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WORD AROUND CAMP

Scholarship opportunities

• The Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences at Baylor College is offering students a chance to study the newest scientific advances. Eighty students from around the U.S. will have a chance to study cloning and gene therapies as part of its Summer Medical and Research Training Program. SMART students receive a salary and are eligible for dormitory housing.

The program is open to college sophomores and juniors. For more information call (713) 798-5915.

• College students interested in a career in medicine apply for the Honors Premedical Academy at Houston's Baylor College and Rice University.

Participants will earn nine credit hours and will work with physician while taking science and communications courses during the six week program.

Applicants must have one year of college biology and a 3.0 cumulative grade point average and at least a 2.75 GPA in the sciences. For more information, call (800) 798-8244.

• Nominations are being accepted for the James B. Hunt Citizen Awards to be presented to one high school student from each of North Carolina's 100 counties.

Scholarships worth \$5,000, \$3,000 and \$2,000 will be presented for use at any college.

Nominations forms are available by calling Wake Forest University at (910) 759-4696 and must be returned by Jan. 12, 1998.

Qualifications:

• North Carolina high school sophomore or junior.

• Be community oriented.

• High moral standards

• Be a proven leader.

• Demonstrate ability to motivate others.

• Show effective communication with the community.

• African American are encouraged to apply for the John B. Ervin Scholars Program at Washington University in St. Louis. Ten freshmen will receive the renewable scholarship for full tuition and an annual stipend of \$2,500 for four years.

Qualifications: Apply for freshman admission; submit an Ervin Scholars application; submit two letters of recommendation and write two original essays. For more information, call (314) 935-6800.

• Malcolm Pirnie, a local environmental consultant firm, and the United Negro College Fund have developed a scholarship program for students interested in the environmental field. The program is open to college juniors majoring in the environmental field. Students will receive tuition scholarships worth \$3,000, paid summer internships and assignment of a mentor in their chosen field. Six scholarships will be awarded. For more information contact Sylvia A. Bailey, Program Manager, The College Fund/UNCF, 8620 Willow Oaks Corporate Drive, Fairfax, VA 22031.

• Four \$500 scholarships will be awarded to local high school seniors by the Lincoln Bank of North Carolina for its "Peace Begins at Home" contest.

For more information call Tim Reilly, 365-2880 or Teresa Little, 332-9034 extension 3028.

For more information about any of the information in Word Around Camp, call Jeri Young at 376-0496.

Can we talk?



Above Time Out Youth's Shelton Sandifer (left) makes a point during a recent discussion of homosexuality at Livingstone College while Mike Rogers looks on.

Students hear other side of gay issue

By Malcolm Plummer
FOR THE CHARLOTTE POST

SALISBURY — A group of Livingstone College students had a chance to talk openly about homosexuality recently.

Last month, members of Time Out Youth, a Charlotte organization that provides support for gay and bisexual young people, participated in a panel discussion.

The session was organized by Livingstone physical education instructor Shelly Hamill. The discussion marked the third time Hamill has had TOY members talk at Livingstone.

"Every time that I've invited them they have been very effective," Hamill said. "Students need to be exposed to individuals who prefer their own sex to the opposite sex. I think that students get caught in their own heterosexuality and ethnocentricity. A program like we're having here teaches students the understanding of stepping out of self."

The audience, comprised mostly of Hamill's human sexuality class and other students, got a chance to hear and respond to the life experiences of the gay and lesbian adults and teenagers.

"This is a wonderful, safe place," said TOY board member Connie Vetter. "We're here as a haven for people who have no place to go for support. We're here to educate people about our lifestyle and to dispel the stereotypes."

The discussion was at times heated.

When asked by an audience member about the comparison of the gay rights movement to the civil rights movement, tempers flared.

"The movements are identical," panel member Jim Votsch said. "Gays may lose their jobs just like black people do. Like blacks, we're being killed for no reason. Let's face it. We need to look at the big picture — there are a small group of powerful people who want to make it harder for me as a gay

man to get employment. It's always easier for women to be accepted as gay than men."

Votsch, an ordained Baptist minister who is gay, was asked several questions by students who wondered how he dealt with homosexuality and the ministry.

"This minister really surprised me," English major Marcia Commander said. "Never would I have thought there would be a gay minister."

Overall, Livingstone students thought the discussion was positive. Homosexuality is not a topic often discussed at the school, which is affiliated with the AME Zion Church.

"It was all right," said sociology major Charlie Gray. "It was a good discussion. To see people go in front of an audience of people they don't know takes a lot of guts. I don't know that they go through the discrimination that they go through."

Tonda Taylor, TOY's founder and director, says the panels are positive because it gives students a chance to talk with

gays and lesbians their age.

"We have some gutsy kids who are willing to go out and speak," she said. "We almost always have a panel of youth. Rarely do I go out to do discussion by myself or just with other board members. We always try to take along youth. It makes it easier to get people to open up."

