

IN OUR SCHOOLS

Youth Attends Legislator's School

Michael Rainey, son of Sylvester and Leneva Rainey of 5041 Wrangler Drive, has been selected to attend the Legislator's School for Youth Leadership Development at Western Carolina University.

He attended Ashley Middle School in Winston-Salem and is a rising ninth-grader.

The program offers some 300 rising eighth- through 12th-graders an opportunity to develop skills in leadership, critical thinking and communication. The three-week residential program utilize the cultural and recreational resources of WCU and the setting adjacent to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

It is operated in two sessions, June 18-July 8 (10th-12th grades) and July 10-30 (eighth and ninth grades), by WCU's Office for Rural Education. During their stay, students participate in academic and special interest courses in photography, journalism, computers, art, astronomy and other topics. Community service work and discussions about current issues, led by state and regional leaders, are important aspects of the program. It is funded by the General Assembly.



Michael Rainey

Teacher Attends Seminar

Ann Plowden of Winston-Salem, a Kindergarten teacher at Old Richmond Elementary School, recently attended a seminar at the N.C. Center for the Advancement of Teaching.

Plowden was one of 15 North Carolina teachers participating in "Taking Laughter Seriously", June 20-24, conducted by senior fellow A.G. Rud, NCCAT, a unit of the University of North Carolina, provides intellectual and creative renewal experiences for teachers in a year-round series of interdisciplinary seminars. Teachers from every county in the state have participated in center programs since NCCAT was established in 1985. Richard L. Thompson is director.

Year-Round School

Kimberly Park's Alternative School and Konnoak, Easton and Bolton elementary schools will operate on a year-round schedule this year. Philo Middle School will be a "school within a school", offering both the year-round and a traditional calendar. Bolton and Philo are new to this calendar this year. Teachers started July 11 with five professional days scheduled before students start on Monday.

School hours for students: Easton: 8:45 a.m. - 3:15 p.m.; Kimberly Park: 8:15 a.m. - 2:45 p.m.; Konnoak: 8:40 a.m. - 3:15 p.m.; Bolton: 8:45 a.m. - 3:15 p.m.; Philo: 7:35 a.m. - 2:15 p.m.

Fine Arts Program

The Program of Special Interests and Fine Arts for grades K-11 includes enrichment activities for selected students who have completed Kindergarten through fifth grade at Mt. Tabor High School. The musical, "42nd Street", will be presented by the sixth- through 11th-grade students today and Friday at Reynolds Auditorium at 7 p.m. The performances are free.

Computer Camp

A nine-day Computer Camp for second- through eighth-graders are being held at the Career Center. Students are using personal computers to create multimedia presentations, control robots, publish newsletters and write computer programs.

BEP Program

Basic Education Program summer school includes grade one through 12 and is offered to all who qualify at no cost to the student. Students who fail to meet minimum standard scores on the North Carolina Minimum Skills Diagnostic Test in grades 3, 6, and 8 are required to attend BEP summer school to be promoted to the next grade. Students in grades 1, 2, 4 and 5 were selected on a priority basis with retention and teacher recommendation as criteria for the slots available. Elementary classes are being at Hall-Woodward and South Fork.

Elementary BEP Program

Local summer programs are being offered for elementary, middle and high school students who do not qualify for the BEP program but who wish to reinforce skills, repeat a failed course, or take a new course. All new high school courses are being offered only at Parkland. A fee is charged.

Mineral Springs School

Mineral Springs Middle School will extend its regular school year through July 29 with each student's completion time depending entirely on how long it takes him or her to meet the requirements for promotion.

More at Moore

"More at Moore" is being held through July 29 at SECCA for Moore Elementary School students.

More at Moore

Erica Imani Brown-Shelton of Winston-Salem a rising senior at the N.C. School for Science and Mathematics in Durham is one of two students representing North Carolina in the 1994 Sony Student Project Abroad. Nominated by Sen. Lauch Faircloth for her academic and extra curricular achievements, Erica is the daughter of Cecilia McDaniel Brown of Winston-Salem and of Ulysses G. Shelton, Jr., of Roxbury. Brown plans to major in chemical engineering/pre medicine in undergraduate school and to become a plastic surgeon, specializing in trauma surgery.

"In Our Schools" is a weekly calendar of events that chronicles going-ons in our local schools. If you would like your event information included send them to: "In Our Schools", The Chronicle, P.O. Box 1636, Winston-Salem, N.C., 27102-1636. You may also fax it to 723-9173.

