

Chronicle Profile

Formula For A Close Family

By EDWARD HILL JR.
Staff Writer

If one is planning to get married, have a family and live happily ever after, he should consult William and Shirley Fair for expert advice on the subject.

After 21 not-always-easy years of marriage and raising six children, the Fairs have devised a formula that should be bottled and sold.

"This woman has stayed by me all these years," says William, smiling at his wife. "Many days I came home with problems, but she would always tell me that nothing was too difficult that we couldn't work it out."

"I've been knowing him since I was 12," says Shirley. "There was always something special about him. When we first got married, he was making six dollars a day, so you know I couldn't have married him for money. There were some rough times, but the communication and understanding we had helped us through those times."

Something else that makes the Fairs special is their philosophy of raising their six children, who range in age from 13 to 21.

"I honestly don't believe any child is a problem child," says Shirley. "The problem comes when parents or guardians don't give them the time and the love they need."

"We've always tried to communicate on the proper way to raise the kids," adds William. "By taking

them with us, involving them in all types of activities and exposing them to as much culturally as we could, it's helped develop a full life for them and for us. We've always stressed togetherness."

But even with those necessary ingredients, the Fairs admit there is no guarantee for success. So they say they came up with a back-up plan as insurance.

"We have what we call a council. If someone has a specific problem regarding sex, drugs, social problems or whatever, he brings it before the council. We all listen and offer advice, but we usually let the person work it out."

-- Shirley Fair

"We have what we call a council," says Shirley. "If someone in the family has a specific problem regarding sex, drugs, social problems or whatever, he brings it before the council. We all listen and offer advice, but we usually let the person work it out. And it is not just for the children; my husband and I bring problems to the council, also."

"My parents were very strict when I was growing up," says William. "In fact, they were too strict. I said to myself a long time ago that I would be more

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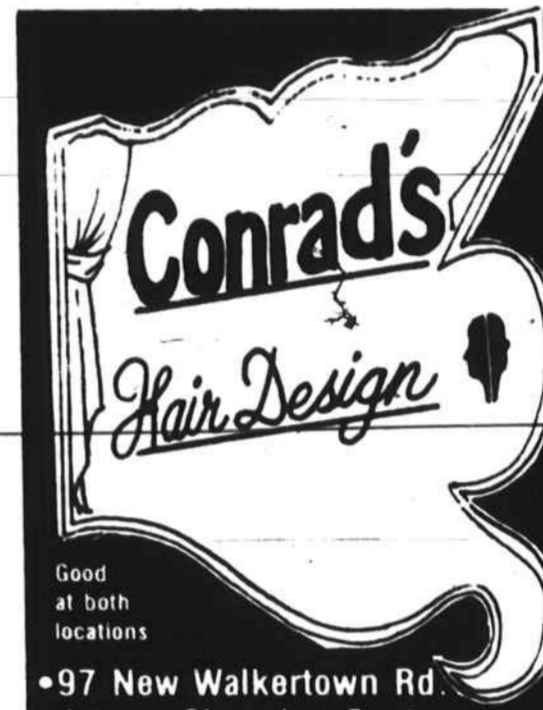


Through 21 years of marriage and six children, William and Shirley Fair have developed a successful formula for main-

taining family closeness (photo by James Parker).



Anthony Brown shows his self-portrait to fellow scholarship winners Darrell Moody (on his immediate left) and Andre Smith. The art works are on display at Wachovia's main office lobby through March 25.



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Art Scholarships

Wachovia Announces Winners

Twenty Forsyth County students received scholarships to study art at the Sawtooth Center for Visual Design as a result of efforts by Wachovia Bank and Trust Co. employee volunteers, the Voluntary Action Center and the Sawtooth Center.

An art scholarship fund was established by Wachovia volunteers in 1981. A portion of the proceeds from art auctions held

in 1981 and 1982 was placed in the scholarship fund. Since the program began, more than 100 children identified by the city-county school system as displaying a talent or interest in some art form, have been awarded scholarships.

This year's winners are Spencer Phelps, Floyd Boldo, and Darryl Covington all of Griffith Junior High School; Cheryl Young and Fredrick Young of

Brown Intermediate School; Darrell Moody, John Jenkins, Jimmy Perkins, Johnathon Knuckles, Kendrick Harrison, Andre Smith and Robert Cunningham of Skyland Intermediate School; Jamie Key of Old Town Elementary School, Shawn Brim, Jerry Rorie and Carmen Smith of Cook Intermediate School; Torrence Gwyn and Terry Rouse of Ferguson Element-

ary School; Richard Brown of Forest Park Elementary School and Anthony Brown of Easton Intermediate School. Art works produced by the scholarship students are on display in Wachovia's downtown main office building's lobby through March 25. The lobby is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays and until 6 p.m. on Fridays.



Larry Anthony (left) of the Greater Winston-Salem Kiwanis Club presents a check to Delray Hartfield, chairman of the board of directors at the Patterson Avenue YMCA. The money will go toward the construction of the new Patterson Y facility (photo by James Parker).

Thalhimer's

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