According to Taylor, the group does about 48 panel discussions a year. Each time, Taylor includes youth who are new to the panel.

"We have no set repertoire of answers," Taylor said. "We don't have trained youth. Sometimes the discussion does get a little tense, but that's when people are most open. They usually turn out to be positive for both students and panelists."

Eric Currie, a 22 year-old criminal justice major, agreed. "I don't have anything against gays or lesbians," Currie said. "I was able to get things from their perspective."

Parents key to success for student

By Lauren Kendall
THE CHARLOTTE POST

A professor once told me "If you think education is expensive, try ignorance."

This saying is true and every time I think the road to excellence is becoming too hard I consider this saying.

One of my biggest accomplishments was graduating from high school and entering college. When I was in high school, the thought of attending college seemed like a major goal. By my senior year in high school this goal seemed more realistic, and high school was unforgettable because I knew my prom was

approaching and I would finally be graduating. I was excited about the prom but nervous about filling out college applications and waiting for the arrival of acceptance or rejection letters.

I decided to go away to college because I wanted to get a sense of responsibility, meet new people and get out of New York. I wanted to leave the city because I did not feel the environment would be conducive to my studies. All my friends would be home and I would feel like I was in high school all over again.

When I started receiving acceptance, letters I was excited and proud. I decided to go to Johnson C. Smith University in

Charlotte because I felt comfortable when I visited. Smith was a wise choice because the professors are kind and caring and most of the students are like family. I am also grateful to have loving parents who have stayed in my corner.

When I was in the fourth grade, my parents separated. I was devastated, but as I got older I realized that it wasn't that bad. I was fortunate to have parents who showed me unconditional love. They were encouraging and supported me throughout my childhood as well as adult years.

If my mother saw me getting off track, she would let me know.

She constantly would tell me to stay focused, work hard toward my goals, and strive for excellence in everything I did. My mother was open and honest with me and gave me the guidance I needed to make the proper decisions in life.

My father was also an inspirational factor in my life. He was the best father any daughter could ask for. Instead of walking out of my life after they separated, he was active in my life and my brother's life daily. He didn't allow their separation to hinder his ties with his children.

LAUREN KENDALL is a junior at Johnson C. Smith University.

Black MBAs host annual scholarship awards dinner tonight

By Cheris Hodges
THE CHARLOTTE POST

The National Black MBA Association will host its second annual Scholarship Awards Ceremony and Dinner tonight.

Scholarship awards will be presented to Johnson C. Smith University Talia Clemons and Isaac Mance, a graduate student at Wake Forest University's Babcock School of Management.

The awards are valued at \$1,000.

Students were judged in part on essays. This year's topic was the problems brought on by the federal governments drop in aid to colleges.

Mance, who is a second year graduate student in market-

ing, said he was "very surprised to obtain the scholarship due to the competition."

Clemons agreed. "It was a hard topic to write on," she said.

JCSU president, Dorothy Cowser Yancy will give the keynote address.

The National MBA Association is an international group whose goal is to increase development opportunities for African Americans in business.

The dinner will begin at 6:30 at the Adams Mark Hotel.

Holiday means income for many

By Cheris Hodges
THE CHARLOTTE POST

The chill in the air means one thing, December is near. And December brings the apex of the holiday season, Christmas.

For most students, Christmas break is a welcome event. The rush of finals is over. It's time to rush to the mall and pick up gifts for special friends and family members. How are students supposed to buy these gifts without asking mom, dad and the grandparents for the money?

It's simple. Get a job.

This year, more retailers are hiring seasonal employees. This puts students — or anyone with a pulse for that matter — in a great position to make some quick cash.

"About a week ago, I was desperate for some help," Cooper's Watchworks manager Alicia Laumark said. "But just this week, I hired one high school and one college student."

One look around Eastland Mall shows that many retailers have hired college and high school students for the holiday season.

West Mecklenburg High School senior Robin Mitchell cashed in on the job rush. Mitchell works in Lynn's Hallmark store in Eastland.

"This job is for Christmas (money)," she said.

Mitchell, who has worked in the store for almost a month, said the job was easy to find and she has the freedom to set her own hours.

Stanley Norfleet, a junior at Vance High School, said he took a job at Footlocker in Eastland "just to have money."

"I can't be broke," he said.

Norfleet said that the store's business has picked up with Christmas closing in.

"It's a lot busier now," he said. "We've hired one new person in the last two weeks."

Johnson C. Smith University senior Bryan Ferguson has cashed in on the Christmas season job rush, but for a different reason. "I took this job (at Victoria's Secret) for gas money."

Retailers are still hiring or expect to do more hiring for the 1997 Christmas season. Gadzooks assistant manager Melissa Beaver said, "Christmas gets extra busy and (we) will have a lot of new people on staff."

For high school and college students looking to make an extra buck, head out to the nearest mall and fill out an application. Just like Uncle Sam, retailers want you.