

BULLDOG CLASSIFIEDS

Calling All Methodists!

Sharon United Methodist Church of Shelby, North Carolina is starting a Sunday School class for young couples and college age individuals. The class will be taught by Harvey and Lynda Whisnant, who look forward to their project enthusiastically. The class will stress Bible study, but will be geared toward the questions and problems experienced by young adults. The class will start Sunday, December 8 at 9:45 a.m. A van from Sharon will be in front of the C.I.D. at 9:30 a.m. to transport those interested in attending. If you have any questions please contact Roberta Bordon (Campus Box 41) or Shirley Pyron in the Business Office. Why not come out and get involved in a great new spiritual adventure!



May the blessings of the season be yours.

The Pilot Staff

Final Exam Schedule Fall '85

	8:00-10:00	11:00-13:00	14:00-16:00
Monday December 9	9:00 MWF Classes	13:15 TT Classes	8:00 MWF Classes
Tuesday December 10	10:00 MWF Classes	8:00 TT Classes	13:00 MWF Classes
Wednesday December 11	11:00 MWF Classes	12:00 MWF Classes	10:25 TT Classes
Thursday December 12	11:50 TT Classes	14:40 TT Classes	14:00 MW Classes
Friday December 13	15:25 MW Classes	16:05 Classes	



Armstrong
Continued from page 1

Life in the neighborhood wasn't all fun and games, however. The kids in his neighborhood, including those in his family, used to tease him about his handicap, calling him "no eyes." It wouldn't end there. "If I'd say that I wanted to watch television, they would say, 'don't you mean listen?'"

Doug was not denied much of anything in childhood, not even punishment. "I used to whip him when he misbehaved," says his mother. "What he never knew though was that I'd go in the other room and cry after I'd done it."

Doug's mother is one person who is not surprised by her son's success. "He was always smart and a real go-getter."

According to Doug, his mother was the one who kept him on the ball when he started feeling sorry for himself. "She would tell me that I had to help myself. That I had to make things happen, not just sit around and wait for things to happen."

Another important person and motivator in Doug's life was Ray Stewart, his coach since the third grade.

"Ray knew when to give me a pat on the back or a kick in the rear," says Doug. "He's like a second father to me. I would bring my problems to him and he would help me solve them."

Another strong influence in Doug's life is religion. "I joined the church (Methodist) and was

baptised when I was ten," he says. "There's a purpose to my blindness. People are always telling me that I inspire them to do better. God is using my handicap to help other people."

This way of thinking was demonstrated when a woman member of Doug's church (St. Peter's in McGehee) commented on his blindness and prayed for him to regain his sight. According to his mother, Doug told the woman that, "Right now I don't want to see. God is using me just the way I am."

Members of the Gardner-Webb community know just how special he is. Almost everyone who has come into contact with Doug can only say good things about him.

"He's really nice to the other blind students," says Donald Ball, one of eight other blind or visually impaired students on campus. "He's especially good to the new blind students, he helps them adjust to college life." Carol Ann Smith, a sophomore Communication Studies major, says, "I really like Doug. He's a doll."

Doug is also happy with his social life at Gardner-Webb. "The students pretty well accept me," he says proudly. "They see me as a student who happens to be blind rather than as a blind student."

Like most other students Doug worries about his grades. "I'm hoping for all A's this semester." All A's would be something like par for the course for a young man who wants to go to law school. "I'd like to go

to Wake Forest or Duke or maybe the University of Arkansas at Little Rock and study computer law," he says, "then eventually go into politics and maybe be the first blind and black President."

His mother laughs when told about Doug's Presidential aspirations but believes that he would make a good lawyer.

His drive to succeed places Doug apart from most people. According to Kilpatrick, Doug is "highly motivated from within. He's extremely competitive." This writer can testify to the above statement as on occasion he serves as a running mate to Doug. At first apprehensive and not wanting to push Doug too hard, he soon found out that he was running all out and Doug was matching him stride for stride. In the end this writer found himself running much harder and faster than expected. It became very difficult to give anything less than 100 percent with Doug at my side.

According to Doug, "Blindness is a great motivator for me. Were I able to see I might not have been steered toward many of the opportunities that I was."

On tackling the challenges of college and law school and politics, the sophomore has this to say. "If you have a goal that you think to be almost impossible but you continually strive for that goal, you always end up progressing."

To be fair, this graduate of the Arkansas School for the Blind does possess some residual vision. On good days his eyesight is 5/300. In other words, when we see something from five feet away, he sees the same thing as though it were a football field away. His eyesight, however, can be assisted, though not in the usual way. Last year in a science class he was able to discern objects viewed through a microscope. And, he insists that he can tell whether or not a girl is good-looking when he is talking to one, which is frequently.

"I can see best just after the sun's gone down, when it's light but there's no glare."

This residual vision does not, however, enable Doug to read. His reading gets done either in braille or through listening to recordings. As a professor I know that means he has to spend at least twice as much time on an assignment as a sighted student. Yet he maintains an A average.

If Doug is a standout among the general population, he is a superstar among the visually-handicapped. While in high school he won two national wrestling and two national track championships in competition for the blind. He also set U.S. records for the blind at 800 meters (2:16), 1500 meters (4:38) and 5000 (16:51) at the International Games for the Disabled.

He's an inspiration to us all. A colleague told me that that was too much of a cliché. That may be, but it's also the truth.

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