



These students are but a few of the 54 middle schoolers participating as student-teacher cadets. From left to right, they are (back row): Charles Bowman, Mark Lattimore, Dawn Brown, Shelltha Earley, Elliott Pettus, and Anita Cherry; and (front row): Geoff Wallwork, Jermaine Collins, Jeremy Ardrey, Tonya Nabers, and Tara Heath.

## Spaugh Middle School's Students Take Over Classrooms "For A Day"

By Audrey C. Lodato  
Post Staff Writer

Some students dream of taking over the classroom; some teachers dread the prospect. At Spaugh Middle School, the "uprising" was planned and had some surprising effects.

April 29 was Student-Teacher Cadet Day at Spaugh, the school's way of celebrating North Carolina Youth Week. Students, selected well in advance, took on the role of teachers, counselors, principal, and other staff. Students and teachers met ahead of time to develop lesson plans. In all, 54 sixth, seventh, and eighth graders were involved.

The students learned that teaching looks different from the front of the classroom, and that being a principal carries a lot of responsibility. Here are the comments of some of the participating students.

**DAWN BROWN**, eighth grader and president of the Student Council, liked the experience. "I enjoyed being principal. I felt it was a good experience for a day. I observed each teacher in action, handled some disciplinary problems, and conducted a teachers' meeting," she recounted.

**MARK LATTIMORE** was the day's assistant principal. Also an eighth grade student, Lattimore reflected, "It was fun for a day but I don't think I'd want to do it for a full-time occupation. It might be fun for about a week, but there are a lot of hassles an assistant principal has to put up with, such as discipline problems, handling a lot of money, and being everywhere at once."

**ELLIOTT PETTUS JR.**, an eighth grader, spent the day as a counselor. "It was weird, handling other people's problems," he declared. "I couldn't do that all the time."

**ANITA CHERRY**, another eighth grade student, taught social studies, language arts, and drama. "It was exciting, but I did have some problems," she related. "I wouldn't want to be a teacher because some students are hard to handle."

**JERMAINE COLLINGS** taught eighth grade chemistry. Himself a

seventh grader, the day's experience gave Collins second thoughts about his future. "I was thinking about becoming a teacher, but I'm not sure now. It was too rough," he admitted.

**JEREMY ARDREY** agreed. The sixth grader taught chorus. "It was rough. They talked too loud, especially the seventh graders."

**SHELLTHA T. EARLEY**, normally an eighth grade student, was head secretary. "It was hard work," she remarked. "I never knew there were so many parents and students coming in and people bothering you. I wouldn't mind being a secretary because it keeps you busy and I like to be busy."

**TONY NABERS**, seventh grader turned language arts teacher, complained about student behavior. "I didn't like the third and fourth period classes. They started talking as soon as the real teacher left," she revealed. Because of her students' behavior, she didn't follow through on her total lesson plan, "but I got to do most of it," she

noted.

**TARA HEATH**, counselor for the day, was not thrilled with the experience. The eighth grader remarked, "It was okay, but it was boring because I didn't like listening to problems. I didn't know what to tell them."

**CHARLES BOWMAN**, seventh grade student, was a language arts, social studies, literature and drama teacher. "It went okay, but I wouldn't want to teach as an occupation because it has more responsibility than I thought it had," he commented. "Some students don't want to listen to you," he added.

**GEOFF WALLWORK**, from the seventh grade, was a math teacher. "Although we didn't have full authority, I thought it was fun, interesting, and different," he stated. "I wouldn't want to do this when I grow up," he remarked, but it wasn't the day's experience that influenced him. "I hadn't planned on doing it, and I wouldn't like it," he explained.

## Latta Outdoors Festival Will Be Staged Sunday, May 19

The Latta Outdoors Festival is scheduled for Sunday, May 19, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Latta Plantation Park, a 760-acre nature preserve on Mountain Island Lake about 10 miles north of Charlotte off Beatties Ford Rd.

A combination of last year's two events, "Naturefest" and "Canoe Weekend," the festival features a wide variety of land and water-based activities, displays, and demonstrations by outfitters, recreation and conservation groups. The Outdoors Festival is being co-sponsored by the Piedmont Paddlers Canoe Club, the Sierra Club-Piedmont Group, and the Mecklenburg County Parks and Recreation Department.

Canoe rides will be offered by the Piedmont Paddlers, and you'll see the latest canoe and outdoor equipment lines displayed by Apex Canoe and Kayak Co., the Great Outdoor Provision Co., Alanby's, and B&M Cyclery.

Canoe races and guided hikes are also scheduled for the event.

Several wildlife conservation groups will be on hand - Felicitades Wildlife Foundation and the Carolina Raptor Center will both have demonstrations and live wildlife on display. H. M. Eddy will be at the event with his timber wolf, Taza.

For more information about the Latta Outdoors Festival, call 875-1391.

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