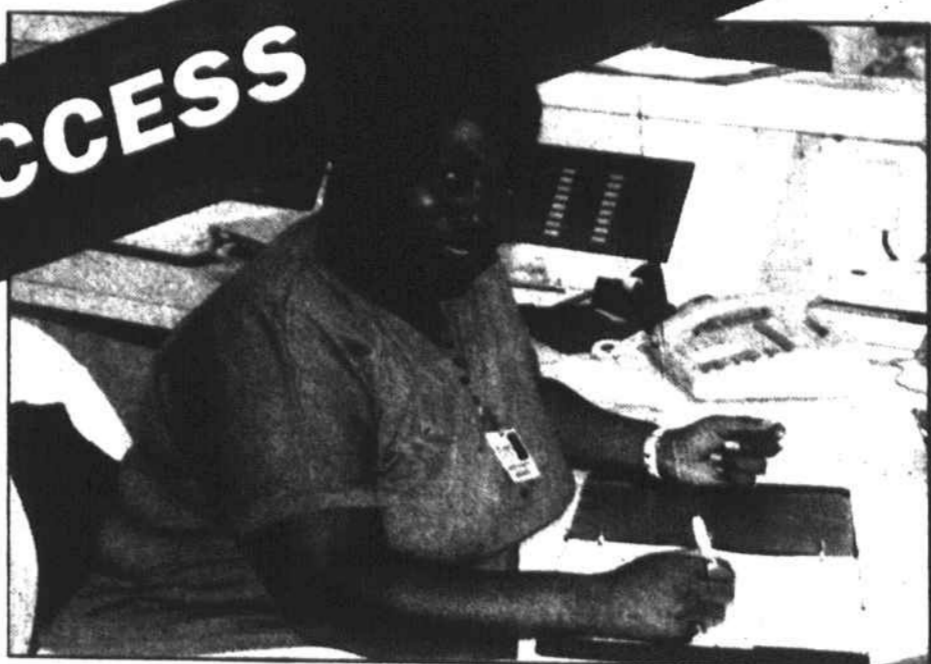


Featuring adult students in Forsyth Technical Community College's Basic Skill and High School Completion Programs.

SECOND CHANCE SUCCESS

By JIM WEISS



Name: Janice Roberts
Age: 27
FTCC Program: Adult High School
Highest grade completed before coming to FTCC: 12th
Last school attended: Reynolds High School
Family: 2 children, 3 brothers
Employer: Arbor Acres
Reason for returning to school: Get a better job
Why dropped out: Lacked one credit when finished 12th grade



Forsyth County employers have missed out on 9 years of Janice Roberts' potential. Why? Because of a breakdown in communication between Janice, then a 17-year-old young mother in 12th grade, and her high school counselor. This 12th grader had made it through a lot and deserved better. Janice had dreams of being the first of her family to graduate from high school. All three of her brothers had dropped out. She had a child, but stayed back in Winston, away from her baby, so that she could graduate. She passed all her courses and was excited about the upcoming graduation program. Her family was so proud.

Then at the last minute, that dream came crashing down when her counselor told her that she was missing a half a credit of English and would not graduate with her class. The potential of Janice Roberts was put on hold. It was too much for her to handle and she refused to go back.

Janice waited a few years and then went to a local business college, being accepted without her high school diploma. After finishing nine months of courses and getting into debt a few thousand dollars, the school told her that she could not finish without her high school diploma or GED. Another slap in the face of a young girl trying to be self-sufficient.

Janice had been slapped twice by the educational system, but with

the encouragement from her mother and her employer, she was ready to try again. Her boss at Subway restaurant told her that she could work her schedule around school.

First, she had to finish off her high school credits, which she did through Forsyth Tech's Adult High School Diploma program last year. "I finally got to walk across that graduation stage," said Roberts. "I was so nervous that my legs were just shaking as I walked down the aisle."

Next, her Department of Social Services worker got her into a Forsyth Tech Nursing Assistant class at Goodwill Industries. "That class was really wonderful. We did our clinical section over here at Arbor Acres," said Roberts. "I graduated on a Monday and by Wednesday, Arbor Acres had given me a job." In fact they liked her so much, that they went and picked her up. "This second chance has been great for my family. My eleven year old boy does his homework with me now," said Roberts. Roberts has been accepted into the nursing program at Forsyth Tech, and she hopes to start there soon.

Roberts obviously gets upset when she thinks of how things could have been, but she is not letting that stop her from changing the way things are. Congratulations are due to her and her family for their perseverance.

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McLean attends Global Forum

By CAROLE FAGINS
 Chronicle Correspondent

With the whole world watching a conference advertised as a last-chance meeting to save the planet, a local student was simply ecstatic to be one of the privileged few to learn about the environmental crisis facing people of all colors.

The Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, a landmark beginning of a serious drive to preserve the planet, became an historical event for Oronde McLean, a recent Reynolds High School graduate.

Although McLean did not attend the actual Earth Summit conference, he did participate in a week-long satellite conference called the Global Forum along with 7,892 non-governmental organizations from 167 countries. He was sponsored by the United Church of Christ during his stay in Rio from May 30 to June 12.

"To make a big change in our environment, we all must change the way we live, and the way we perceive our earth," said McLean. "People need to be informed on what they need to do to protect our earth — we must lobby against our government to make them aware of what needs to be done."

During the forum, McLean was part of a discussion group where people of all ages from different countries talked about critical issues affecting the environment. He also participated in "World Games," which were multi-cultural discussions about multi-national issues that emphasized solutions to environmental problems. The forum was held in Flamengo Park located about 20 miles from the Earth Summit Conference Center.

McLean says that in looking at the problems affecting the ecosystem, one must examine a series of issues that directly affect the environment, such as economic development, pollution, poverty, and over-population. "I really wasn't an environmentalist before I went to Rio, but while I was there, I learned so many things that made me appreciate the earth," he said.

According to McLean, there



Oronde McLean says since attending the conference, he has become more aware of the world's environmental crisis.

were many demonstrators protesting against issues such as America's refusal to sign the biodiversity treaty to protect the world's plants and animals, military governments, rain forest and ozone layer destruction, and pollution. Although McLean says that he did not take a particular position with any of the protests, he understood their reasons.

"Protesting does not bring about change all the time. Sometimes you have to learn all about the subject first and then come up with a plan for change before actually protesting for change," said McLean.

McLean has made suggestions of his own regarding what America's role should be in saving the

earth. "Our government needs to spend less money on defense and spend more money on scientific research and environmental causes such as cleaning up our air, oceans, lakes, protecting our earth, animals and plants, and finding ways to preserve our natural resources," he said.

He added that going to Rio allowed him to share his views with other people in finding solutions to correct the problems facing Mother Nature.

McLean plans to attend Dillard University in New Orleans, La. in the fall to study Urban Affairs. He hopes to become a lawyer after completing his undergraduate study.

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- MINI MARKET (NORTHWEST BLVD)
- WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY
- WILCO (UNIVERSITY)
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- 4-BROTHERS AMOCO (CLOVERDALE)
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- CROWN DRUGS (HANS MALL)

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