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# The Carolina Times

“THE TRUTH UNBRIDED”

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## Small Showing Turn Out For Great Show At Local NAACP ACT-SO Competition

By John T. McCann

Black people, especially those young and male, can do more than sing, dance, and bounce basketballs. I realized pesticides are something that are commonly in the environment and something we need to deal with," said Erica Quick. She's a 16-year-old at Hillside High and adores science. She has to, in order to have been involved in a three-year study looking at the detoxification of bug sprays.

The hard work paid off for the young scientist. Quick captured a first-place medal at the 1998 Durham NAACP ACT-SO Competition.

ACT-SO (Afro-Academic Cultural Technological-Olympics) is rooted in the conviction that African Americans can compete with white people in classrooms, boardrooms and labs. Author and journalist Vernon Jarrett started ACT-SO in 1978 as a vehicle to prepare black children for success. The goal was to demonstrate that opportunities for blacks abound in laboratories as well as on football fields; in presiding over a court as well as running up and down one.



MISS ERICA QUICK

Science student Quick is reserving a seat for medical school. She said ACT-SO has helped push her ahead that.

"I hate to have to say this but it's mainly Caucasians [pursuing careers in science.] You don't see a lot of black females, or males, in the science field," Quick said. "In ACT-SO, you see talent from across the United States of black people who are increasing their talents in the science arena. It's something positive to see, so you don't think you're really one out there."

### WHO IS OUT THERE?

Quick is one of many black students breaking the mold of athletes and entertainers. Still, the stereotype persists.

At the ACT-SO competition last weekend, the local crowd assembled in the Durham County Library was asked to identify Shaquille O'Neal, Kobe Bryant, Jada Pinkett and Will Smith. Both the young and old knew who the athletes and entertainers were. When asked to identify Isaac Horton, no hands went up.

"Why? Probably because Isaac Horton, an African American, is neither a sports figure nor a famous actor. Instead, Horton is CEO of his own RTP-based company, Remote Source Lighting, Inc.

"We see the athletes and entertainers, and those are the goals to have," says Andre McCauley, co-chairman of Durham ACT-SO. "But everybody is going to achieve those goals, so we need to steer kids toward other avenues and tap into other niches."

Joel Jr. McCauley's son. He nabbed first place in the oratorical category. The teenager has been making public speeches since he was 10 years old. His first being a recitation of Martin Luther King's "I Have A Dream" speech. That is quite common in black churches. And true to form, someone young Joel and thought he had potential. Now he gives his own speeches and delivers them forcefully — even if there's not much crowd support.

"If nobody had come, I still had to do what I had to do," Joel said with the sense of purpose all great orators possess. "It's not about publicity. It's about doing something positive and staying involved in the community."

But Travis Chapman, one of the competition's judges, expressed concern about the lack of parental and student involvement.

"As a schoolteacher, I always go back to the home," said Chapman, a science teacher at Durham Magnet Center. He asked, "What are the parents instilling in the child? How are they pushing the child?"

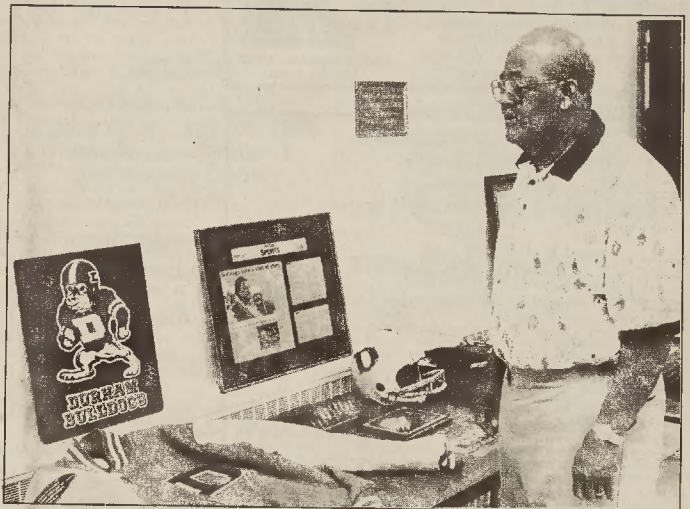
"Then it goes to the student," Chapman continued. "What kind of motivation do they have? If they don't have motivation, they're not going to participate in a program like this."

