



Mrs. Elizabeth Hairston (left) spends precious time with Lasonya Allen helping her with homework.

Best Choice

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First, they do their homework, then go into a variety of classes: drug awareness, on-site science activities with the Nature Science Center, storytelling, art, writing, puberty education and self-defense.

Some of the all-day summer programs included firearm safety, archery, money matters, preparation for city government conducted by Mayor Martha Wood, shoplifting consequences, and self-esteem. Just as Arleese Smith's music class imparts so much more than music, so do most classes at Best Choice. Every class, every interaction between adult and child is designed to improve the child's self-image while imparting new skills and improving on old ones.

"That philosophy helps bridge the gap between where they are

now to the larger society they will face," explains Graham-Wheeler.

"They must be able to transcend the at-risk factors in their life."

Diversity abounds, from the classes to the resources. A short metal bookcase holds a dazzling array of selections: from *The Holy Bible to Soul on Ice*, from *Nursing Your Baby to Children of Alcoholics*. Beside *To Kill a Mockingbird* is a cartoon paperback about Catholic nuns. Three sets of encyclopedias are stacked on another bookcase, and supplemental teaching materials are piled on a long table. "Ninety-nine percent of children in Best Choice have remained drug-free," boasts Dorothy Graham-Wheeler. "And we haven't had any girls get pregnant. We deal with

reality," she says. "Sometimes we have to go out in the street and grab them by the arm and say, you're coming into the center."

In 1987, the community, led by the East Winston Restoration Society, cleaned out, disinfected, painted, and petitioned a former beer saloon to create the first Best Choice Center. Last year about 50 kids used the center, and this year, in the new facility on Highland, that number doubled. "All we do is charge the energy in the right direction," says Graham-Wheeler. "And help them understand that they must have the inner desire."

At Best Choice Center, one hundred children want to Be Somebody, and ten small voices sing, "We are the world. We are the children."

UNCG professor Dilworth-Anderson named to NIH Grant Review Board

Dr. Peggy Dilworth-Anderson, a gerontologist and family sociologist at The University of North Carolina at Greensboro, has received a national appointment to a study section which will review grant proposals submitted to the National Institutes of Health.

Dilworth-Anderson will serve through June 1995 with the study section on human development and aging, which is part of the NIH division of research grants. Study sections review research grant applications to NIH, make recommendations on the proposals, and survey the status of research in their fields of science.

Members are selected on the bases of competence and achievement in their designated field of science as demonstrated by research accomplishments, journal publica-

tions and honors.

"I want to emphasize the importance Dr. Dilworth-Anderson's participation in assuring the quality of the NIH peer review process," said Dr. Jerome G. Green, director of the division of research grants. "Membership on a study section represents a major commitment of professional time and energy as well as a unique opportunity to contribute to the national biomedical research effort."

Dilworth-Anderson came to UNCG in 1988 as a professor in the Department Child Development and Family Relations in the School of Human Environmental Sciences. Her studies have focused on the aging process and on the interaction of older persons within the family. In 1990, she served as a research grant reviewer for the National



Dr. Peggy Dilworth-Anderson

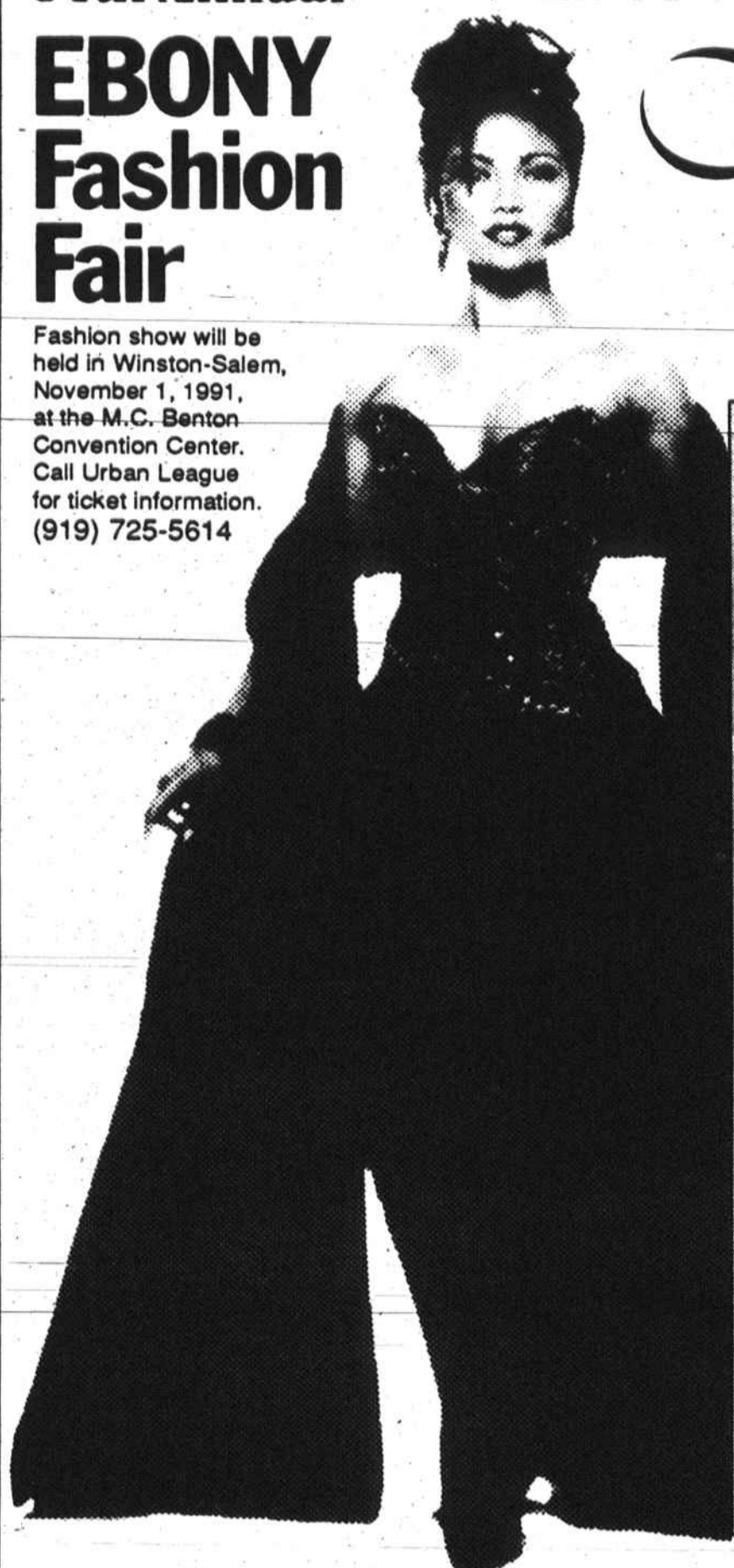
Institute of Mental Health. She is a graduate of the Tuskegee Institute and holds the master's and doctorate from Northwestern University.

