

# Program Helps Black College-Bound Students

By DAVID L. DILLARD  
Chronicle Staff Writer

For many young African Americans, being popular versus being smart is a major choice in their everyday lives. Because they fail to see the two as congruent, most opt for popularity.

According to Winston-Salem resident Ernest Wade, young black students often shun doing well in school because they believe it doesn't make them popular with their peers. Wade said he constantly hears phrases like "I just don't want to do good anymore," or "It's not worth it."

Wade also noticed that there was no program to help African-American youths aspire for higher education. He wanted to do something about it, so in 1989 he helped develop Project Ensure, which emphasizes higher education for African-American students.

"We designed this program with two goals in mind," said Wade, who is director of Minority Affairs at Wake Forest University. "One was getting students through high school and getting the most of it; the second goal was to get them enrolled in college."

The project began with 8th-graders who serve three weeks in residency at Wake Forest during the summer and meet once a month during the academic year.

Wade said the program began with incoming high school freshmen because it helps them remain focused during the transitional period.

"Here we have the middle-school concept where you are king of the hill as an 8th-grader, and the next year you go back to being green and not knowing anything," Wade said. "We spend a lot of time motivating the kids, so we thought that at this level we could ease the transition better."

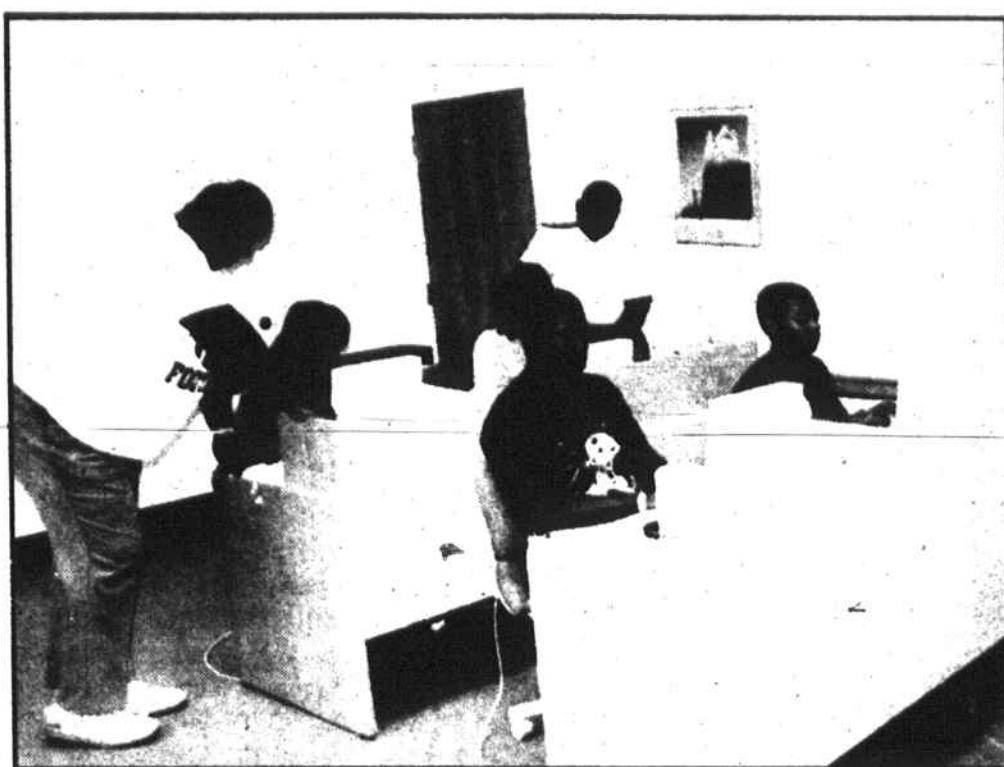
Of the 30 students who started the program, 22 of the remaining 23 completed high school and have been accepted to a college. The remaining student is expected to finish in summer school, Wade said.

Spencer McCall, 18, who graduated two weeks ago from Parkland High School, said the program was a big help in preparing black youths for college.

"I really liked the hands-on experience; it was very challenging," McCall said. "If we didn't have it many would still go to college, but this program brought us together to show us our history and give us a cultural foundation."