### PUSHING AND PRODDING

"All we can do is put the information out there," said Joel McCauley Sr., who serves with his wife as co-chairman. "For the ones out there who are interested, we just have to help them achieve their goals."

McCauley, a senior engineer, said every high school in Durham was contacted. In fact, every black student was given information about the ACT-SO program to share with their parents. Churches also were asked to spread the word.

Durham has well over 3,400 black high school students — 10 showed up to compete. And there were (Continued On Page 2)



Former Durham High School football coach James M. "Bump" Elliott admires some memorabilia belonging to Anthony Price. Price played football for Elliott and also coached with him at Durham High School before moving to NCCU. Price died of a heart attack. He was 42. (Photo by Lawson)



GROUNDBREAKING — Union Baptist Church held a groundbreaking ceremony for the construction of a new facility at 904 N. Roxboro Street. With ceremonial shovels from left to right are: Ozzie Holder, Rev. Kenneth Hammond, John Edwards and Michael Jones. (Photo by Lawson)

## North Carolina Highway Programs Cited As Models For Rest of Nation

RALEIGH — State and national highway safety officials congratulated more than 500 law enforcement officers from across North Carolina for their ongoing efforts to increase seat belt and child safety seat use with the state's "Click It or Ticket" seat belt program and to halt drunken driving with the "Booze It & Lose It" effort.

The backbone of this initiative has been the traffic officers — the police officers, the deputies and the troopers — out there on our roads," said Gov. Jim Hunt in videotaped remarks played at the Law Enforcement Appreciation Luncheon, which was held in the Raleigh Convention and Conference Center. "I want to thank them personally for their remarkable effort in getting people to wear their seat belts and to stop drinking and

driving. Their dedication has saved hundreds of lives and prevented thousands of injuries."

North Carolina Insurance Commissioner Jim Long, a staunch supporter of the Governor's Highway Safety Initiative since it was established in 1983, commended officers for enforcing the state's tough highway safety laws and for educating motorists about the same use of seat belts and child safety seats.

"I've met many of you at checkpoints and child seat clinics across the state. I've seen firsthand your devotion and dedication to safety," Long said to the law enforcement officers. "You are showing the rest of the nation how to work together, how to enforce traffic laws and how to keep the public safe."

"I'm especially proud that the Fire and Rescue Services Section

of our department is helping coordinate training for you in the latest and best practices in child passenger safety," Long continued. "Our state will continue to support you in your buckle-up efforts and as we fight drunk driving in North Carolina."

A top official with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) offered high praise for law enforcement and the North Carolina safety programs. "North Carolina continues to show the nation how stepped-up enforcement of occupant protection and traffic driving laws can save lives and prevent injuries," said NHTSA Deputy Administrator Phil Reht. "We should all salute North Carolina law enforcement for the work

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## State Uses Current Inmates To Help Build More Prisons

Inmate construction crew is finishing off the sawdust and wiping paint after finishing work on the final major project in three months of the new five-unit camp at IMPACT-East. The camp was completed this month and ceremonies will be held on June 1.

The new boot camp housing unit is the final major project completed after construction crews finished last June with 38 other projects. Construction engineers began work on the 11,700 square foot camp that will house 60 female inmates.

After an outside contractor prepared the site, the inmate construction crew built the facility from the ground up. They did all the electrical, plumbing, fire safety, painting and ventilation work. The prison dormitory is a brick and block structure with concrete flooring and a wood roof.

"We've proven that we can use inmate labor to build prisons," said Wade Carlton of Correction Engineering. "I think the workmanship on all the projects has been good." Other teams that included many of the same correction engineers and prisoners built state prison work farms in Caswell and

Tyrrell counties.

Work at the Tyrrell Prison Work Farm was completed early this year. The 60,000 square foot structure at Tyrrell has ten open barracks areas each with bathroom and dayroom space for 50 men. The first prisoners moved into the new facility in April. The prison now holds 150 inmates and more will be sent each week as the population gradually rises to 500.

"Building this prison was a team effort that involved eight members of the engineering staff who spent every workday for 18 months making sure the prisoners got the (Continued On Page 2)