

CITY TRIES AGAIN WITH THE MIX

Summer event aims to give teens something positive to do

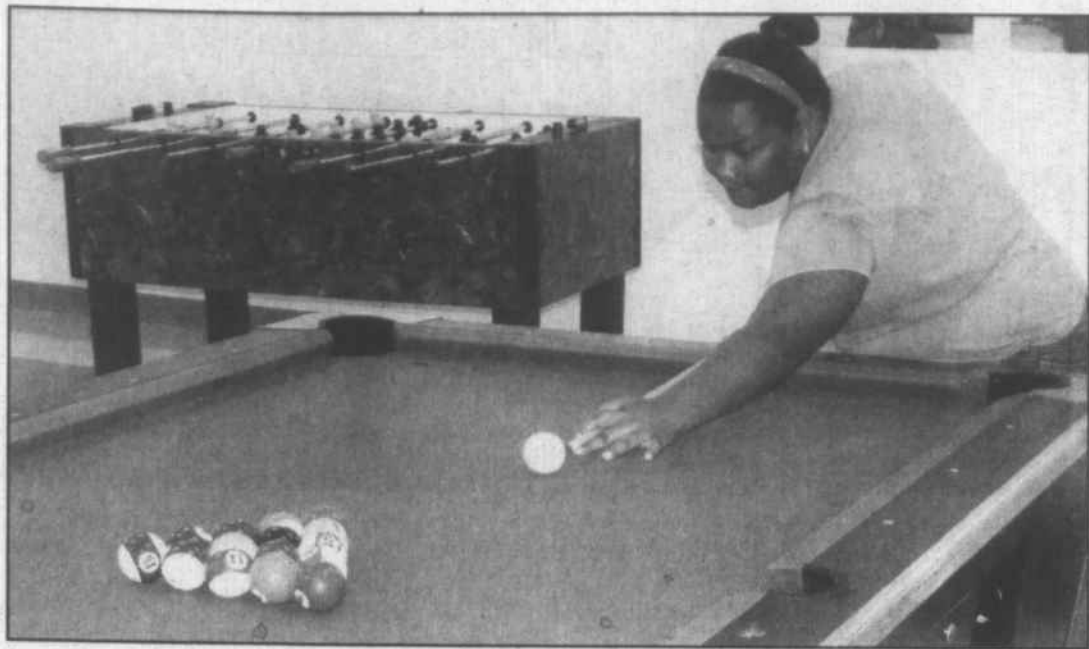
BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

The city has dropped The Drop, last summer's teen entertainment event, and replaced it with The Mix, which premiered last Friday at Hanes Hosiery Recreation Center.

Unlike The Drop, which was held outdoors in Corpening Plaza and mainly featured music and dancing, The Mix offers a variety of activities.

"We call it The Mix because there's always going to be a different mix of activities going on," said Ed McNeal, the city's marketing and communications director. "It's not going to be like what we did last year, where basically we had an outdoor club. We had a DJ and young people could come in and just dance and socialize. This year we're trying to be a little more purposeful."

The city started The Drop in hopes of finding a positive outlet for young people, many of whom were downtown anyway to enjoy Fourth Street Jazz and Blues, a popular outdoor summer concert series. The Drop was an immediate smash, drawing about 1,500 soon after its debut. The crowd was too large for the modest-size Corpening Plaza, and The Drop was plagued by fights and other incidents of violence. Eventually, The Drop was moved to the Dixie Classic Fairgrounds, a venue with more space. At the new site, the incidents of violence



Jasmine Baldwin plays a game of pool.

Photos by Todd Luck

ceased, McNeal said. Yet, the city decided to go in another direction this summer.



McNeal

Young music lovers were not ignored at The Mix. A DJ spun tunes in the center's dimly lit gym. Nearby, there were areas where youngsters could play ping pong, pool, or video games on Wii and X-Box 360 systems.