N.C. BLACK LEADERSHIP CAUCUS

Youths Say Conference Was Success

By DAVID L. DILLARD
Chronicle Staff Writer

Misty Knight usually avoids leadership conferences because, she said, young people are there "for show." But the Gates County High School senior said she enjoyed the N.C. Black Leadership Caucus last weekend because she and other youths had an active role in deciding their agenda.

"Usually everybody talks to you about being a leader, but you never get the chance to do it," Knight said. "This conference was important to me because we were involved."

Annette Exum, vice chairman of the caucus, said the youth workshops were designed to help youths develop leadership skills.

"We as leaders don't always do everything to specifically train young people," she said. "This conference provided a nurturing atmosphere to train them and help them focus on their goals."

Exum feels young leaders are blossoming in the black community

— even among those who are committing crimes. She said with proper training, black youths will develop into strong leaders.

"I definitely see leadership potential in youths today — even those who are committing violent crimes, because they are getting others to do it with them," she said. "The skills and potential are there; the only difference is the goal, which should be to build the community and not be deleterious to community."



Earline Parmon talks with youths at Black Leadership Caucus.

The youths had three two-hour workshop on warriorship, rites of passages and safe sex. Students attended the caucus came from Raleigh, Elizabeth City, Gates County and other cities.

Many said they thought the conference was beneficial to black youths. Courtney Daniel, a student from St. Martin's School in Boston, said he enjoyed the warriorship workshop because it dealt with issues facing black men.

"I got a lot of insight into the

African's world view of community and the role of the warrior," he said. "He fights for a cause and has purpose in life. He's strong, but not someone who has to be violent."

Dana Young, a senior at Carver High School, said she enjoyed the workshop on rites of passage because it used African principles to train boys to become men.

"It taught you the importance of being black and having pride in your race and that's something we need," Young said. "The young black men need to be here instead of on the streets killing themselves."

County Commissioner Earline Parmon, a presider over the youth conference, said the youths were instrumental in outlining the workshops and are developing their own leadership caucus for black youths.

"They were part of the process and planned most of the activities," she said. "It's important to have them involved because the youth are our leaders of tomorrow. Our job is preparing them for leadership."

Mendez: Warriors Build, Not Destroy, Community

By DAVID L. DILLARD
Chronicle Staff Writer

As a boy, the Rev. John Mendez thought he was a warrior while "banging" with New York street gangs, but he later learned that a true warrior builds community instead of destroying it.

"The warrior is not someone who's violent and always wants to fight," Mendez told a group of youths Friday. "The concept of warriorship is defined by what he can give to the community. Be a real warrior (and) work for the cause."

Mendez, pastor of Emmanuel Baptist Church, conducted a forum on the concept of warriorship last week at the N.C. Black Leadership Caucus.

He discussed the concept of individuality vs. community that most go through after acquiring

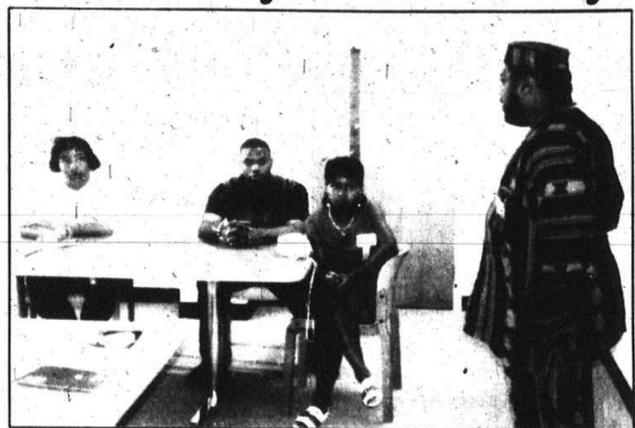
knowledge. He said blacks should return to the African adage *I Am Because We Are* and any knowledge gained should help the community.

"Your individuality finds meaning and purpose in the context of community," he said. "The warrior must not be an enemy to the community."

The Rev. Steve Fails agrees. He said black communities are suffering because too many times blacks don't return to their communities after getting an education.

"Many times people don't come back to the community after they get the education," Fails said. "Our objectives should be to come back and do things for people who pushed us."

Tomorrow Simon, a student from Raleigh, said she enjoyed



Rev. John Mendez talks with youths during Black Leadership Caucus.

Mendez's lecture because he taught from a community perspective.

"He talked about things we could relate to," Simon said.

"Nowadays, the community is corrupt. I think it's good that we as people are coming together again."

