

# He's Very Young And Very Prepared From Page 13

High School), I was actively involved," says Acree, a native of Augusta, Ga. "I was president of the student government, a member of the National Honor Society and I was starting guard on my basketball team, which won the state championship. But mainly my involvement in the student government prepared me and gave me confidence."

Acree says an instructor who taught a money and banking course at Morehouse partially influenced his decision to pursue a career in banking.

"He was an employee of the Federal Reserve Bank and he made such an impression on me with his fresh approach to teaching," says Acree. "It was one of the most current classes I had ever taken. That is when I decided banking was what I wanted to do."

Acree adds that some of his friends who have

careers in banking also influenced his decision.

Prior to his graduation from Morehouse, Acree was recruited to work for Seattle First National Bank, but things turned sour for him when the bank lost \$400 million and was forced to cancel its training program.

"I had to regroup after that experience," Acree recalls. "I was unemployed for seven months, so I tried to put the time to good use. I audited two courses: intermediate accounting and loan analysis and administration at Georgia State University (Atlanta)."

Acree says he was later interviewed for the position at Wachovia and hired in March of this year. He collects delinquent retail accounts.

As for his impressions of Winston-Salem, Acree

says it is very similar to his hometown.

"Winston is very comparable to my home," says Acree. "In Augusta, we have Babcox and Wilcox and in Winston, you have Reynolds. Both places are very industrial."

He adds, "There are also many similarities socially."

Acree says he occasionally frequents local clubs and restaurants. But he says he enjoys playing basketball more than anything else.

And he says he has set some goals for himself. "On a short-range basis, I'd like to work on the corporate side of banking," he says. "Long-range, I plan to go to law school and work as a lawyer in a bank."

Acree, who has two brothers and two sisters, says

he is especially grateful to his mother because "she sacrificed to send all of us through school; only one of us did not finish." His father died when he was five-years-old.

He adds that marriage is a possibility "someday," but for now, he says, he has his eyes set on career goals.

What would he tell young blacks who are interested in making banking a career?

"I would tell them that the key to success is hard work and preparation," Acree says. "The opportunities are there. You just have to decide if you want to become a part of corporate America. Once you make the commitment and perform, there are great opportunities for growth."

# Masons: Secretive But Supportive From Page 13

truth is they are ashamed of being on equity with blacks," noted a contemporary of Prince Hall, a Dr. Bentley, in his diary.

But despite color separation keeping blacks from white lodges, countless black lodges have sprung up throughout the United States and in Winston-Salem that carry Prince Hall's name.

Brown says he was drawn to the organization because

it is religious and charitable. "You can't say it's purely a religious organization because a religious organization deals purely with the Bible," Brown says. "It claims the Heavenly Father as its guiding light."

When asked what the Prince Hall Masons do, Brown is momentarily speechless, then quickly points out that the Grand Lodge in North Carolina

made contributions last year in excess of \$200,000 to help the Oxford Orphanage, to support education through scholarships and to support organizations like the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

"We've given more than any other single organization in the state to the

NAACP," Brown says. While lodge brothers willingly discuss why they were drawn to the Masons, none will disclose those closely-guarded secrets.

The Rev. Warnie C. Hay, pastor of Galilee Baptist Church and a member of Bivouac Lodge No. 503 since 1944, says his decision to join was part tradition.

"It's traditional," says Hay, who is also a 32nd degree Mason, "from my father on down. I just saw them and didn't know a thing about it and I decided I wanted to be a part. I always wanted to be with some group that's doing something and I always wanted to become a Mason. I really have enjoyed and have been enriched since being a Mason and I wouldn't

give it up." Tomie Douthit, another member of Bivouac and past master of the lodge, was also attracted to the brotherhood by its Christian origin.

"That was the main thing," says Douthit, who has been a Mason since 1967. "It promotes brotherly love and it has a harmony among the brothers."

Under the Prince Hall umbrella, there are several local lodges and organizations with sister organizations, such as the Order of Eastern Star, or the youth group, the Knights of Pythagoras.

Each functions on a different level within the brotherhood, but all are part of the worldwide order.

# Piedmont Park From Page 13

instance, there's the Piedmont Park Executive Board, which is made up of residents, and a senior citizens groups and residents council.

Some of the programs implemented for residents include Girl and Boy Scout troops, the 4-H Club's cooking class, a ceramics class, a sewing class and a cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) class.

There's also a day care center in the neighborhood to care for the children of working parents.

As far as the morale among residents is concerned, the recent modernization program in Piedmont Park has had a great impact.

"Since we had the modernization program, I have noticed a significant change in the way the people over here act toward each other," says Alberta Harvey, who has been manager of Piedmont Park for the past five years. "We put in storm windows and renovated kitchens and bathrooms. The residents now take a lot more pride in where they live and how they act."

"Ever since moderniza-

tion took place, the people's attitudes have been totally different," says Alberta Watkins, a member of the executive board. "They have picked up their feet and begun to take more pride in the beautification of the neighborhood. They have been keeping up their yards and making it a more pleasant place to live."

"The modernization program has really helped," says Mrs. Washington. "The people are taking more pride in the outside appearance of the community. They seem to now look at it as more of a home."

Mrs. Watkins says that one accomplishment residents are especially proud of is the recent marking of the parking lot area.

"There was a big problem with parking because the lines were not marked off in the lot," says Mrs. Watkins. "We got together and since they've marked it off, it has cut down on the confusion. It is evidence of the new feeling of neighborliness over here."

Politically, since their voting precinct has been restructured and consolidated with Lowrance,

Piedmont Park residents have had to make an adjustment.

"It has caused some apathy," says one resident, who asked not to be identified. "People around here were used to working with one group and now they have had to make a change. It's taking a while for them to get adjusted."

Like all neighborhoods, Piedmont Park also has that one pressing problem that needs more attention than others.

"We need more recreational facilities for the younger children over here," says Mrs. Watkins.

"There are so many children and they are so close that it causes a problem," adds Mrs. Washington. "I am really concerned about the lack of facilities for our young people over here. We need to do something about it right away."

"I would like to see a playground area for the 9- to 13-year-olds," says Ms. Harvey. "I think that is the most pressing thing right now."

Fortunately, Mrs. Watkins says, plans for a playground and equipment are under consideration.

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