

Kennedy students write essays for S.T.A.R.T.

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Chronicle Staff Writer

Two students in Kennedy Middle School's in-school suspension program, recently won an essay contest sponsored by the school's business partner, American Legion Post #220, and got the opportunity to represent the school on the Post's float in the Winston-Salem State Homecoming Parade, this past Saturday, Nov. 2.

Dekora Miller and Joe Melton, seventh grade students at Kennedy, each wrote an essay on the given topic of "What I Would Change About the Government of the United States," while in the in-school suspension program. The grand prize for the two winners was the chance to ride on the American Legion Post #220's float at the homecoming parade, as well as incentive awards in the form of school supplies.

The contest was held in conjunction with the program which is called "Success Through Accountable Responsible Thinking" (S.T.A.R.T.), after students in the program asked about riding on the float.

According to Belinda Beard, the home school facilitator at Kennedy, "It's an opportunity for students to come in and work during their in-school suspension days and complete classwork, but also to work on behavioral changes that will help them be successful when they return to class."

The in-school suspension program has been in operation on the middle school level for a number of years now, but Beard stated that this is the first year that the program has taken on a different approach.

"What we're trying to do this year is to provide an opportunity for them to do the work, but also to provide help on areas that interfere with their learning whether it be behavior, self-esteem, other difficulties. So what we're trying to do this year that's a little bit different than what we did in the past, is to incorporate not only the instruction, but parent involvement, counseling and community resources."

In her essay, Miller discussed the drug situation in America and how they are a negative influence



Kennedy students Joe Melton and Dekora Miller got the opportunity to ride on the American Legion Post #220's float in WSSU's homecoming parade this past Saturday, Nov. 2. The Post is Kennedy's business partner and offered the opportunity to students in the school's S.T.A.R.T. program who won an essay contest sponsored by the Post.

on society. She explained the reason why she chose that particular subject. "I think the drug situation is really bad with our youth and everyone. And I don't that it's right. It's a killer and whether you're dealing it or doing it, you're going to get killed in both ways. And I think it should be stopped somehow," she said.

Melton, who wrote his essay on the job opportunities and the plight of the homeless, stated his reason for writing on that topic. "I wrote it because there are a lot of homeless people out there and there's a lot of young guys out there with babies and they can't get jobs. And there are a lot of problems out there," he said.

This is the second year that the American Legion Post #220 has been the business partner for Kennedy Middle School, and Post Commander James McWillis, stated why it is important for members of the community to become more involved in the education process.

"It's something where kids at Kennedy School and other schools

too, they need role models, the way that drugs and streets are today. They just need someone to set examples for them because the way that some of them are going, they won't be around too long."

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calling Anita Hill a heroine. But a heroine she is not. A pawn is more like it. A tool, and in an extreme sense, a traitor to her race is more accurate. A black woman who is obviously suffering from historical amnesia best describes her condition; a condition which made it easy for her to be used by bra-burning white girls who don't have the guts to castrate the real sexual harassers. No. It's easier to let Yale-trained Anita do it to Yale-trained Clarence for all the world to see.

"The tragedy of Professor Hill's decision to share her freakish accusations with the nation is that she played into the pervasive stereotype of black male sexuality. And whether she realized it or not, black women as well."

One man in a letter to an extremely left New York black paper wanted to know where the black leaders hid after they threw Thomas to the lynching tree of white Democrats and feminists.

"Clarence Thomas was lynched publicly and with blacks fashioning the noose. Only because he expresses a view not popularly held!" he explained.

Theodore Kirkland wrote in *The Challenger*: "While the United State Senate's Judiciary Committee, composed of all white males, lynched Judge Clarence Thomas, president Bush's choice for the Supreme Court on national prime-time television, the NAACP, the Congressional Black Caucus, Jesse Jackson and other black national leaders stood by trying to convince the black masses that what they were witnessing was not a racist lynching but politics."

Now that the polls are out and it's safe, Jesse Jackson and his ilk know what's safe to say.

But when we needed integrity, we had to turn to those who stand for something. Wilcox and Banks were there. I'm glad I was there with my friends.

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trapped in destructive racial attitudes and by systems that label children for administrative convenience.

A recent National Urban League study of tracking in middle schools concludes that minority youth are more likely to be placed in so-called "low ability" classes where they receive less information from teachers and more criticism of their behavior.

Students in those "low" groups say they dislike math, don't care about what goes on in their math class, feel left out of classroom activities, and have poor relationships with their classmates.

The study also found that teachers often treat minority and

white students differently, even within the same classroom. Such negative attitudes are compounded when they take place in a tracking system that slaps the low-ability label on minority youngsters and reinforces stereotypes.

So it shouldn't come as a surprise that minority test scores are often low and dropout rates high, or that fewer minorities take the advanced math and science courses required for college entrance.

The National Urban League is using the findings of its tracking study to help parents and students avoid being victimized by the practice, and to make the elimination of tracking a major component of school reforms.