



For school nurse Doris Orr, being a social worker, psychologist and a friend to the little ones is all in a day's work (photo by James Parker).

## The role of the 'school nurse' has changed--and for the better

By AUDREY WILLIAMS  
Chronicle Staff Writer

In the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools, there are over 39,000 students, and only 23 public health nurses to help parents look after them.

"That's a lot of students to look after," says Barbara Carter, a public health nursing supervisor. "But they're doing a great job and it's satisfying work to help a child get glasses who couldn't see well enough to do his work, or to know children aren't having measles because they're getting immunizations."

But the role of the public health nurse -- or "the school nurse" as the students call them -- has changed over the years. They no longer wear the antiseptic white once worn as their traditional uniform, nor are they standing alongside the man in the white coat waiting to give an immunization shot with the "big gun."

"We don't give immunizations in the schools anymore," says Carter. "We give referrals and follow-ups to see that the child has had all of his shots."

"Nurses now not only screen for communicable diseases," she says, "but they now go into the classroom at the request of teachers and teach health and personal hygiene."

Through rain, sleet, snow or hail, public health nurses not only make twice weekly visits to the city and county schools, but they make visits to the homes of a child's parent, the elderly and others who can't afford the high

cost of proper medical care.

Last week, the school nurses were honored throughout the city and county, with a School Nurse Day observance.

Doris Orr, a public health and school nurse serving Brown and Lewisville Elementary schools, was one of the many recognized for unlimited devotion in the area of public health.

"No, we don't wear the white anymore," says a smiling Orr. "Now we wear colors, navy blue and light blue. It calms the children down because before, they related the white with doctors and shots."

"Becoming a public health nurse was a dream come true for me," says Orr, who was a licensed practical nurse for 10 years. "This type of nursing is different from working at a hospital. It's eight to five, no weekends and holidays off."

In her line of work, Orr, who visits both schools twice a week for two and a half hours a day, comes in contact with children of varying personalities and problems. Her job, she says, may not always be to help with a medical problem, but just to show a child some attention.

"I'm not just doing this because it's a job," she says. "I'm into public health nursing because I care and I let the children know that."

A mother herself, Orr says she believes children sometimes find it hard to tell a parent something is wrong. That's when the teacher and school nurse play an important part in a child's life, she says, especially since

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## Kenya Tillery: maturity at 12

By AUDREY WILLIAMS  
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Kenya Tillery took her first piano lesson at 9, and now at 12 years old, the Old Town Elementary sixth-grader is showing a surprisingly mature appreciation for music.

Her time on the piano isn't spent practicing the piano scale or straining an ear-piercing "Chopsticks." She prefers love ballads, and her favorite is Stevie Wonder's "Lately."

"The sound of it ('Lately') makes you feel good," says Kenya. "A lot of the music I hear, if I like it and it sounds good, I'll come and play it on the piano."

Despite the show of maturity at an age when many in her peer group have a tendency to sway from adolescence to childhood, her mother says Kenya's maturity is for real.

"Everybody says that about me," says Kenya, who also plays the flute, "but I don't have many friends." The lack of friends, she says, is probably due to the progress she's making at such a young age.

"Just recently I was eating lunch and these two girls started bothering me, which happens to me a lot," she says. "Maybe they do it because the teacher picks me to do a lot of things and I'm not into everything."

Kenya, whose father named her after the African country, has all the qualities of an up-and-coming debutante. She sits with her hands folded in her lap and is a pro at congeniality and making small talk. These qualities, no

doubt, contributed to her status as an appointed leader at Old Town Elementary.

Kenya serves on the Student Committee, where she acts as assistant secretary. In the mornings, she can be found monitoring the hall ways and assisting the custodians in picking up litter.

But life in the classroom for the B student wasn't always easy and Kenya analyzes just what went wrong in earlier grades.

"I used to do a lot of unnecessary talking in class," she says, "then I just matured and I started doing a lot better."

Kenya, whose dainty bedroom, complete with a Michael Jackson poster she personalized by adding a mustache, is typical of her age group, and she says she would like to become an engineer one day.

"I really enjoy math," says Kenya. "I just don't like science, but I make good grades in it."

She is a determined young girl and says she won't let anything stand in her way of accomplishing her goals, including those who badger her because of her integrated circle of friends and her maturity.

"It doesn't bother me when people are being ignorant," she says. "I just do what I have to do."

During the summer, Kenya is involved in an enrichment program, which includes a choice curriculum of typing, home economics and computer science, all of which she says she enjoys.

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Twelve-year-old Kenya Tillery is not letting anything stand in her way (photo by James Parker).

## Newcomer

## For Banks, Winston-Salem offers the right mix of everything



## Happy To Be Here

Phillip Banks III on his job with one of Winston-Salem's oldest white law firms: "My color is not the issue here" (photo by James Parker).

By AUDREY WILLIAMS  
Chronicle Staff Writer

Phillip Banks III has found a new home. To him, Winston-Salem is a hub for the arts, progressive people and social interaction.

And when he and his family settle down, the Winston-Salem community will soon become more familiar with both the man and his profession.

Banks, a native of Hampton, Va., is a 30-year-old litigations attorney with Petree, Stockton, Robinson, Vaughn, Glaze and Maready on West Fourth Street, one of the most prestigious and oldest firms in Winston-Salem. He made the move to Winston at the beginning of October.

An ultraconservative, Banks' boyish look is not deceiving. His wired, framed glasses add to his distinction and give him an intellectual appeal. His close hair cut also fits the professional image he desires, but is also a carry-over of being a captain in the U.S. Marine Reserve.

His first big case happened in his home base of Camp Lejeune, where he served as one of several prosecutors in the trial of Marine Pvt. Robert Garwood, who was charged with desertion and aiding the enemy while a prisoner during the Vietnam War.

"That was a very stressful time in my life," Banks says. "I had only been out of law school for six months."

"But through that and surviving it, I realized that it is very important that you stand by your principles," he says. "I could see that benefit looking at Lt. (Robert) Goodman."

A graduate of predominantly black institutions, Hampton Institute and Howard University Law School, Banks happens to be the only black attorney in the law firm he works for.

"A lot of the positive feelings I've had about Winston-Salem are related to the brotherhood I've experienced in

this law firm," he says. "My color is not the issue here."

Banks has trod a lot of ground in his brief time. While studying mass media at Hampton, he worked as the station manager for the school's radio station and as editor of the newspaper. He then entered the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where he did graduate work for a year.

Then came law school and Banks took advantage of many opportunities. He served as the attorney general of Howard's law school, where he met Reagan Henry at the Congressional Caucus in Washington.

Henry, owner and publisher of the *National Leader*, a major black publication based in Philadelphia, sparked Banks' interest in communications law and offered him a career with his broadcasting company. But the young at-

"It's hard leaving the South; that's why I'm here in Winston-Salem."

-- Phillip Banks III

torney says the South was where he wanted to be.

"I was very close to going to work for Mr. Henry," he says. "But I went to Philadelphia in January, when the hawk was out there."

Although the north wind was not a major factor in his decision, Banks, who is married to a music teacher and is the father of one daughter, says his ties and values remained in the South.

"It's hard leaving the South; that's why I'm here in Winston-Salem," he says. "And this law firm is like a family. I didn't feel that kind of brotherhood in Philadelphia, although they say it's the City of Brotherly Love."

His final decision on which city in North Carolina to settle in came when he was offered a job with the law firm

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