



'Rip' Raps

Melvin "Rip" Wilkins (pictured far right) addresses participants of the fourth annual Minority Business League Trade Fair during a social which was held before the two-day event (photo by Santana).

Close-Up

From Page A6

To promote the idea of a united student body, the club has had T-shirts printed that feature the society's name and a picture of white and black hands shaking.

The club began in February, which, appropriately enough, is Black History Month. "We got people to join by word of mouth," says club President Tammie Caldwell.

Since the club began so late, its membership hasn't had much time for many activities, but Caldwell says "next year will be different."

The club has, however, had time to interact with similar clubs at other schools in the city. Recently the club held an old-fashioned cookout with North Forsyth's Ebony-American Society.

The society's officers include a president, vice president, secretary, assistant secretary and treasurer. According to the treasurer, Sharon Savage, the society will keep the same officers for the next school year.

McMillan says she usually meets with the club, composed of both male and female members, twice each month unless something comes up and she has to call an emergency meeting.

She notes that the organization by no means intends to discriminate. "We decided upon adding the name American to the organization to prevent discriminating against other races in the school who might like to join," she says.

The members must maintain at least a "C" average in their classes as well as pay a membership fee of \$3 per year or \$1.50 per semester.

The money is used for special events and other needs of the club.

The members say they have lots of activities in store for next year. Says Caldwell: "We have so many ideas..." To which Savage adds, "Next year we will be dynamite!"

Next year's plans include more get-togethers with other organizations, another success

program and the initiation of a scholarship to go to a graduating senior.

In addition, the club plans to observe Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday with a student body program and party. The members also plan to continue educating other students with black history bulletin boards.

Since the school needs a dark room for the printing of its own yearbook pictures, says McMillan, the club would like to set up a fund for a dark room and invite other clubs to donate.

What's more, the club members intend to enhance their own awareness of black culture by touring several black businesses.

And, as part of their community service, they plan to visit local nursing homes and put on musical programs for the elderly.

As for McMillan, she says she's more than just the sponsor of 35 students. She also counsels them. "I don't have all the answers," she says, "but I know whom to refer them to, and I do a lot of praying."

Summer employment

From Page A1

proof of age. Wherry says these guidelines are prescribed by the federal government.

"If a youth is receiving some type of federal assistance, they may or may not be eligible for the program," Wherry says. "They'll just have to bring the documents down and see."

Farabee says his department will keep up with workers' time and pay. "They will work for the employer and we will pay them," he says.

Meanwhile, the employer will get the satisfaction of seeing a

young person developing as well as additional summer help, says Wherry.

She says the federal government requires that the youth work only for non-profit agencies and organizations. "The YWCA, YMCA, Winston-Salem State University, the March of Dimes, the American Cancer Society and Family Services are some of the places where youth have worked in the past," Wherry says.

Young people will be placed in a variety of jobs, she says, including day care, maintenance,

food service, library work, tutoring, stock work, recreation and data entry, among others.

"We have about 400 people certified and ready to go," Wherry says.

She says the program has no deadline, but that it does have a limited number of slots available. "We're looking for about 100 more," she says.

For additional information about the JTPA program, call the Winston-Salem Human Services Department at 727-8004 or visit its offices in The Foundry Building at 222 S. Liberty St.

Tips For Consumers

Beware of credit card fraud

The credit card fraud act of 1984 increases the penalties leveled against those caught in activities that involve the illegal use of credit cards or other similar financial "access devices."

The Better Business Bureau notes, however, that credit card fraud remains one of the most widespread forms of crime practiced against consumers and businesses, costing in excess of \$1 billion each year. The BBB urges consumers to observe the following precautions in the use of their credit cards:

- Guard your credit cards at least as carefully as you would cash.

- Sign new cards immediately upon receipt.

- Generally, do not allow cards out of your sight; retrieve cards immediately after using them.

- Void or destroy incorrect receipts and ask for and destroy carbons used in charging items.

- Save receipts and compare them immediately with statements.

- Promptly report by telephone any questionable charges to card-issuing company; follow up with an explanatory letter to the company.

- Don't lend credit cards to anyone.

- Never carry more credit cards than you will need.

- Never give out card numbers by telephone or through the mail, unless it is with a company that you have contacted and are familiar with.

The BBB emphasizes that if you think someone is tampering with your credit card account, call the card-issuing company and follow it up with a letter. This letter should be sent by certified mail, with a return receipt requested, to give you proof that the letter was mailed and received. The card issuer must acknowledge receipt of your letter or correct any billing error within 30 days. If you have other questions about your rights in credit card fraud cases, contact your local BBB or the Federal Trade Commission in Washington, D.C.



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