Those looking to express themselves in other ways, headed to an art room complete with easels and colorful supplies. The center's computer lab was also available for use.

Not all the activities there drew the same response. While teens constantly played WiiSports on the Wii and X-Box 360's Madden NFL 2008, the art room drew a much smaller crowd. McNeal said that the activities will be constantly tweaked in response to feedback from attendees. Teens

are invited to fill out "Holla Back" cards to share their input about The Mix. McNeal said he is already working on ways to incorporate motivational speakers into The Mix.

Each young person who attends The Mix has to register, a new requirement this summer. Parents must sign registration forms, which have their contact information in case they need to be reached. ID cards are made for teens who turn in registration information so that they can easily gain admission to future The Mix events. There are other security measures. Attendees are screened by a metal detector at the door and are constantly under adult supervision by off duty law enforcement officers and volunteers.

Many parents walked around The Mix checking it out before they dropped their children off, parents like April Marlin, who brought her daughter, Asia. Marlin said she was impressed with what she saw and felt comfortable leav-

ing Asia.

"It's good," said Marlin. "I'm glad ... they could organize something like this for the teenagers ... to keep them out of trouble and in a safe environment."

Thirteen-year-old Jasmine Baldwin attended The Drop last year but gave The Mix higher marks because of its greater variety of activities.

"It's something for us to do rather than being at home Friday night being bored," said Baldwin.

On its inaugural night last Friday, 146 teens came to The Mix. McNeal said that the event is designed to handle 200-300 teens. With the exception of July 4, The Mix will be held every Friday until Aug. 15 at Hanes Hosiery, 501 Reynolds Blvd. It's held from 8 to 11 p.m. but teens won't be admitted after 10 p.m. The event is exclusively for teens 13-18.

For more information call 272-2063.

Sprinkle-Hamlin, widow of the late great theater icon Larry Leon Hamlin, spoke to a crowd of more than 60 women at a luncheon on Saturday.

"I chose Ms. Hamlin because I think too often we always look outside for our guests and I knew that we had so many phenomenal women inside our own church," explained Demetria Dove, organizer of this year's Women's Day celebration. "I knew she had been through so much lately with the National Black Theatre Festival and her husband, but she continues to have a smile on her face and continues to empower women and continues to do all that she does."

ills), that we will help them become empowered," she concluded. "We have a clear mandate from God ... to do justice, love mercy and walk humbly in the Word of God."

Themed, "Empowering Women through all Aspects of Life," the two-day, annual Women's Day program spans more than half of the church's 99-year history and has become a vital part of the its programming.

"Women in this church are the pillars of the church," said Shirley Sadler, president of the Episcopal Church Women. "They keep things going and they stabilize the church."

Mayor Johnson

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has a responsibility to reach back and empower others to reach new heights.

"We must mentor and guide the next generation to understand their responsibility to be of service to others locally and globally," she remarked. "We have no choice but to become activists in this work."

The obligation to help fellow women is not just moral, but religious as well, Johnson contends.

"We must say to all women that we will overcome, that we will correct (societal

Magazine

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field," Joel McIver related. "He laid it out, he laid it out with vision and purpose; it was obvious he believed in it and I was sold."

Despite the brothers' fervor, life got in the way. The idea was swept up in the tide of a busy law office and took a backseat to the established business for a time.

"We did it slow; we didn't rush anything," Roderick said.

Yet the McIvers never gave up on what had become a somewhat collective dream.

"It was a thought that just kept coming up," Joel remarked. In 2008, the brothers added another partner to the company roster, calling on Chasity Conrad, a longtime employee of Roderick's. Conrad jumped in

with both feet, signing Roderick up for magazine publishing seminars and working as support staff for the magazine.

"I thought it was a great idea," she said. "I thought it was different."

Roderick sought out writers to follow ongoing cases and poll juries post trial about their sentiments.

