

## Senior spotlight: Kinlaw combines hard work, compassion

By Mary Kathryn Ross  
Reporter

The term "well rounded" brings to mind images of clubs, sports, community activities, and academic excellence. It is also one of the many positive adjectives surrounding the name Patrick Kinlaw.

This outstanding senior is extremely active in our school's social activities, while still achieving academic goals that seem out of many student's grasps. Kinlaw is a member of the men's tennis team and earned his varsity letter. He also participates in a recreational basketball team called "The Knights of Columbus," which is sponsored by his church.

As a Catholic, Kinlaw's church, Our Lady Of Grace, has been the center of several of his activities. He is an Acolyte (alter server) as well as an active member of the Youth Ministry Group. Governor Hunt appointed him to participate in the North Carolina Standing Committee on Youth Voice.

Kinlaw has been even more involved at school. Over the years, he has become an instrumental part of Grimsley's Speech and Debate team. He has won countless awards for his

eloquence and quick thinking and now serves as treasurer for the club.

As captain of the Knowledge Masters team his Junior year, Kinlaw also



Kinlaw finds time for school and extracurriculars.

Avent photo

won several awards. One of his proudest accomplishments was receiving the Rensselaer Medal for Science and Math achievement. He also attended Governor's School this summer for math.

Kinlaw is president of the Latin club, a member of Junior Jaycees, the Science Olympiad team, National Honor Society, and S.A.V.E.

Also a Junior Marshall, Kinlaw has proven to the student body that he is deserving of this honor. He has received Departmental Achievement awards in English, Latin, Math, Science, Social Studies, Computer Science, Band and Physical Education. He was also chosen by the Greensboro News and Record for their Academic Achievement Team. He seems

to live according to his own advice. He says, "If you really want to succeed, get involved in activities. You don't have to be brilliant to be successful; you just have to make a decision to get involved."

One might ask, "Where does such

a wonderful student apply to college?" Kinlaw is applying to six competitive universities. He is still in the running for the Morehead scholarship, which gives full tuition to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He is also applying to Duke, Wake Forest, University of Richmond, Notre Dame and Georgetown. He says, "Right now I couldn't choose. It depends on how much scholarship money I can get."

After his decision is made, Kinlaw plans to major in either math, history or classics. He is looking at becoming a middle or high school teacher after college.

Perhaps Dr. Frost, Mr. Saunders, and Mr. McKinney, had something to do with his career decision. "They've exposed me to new subject areas and made them all very interesting. They're all very, very good teachers." Mr. McKinney said, "Patrick is one of the best students I've taught in many years. He's consistent, a natural engineer, a gifted problem solver. He could teach the class! He's steady, compassionate, patient, a strong leader and very well rounded."

Kinlaw's actions and attributes reflect his values. He said, "I value hard work and openness the most. You have to be open to different paths, ideas and ways of life because the only way to understand something is by looking at all the possible angles and ways of approaching it."

## Story behind Kwanzaa calls for unity within communities

By Nikia Jones  
Staff Writer

What is Kwanzaa? Kwanzaa first began to form in 1966. Kwanzaa, an African American cultural holiday, has its roots in the turmoil of the 1960's.

Beginning in August 1965, a riot began in Watts, a predominantly African American community in Los Angeles, California. People in the community were angry about the crumbling houses, low-paying jobs, and racism they faced day after day. As a result, on August 11, the outrage and annoyance many African Americans were feeling came to a boiling point.

A riot erupted when police officers arrested Marquette Frye, an African-American motorist. Several witnesses thought Frye had been treated too roughly by the police. During the typically long, hot August night that ensued, bricks, bottles, and portions of concrete attacked police and other passing cars. Some students do not realize Kwanzaa originated from a riot. "If I were told Kwanzaa began in a fighting manner, I would have to question how valid the information was," said Ursula Harper, a junior.

The riot continued for four days, with four thousand people arrested, hundreds injured, and thirty-four killed. In some instances, cars were overturned,

windows were broken, and buildings were vandalized and then set on fire. Police sirens did not rest until the riot ended.

When the riot was over, many sections of the community consisted only of ashes and smoke. Hundreds were left homeless. Broken glass glittered on the sidewalk. Several businesses moved to other



Hallmark Graphic

locations. Instead of appearing like a riot had just occurred, Watts looked like a picture of a war zone.

In the aftermath of the riot, something began to change in the community. In Watts and across the entire city, African-Americans joined together to rebuild Watts and make the community stronger and better than it was before. "It is important for people to come together, but some forget about other peoples traditions and cultures, and that may be a mistake," said Fabiana Rievers, a junior.

Dr. Maulana Karenga was finishing his last year of graduate school during the Watts riot. He felt his people had lost touch with their African heritage, and he began to study ways that African-Americans could help themselves and each other. "If people found out that there are so many ethnicities in their ancestral background, then they wouldn't be so quick to judge the background of other people," said Lemira Judd, a junior. Karenga's goal was to unify his people and implant in them a sense of pride in their culture. "Unification is extremely important. Everyone should get along with one another and not be separate," said Alex Johnson, a senior. He felt there should be a special time during the year set aside for his people to show pride in their race. "There should be unity within a race or group...but, more importantly, there should also be unity within a whole community," said Greg Thomas, a senior. He started researching ancient African harvest cer-

emonies, and "first fruit" celebrations within various African tribes. Even though each tribe celebrated the harvest festival a little differently, the festivals had many similarities.

The harvest festival rewarded the tribe members for their teamwork during the year. Seeds could not be planted, fields could not be tended, and crops could not be gathered unless the entire tribe worked together as a group. Everyone, including the children, had a job to do, and by working together, the entire tribe had food to eat throughout the year.

The harvest festival usually lasted several days, with the king/chief saying a prayer for the health and wealth of each tribe member. The group filled and passed around a special cup in memory of those who had died. After the ceremony, there was feasting, music, and dancing all night long. The African harvest festival was a time for tribe members to remember their ancestors, celebrate good fortune, and plan for the year to come. "Kwanzaa makes a difference in the African American culture. But other cultures have special days to remind them of where they came from and their importance," said Rievers.

In 1966, Karenga created Kwanzaa, a cultural holiday based upon the ancient customs of Africa. Now, on December 26, the day after Christmas, and until the new year begins, many African Americans celebrate Kwanzaa. Some observe Christmas and Kwanzaa, while others only celebrate Kwanzaa.

Kwanzaa is not a religious holiday or one that honors any one person. It is not a holiday that is celebrated in Africa, but is an original African-American holiday. It is a time when most African-Americans come together to honor the traditions of their ancestors. As mentioned earlier, planning for the preceding year and working to better the people and community are important parts of the holiday.

Karenga hoped that the things that were studied and practiced during Kwanzaa would guide African-Americans all year long. "Unity is the first step towards unity among all races," said Judd. Kwanzaa celebrates of the past, the present, and the future. There is a proverb that is often expressed during the Kwanzaa celebration: "I am because we are, because we are, I am."

The ideas, symbols, and ceremonies that are a part of Kwanzaa celebrate the beauty of working together as one for the good of the community. Harambee!

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