

# People

## Close-Up

### They 'Learn to Earn' a living

By AUDREY WILLIAMS  
Chronicle Staff Writer

There's one thing about Experiment In Self-Reliance Inc.'s Learn to Earn Program that's different from any other state- or federally-funded program in Forsyth County designed to offer people the opportunity to complete their high school education.

"We try to deal with kids that nobody else will have anything to do with, quite frankly," says Bob Law, deputy director of ESR.

In October 1983, ESR's Learn to Earn Program began offering high school dropouts preparatory classes for the general equivalency diploma (GED), with focus not only on youth, says Louise Wilson, executive director of ESR, but also on adults well into middle age.

Learn To Earn was conceived through the Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA), which replaced the Comprehensive Employment Training Act (CETA).

Aldrenia Gaither, director of Learn to Earn, Law and Wilson don't like the comparisons that have been made with Learn to Earn. Although the main objective is to offer dropouts a chance to complete their high school education, Learn to Earn, unlike other GED programs in Winston-Salem, is cost-free and geared toward the disadvantaged.

And the fact that ESR's program has been compared to programs with the same goal is "a problem," says Law. "People like to make comparisons."

Gaither estimates that the passing rate for Learn to Earn participants is 80 percent. But, says Wilson, regardless of results, one of the main objectives of Learn to Earn is to restore self-esteem.

"If we don't give them anything but a feeling of self-worth, they will have developed confidence," she says, "and no one can put a price on that."

Learn to Earn, which is sponsored by the city of Winston-Salem and funded by the Human Services Department's JTPA, also urges participants to enter in-

stitutions of higher learning or seek vocational training. Funding for the program allows for 50 students a year, and presently 17 students, mostly women from economically disadvantaged backgrounds, are enrolled.

At last count, says Gaither, one student enrolled at Forsyth Technical Institute for vocational training and two others enrolled at Winston-Salem State University.

"That's what Learn to Earn is all about," says Wilson. "We want these people to learn so that they can get jobs to earn a living."

In order to enter Learn to Earn, a person must be at least 16 years old, a Forsyth County resident, a high school dropout, evaluated by Goodwill Ind. to determine need and read on at least an eighth-grade level, the level required to take the GED examination.

Those below the seventh-grade reading level are referred to an adult basic education program, says Gaither.

"We've had to turn down a lot of people," says Law, "and we're concerned about that because some services

*"The most rewarding thing to me is seeing people go on to institutions of higher learning ..."*  
-- Willard Tanner

in the county just won't deal with these people at all."

Not only does Learn to Earn provide participants evening and day classes taught by a qualified staff of three instructors, which include Gaither, Willard Tanner and James Graham, it also offers personal and vocational counseling, referral service, resource speakers, workshops and field trips. And when a participant completes the course, Learn to Earn picks up the tab for the GED exam.

Classroom instruction includes five basic areas. Reading, writing, math, social studies and science are all taught from up-to-date manuals and textbooks that are of no charge to participants.

Many of the participants dropped out of school because of pregnancy or problems at home they say they just couldn't cope with. So marrying at a young age was an escape, or joining the workforce proved the solution at the time.

When Evangelist Annette Rodriguez, 47, was a young



Annette Rodriguez had to drop out of school in the eighth grade, but now she's picking up where she left through ESR's Learn to Earn Program (photo by James Parker).

girl in the eighth grade, she had to leave school because she got in trouble.

"In those days if you got pregnant you didn't go back to school," she says.

But since then, Rodriguez, who says she has led a hard life, decided she wanted to get her GED so she can earn a degree in theology.

"If I don't pass this test I'm going to cry," she says, "and then I'll take it again. But I'm going to pass it."

Fifty-eight-year-old Luther Goodwin dropped out of high school in the ninth grade and has been a minister for 10 years now. Like Rodriguez, he would like to earn a degree in theology and is in the practice-testing stage of the GED examination.

"You bet I'm going to pass this test," he says. "If it's passable, I'll pass it."

