



**CALVIN MURPHY RECEIVES GORDON'S GIN GOOD GUY AWARD:** Star Houston Rockets guard Calvin Murphy is presented the Gordon's Gin Good Guy Award by Peter Helges, Vice President of Gordon's Dry Gin Company Limited during recent ceremonies in Texas. The award honors athletes and sports personalities who have demonstrated an awareness and sensitivity to others not as fortunate as themselves.

## Calvin Murphy Helps Houston's Drop-Outs

HOUSTON, TEXAS -- The 206,000-student Houston Independent School District has allied itself with a prominent basketball player who's pitching in to whittle away at the drop-out rate. He's 29-year-old Calvin Murphy, Houston Rockets guard who counsels troubled teenagers when he's not on the basketball courts and visits elementary school classrooms throughout the year to provide a strong success model figure for the young, impressionable minds.

Calvin Murphy is also responsible for starting the all-girl "Murphy's Marchers" -- an elite baton-twirling group of inner-city girls who've performed at the Houston Astrodome and throughout Texas. The youngest twirler is three, the oldest is 22. Over 100 young women belong to the twirling group.

He's also organized his senior "Marching Thunder" corps to precision-march with twirling batons before large audiences. And he does it for free. Houston educators report that many girls who became members of "Murphy's Marchers" changed their decisions about quitting school, raised their level of self-esteem and some began planning college careers. Some even won baton twirling scholarships to universities.

Says Houston school district spokesman Reginal Young: "This man does an outstanding job for education. He's dynamic enough to command attention wherever he is -- assemblies, benefit events

or in the classroom. He's looked up to by the students because he's successful. Many have never met a successful person."

How does Calvin Murphy inspire youngsters to stay in school? If they want to join his "Murphy's Marchers" or his "Marching Thunder" group, there is a prerequisite.

Say Murphy: "The only enrollment fee is maintaining a C grade average in school and good attendance records. If they won't maintain a C average, they can go elsewhere."

The program has grown to such proportions that it is now self-sustaining. Four or five of the girls have progressed to the

### Outward Bound

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all who enroll have had little or not outdoor experience.

In 1977, 30% of the participants received scholarships averaging \$330. The awards to be made to Forsyth County will be based on individual need as determined by outward bound. Scholarships are expected to range from a third to full tuition, which includes all expenses except boots and clothing. Academic credit for the course is available through Appalachian State University.

For an application write or call Barry Carden, Admissions, NCOBS, Post Office Box 917, Morganton, N.C. 28655 -- Telephone 704-437-6112 or call the 4-H office at 767-8213.



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