

The Man, the Security Guard, the...

BOBBY

STENTORIAN PERSONAL INTERVIEW:
WILLIAM ROBERT JACKSON, JR.



Business as usual in the security office with Bobby Jackson

JULIE BASS
staff writer

Everyone in the NCSSM community has at least heard of Bobby Jackson. For those of you who have not gotten to know him, the Stentorian is proud to present this interview by Julie Bass.

J: "What's the word?"

Bobby: "Thunderbird!"

J: "How old are you?"

B: "Thirty-eight."

J: "If you could be any kitchen appliance, what would you be?"

B: "A can opener... That's the start of the process; you're in on the opening of the meal."

J: "How did you meet your wife?"

B: "She stole my bicycle in the 4th grade at E.K. Powe. I chased her all over 9th street until she got tired, and then she returned it. We got married going to Durham High. I was 19, she was 18."

J: "What's your favorite kind of weather?"

B: "All of them. Just experiencing all of them is fascinating to me."

J: "What's your favorite sport?"

B: "Fishing or coon hunting and ain't a fish safe in Durham county when I ain't at work."

J: "If you could be any animal, what would you be?"

B: "It wouldn't be a fish or a coon, I'll tell you that! I'd be a coondog; dig worms for fishing and hunt coons at night."

J: "What's the funniest thing that ever happened to you here?"

B: "When I got locked in the raquetball court about 2 A.M. I heard a noise and went in to check it out. All the

lights were off, and I couldn't find the door handle. I almost had to call 911 on my radio to get rescued."

J: "Tell me about your kids."

B: "Well there's 'Bud' (William Robert Jackson III)- He's 17 and he wants to get his GED and go into the Coast Guard. The day he was born, I was terrified- I had never been a father- so I wrote him a two page letter apologizing to him. I'm gonna make mistakes. I sealed it and on his 18th birthday, I'm gonna drop it on his plate."

"'Little Sister' (Tracy Lynn Jackson) - She's 12 and in the 6th grade. I used to call her 'girlfriend' till she got too big and she called me 'boyfriend' and come running out to see me when I got home. She wants to be a teacher, and she always sits at the typewriter. I wanted to name her 'Rose' so we'd have 'Rose-Bud', but my wife wouldn't let me!"

"'Little Brother' (Richard Paul Jackson)- He's the baby. I'm pretty sure he's 9. He likes to play army. He paints his face up and crawls in the ground like a possum."

J: "Are you ever going to run for President?"

B: "Probably never. You see, it takes all kinds of people, and you need one kind to work the other. The country boys and the mill workers weren't meant to be Presidents."

J: "Who has been the biggest inspiration in your life?"

B: "My father is the one person who inspired me most. He always was there and ready to help any of his kids. Although he is only 5'5" tall, I still look up to him today because he's the biggest man I know."

Fraternities & Sororities: More Than Just Parties

SHEA DICKERSON
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College. Every senior at NCSSM is thinking about it. Ask any senior what they are looking for in a college, and they'll mention nearly the same things. Curriculum, class-size, career planning programs, and residential life. Maybe a few will mention extra-curricular activities and male/female ratios. However, very few will mention fraternities and sororities because they don't know about the organizations on their prospective college's campus.

Once on campus, freshmen can explore the possibilities. Fraternities and sororities can be well known for things other than wild parties, and it's important to know and recognize the objectives of these 'fraternal orders' before making commitments.

Fraternal orders were originally founded in Egypt as prestigious organizations for professionals such as lawyers, doctors, mathematicians, and scientists. These orders were later expanded as craft guilds in the Middle Ages. The modern fraternal orders originated in the 1800's, and this is when Greek letters were used to name the group. The sororities did not begin until the 1850's, and they were called "sisterhoods."

The Greek letter are used to name the aims or the ideals of the group. Phi Beta Kappa stands for the three Greek words meaning "philosophy, the guide of life." There are fraternal orders that are organized as societies for people in the same field of study, such as Delta Theta Phi, which is an organization of lawyers. Some orders are for people who have been recognized for high achievements. Beta Beta Beta is a society for people highly recognized in biology.

Greek letters alone should not determine a person's decision to pledge, or commit to a fraternal order. Most organizations pride themselves in their involvement in the community. They organize tutorial programs, counseling for youth, sponsor scholarships, and help to raise money for charities.

Fraternal orders become well known not only because of the accomplishments of one chapter in a community, but also because of the members who go out into the world and make names for themselves. Fraternal orders can boast of U.S. Presidents and members of Congress who are their members. Alex Haley; Martin Luther King Jr.; Dr. Johnnetta B. Cole, the first African-American woman president of Spelman College; Lena Horne; Winnie Mandela; Nikki Giovanni; and Mary McCloud Bethune, founder of Bethune-Cookman college, are a few of the many famous people who belong to fraternal orders. There are several members of residential life and faculty at NCSSM who are members of fraternal orders.

NCSSM has an organization that is comparable to the fraternal orders found on college campuses. It is called AUϕ, and it means Afrikans Uni-Phied (unified). It was founded by eight students of the class of 1991 who saw a need for African-American students on campus to be able to bond and give each other moral support. AUϕ is described by one member as a service organization. AUϕ has dedicated itself to the local community by volunteering at the Downtown Durham soup kitchen and tutoring students at the Walltown Recreation Center. The members of AUϕ follow the traditions of fraternal organizations by being member of a group that aims for brotherhood and sisterhood among everyone.

When the time comes to decide whether to go to a rush or an information session of a fraternal order, go with an open mind. If qualified, people may pledge for a fraternal order, and then if they successfully go through the initiation, they "cross-over" and become members. Fraternal orders are more involved than clubs in high school or college because they are a way of life. The traditions of a fraternal order are displayed through the dedication of its members, and these bonds between members are life long.

**Senior
WILLS**

*Due
May 1*