

Diversity Summit brings local students and teachers together



By Leigh Ervin
THE CHARLOTTE POST

West Mecklenburg High School held its very first Diversity Summit last week. The purpose of the summit was to inspire and influence students to "increase tolerance and decrease ignorance."

The event brought together students from almost every Charlotte-Mecklenburg school, public and private. The program began with a brief introduction by National Conference for Community and Justice's Alex Wagaman. She described how diversity is not just nationality, but it was also personality, sexual preference, or anything that sets individuals apart from others.

Each student and teacher was given a name tag that displayed either a star or a dot, which determined which two out of 10 workshops that participants were to attend. Major issues such as starting a diversity club, tackling

racism, the expectations of men and women, and religion and respect, were presented within these workshops.

NCCJ has been involved in numerous Diversity Club activities in the past years, such as Anytown, a summer leadership program that helps high school students become more culturally aware. Anthony, a student from Charlotte Catholic High School said in a brochure that Anytown "was a life changing experience that opened my eyes to the world that I might not normally be exposed to."

In the closing ceremony, everyone was brought together to do a group activity. Each school was separated, and had to explain what they could bring back to their school to help embrace diversity.

School representatives said that they would have more events with the Diversity Club, but instead of just holding these activities themselves, they would include everyone

U.S. health care not always best in world

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON - A new study challenges a widely held view in the United States that Americans have the best medical care in the world.

A review of health care in the United States and four other industrialized, English-speaking countries, published Tuesday in the journal Health Affairs, found that the United States leads in some areas and trails in others.

Breast cancer survival rates were higher in the United States than in Australia, Canada, England and New Zealand, the report says, citing health data through 2000. American women also were screened for cervical cancer at a higher rate than women in the other countries.

Yet the United States was the only country that registered a rise in deaths from asthma. The rate of infection from hepatitis B also was highest in the United States.

"No country scores consistently the best or worst overall, and each country has at least one area of care where it could learn from international experience," the study said.

Although health care experts are increasingly aware of gaps in the quality of care, the report notes that U.S. politicians frequently state, as President Bush did in his State of the Union address in January, "Americans have the best medical care in the world."

The authors - U.S. academics and international health care officials - say they want to spur debate about health care priorities rather than draw conclusions that explain the differences.

A related report in Health Affairs examines why the United States spends far more on health care than any other nation, and whether the country can afford it.

Authors Uwe Reinhardt of Princeton University and Peter Hussey and Gerard Anderson of Johns Hopkins University conclude that health insurance will become increasingly unaffordable to lower-income workers, forcing lawmakers to choose between some form of universal health care and a system in which there is a stark difference in the quality of care based on ability to pay.

On the Net:
Health Affairs:
<http://www.healthaffairs.org/>

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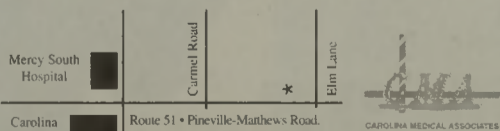
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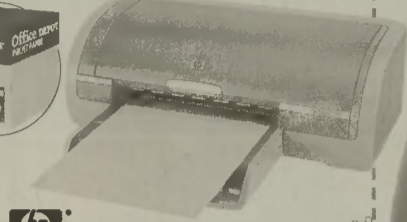
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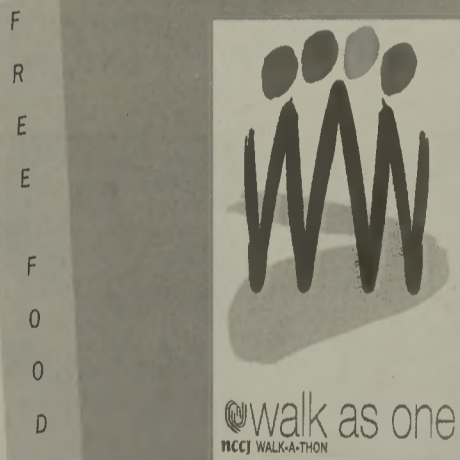
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