

UMOJA

To the East my brother, to the East

By Melva Pinn
FOR THE CHARLOTTE POST

I am a junior at East Mecklenburg High School, as well as a member of the Student Congress.

I am concerned about the future of East Meck. I am aware of the declining enrollment East has had since 1993 from 1,700 to currently 1,400 students.

I am also aware that other Charlotte-Mecklenburg schools are overcrowded and two new high schools are being built.

Question: Why not send the students to East?

East Mecklenburg has empty seats; seats that are not filled. Seats which need to be filled. So, fill those seats!

With our \$12.5 million in renovations, there will be 300 new seats.

Send students to East!

Why?

Well, let's take a look into the best school in Charlotte - East Mecklenburg.

Outstanding teachers, an intelligent, diverse, well-rounded student body, supportive parents and the best clubs and programs around.

When you walk into the door, you are greeted with a

smile, not only by the staff, but the students and any parents present. Once you get here, you are challenged, thanked for your hard work, and encouraged to do your best. When you leave East, you are not only leaving a building, but an institution which stands for excellence. This tradition of excellence is held by not only the staff, but through the students, the great programs, clubs and the rigorous courses offered at East.

Students and teachers at East know that the high school years can be some of the most important in our lives. The teachers and par-

ents at East are willing to work together to make sure that we students have the best three years of our lives.

We expect from you only the best, we know you will make the right decision for the students of Charlotte Mecklenburg. The best choice is to fill our seats, we have room for more! And let us continue our tradition of excellence at East Mecklenburg.

Melva Pinn is a junior at East Mecklenburg and a member of The Charlotte Post Umoja Board. She made these remarks to the Charlotte-Mecklenburg School Board at a public meeting in September.



The word around camp

News from regional campuses

High schools...

•The BRIDGE Job Training program, formally known as the St. Francis Jobs Training Program, is celebrating its 10th year of serving Charlotte's young adults.

BRIDGE, which helps students who have quit school receive their high school diplomas, will honor three special students, Ja'Qetta McManus, Yolanda Hall, and Tony Donaldson on Oct. 29, with a luncheon at Ericsson Stadium. The guest speaker for the event will be Carolina Panthers strong safety Brett Maxie.



McManus

•West Charlotte High School recently picked up several awards for its yearbook, The Lion. West Charlotte picked up first place honors for best overall book in the state, an All-Southern award and All-American award. The awards will be presented to the staff in Chicago next month.

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The West Charlotte varsity cheerleaders took first place in dance, cheers and chants at the UCA Camp at Coastal Carolina University in Conway, S.C.

East Mecklenburg will host a HOSA/Red Cross blood drive on Oct. 30 from 8 a.m.- 1 p.m. in the gym.

• The JROTC honored four students for outstanding service during JROTC Field Day Sept. 7. Honorees included Miche Martin, Darnell Minnick, Darnell Jamison and Josh Mowen.

• The Charlotte Math Club will meet Oct. 12 at Providence Day School at the corner of Rama and Sardis roads. The club, which was founded in 1987 by Dr. Harold Reiter, provides enrichment and challenges for students who have a strong aptitude in math. For more information, call 892-2343.

• Several local high school students have been tapped for the prestigious National Achievement Scholarship Program for Outstanding Negro Students.

The program, a privately-financed competition conducted by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation, provides recognition for promising African American high school students. Included on the list of more than 1,500 students nationally recognized are Charlotteans Jameelah Melton (Charlotte Catholic); Timothy D. Cochran (East Meck); Sidney Clark and Tashia Ziegler (Harding University); Devyn Spencer (Independence); Latarsha Pugh (Providence Day) and Sheryllynn Black, Melanie Shields and Melissa Shields (West Charlotte).

College news...

•The John McDonald Scholarship Endowment at Johnson C. Smith University has awarded two scholarships for the fall. Seniors Alpha Arnett and Dana Colleton collected this year's award for outstanding leadership and academics.

•Anthony V. Hunt & Associates Architects are taking the "Get Out to Vote" message seriously. The Charlotte-based company is offering a \$2,000 grant to the North Carolina historically black college or university with the highest percentage of voter participation among students.

To win the grant, which will be disbursed by the student government, the school must also be out in the community. For more information, call Keith Bryant of the North Carolina Black Student Government Association at (910) 271-9084 or Helen Strong at 333-1965.

If you have information for Umoja, please mail it to Jeri Young at The Charlotte Post, PO Box 30144 Charlotte N.C., 20230 or fax 342-2160. If you have a photograph, please include it with your submission.

CAMPUS PROFILE

TUSKEGEE UNIVERSITY

Tuskegee, Alabama



Above: Booker T. Washington shown lifting the veil of ignorance from our people.

