

Tar Heel Girls State holds 53rd annual session

The 1992 North Carolina Tar Heel Girls State session was held at UNC-Greensboro June 7-13 with an attendance of approximately 400.

The North Carolina Department Auxiliary President Grace

Ragan brought greetings to the citizens and assured them that they were in for a fun-filled and busy week learning about the state government.

The speakers for the week were Carolyn Carter; Atty.



Tina Thompkins (left) and Twakia Murray were recently elected lieutenant governor and governor, respectively, at the 52nd annual Girls State session.

Post #220 girls elected top officers at Girls State

By YVETTE N. FREEMAN
Community News Editor

The members of the American Legion Post 220 will be celebrating an historical event this weekend. Recently two of the young ladies they sponsored to attend the 53rd annual Tar Heel Girls State session held June 7-13 at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro were elected to the top two positions — a first for the Post in its history of sending participants to the session.

Seventeen-year-old Twakia Murray was elected the new governor, and 17-year-old Tina Thompkins was elected lieutenant governor. Both say they are proud not only to have been elected to the positions but also to be the first two young ladies from the same Post to hold those positions simultaneously. "I'm proud of myself," said Murray. "I'm very enthused about it."

Thompkins stated that she was surprised at her victory. "It was a shock. I was surprised at first when I won the primary for the party that I was in, which was the Nationalist Party. And then when I had to go up against the Federalist Party candidate, it was sort of scary because I thought she (the other candidate) had a lot more votes than I did," she said.

Martha Jones, the public relations chairman at the Post, however, was not surprised at the outcome. "This is just a first, and certainly for two girls — top positions — and from the same unit. And I've said all the time that I know they can do it. We just haven't had a chance, and this has provided them a chance," said Jones filled with excitement.

This is the fifth consecutive year that Post 220 has sponsored young women who have been elected to the governor's position at the Girls State, and in fact, last year, the Post received the state award for "Best Girls State Pro-

gram in North Carolina." Jones says with this last achievement, she has no doubt that the Post will win that award again this year.

As governor, Murray was responsible for signing all of the certificates for the participants in the Girls State session, and speaking at the closing ceremonies, and inauguration ball. She also had the opportunity to meet state official Rufus Edmisten, and Governor Jim Martin. She will return next year to pass on her title to the next elected participant, as well as Thompkins, who presided over the second general assembly during the week-long event. Thompkins will also return as a junior counselor next year. A senior at Mt. Tabor High School, Thompkins plans to be a pediatrician. She is the captain of the varsity cheerleading team at Mt. Tabor and will enter the Research Minority Apprentice Program at Bowman Gray School of Medicine this summer. She is also a member of St. Stephens Baptist Church, of which she says has been very instrumental in her success. "That church really helps a whole lot. Rev. Samuels is a real inspiration," she said. She is the daughter of Olivia and David Thompkins.

Murray, who is a senior at North Forsyth High School, plans to be a teacher because she says she wants to help young people. "I want to help them feel that they are special," she said. "So many of them don't seem to feel that way today." Murray is a member of Ambassador Cathedral, and the Spirit of Life Community Choir. She is also the first vice president of her high school, and a Sunday School teacher, and a member of Post 220 Junior Auxiliary. She is the daughter of Seneca Murray and the granddaughter of Walter and Janie Murray.



(Left to right): Twakia Murray, Monique Wilkins, Kimberly Jones, Cherié Kimbrough, and Tina Thompkins all attended the 53rd annual Girls State session in Greensboro.

Janet Wardblack, Secretary of State Rufus Edmisten, Jannie Lancaster of the N.C. Women's Prison in Raleigh, and Julianne Still-Thrift, president of Salem College.

The highlight of the week was when Governor Jim Martin spoke to the citizens on Friday. He urged them to get involved and learn about the political responsibilities of the elected officials.

Orientation classes were held at the American Legion Post 220 and conducted by Martha G. Jones, the Girls State chairperson.

Rhonda Cummings and Tabitha Moser, former Girls State citizens also conducted workshops.

Girls State Scholarships were awarded to 17-year-olds Twakia Murray, the daughter of Seneca Murray; Kimberly Jones, the daughter of John and Lois Jones; Monique Wilkins, the daughter of Desmond and Clarice Lowery; Cherié Kimbrough, the daughter of Arnetta Kimbrough; Tina Thompkins, the daughter of David and Olivia Thompkins; and Monica Holmes, the daughter of Harold and Elizabeth Holmes.

Girls State scholarship sponsors were the Winston-Salem Urban League, the Black Political Awareness League, and Sara Lee Direct.

Rising high school seniors who place in the upper 10% of their class are eligible to attend the Girls State sessions and receive a scholarship for attendance.

The Ralph R. Morgan American Legion Post 220 and the Auxiliary plans to hold a reception honoring the 1992 Boys and Girls State Citizens this Sunday, June 21 at 5 p.m. at the Post, located at 1332 N. Liberty St. The public is invited to attend.

Furches makes Dean's List

Chalette Renee Furches has been selected to receive an honorary recognition by having her biography and photo published in the 15th annual edition of the *National Dean's List 1991-92*.

The *National Dean's List* is the largest, most prestigious publication in the country that recognizes academically gifted students who are selected by their college dean or comparable faculty representative.

Furches, the daughter of James and Ruth Furches, is a 1991 graduate of Parkland High School. She actively participated on her school's flag team. She was flag team princess while at Parkland, and was recognized by her peers when she rode on a float in the Winston-Salem State University homecoming parade.

She received all the amenities including a trophy. She also sings



Chalette Renee Furches and her niece, Shameka J. Furches.

and has recently recorded an album with John P. Key, a religious recording artist.

Furches is currently enrolled at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

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July 20-21	Martin Community College, Williamston
July 21-22	Winston-Salem, WS/Forsyth Schools Admin. Ctr.
July 28-29	Hardin Park Elementary, Boone
July 28-29	Broadcreek Middle School, Morehead City
July 28-29	Halifax Community College, Roanoke Rapids
August 3-4	Greensboro, Western Guilford High School

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