"What Todd is good at is finding people who know how to do things and bringing them into the circle," his brother commented.

Creating a magazine from scratch was not without its challenges.

"None of us actually knew what putting it together actually entailed," Conrad confessed.

"We just started to piece-meal it together," Roderick added.

Leaning on each other for

support, the three managed to muddle through, and the inaugural, April / May edition of North Carolina Jury View magazine hit the streets.

Juggling the demands of a law office and that of a new magazine was trying at times, the group admits.

"It's hard to do both things," Roderick commented. "There are some times when it's too much to do, literally."

With the publication of the magazine came some much-needed praise and encouragement.

"The most rewarding thing was when the magazine came out and I was walking through the courthouse and several of my colleagues were telling me how well received it was," Roderick stated.

Both in content and in delivery, Jury View fills an important

void in legal publications, Joel says.

"One of the things that sets this magazine apart from other legal magazines is anyone can read it - there's not all this legal jargon - and it's entertaining," he pointed out.

Currently, Jury View is a bimonthly publication, but its publishers say they anticipate it will become a monthly sometime in 2009. Roderick hopes to greatly expand the magazine's reach in the coming years as well.

"The way I look at it, there are 50 states with 50 justice systems," he stated. "I would really like to see Jury View go nationwide."

For more information on NC Jury View magazine or to subscribe, call (336) 831-2781 or visit www.ncjuryview.com.

Baptist breast cancer study seeks participants

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

The Comprehensive Cancer Center at Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center is one of seven sites in the world participating in a clinical trial evaluating the effectiveness of an anti-cancer vaccine in reducing the risk of breast cancer recurrence.

The vaccines, composed of GP2 or AE 37 peptides of the HER2/neu protein, a cancer protein found in 60 to 70 percent of breast cancers, and GM-CSF, an FDA-approved drug that stimulates bone marrow to make new blood cells.

"The data from the preliminary trials of this vaccine are quite promising," said John H. Stewart, IV, M.D., principal investigator of the study at Wake Forest Baptist. "The use

of this protein-based vaccine reduced the recurrence rate in women with a high risk of recurrence by 33 percent."

The vaccines have been proven safe in Phase I trials (earliest phase of human testing) and appear to stimulate the immune system.

Eligible participants are patients diagnosed with invasive breast cancer who are at high risk for recurrence and are HER2/neu positive. Participants will receive six doses of vaccine over an 18-month period. There are six study sites in the United States and one in Greece.

The national goal for patient accrual is about 600 and Wake Forest Baptist plans to recruit 100 patients into the trial.

For more information call 336-713-4788.



Dr. Stewart

Dress

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Dress for Success was started in New York by Nancy Lublin, who was a law school student at the time. With the support of three nuns from Spanish Harlem, and a \$5,000 inheritance she received from her father, Lublin launched the program in 1996. Today, there are 75 locations, including affiliates in New Zealand, Canada and the United Kingdom.

Dress for Success prepares women in the midst of socioeconomic transitions for career placement. To become a client, a woman must be referred by an agency partner, such as career placement organizations. Once referred, a woman is given the opportunity to work with a Dress for Success personal shopper to select a suit, shoes and accessories for an interview. When a

client lands a job, she is welcomed back to select another suit for her first day on the job. Dress for Success also provides career consulting and has a number of job retention programs.

Since finding refuge in Dress for Success two years ago, Terrell has been on the rebound, stopping at nothing to rebuild her life. After enrolling in a workforce development program, she has remained employed and established permanent housing.

Others like Terrell are coming through the agency's doors each day. Roslyn Woodland was all smiles on her way out of the Washington, D.C. Dress for Success facility. She was referred by a D.C.-based homeless kitchen.

She said smiling, "I'm starting a temp assignment next week and I just picked up an outfit and some shoes...all Anne Klein."



Lublin



Photo by Layla Farmer

Roderick McIver with Chasity Conrad and his brother, Joel.

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