

14A CAMPUS NEWS

To be smart and black



PHOTO/CALVIN FERGUSON

Chasity Bowers, Cheryl Armstrong and Willie Crite

By Benita Dillard
FOR THE CHARLOTTE POST

Do academically gifted students face a prejudiced attitude from other students?

Seniors at Garinger and South Mecklenburg High schools view the question differently.

What is an AG student? "An AG student is someone who takes the academically gifted test and if they pass, they are certified AG students," says Cheryl Armstrong, who has a 4.5 grade point average. She wants to attend UNC Greensboro and major in elementary education.

Willie Crite, who will be

attending Winston-Salem State on a football scholarship says he tries to tutor other students. "I catch on quickly and I try to help others," the 4.3 student says. He wants to major in business administration with a concentration in accounting in college.

Chasity Bowers, who has a 4.25 GPA says, "I am a hard working student and I want to attend a private college and major in history. Then I want to attend graduate school and study law, hopefully I will be seated on Congress one day."

These students at Garinger feel they blend in with everybody and are proud of themselves. They agree it does not make them feel embarrassed

to have talent, nor do they think they're better than anyone. As Willie puts it, "If you put time, effort, and your mind to it then others can be the same."

Cheryl is the corresponding secretary of Garinger's executive council, while Willie is vice president, and Chasity is president. They agree that their friends remain the same despite their academic and extracurricular activities. The atmosphere does not change who they hang around; basically everybody gets along with everybody.

Sean Ivey faces this problem every day at South Meck. One of the reasons black academically gifted students struggle with peer pressure, he says, is because South is predominantly white. Unlike predominantly black Garinger, he has to endure snide comments of both black and white students and teachers.

"I get accused of acting white and being gay because of the way I dress," he said. "It is (their) trying to figure Sean Ivey out."

To keep some balance, Ivey has different sets of friends. One crew he hangs out with at school. The other set is for chilling.

"The same person that I would eat lunch with is the person that goes to class but Friday nights consist of different people," he said.

CAMPUS PROFILE



HAMPTON UNIVERSITY

Hampton, Virginia

Location: Hampton, Va.
Founded: 1868
Enrollment: 6,000

Alumni of note: Booker T. Washington, founder of Tuskegee Institute; Robert Binswanger, professor of education at Dartmouth College, Rick Mahorn, NBA player.

Faculty: Faculty/student ration of 16-1. Sixty-five percent of faculty holds PhD or highest degree within their academic discipline.

Majors offered in: Business; pure and applied sciences; chemistry; architecture; communications; aerospace technology.

Campus life: More than 80 clubs and organizations, including Greek-letter fraternities and sororities.

For more information, call the Office of Admissions at (800) 624-3328 or (804) 727-5328.



No debate about Ivey's talent

Shontae "Sean" Ivey, a senior at South Mecklenburg High School is an outgoing first year debate member. He hopes to attend Morehouse or Wake Forest and major in political science.

He plans to become a corporate lawyer and later become active in politics. He is recognized for winning several honorable awards in several national debate tournaments. He won first place at Bob Jones University, second at Harvard and third at Wake Forest. He participates on the Congress, which is a category of debate that discusses political issues such as animal testing and affirmative action.

By joining the debate team, Ivey says, "It has taught me to think fast, become more politically aware, and enjoy competition."

The important aspects of the debate team is that, "It builds self confidence, public speaking skills, and teaches you to be on time." Shontae plans to attend the district tourna-



PHOTO/CALVIN FERGUSON

Shontae Ivey is a championship debater at South Mecklenburg

ment this month at Providence High School. In order to qualify for nationals, he must win first or second place.

To Shontae, few black youth look to participate in debate because they only look at sports and other high-profile

activities as a positive interest. He feels he is a positive black role model and he says, "If black youth and males become aware of the debate team it will help them become more politically aware of society and others."

Benita Dillard

Lions put state in check (mate)



PHOTO/PAUL WILLIAMS III

West Charlotte's chess team proudly shows off its trophy

West Charlotte wins its first N.C. scholastic chess title

Everybody knows West Charlotte High School won state championships in foot-

ball and track in the past year.

Now the Lions have a chess

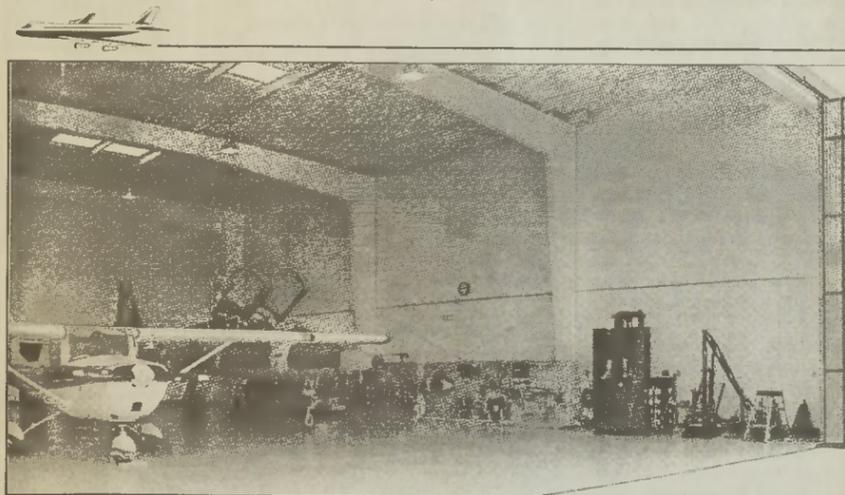
title, too.

The Lions won the N.C. Scholastic Chess championship last week at Sandhills Community College in Pinehurst with 14 points, beating arch-rival Myers Park by a half point.

"It was a neck-and-neck competition," said West Charlotte coach Robert Yost, who took coach of the year honors. "But we finally won the state."

Top West Charlotte individual finishers were Mirza Selimbegovic (fourth); Larrick Rose (fifth) and Goldwin Parker (12th). The Lions weren't the only champions from Charlotte; Sharon Elementary School won the K-5 division as well.

The Lions will participate in the National Scholastic championships next month in Newark, N.J. Last year, West Charlotte finished 17th in the country.



Two of several planes in the Hampton University Aerospace Center Programs



In May 1995, Hampton graduated a total of 943 students. Early data compiled from follow-up surveys suggest that an increasingly high number of Hampton graduates are entering graduate and professional schools immediately upon graduation. These reports also indicate that each year an increasingly high number of Hampton graduates are placed immediately in the job market.