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Word Around Camp

Scholarship opportunities

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

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

Qualifications: 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.

Scholarship worth \$5,000, \$3,000 and \$2,000 will be presented to the top three county winners to be used at the college or university of their choice.

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

• African Americans are encouraged to apply for the John B. Ervin Scholars Program at Washington University in St. Louis. Ten freshman will receive the awards named in honor of Ervin, former dean of the University's School of Continuing Education. Students will receive renewable scholarship for full tuition and an annual stipend of \$2,500 for four years. For more information call (314) 935-6800.

• Malcolm Pirnie, a local environmental consultant firm and The 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 his or her chosen field. Six scholarships will be awarded. For more information contact Sylvia A. Bailey, Program Manager, The College Fund/UNCF, 8620 Willow Oaks Corporate Dr., Fairfax, VA 22031.

• The Foundation for the Carolinas has several scholarship available to local residents. For more information, call 376-9541.

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

Going home?



Heading home for the holidays? If you're a student, experts recommend shopping around for the best possible rate and taking advantage of student discounts. Students should also leave their options open on travel methods.

Bevy of travel discounts available

By Lauren Kendall
THE CHARLOTTE POST

As the holiday season approaches, students are in search of affordable ways to travel.

There are several ways to get to a destination without spending top dollar on tickets during the holiday season or regular traveling periods.

The Student Advantage card is the most convenient discount for most students. The card, which can be used at any Amtrak or Greyhound station, costs \$20 with a \$2.50 shipping and handling fee. The card allows students to receive 15 percent off any ticket purchase. Discounts are also available at certain restaurants in larger cities.

Mary Wooldrige, a customer service representative with Amtrak, said "cheaper fares are based on availability, the further in advance you purchase a ticket the cheaper it will be. Travelers should purchase their tickets 3-4 months in advance to get better rates, and they can be purchased up to 11 months in advance."

Wooldrige recommends checking local papers and television advertisements for additional information regarding discount rates on Amtrak.

Marc Magliari, manager of Amtrak's media relations, said "Cheaper seats sell out fast. If you purchase tickets in advance the prices will be much lower."

Senior citizens 62 and older receive a 15 percent discount on all fares. Amtrak offers affordable rates on Coach, Customers, and First Class seating.

Greyhound offers reasonable rates on a daily basis. Terence Taylor, a Greyhound representative said, "customers can purchase a one way ticket for \$58 and a round trip ticket for \$118 anywhere in the U.S. if the ticket is purchased 21 days in advance." If you buy a ticket now until Dec. 14 the fares will be \$98 round-trip. When students use their Advantage Card, there will be an additional 15 percent deduction from that price. Airline prices vary according to when you purchase tickets, so the best way

to save when flying is to order tickets 21 days in advance, shop around and be patient. Fares change almost four times a day, so passengers should be flexible with the dates and time of travel for the lowest fares.

Some travel tips for the holiday season are:

- Purchase tickets at least 21 days in advance
- Be flexible with your travel dates
- Shop around for best fares and compare fares
- Utilize your Student Advantage card
- Pay attention to advertisements and promotional offers from credit card companies and other organizations during the season.

Campuses not immune to crime, experts say

By Cheris Hodges
THE CHARLOTTE POST

College campuses — especially those in urban settings — are not exempt from crime.

College is one of the biggest investments that parents make for their children. Beside wondering if the chosen institution will provide a quality education, many wonder if the school is safe.

Charlotte, home to four colleges and universities, is an expanding city with more concerns about crime. In 1997 alone, there were 31 weapons violations on the UNC Charlotte campus. There were also five aggravated assaults, seven assaults and one robbery.

Captain Douglas Brown of the UNCC patrol operations said, "Most crime (on UNCC's campus) is not student-on-student crime." Brown said people from off campus come to the university to target students. "Most drug arrests come from people off-campus," he said.

To combat this problem, UNCC campus police have stepped their traffic enforcement. "We have taken a proactive role in traffic enforcement. If (a car) doesn't have a student decal, we stop them," said Brown.

Three entrances to the campus are secured with gates or security personnel. Brown said dense bushes have been removed from the campus, eliminating hiding places for would-be criminals. Extra lights were also added.

