

## According To Thomas

# Nursing Profession Has Made Many Dramatic Changes

"Nursing has made dramatic changes," says Willis Thomas, Presbyterian Hospital Nursing student. "Now it's technical and very professional," states the 25 year-old.

"A nurse now is expected to know technical details like recognizing the condition of a patient without the presence of a doctor," Thomas stated. "Nurses are expected to give accurate reports to doctors, many times over the telephone, when they're away from the hospital," he added.

Being a nurse isn't something Thomas has always dreamed of doing. In fact, nursing is a profession men only recently began to explore. Even as a maternity nurse, Willis stated he has been well accepted. He believes most male nurses receive few problems in terms of acceptance.

Thomas is a 1981 graduate of Johnson C. Smith University where he received a degree in biology. The chemistry minor commented he knew by high school graduation he wanted to enter the health field.

"The problem," he recalled, "was deciding on a specific career."

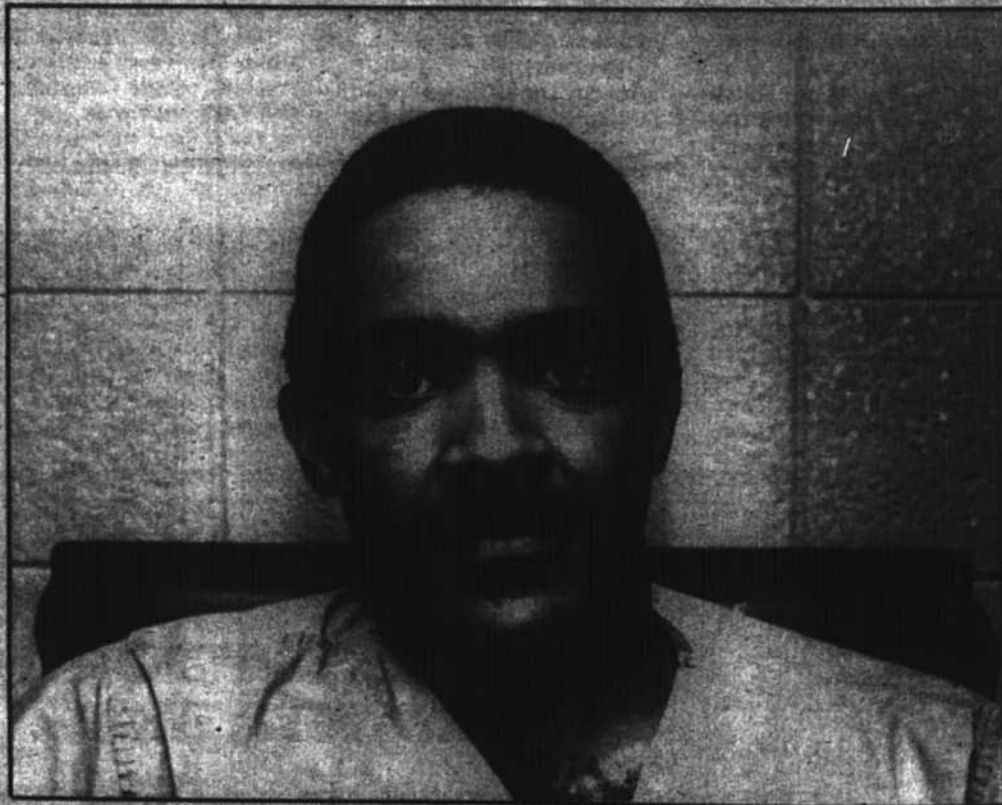
His mother an educator, had mentioned the opportunities in nursing, but Thomas still remained uncertain. After college graduation he remained in Charlotte and worked as a lab technician. "I enjoyed the work, but it became monotonous," admitted Thomas.

All along, he had been talking with some male friends who were nurses, and most importantly, excited about their careers.

"I started looking into the programs at different colleges in the area," Thomas stated. What he discovered was a number of excellent nursing programs available in Charlotte. The final decision was Presbyterian Hospital.

"I selected Presbyterian for the in depth clinical experience which I can gain," said Thomas. Not long after entering nursing school, Thomas received a part-time job as a nursing assistant at Hawthorne-Nursing Center. Working at the 150-bed center has assured him he has found a fulfilling career.

