worked as a Resident Assistant at State where I also worked with orientation."

"I began to think about doing this sort of thing as a career in my junior year of college," he said.

Wall described his job as A.D. as a "building manager and resource/friend to every resident in Hinton James. "I handle everything from room changes to student concerns."

As A.D., Wall said he has two

primary goals. "Number one, I want to build on things the dormitory government has begun in terms of presenting Hinton James as a positive image. I have been very impressed with the government, and I think that they are doing and will continue to do a good job."

"My second goal is to make sure the Resident Assistants have a good experience. I feel that the R.A.'s jobs are very important because they are hardworking students who enjoy their jobs and have an impact on a lot of people."

A graduate of NCSU, Wall said, "It's fun being a Tar Heel. I'm not swept up in the Tar Heel mania yet, but wait until football season starts. After going to Indiana, I'm glad to be back home in the ACC."

Wall is very involved with the Greek system although he is not in a fraternity himself.

He is on the Professional Development Committee for the Association of Fraternity Advisors, a

national committee. Wall was a fraternity advisor at UNCC. I started

continued on page 7

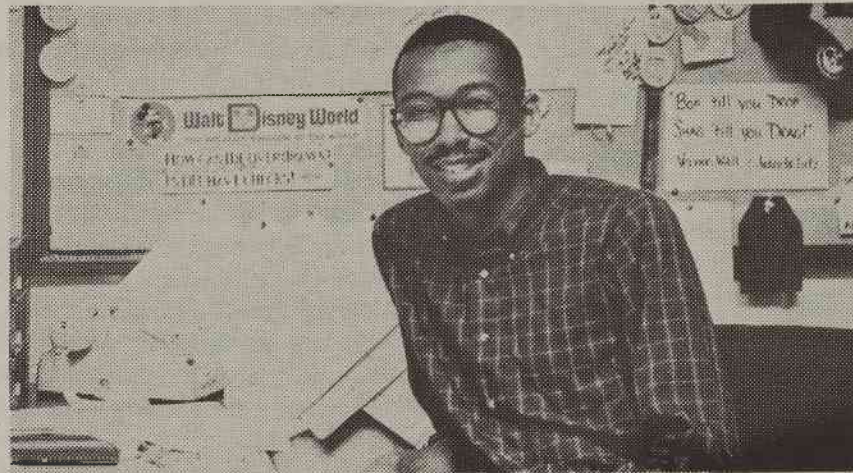


photo by Ralph Ward

The Big Buddy Program, a Campus Y success

by Denise Moultrie
Staff Writer

A number of students have discovered the rewards of being a Campus Y Big Buddy.

Steve Marshall, Big Buddy Co-chair, said the purpose of the program was to supply role models for children referred by school counselors. "A lot of the children come from broken homes or are not accepted in their peer groups."

Marshall, said his little buddy, like others in the group, was not exposed to a Black male figure as a role model. "Having a Black role model would be better for my buddy. He doesn't see a difference in races, but he will begin to see them and he'll start to think 'it must be nice to be white'."

The reason there are not many Black big buddies, Marshall said, may be lack of publicity about the program. "But there definitely is a need for more Black male buddies."

Allene Smith, a senior Economics and International Studies major from Wilmington, also a Co-chair, said there have been more Black students at the meetings. "And the ones already in the program really love it."

Last year there were 200 big buddies, but this year because of the response, there will be 225, Marshall said.

When people get involved with the program, they begin to appreciate what they have because they see where the children they are helping have come from, he said.

Stephanie Mitchener, a junior from Smithfield, N.C., and a Big Buddy Group Leader, said she found that her involvement with the program puts her in touch with another way of life. "It's rewarding in a lot of different ways."

Most students here do not experience one-parent homes and not having a role model," she said.

Mitchener said the children involved in the program have special needs and require special attention.

The little buddies are children in grades kindergarten through sixth and are referred to the Campus Y by their guidance counselors. "Each school is allowed a certain number of buddy referrals according to population and counselors decide what kids need buddies," Marshall said.

Mitchener said the program is fun. "You must be careful not to become too emotionally involved, though," she warned. "You have to keep tabs on yourself."

"Some of the children expect you to be Santa all year round," she said. "Of course you take them out and expose them to things they don't get at home, but from the beginning, they must understand that you can't give them everything."

Fred Jones, a junior from Franklin, N.C., said learning when to say 'no' is the most difficult part of being a buddy. "There are some times when you never know if what you're doing is right. Sometimes, I don't know how many times I should say no, you can't... or yes, you can."

Work and play with his buddy gave Jones an opportunity to evaluate his life as compared to his little buddies. It has struck me to see how it has been to my advantage to have a good family life. His family is good, as far as it goes, but he doesn't have a father figure," Jones said.

"Watching him makes me grateful for what I've had, but I'm hopefully giving him someone to look up to," the said.

"There are still a lot of differences, but we're just learning about each other," he said.

Dedication to the program is important at all times. "You really have to be committed, Mitchener said. "Around exam time, students get bogged down and don't have the time to spend with their buddies."

All big buddies are required to see their little buddies at least once a week for two hours, Marshall said. There are 18 group leaders who oversee the big buddies to make sure there are no problems, he said.

"At times, problems can arise between the little buddies' parents and the big buddy, or the big and little buddy might have problems, Marshall said. "Therefore, the group leaders help to solve these problems."

The big buddies are free to see their little buddies as often as they wish, provided they do see them at least once a week. Through the year, there are several events for all the big and little buddies in the program.

"We have a Halloween party, a Christmas party, a Valentines Day party, an Easter Egg hunt, and this year, for the first time, we're going to have a field day," Marshall said.

He said he considers the program a success. "It's real popular with both the students and the kids, and I think the quality of the program is improving."

Marshall said he has seen several positive changes in his little buddy since he met him.

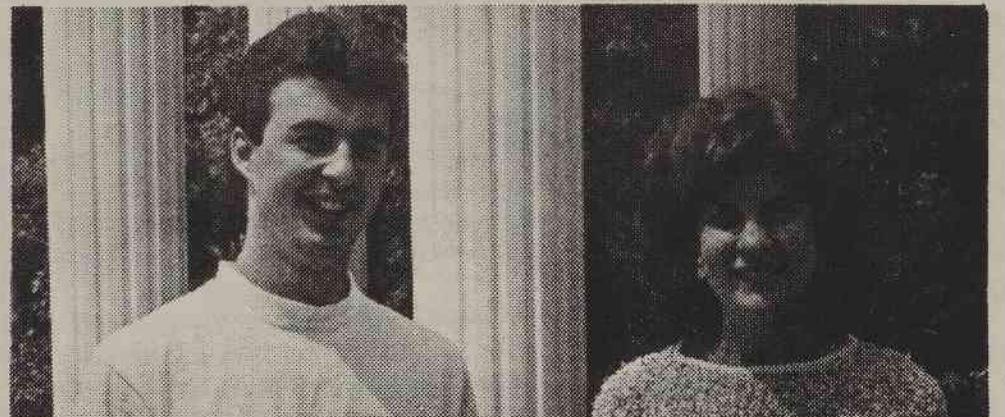


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