The UNCC Campus Police force has 31 sworn officers who are licensed by the state and have the power to make arrests. In 1996, the department was awarded the Governors Award for community policing. "This was the first time that this award was given to a college campus," Brown said.

UNCC police undergo 3,000 hours of training. "We are very committed (to securing the campus) and training is very important," Brown said. The police officers have four watches and they work 12 hour shifts.

Since 1996, there has been a slight increase in weapons violations, drug violations, and alcohol violations. Despite the seeming increase in these violations, Brown said the Campus Police has stepped up its presence on campus.

"The increase in crime comes from (campus police) detecting crime," Brown said. At Johnson C. Smith University, petty theft is the biggest crime. Captain Steven Hamilton of JCSU's Campus Police said, "Larceny is highest during the transitional period (when students are moving off campus for breaks and returning the beginning of the semester)."

There have been no robberies on Smith's campus, but there were eight armed robberies since August on Beatties Ford Road and West Fifth Street surrounding JCSU, according to census tracts compiled by the Charlotte-

Mecklenburg Police Department. Six of those robbed were Smith students.

Hamilton said, "Generally, two to five students are victimized by the locals. Charlotte is not crime free, crime is everywhere." He said that students from larger urban areas come to Charlotte and let down their guards, and sometimes become victims.

There are 17 officers on the JCSU campus police force. Seven of those officers are sworn. Hamilton admits the force is understaffed.

"There are three men to a shift (as a minimum)," he said. "We're able to supply four at times, which is my personal minimum. I would like to see five."

Hamilton said Campus Police

has had success in arresting people for weapons and drugs.

Many of those suspects, Hamilton said, were not students. "We've stepped up to be more proactive," he said.

Hamilton said that when the police officers see a potentially dangerous situation, they act immediately.



Twenty-five young women were recently inducted into Top Teens of America. The organization, which was created by the national service organization, Top Ladies of Distinction, was founded to promote academic achievement and civic awareness. Teens are also taught to value ethnic and cultural diversity.

Giving Back Holiday help needed

By Lauren Kendall
THE CHARLOTTE POST

Community service gives students the opportunity to give of themselves without expecting anything in return.

Many community service projects are aimed at helping children as well as adults who need assistance in myriad ways.

Organizations such as The Women's and Children Emergency Shelter, The Milton Road Boys Club, The Salvation Army, Red Cross, and A Child's Place offer opportunities for students to assist in community based activities.

Here's a partial list of organizations and their needs:

• The Women's and Children Emergency Shelter, 534 Spratt Street, Charlotte — Houses 150 women and children who are victims of domestic abuse.

Volunteers are needed to assist with:

- maintenance needs.
- light office work.
- preparation and serving of food.

• The Angel Tree provides gifts to needy children and is sponsored by the Salvation Army.

Volunteers are needed to:

- assist with the distribution of angels (which represent children).
- distribution of toys the week before Christmas and registration of clients.

If you're interested, contact Karen Knight at 372-7851

• The Milton Road Boys and Girls Club assists children and families by providing tutoring and afterschool activities.

Volunteers are needed to serve as:

- homework aids.
- recreational assistants.

The club is also in need of people with computer skills.

"The Milton Road Boys and Girls Club is church affiliated, the hours students work can go towards community service needed for school," said Milton Futrell, community service coordinator.

Students at several local colleges, including Johnson C. Smith University, must do community service in order to graduate. Smith students can find out about programs through Angela Jeter, who coordinates volunteers services.

Most of the programs help children with homework or provide adolescents with mentors.

"Students should begin community service projects as soon as possible. We have sites on and off campus. They can also do work with certain professors and RHC (Residence Hall Coordinators)," said Tyrone Goodwin, a senior at Smith who works in the Teaching and Learning Center.

"I find community service beneficial," said Beverly McDuffie, a junior at Smith. "Although I am not doing it in my own community, I still feel privileged to give back to a community. I think if you want to do community service it should not matter how hard it is, you should be able to find information on what you want to do."

McDuffie did service at Lincoln Heights Elementary School. She tutored children and aided teachers in school activities.

"If I do not care about people's well being who else will, if you want change you have to start with yourself," said JCSU junior James Reese. "If you want to make a difference you have to start with yourself."