

# WFU Writer Attacks Inequity

NEW YORK -- "The battle against educational inequality must be stepped up at the ground level," writes Katherine Clay, 20, of Midlothian, Virginia, in the August issue of *Seventeen* Magazine.

"I was in the fourth grade when I attended my first integrated school," writes Katherine. "and I wasn't prepared for the culture shock. For the first time in my life, I realized that I was a minority, and that my writing and math skills didn't measure up to those of the white children."

Katherine credits the love, respect, and all-around support of her parents for helping her to overcome the hurdles of her new environment, but goes on to say that many of her fellow minority students do not have this advantage and so are not able to adjust quickly enough. Consequently, separate standards for black and white students have developed. In many cases, grading scales are altered in favor of minorities.

In junior high, when Katherine received a number of academic awards, she realized, "Many white students were actually more deserving of the awards than I. As a result, I had mixed feelings of pride and guilt, and I felt bad when I faced resentment from some of the white kids who felt they should have won those awards."

Katherine believes that minority students are given the opportunity for a good education too late in their lives. "Educational equality should begin in kindergarten of the first grade because this is when a child starts to develop self-confidence and a sense of herself as a student," she writes. "If we provide good education for all children in the first place, the scales won't have to be tipped in favor of minorities at a later date."

The daughter of Mary Clay Thomas and Add Thomas, Jr., Katherine is a junior majoring in English at Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem. She has won the 1979 Academy of American Poets Prize for WFU as well as several awards in various debate and forensic tournaments. A staff member of her college newspaper, Katherine hopes someday to be a journalist or to work in the publishing field, and eventually to write a novel.

## Theta Nu Sigma

The Alpha Phi Chapter of Theta Nu Sigma Sorority of the National Beauty Cultural League, Inc. met July 16 in Burlington at the Ramada Inn.

This meeting was set up to make plans to attend the National Convention, which will be held in Chicago, Ill., convening on July 28th thru August 7th.

Local Sorors attending were: Mrs. Willie Martin, Mrs. Minnie Webb, Mrs. Minnie J. Ervin, Mrs. Hazel Gaston, Mrs. Corrine Phillips, Mrs. Mary Holmes, Mrs. Essie Lennon, Mrs. Minnie Harris, Mrs. Ethel Foster, Mrs. Ida Johnson, Mrs. Barbara Wardlow, Mrs. Annie Person, Mrs. Mildred B. Williams and Mrs. Elnora Washington.



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