McCall, one of a few students to complete all four years of high school with perfect attendance, will attend Wake Forest University in the fall and plans to become a doctor.

Wade said a cross-section of students chosen for the program are taught math, science, English, African history and life skills.



Ernest Wade (left) gives computer instructions to Project Ensure students.

He emphasized the courses on Malcolm X, the civil rights movement and African history to dispel rumors that blacks have not contributed to society and to motivate them to continue.

"Some people will sell that notion that maybe blacks don't have the aptitude to do math, but when they know math originated with folks just like them, they want but into it," Wade said. "Our kids are brilliant and have an innate ability to succeed. It is critically important that they don't give it away by succumbing to the pressures of society."

The project is a five-year cycle ending next year. Wade said he hopes Wake Forest will continue.

# Burke Says She Will Remain Dedicated to Her Voters

▲ She takes new job, \$10,000 pay cut

By MARK R. MOSS  
Chronicle Staff Writer

Alderman Vivian Burke wants her constituents to know that although she has accepted an out-of-town position in the Hunt administration, she will still be able to maintain the same level of service and attention she has given them in the past.

"They can rest assured that I will be as conscientious and dedicated as I have ever been," Burke said last week from her new office in Mooresville.

Gov. Jim Hunt named Burke, an alderman since 1977 and mayor pro tempore, regional head of the N.C. Department of Environment, Health and Natural Resources on May 26. Burke, who started her new job on June 7,

makes the one-hour commute from Winston-Salem to Mooresville daily.

Managing the department involves coordinating agencies in 11 counties.

On May 20, Hunt revised the ethics order barring state employees from holding any other paying public office.

Rachel Perry, Hunt's press secretary, said the ethics order was not revised solely to accommodate Burke's appointment.

"The revision to the ethics order was simply making official the individual exceptions that had been made in the previous administration," Perry said. "Our legal counsel felt it was better to go ahead and make the revision."

Hunt did not want to discourage people from serving in his administration, she said.

She said "a number of" Hunt appointees were in situations similar to Burke's, and that the policy was changed near the time of the announcement of Burke's appointment was coincidental.

"Gov. Hunt has the greatest confidence in Vivian Burke and feels she will be careful to avoid any real or imagined conflict of interest," Perry said.

Burke said that as regional head she is primarily responsible for making sure that the governor's policies are carried out. Her responsibilities also include meeting with county and city managers, commissioners and elected officials and attending public hearings that concern the environment. Ninety employees work in the Mooresville office, she said.

The governor chose Burke, she said, because "he understands that I am capable and qualified."

"I can manage both of them," Burke said, referring to her new job and her position on the city's board.

Burke, who also chairs the Public Safety Committee, said being an alderman is a part-time job but she has carried out its functions on a full-time basis. Her last job as a counselor at the Career Center was full-time.

"I have a very high energy level," she said.

With an advisory committee composed of citizens from her ward, Burke said that "not too much happens in my community that I don't know about. My constituents are just like my family."

# Death Threats

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Mayor Martha Wood.

Womble said that it was difficult for him to believe that "out of a city of 160,000 people that one poor African-American from East Winston" could stop Winston-Salem from getting the All-American City designation.

"It wasn't the letter, it was the conditions," Womble said. "If they think this is an All-American city, I hate to see one that's not." Womble said he sent a memorandum to Wood and City Manager Bill Stewart informing them of the threats.

Wood called the threats reprehensible and said she, too, has received threatening calls in the past.

"There's no reason in this country for threatening anybody," she said. "I don't care how controversial the issue is, I think it's reprehensible for any American citizen to threaten anybody for their views. It's anti-American."

Meanwhile at Saturday's rally, sponsored by Citizens United for Justice, many of the approximately

45 residents spoke in support of Womble.

"Those of us here today are behind him 100 percent," said Floy Howie, a city resident. "One letter did not influence the recommendation of people who make the decision for the All-America City." The city is in the mess that it's in because, Howie said, "the bad is outweighing the good."

Marie Roseboro, another city resident, suggested that criticizing Womble means not taking a look at the real problem—the conditions that Womble addressed. She said African Americans might need to organize a "non-shopping Saturday" in order to get the respect given white residents and white elected officials.