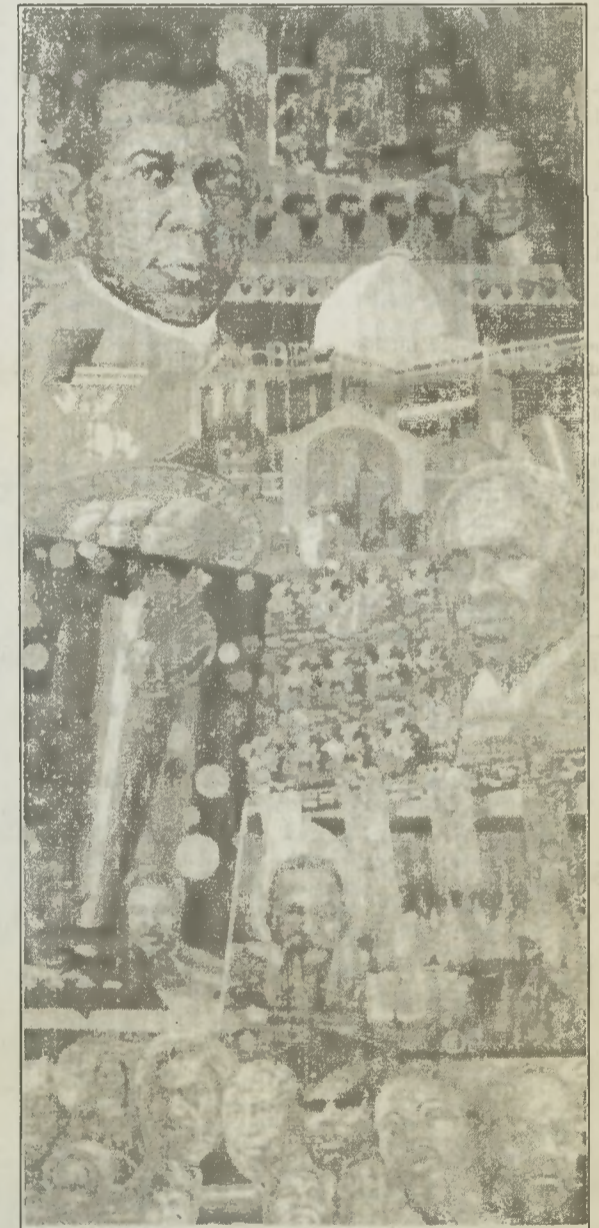
Location: Tuskegee, Alabama. Just off of Interstate I-85
Founded: 1881
Enrollment: More than 3,000 students from 48 states and 24 foreign countries.
Faculty: Faculty/student ratio of 11:1.

Undergraduate schools of study:

The College of Arts and Sciences, School of Agriculture and Home Economics, School of Business, School of education, School of Engineering and Architecture, School of Nursing and Allied Health, School of Veterinary Medicine

•Seventy-two percent of the nations African American veterinarians are alumni of Tuskegee University.

Mission statement: To propel generation of African Americans, one by one, from self-help to self-determination - cultivating the promise that is unique to each student and creating within him or her a lifelong thirst for knowledge and an endless quest for excellence.



For more info contact:
Tuskegee University Office of Admissions
(800) 622-6531 Fax: (334) 724-4402

Financial aid: the ins and outs

By Josephine George
FOR THE CHARLOTTE POST

Over 90 percent of all college students receive financial aid. Financial aid is federal assistance awarded to the student.

Financial aid package consists of the Pell Grant, supplemental education opportunity grant, loans and workstudy. Students receive an award letter at the beginning of the school year detailing money granted to them.

The loans are worked out by classification. A freshman receives \$2,625, sophomore

\$3,500, and senior and juniors \$5,500. These are the maximum amount a student can receive. "It is up to the students to take the maximum amount on loans, but they should borrow what they need," said Terri Kenny, financial aid counselor/workstudy coordinator at Johnson C. Smith University.

The amount of aid that is received is shown by the estimated family contribution number at the top of the student aid report. The financial aid office then goes by a chart that shows the amount to

award. If the EFC number is 2,100 and above the student is not eligible for any grants. All students are eligible for financial aid. The aid without grants are loans.

"The loans help the student to be responsible for their education," said Kinney.

There are three basic loans offered at Smith: Parent plus loan, subsidized and unsubsidized Stafford Loans. All loans are direct loans, which are sponsored by the federal government.

Federal workstudy is a way for students to earn money while in school. This helps the

student to help pay for tuition. This money is for the student, but if you have a back balance you have to use the money for school purposes.

Last year's Pell Grant amount was \$2,340. This year, it is \$2,470, the maximum amount of money a student can receive.

"I think its important for family involvement to contribute to a child's education," said Kishonda Alexander, a transfer from Rockland Community College. "The only financial aid I receive is the loan."