Tanner, a program instructor, says not only is his work

with Learn to Earn enjoyable, he also finds it satisfying.

"The most rewarding thing to me is seeing people go on to institutions of higher learning," he says, "and we're more than glad to help them fill out their financial aid forms."

At 31, Doris Quick, a 10th-grade dropout and mother of four, decided it would be well worth her time and her children's if she entered Learn to Earn.

"I have an eight and a 10-year-old," she says, "and a lot of times they would come home from school and ask me questions about math and I couldn't help them."

Quick, who says her learning abilities were stifled by an abusive stepfather, is studying to pass the GED so she can become a licensed practical nurse.

"I'm raising four children, going to school, and feeling better about myself," Quick says. "Now all I have to do is pass the GED so I can go to nursing school."

## Social Notes

### Hunter-Kimbrough

Cleo Ella Hunter and Landis Mardine Kimbrough were married Feb. 18 at 4:30 p.m. at Rising Ebenezer Baptist Church. The Rev. B.J. Milton officiated.

Hunter is the daughter of Ruth and Julius Hunter, and Kimbrough is the son of Lenton and Pauline Stephens.

The bride graduated from Anderson High School, attended Winston-Salem State University and is employed at North Carolina A&T State University. The groom graduated from Carver High School and attended A&T.

The bride was given in marriage by her son, David

Johnson III, with Barbara Manns serving as the matron of honor.

Other bridal attendants were Vickie Harriston, Joann Hoover, Barbara Hovis, Dedra Hunter, Gloria Little, Lisa Richardson and Rosa West.

Landis Mardine Kimbrough Jr. served as his father's best man, with Sterling Bailey, Robert Norris, Gregory Hunter, Francis Hunter, Zeno Hunter, Charles Kimbrough, Emerson Manns, Clarence West Jr. and Thomas Williams as ushers.

After a honeymoon at Ceasers Pocono Palace, the couple will live in Winston-Salem.



Mrs. Cleo H. Kimbrough

### Guys and Dolls celebrate Black History Month

Members of the Gamma Chapter of Guys and Dolls Inc. and friends met in the Red Room at Winston-Salem State University on Feb. 19 for a Black History Month celebration.

The program, titled "A Salute to Black History Month," was presented with Denise Franklin, co-anchor for WXII-Channel

12; Larry Leon Hamlin, director of the Black Repertory Company; and Sonya Nesbit, singer, as special guests. Ruby Blackwell, president of the Gamma Chapter, gave the welcome; Ernestine Worley, program chairperson, gave the salute; and Isaac Sims, Torch group advisor, introduced the guests.

Founded in the early 1960s, Guys and Dolls Inc. is a family organization with chapters in North and South Carolina. It is an organization dedicated to the provision of broad cultural and educational experiences and to the support of social and civic responsibilities. Children, adult and family activities are planned annually.

Officers for the year are Blackwell, president; Willic Adams, vice president; Pernella Keck, secretary; Charles Blackwell, corresponding secretary; Cordella Rumph, treasurer; and Mari Cabiness, financial secretary. New members are the Larry Holmans, the Donnell Wynns and Brenda Galloway and her son.



Three Lowrance Intermediate School students (standing, left to right) Corey Brown, Christopher Mack and Burns Conrad joined with Assistant City Manager Al Beaty, guidance counselor and Alderman Vivian Burke, school board member John Holleman and Associate Superintendent Palmer Friende for "National Guidance Week."

### Book Club of Today presents history program

The Book Club of Today met at the home of Mrs. Modesta Earl on East Fifth Street Feb. 21 with Mrs. Bronnie Daniels presiding. Other hostesses were Mrs. Vivien Bright and Mrs. Evelyn Sellers. Mrs. Barbara Hayes led the devotion using the theme "Just for Today."

Following a brief business session, the Current Literature Committee presented a program featuring the celebration of Black History Month. Mrs. Maybelle Hedgley, committee chairman, and Mrs. Emalene Goodwin briefly traced the early history of black accomplishments and gave a brief listing of great names among modern Afro-Americans.