"However we do it, we need to do it economically," he said.

The Rev. John Mendez, Emmanuel's pastor, said that because of Womble's importance to the community, "a lot of us felt we needed to come together and talk about the larger picture."



Rev. John Mendez

He said the application for the All-American City designation "was very untimely."

He accused city officials of not being able to take criticism and added that the "city wants us to remain boys and girls, they don't want us to mature . . . This is not new to us."

# Darryl Hunt

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Womble testified that it was Johnny Gray, not Hunt, who killed Deborah B. Sykes.

Sykes was raped and stabbed to death in 1984. Hunt was convicted of first-degree murder in 1985, but the N.C. Supreme Court overturned the conviction in 1989. He was convicted again in 1990, but in February, the state Supreme Court ordered next week's hearing on the latest allegation.

Hunt said the hardest part of being incarcerated is "I'm innocent" and "not being able to go home; not being around people I love."

"The last 2 1/2 years have been

the hardest," Hunt said. "When I first came in I was uneducated. But after being in here learning and growing, I see a lot of things happening. I see brothers coming in that don't need to be in here, but they're trapped in the system."

"I can see so much oppression," he said. "They in and out. . . It's like: 'As long as you can keep 'em down, you can keep 'em coming back.'"

Hunt seemed pleased to see several of his longtime supporters, many of whom belong to Citizens United for Justice, who have fought

to prove his innocence. He warmly embraced attorney Larry D. Little, the Rev. Carlton Eversley and Alderman Nelson Malloy. Little said he feels extremely confident that Hunt will get another trial.

When asked where is his family, Hunt gave his ready smile and waved his large hand around the crowded room.

"This is my family," he said.

Moments later, his visitors left, but not before hugs and well-wishing. Hunt was frisked by a Sheriff's deputy and escorted back to his jail cell where he awaits yet another day in court to prove his innocence.

# Bias

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racially motivated incidents reported, ranking fifth among the counties with the highest level of bias crimes.

While the report listed non-violent activity, including harassment and intimidation, Linda Williams, a spokesman for NCARRV, cited Winston-Salem as "one of the areas with the most violent incidents." She made reference to the castration murder of Carlos Stoner and the death of Shelia Ann McKellar. Stoner was killed by four white men, and McKellar died in police custody after she was restrained in a jail cell. Both were black.

The report said that hate-group activity, such as marches and meetings, decreased from 1991, while violent incidents and harassment significantly increased.

"They leave behind a climate that says it's seemingly alright to target someone because of their race," Williams said. "We have noticed that when organizing is down, the incidents seem to increase. But certainly a rise in whites joining a white supremacy group is alarming."

The Confederate Knights of America, National Socialist Front is currently the hate group of most concern to North Carolinians, NCARRV says, because they target white youths for membership.

"They are the ones we should watch out for because they have formed a skinhead arm," Williams said. "Terry Boyce (national leader of the Confederate Knights of America) is someone to take seriously because he is currently organizing among white youths."

Williams said Boyce is moving his group closer toward military bases so they can undergo paramilitary training. Boyce reportedly has a stockpile of homemade weapons, computers, and is moving their operation underground so their activities cannot be easily monitored, she said.

In the most recent activity in Winston-Salem, Aaron Moser, a skinhead with ties to the National Socialist Front, was charged with killing a white man, Thomas Scharf, and injuring his black friend, Julius Johnson.

According to Williams, the hate groups are preparing for a race war that they predict will happen in 1995. Williams doesn't think the idea is far-fetched as long as people continue to ignore racially motivated violence.

"I think under certain criteria, it's already happening on a much smaller level," she said. "I think a race war is probably inevitable as long as we think everything is O.K. and pretend there is no problem with racism."

## Discount Concert Tickets Available

Group discount rates are available for next week's "For Real Tho'" concert at Joel Lawrence Memorial Coliseum featuring Levert and the Rude Boys. Groups of 10 or more will receive a \$2 discount. Contact the coliseum box office before 5 p.m. June 23. Tickets are \$16 in advance and \$17 the day of the show.

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