

# George Scott

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wanted to know just how much of what goes on in the American society is as a result of purely political decisions. I find the game of politics intriguing."

He wanted initially to study history, but discovered his current academic interest after taking an introductory course with Professor Merle Black in the school's political science department.

Scott wants to go into the area of public administration at perhaps the state of federal level. He graduated from UNC in December 1987, and is debating whether to work for a while or pursue a master's degree in public administration.

His ultimate goal, however, is to enter state or federal government. He wants to make a positive difference in whatever area he finds himself.

Scott, the middle child in his family (he has an older and younger sister), was attracted to UNC for two reasons. First, he believes that the institution offers one of the best educational deals in the country; quality education at minimum cost. Its proximity to his home was the second factor that came into play.

He describes his three and a half years in Chapel Hill as a "not."

"It's been fun. I've enjoyed myself. I'm both happy and said to be graduating early, but I'm looking forward to moving on. It has been challenging," he says.

He adds that he would recommend the school to other blacks who don't necessarily want to be "social animals," but wanted to concentrate on getting a quality education.

His mother, an inspector at Gallos Plastics, and his father, a Thomasville Furniture Company machine operator, are two of sever-

al people he credits with being the motivating forces in his life.

"My parents and relatives offer me encouragement without placing demands or stipulations on me," he says. "My pastor, the Rev. William T. Parsons of St. Mark Lutheran Church in Winston-Salem, has also been an influential force in my life," he adds. "He encouraged me to try to overcome some of the barriers placed before

*"Each person has his or her own battles to fight, and each person's victory serves as an inspiration to me, and to others."*

-- George Anthony Scott

youths, especially black males."

Scott describes his desire to excel as coming from within. He doesn't want to cheat himself of any opportunities or any paths that education might open up for him. He believes that by doing well academically he has more choices, and that fact moves him to do the best he can.

He loves jazz and contemporary music, loves to read, gets into weight lifting, racquetball and has been active in the Omega Psi Phi fraternity for the last two years.

The principles and teachings of Christianity influence his outlook on life. He lists his compassion for others and his subtle ability to lead as two of his strong points. His weak points include being overly demanding on himself and procrastinating.

Scott is turned off by people who become overly emotional over issues and can't appreciate opposing views, and by people who are lackadaisical and settle for second best. These traits, he says, he sometimes recognizes in himself. He, however, admires people who are honest and can understand and relate to the needs of others.

Being confirmed in his church at age 12; being one of the keynote speakers at the 1984 commencement exercises at his high school, Parkland Senior High; coming to UNC-Chapel Hill on full scholarship; and being initiated into his fraternity are four of his greatest achievements, Scott says.

The greatest lesson he has learned is the ability of people to overcome the greatest obstacles.

"Each person has his or her own battles to fight, and each person's victory serves as an inspiration to me, and to others," he says.

The legacy that the present generation is leaving for young people in the area of politics, the economy and the national debt are some of the biggest concerns facing young people today, Scott says.

"We are going after short-term benefits while ignoring long-term

sufferings," he says.

Afro-American young people need to focus more on improving themselves, he says. He says black youths need to develop an interest in what's going on around them, to become a part of the world around them, and to do their networking like everyone else.

He also says they should take positions on issues, make stands, and use the political power they possess and not sell it for cheap promises. He would like to see them not bow to drugs, shy away from sexual promiscuity and place some blame for their shortcomings on themselves.

This dynamic, soft spoken, articulate and quietly ambitious young man appears destined to be an influential voice in tomorrow's society. One might not find him at political rallies, or on soap boxes in UNC's Pit, but in his own subtle way he will be making a difference.

Just like he already is making a difference at UNC Chapel Hill.