Mrs. Edna Revels then presented Mrs. Mary King McCurry, who gave two dramatic readings. McCurry described the first poem, "She Sang to Him of Heaven," by Robinson as an attack on child abuse. The second poem was "The Party" by Paul Laurence Dunbar.

The presidential surprise was won by Dr. Lillian Lewis for correctly identifying Ma Rainey as the top blues singer for the first quarter of this century. During the social hour which followed, members exchanged friendship gifts. The meeting ended with choral reading of a poem about the qualities of a book.

Members present in addition to those already mentioned were Mrs. Martha Atkins, Mrs. Irma Goodwin, Mrs. Annie Hairston, Mrs. Aleise Jessup, Mrs. Annie Kennedy, Mrs. Wilma Lassiter, Mrs. Ivye McDaniel, Mrs. Selena Nichols, Dr. Barbara Phillips, Miss Louise Smith and Mrs. Marian Wooten.

### Local schools hold scoliosis screenings

Since Feb. 27 and continuing until March 9, the local schools have been holding scoliosis screening clinics for fifth- and sixth-grade students.

Last year, during the screenings, 51 cases of scoliosis (spinal curvature) and 17 cases of abnormalities of the back were found.

The simple, 30-second examination will be done by the school nursing staff of the Forsyth County Health Department. It requires only that the child bend forward. Nurses observe the spine and usually do not have to touch the body.

The purpose of the program is to detect spinal irregularities at an early age when they can easily be corrected. Too often, officials said, back curvatures are not discovered until permanent damage has been done and drastic treatment is required. Signs of scoliosis are found in about 5 to 10 percent of young people. Deformities often develop during the years of early adolescence, when the young person grows very rapidly. On the day of the examination, girls should bring a bathing suit or halter top to wear. Boys will be asked to remove their shirts. The examination will be done in privacy.

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

THURSDAY, MARCH 1

- The Human Relations Commission will hold its fifth annual awards banquet at the Hilton Inn on High Street at 7 p.m. This year's theme is "Human Relations, A Community Responsibility." Joe Black, vice-president of special markets for Greyhound Corp., will be the guest speaker.
- Attorney General Rufus Edmisten will host a reception in the Governor's Suite at the Hilton Inn at 6:30 p.m. immediately following the Human Relations awards banquet.

FRIDAY, MARCH 2

- The Kings and Queens Duplicate Bridge Club will host its annual Grade A Tournament for the Mid-Atlantic Section of the American Bridge Association today through Sunday at the Hilton Inn. For more information call 761-8129 or 722-2513.

SATURDAY, MARCH 3

- Atlantic City Night, featuring blackjack, craps, roulette, over and under and snacks, will be held at Bishop McGuinness High School at 1730 Link Road at 7:30 p.m.
- There will be a countywide rabies inoculation clinic at each animal hospital in Forsyth County, including the King Veterinary Hospital, from 1-2:30 p.m. Cost of the rabies vaccines for both dogs and cats will be \$3.00. For more information, contact the Animal Shelter or your local veterinarian.

SUNDAY, MARCH 4

- There will be an auxiliary regular business meeting of the Ralph R. Morgan Post No. 220 at the Post Home at 4 p.m.

TUESDAY, MARCH 6

- The Winston-Salem Rose Society will sponsor a Rose Culture Clinic in the Activities Building of Highland Presbyterian Church on the corner on the of Cloverdale and Magnolia streets at 7:30 p.m.
- "Forum On Education," sponsored by the YWCA Family Resource Center, the League of Women Voters and the PTA Council will present "Is The Average Student Lost in the Public School?" at the Glade Street YWCA from 7-9 p.m. James E. Dew, deputy superintendent of the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County School system, and Kaye Shutt, principal of Jefferson Junior High School, will address questions.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7

- Options for Living, a series of informative programs planned especially for local older adults, will

Please see page A9