Jackson Urges Ballot Power

from page 1

tions definitely should be registered, he said. Of about 6,000 students at Jackson's alma mater, N.C. A&T State University, one-third are registered to vote.

"It's not too much to expect every faculty member and student to be registered and fully aware," Jackson said.

Jackson said it must be the schools' program, the caucus' program and the churches' program to get people registered to vote.

Blacks could have enormous political power if more people were registered to vote, Jackson said. He cited the power in the black vote by noting it was the black southern vote that was significant in President Clinton's victory. Because the plight of the African-American community is not a priority of either party, Jackson said it's very important for African Americans to use their voting power.

The lack of the African-

American vote has cost some blacks election bids, he added. He said because more blacks did not vote or were not registered in New York, David Dinkins was not re-elected mayor.

Jackson also blames some of the low-voting numbers on the government. He said voting should be on a Saturday, not a workday.

"Voting on a workday is a scheme to discourage participation," he said.

He added that the United States along with several other countries sent funds to South Africa for voter education. He added that voter cards with candidate's pictures were used for those who could not read and voter cards were taken to those who were incarcerated but not convicted felons.

Adults raising their children should be another reasonable expectation of African Americans, Jackson said.

"Raise the babies that you make," he said. "Dogs raise their puppies, and we're just a little less than God."

Adults must also commit themselves to youths by changing attitudes and focusing on giving youths respectable role models they can pattern their behavior after. A change in adult attitudes would result a change in young people's attitudes.

"Children act out what they see in us," he said. "We don't need legislation to stop killing each other, we can stop that tonight just by changing our minds."

Jackson added that there needs to be more community involvement and more money spent on items of necessity like health care and less on jails.

"It makes more sense to invest in prenatal care than jail care and welfare," Jackson said.

Jackson encouraged the audi-



Jesse Jackson

ence not to let the system break its spirit. He reminded them of the spirit of Nelson Mandela, who spent much of his adult life in a South African prison.

"He kept dreaming, hoping and believing," he said. "A man once called a prisoner is now called President."

Caucus Gets Off to "Fiery" Start

from page 1

Mendez got us off to a fiery start."

Mendez said African-American adults must unite and take care of the youth in order to advance me in the next century.

"If we lose the children we've lost our future, because the children are our future," he said.

He said youths must be loved so they can be educated; lack males must be discouraged from killing one another and referring to black females with degrading names such as "bitch"; and females must be discouraged from accepting these degrading definitions. Returning to tradition is part of the solution to the problems African-Americans face, Mendez said.

"We've got to go back and rediscover that which has always worked for us," he said. "We've got our stuff and we've got the right stuff, we just have to reclaim it."

Mendez referred to the 20th century with the famous Charles

Dickens' quote from his novel *A Tale of Two Cities*: "It was the best of times and the worst of times."

On the good side, the 20th century has been a technical revolution. With this century came basic things to us like the telephone, television, self-powered engines, automobiles and modern bath rooms. There were also advances in medical care, and the progress made in agriculture has enabled the country to feed more people than ever before.

Never has mankind witnessed such phenomenal change, he said. But Mendez also pointed out a dark side to those advances. Technological progress brought the invention of the atomic bomb and the devastation of two world wars. As agriculture found ways to produce more, more people became hungry. And during the 12 years of the Reagan/Bush administration, the economy saw the rich get richer and the poor get poorer.

"We're one of the richest nations in the world and we have people sleeping on streets, eating out of garbage cans and living below the poverty line," he said.

Citing a *Wall Street Journal* analysis of the 1981 recession, Mendez said African-Americans were the only ethnic group to show a net loss of jobs during that period at more than 59,000 positions. Asians gained about 55,000, Latinos about 50,000 and whites gained about 71,000 positions, he said.

The unemployment led to the guns and drugs being brought into the black communities, designed to create genocide, Mendez said. The young black men who are arrested for selling drugs on street corners are only a small part of a much larger problem.

"These young men are sub-contractors, pawns being used by powerful drug barons," he said.

"Something's wrong when they can't get scholarships, but can get drugs and guns."

Just to be included will be a major hurdle for African Americans in the 21st century Mendez said.

"It used to be a privilege to be exploited — at least we were included," Mendez said. "Now we're just excluded, rejected in such a way that we no longer count."

The partnership that needs to be formed among African Americans cannot be divided by social or economic status, Mendez said. And they must hold on to their spirit, something that slavery could never strip away.

"We need to start at one end of the community and link with the other end. It doesn't matter if you're on drugs or drunk. We've got to pull each other up."