

Center's PTA Raises \$2,800 in Coronation '95

▲ Royal court of children selected for WSSU homecoming

By JOHN HINTON
Chronicle Senior Staff Writer

The Parents-Teacher Association at the Early Childhood Learning Center raised \$2,800 during the recent Coronation '95, where eight children were selected to the center's Royal Court as part of the Winston-Salem State University's Homecoming activities.

"Parents will use the funds to support the center," said Dr. Barbara Richardson, the director of the center.

Aaron Clark and Kayla Kimber were selected as "Little Mr. and Miss Ram 1995." The first runners-up was Mychal Wolfe and Kasey Saxon; the second runners-up were Cory McCall and Jamilla Bethea;

and third runners-up were Travis Livingston and Charesa Smith.

The children were chosen based on whoever parents raised the most money for the center. The children and their parents rode a float in the recent WSSU Homecoming parade. A group of 31 children - ages three to five - attend the center. Their parents are college students, WSSU faculty members, and community residents.

"We have openings for 14 children," Richardson said. "Usually, we have a waiting list of 15 to 20 children."

The center first opened in 1973 in the basement of the old Nursing Building on WSSU's campus. The staff teaches the

children pre-reading and pre-math skills, Richardson said.

"Children's play is work," she said. "They learn through experiences. We have a play curriculum here."

Among the eight-person staff are two certified teachers, teacher education aides, and WSSU students who work as volunteers. "College students read to the kids and play with them," Richardson said.

The center has been well received in the community, she added. "It has a tremendous reputation," she said. "Parents are anxious to set their children into the program."

The center is licensed by the state and has a ratio of one adult to every eight children, Richardson said.



Dr. Barbara Richardson, the director of the center, kneels next to the Royal Court. The children (not in order shown) are Aaron Clark, Kayla Kimber, Mychal Wolfe, Kasey Saxon, Cory McCall, Jamilla Bethea, Travis Livingston and Charesa Smith.

Local Church Offers Hope and Solutions to Youth Problems

By MAURICE COCKER
Chronicle Senior Staff Writer

With crime on the rise, today's youth are having to cope with various problems and situations.

Youths in Winston-Salem had a chance to discuss these problems and develop some solutions during a youth summit held at Goodwill Baptist Church, in Winston-Salem.

The summit was sponsored by Goodwill and is part of the church's youth outreach program.

"This was one of our programs to reach young people," said Rev. Philemon Samuels.

Samuels says he feels it is the duty of the church to help the children obtain the equipment to make it in life.

The theme of the summit was "Why Stand up for Christ."

"So many young people accept Christ in their life, but because of the various pressures, they tend to fall short," he said.

Samuels said the summit allowed youths an opportunity to express the issues that they have questions about.

The summit was designed to deal with topics that are affecting young people such as drugs and dating.

"A lot of churches are concerned about dealing with topics in the raw," Samuels said. "But if the children can't come to us where will they go?"

The summit brought hundreds of youths from around the area together.

According to Samuels, the majority of people think the teaching should take place in the home.

"I think it starts in the church with the ministers, and then it is taken back in the home," he said.

In addition to the summit, Samuels said the church offers other programs that are geared

toward helping young people.

"We have what we call youth revivals, where the youth and I get together and just sit down and discuss whatever is on their minds," Samuels said.

Samuels said he thinks the summit gave the young people a sense of purpose.

"Far too often, young people are told they are no good and are into drugs," he said. "But we let the young people know they are somebody and can be anything they want to be."

According to Samuels, the church will host both men and women conference's to discuss some problems they may face.

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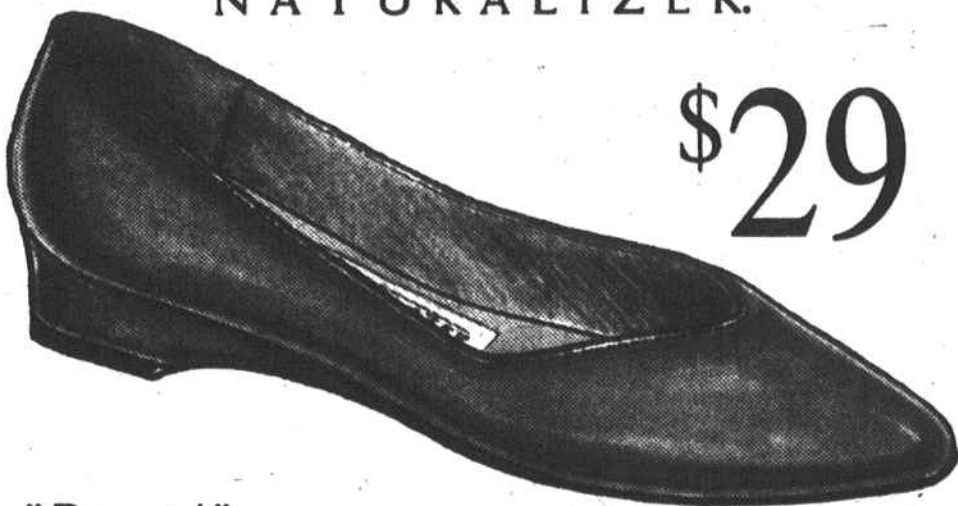
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