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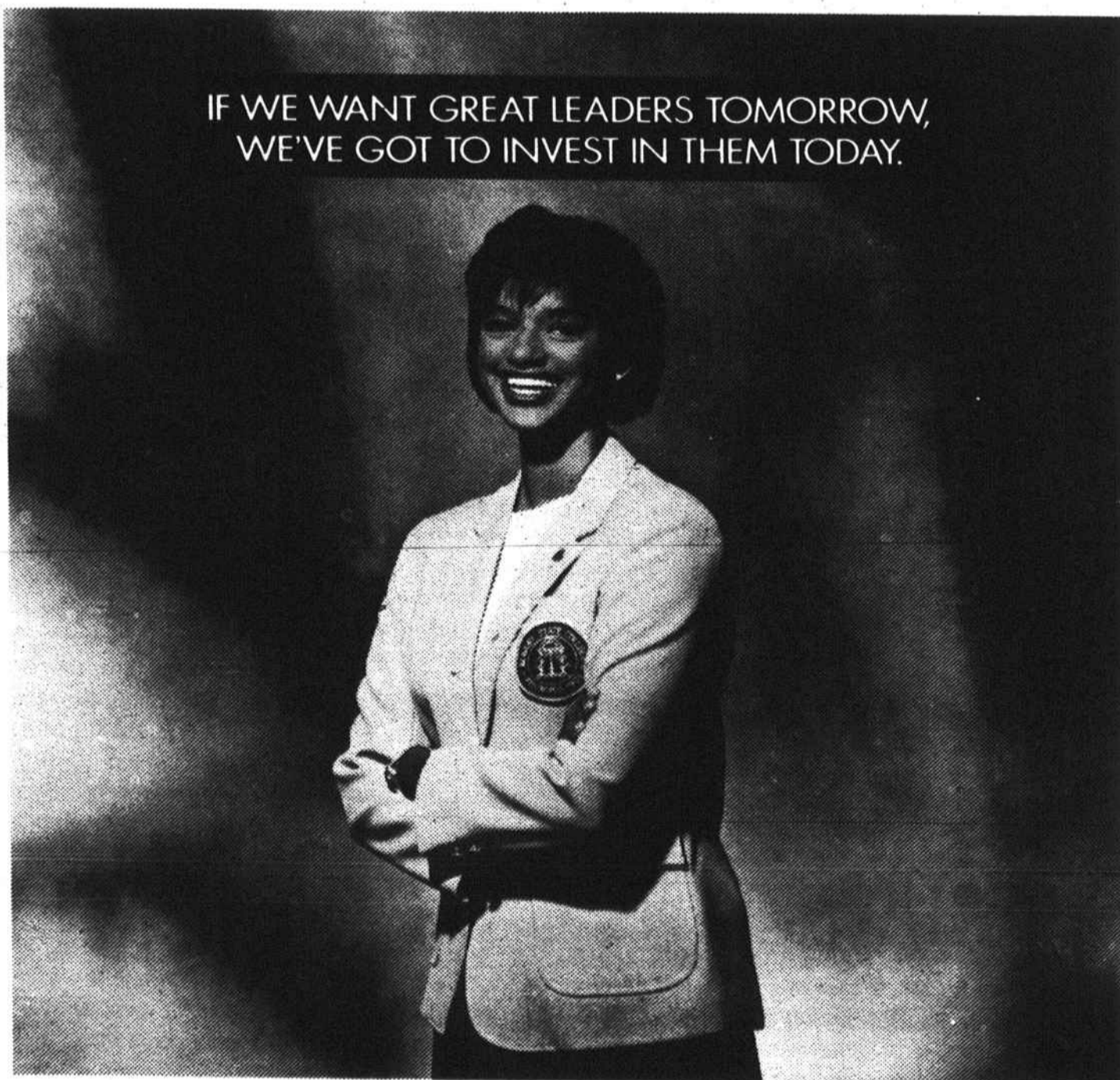
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