"I've learned so much about the human body and the functioning of its organs," Thomas beamed. His senior year at the school is divided into five sessions. They include maternity, pediatrics, critical



**WILLIE THOMAS**  
Senior Nursing student

care, psychiatric management and advanced nursing. It's the final session when Thomas will choose a specialty in the nursing program and give it full concentration.

"I'm almost certain I'll select critical care," he projected. "I've always been fascinated by medical procedure in the operating room," he added. Thomas explained his extreme curiosity in that area is the reason he volunteers to be the scrub nurse, whenever he can.

"The scrub nurse prepares the patient for operation; handles the instruments and is right there to assist the doctor," expressed the honor student who undoubtedly likes being where the action is.

When Thomas graduates, he plans to remain at Presbyterian Hospital as an anesthetist. "That's another good thing about the Presbyterian school of Nursing," Thomas was reminded. "A student loan can be paid off in more than one way. If the student remains at Presbyterian \$900 is deducted from the account for each year of service. Even if the student doesn't remain at Presbyterian, the charge is only \$75 monthly. A loan can be obtained at two percent interest."

Paying for an education proved even easier for Thomas this year when to his surprise he received the Lydia Ghent Scholarship. It's given by the Hawthorne Nursing Center to a student who demonstrates excellence in the work of nursing.

According to Deana Nail of Presbyterian Hospital, Lydia Ghent was the sister of Mrs. Jane Moore, Nursing director at Hawthorne Nursing Center. "Mrs. Moore was so impressed with Willis' work that she and her sisters established the scholarship specifically for him," Ms. Nail presented.

A chemistry tutor and member of SECAS (nursing honor society), Thomas informed he'll never regret becoming a nurse. "There are times when it seems

more than 90 percent of my time is devoted toward becoming a nurse. Long classes, eight-hour work shifts, and exams sometimes make me wonder if I'm going to make it."

"Then," he continued, "I'll do well and be assured that I'm doing the right thing." So it gets rough and tough for Thomas, but he's pleased that there are weekends when he can enjoy the hobby at the top of his list, swimming. When he's not doing that he gets a kick out of meeting and

talking to people.

"Other students tease me and say I'm especially good at getting along with elderly women," Thomas laughed. "I guess that's because I see all of them as my grandmothers. You know, he added, "you can learn a lot by listening to older people. They're in-

teresting and fun."

Even if nursing did remain mostly changing bedpans and comforting patients, Thomas could still make the job a challenge. That's because he has one genuine qualification that can't be taught in any school. That is caring from the heart.

## Winthrop College To Hear Dr. Betty Siegel

ROCK HILL—Dr. Betty Siegel, the first female president in the 33-unit University System of Georgia, will speak on the topic "Inviting Success" at Winthrop College's Tillman Auditorium at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 6. This talk, part of Winthrop's freshman convocation series, will be open to the public at no charge.

A popular speaker on topics ranging from early childhood education to concerns of the aged, Dr. Siegel's area of specialization is life span developmental psychology. She often speaks to groups or topics including "invitational education," the economically disadvantaged and women's concerns.

In 1981 Dr. Siegel was named president of Kennesaw College in Marietta, Ga., making her the first woman to be president of an institution in that state's university system.

She was also the first female academic dean in the 90-year history of Wes-

tern Carolina University in Cullowhee, N. C., where she was dean of the School of Education and Psychology and professor of psychology from 1976 to 1981.

In 1972 she became the highest ranking woman administrator in the Florida's State University System when she was named dean of academic affairs for continuing education.

Dr. Siegel received the Ph.D. degree from Florida State University in Tallahassee, Fla.; the master's degree in education from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; and the bachelor's degree from Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, N. C. She also has completed two years of post-doctoral study in clinical child psychology at Indiana University.

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## CAREER OPPORTUNITIES IN CITY GOVERNMENT....

The City of Charlotte posts vacancies the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month. Employment Opportunities may range from Law Enforcement, Fire Services and Engineering to Secretarial, Administrative, Auto-Mechanics and Construction Labor.

Applications for Laborer 1 and Sanitorial Crew Member apply at the Employment Security Commission, 500 W. Trade St., from 1pm-5pm Monday through Friday. All other applications are accepted from 9am-4pm at the City Employment Office on the 1st floor of City Hall Annex, 600 E. Trade Street.

Vacancies are posted in the lobby of the personnel department. A recorded listing is available through Central Piedmont Community College's DOLLY System (Call 373-6401).

Our next Vacancies listing will be available Monday Feb 11 1985.

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