

# Mitchell assists in hurricane relief effort

Billy Mitchell, the son of Lincoln and Lenora Mitchell of Winston-Salem is a crewman aboard the newly commissioned Ashland. The ship had just completed its initial shakedown training at Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba before being diverted to join the six-ship Navy task force sent to South Florida.

Although Mitchell had heard of the news reports from Florida, he admitted he was still unprepared, after docking in Miami, for the enormity of the damage he saw around him.

According to Ashland's commanding officer, Commander D.W. Keith, the ship was located with materials that had been used in assisting Haitian migrants, once temporarily sheltered at the Navy's base in Cuba. The supplies, which were headed back to the United States for return to storage, were put to a more immediate use in South Florida.

Mitchell, a 1991 graduate of

R.J. Reynolds High School, noted that an advantage of sending a naval vessel, like the Ashland, to the scene of a natural disaster is that his ship is self-supporting.

Capable of making its own water and power, and having on-board communications technology, an naval vessel does not require assistance from shore for support services. It does not place an added burden on an area already struggling to restore even basic services to its residents.

Mitchell added that the able-bodied and technically trained crew could also provide badly needed manpower to assist with relief operations.

Although the opportunity to participate in humanitarian missions was not in the forefront of Mitchell's thoughts when he joined the Navy in 1991, he soon realized that missions of this sort were nothing new for the sea service.

In the recent past Navymen

and women have assisted, to name only a few instances, in the cleanup of Hurricane Hugo and the San Francisco earthquake, in the attempt to protect the Kurds during Operation Provide Comfort, and in the relief work that followed the eruption of Mt. Pinatubo in the Philippines.

Even as Hurricane Andrew operations got underway, on the other side of the world, Navy people were assisting the people of Guam as they dug out from the excesses of Typhoon Omar.

Mitchell said he was proud to be a part of relief effort dubbed "Operation Help From the Sea". Navy ships were part of a larger joint task force operation that has brought more than 20,000 military people to South Florida to help.



U.S. Navy Photos  
Billy Mitchell is a crewman aboard the newly commissioned USS Ashland.

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Wreckage is all that's left of a mobile home park located near Homestead Air Force Base. Servicemen and women are helping to clear sites like this one throughout South Florida.

## Holder named 'Citizen of the Month'

The William C. Sims Recreation Center announced Tracy Holder as "September Citizen of the Month." Holder is a teacher at Cook Middle School who spends her time helping students in the Learning Center at the recreation center in the Happy Hill Gardens community. Flowers and balloons were provided by Susan's Fancy Balloons

and Florist on Waughtown Street.

Other events at the Sims Center include: the mediation class graduation dinner at the Silas Creek Parkway Pizza Hut on September 11 at 5:30 p.m.

Greg Good gave certificates and T-shirts to the following students for the completion of the mediation course: Eugena Lilly,

Edward Lilly, Wylonda Lilly, and Cassandra Penn.

The Sims Center also held an overnight program for young men which started Sept. 11 at 8 p.m. and ended Sept. 12 at 9 p.m. This event entertained 14 young men.

For more information on any programs at the center, contact Ben Piggott at 727-2837.

## WSSU student receives scholarship

Erica Smith says a sense of achievement means more than the money. But the extra funds definitely help.

Smith says she applied her "do your best" attitude when she wrote an award-winning essay that won her a \$500 scholarship towards her tuition at Winston-Salem State University.

The 22-year-old sophomore recently won the Columbia Records "Joe Public's Live and Learn" essay contest. She says she found out about the contest from WSNC, the campus radio station (90.5 FM), which co-sponsored the promotional partnership.

"It was a 500 word essay on why it's important for black youth to learn about their history," Smith says. "I found out at the end of June that I won."

Smith says she had plenty to say in her essay.

"The black youth of today are lost," she says. "Our educational system is unequal and unfair, and we don't even know our background. Black parents should focus on teaching us about our history because the school system only teaches us the negative things."

Smith says black parents need to be pushed to teach their children about family values.

"They especially need to teach their children the importance of the black man," she says. Smith says many negative images of the black man might dilute his significance in the family.

She says parents also need to give children the incentive to learn. It was her parents who gave her the motivation.

"My father is a graduate of City College in New York and speaks Spanish fluently," says Smith. "My mother graduated from

Hunter College in New York. So, I grew up in an environment where I was taught to excel. They taught me that academics was number one and that I should do my best in extra-curricular activities."

Smith is pursuing a mass communications degree with a minor in Spanish. She works on the campus radio station and says she hopes to develop a full scope of knowledge of the communications industry.

## Bennett College sets new goals

"Creating a Caring, Nurturing, Disciplined, and Celebrative Environment: Our Serious Mission of Educating Women for the 21st Century," is the theme that Bennett College faculty and staff are driven by, not only for this academic year, but in years to come.

As part of the college's long-range goals, Bennett is striving to have a student enrollment of 750 by the year 1995 and 1,000 by the year 2000. The projected student population now is 615 but is expected to increase last year's enrollment. However, an enrollment of 711 students was an all-time high for Bennett in 1968. Even though Bennett College's desire is to increase the student population, according to Dr. Gloria R. Scott, president, "We

want to remain a small college, keeping faculty and staff enrollment in proportion." Approximately 200 freshmen and 25 transfer students are currently enrolled this summer.

A major goal of Bennett College is to upgrade and improve the physical facilities through a comprehensive sequential program to provide an attractive, functional, safe, and secure environment. This goal is a priority for the college.

As part of this goal, the college has implemented a major renovation plan for campus facilities, and has chosen to address the immediate needs of the students. Annie Merner Hall was the first residence hall to undergo major renovations. Renovation and upgrading are scheduled for six other residence halls.

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