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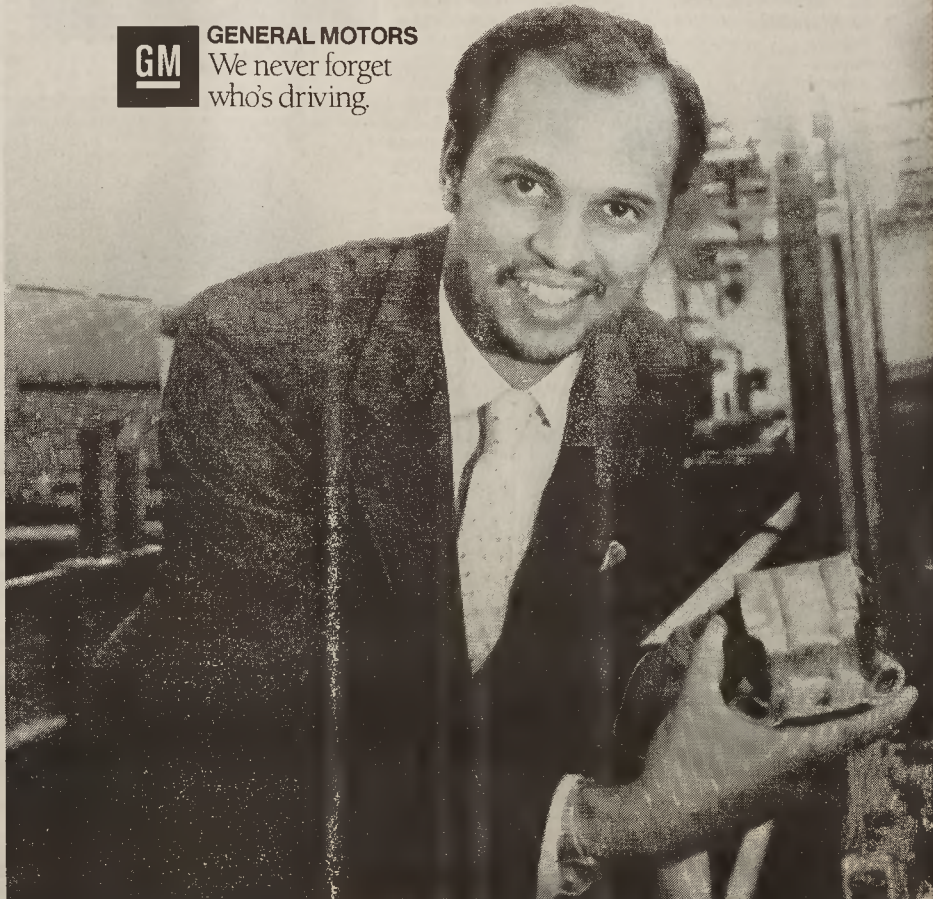
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# Van Peebles

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the elder Van Peebles said, "No."

But, Mario's Dad gave him this free advice: "Early to bed, early rise, work like a dog and advertise."

"Which was his way of saying, 'Do it yourself.'" Van Peebles said of his father's advice.

Another thing his Mom and Dad did was to see "every little funky play" their son was in. He recalls playing the first black cowboy, the first black Tarzan (with all white native), and "a psychotic killer maid."

"I did pays for \$10 a week, and, in all these plays, I started doing these different characters that now I get to do in 'Spoon,'" he said.

The actor also made a choice between two roles, which he sees as helping him toward his current enviable position. He had won roles in both "Platoon" and "Heartbreak Ridge," and he had to choose between them. He chose the latter movie because it would give him a chance to break into comedy.

"(Being) a young black leading man means unemployment," he said, adding that a role in "Platoon" would have been artistically rewarding, but doing comedy

would open the doors a little bit more.

"If you look at all your leads that are black- Eddie Murphy, Bill Cosby, Whoopi Goldberg--they all have a common denominator, and that's that they can do comedy. They have a handle on comedy. And, that's been one of my strong points. And Clint (Eastwood) was the first guy to let me do comedy," he said.

Quoting the Mark Twain line about how much smarter his father got as the son got older, Van Peebles said he realized his father loved him enough to let him do it himself.

"In fact, we worked together on 'Jaws' and they used to say, 'You only get jobs 'cause of your Dad,'" Van Peebles said. "And now he gets jobs 'cause of me--and I want my 20."

Having earned the right to work with his father as an equal, Van Peebles said it's a lot of fun. The two have written two scripts together and are working on a couple of projects.

And, Melvin Van Peebles may show up as guest star on "Sonny Spoon." That truly would be Van Peebles times two.

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