



Voices of Victory is a gospel choir that began at Philo Middle School when four young men got together for a talent show at Philo.



The four founders of Voices of Victory are Robert Duncan, Richard Hamilton, (advisor Shirley Duncan) Kent Christian, and Michael Crawford.

Voices of Victory perform at PTSA function

By FELECIA P. MCMILLAN
Special to THE CHRONICLE

When Kent Christian, Robert Duncan, Michael Crawford, and Richard Hamilton performed a gospel number for a Philo Middle School talent show, they had no idea their act would develop into a 48-member choir called the "Voices of Victory." Three years ago, these four friends collaborated as Hamilton and Christian played drums, and Duncan played the saxophone. Shirley Duncan, the mother of Robert, is the advisor.

Because Ms. Duncan is also on the PTA board at Easton Elementary, she encouraged the PTA of Easton Elementary to invite the choir to sing at the Fall Fling Nov. 7 at the school. The PTA sponsored a fish fry in order to purchase a new copier for the teachers. Teresa Gaither, PTA president at Easton, was thrilled to have the choir perform because they enhanced the atmosphere.

More than 200 people supported the fish fry.

They performed several songs, including "Stomp," "What if God Loved Us First," "Jesus Is My Help," "Glorify the Lord," and "My Life Is in Your Hand." Shirley Duncan, advisor, is very proud of her son and his friends for taking the initiative to start such a group. She said it created a "behavior contagion." "So many of the students wanted to join," Duncan said.

Principal Steve Flora said he enjoyed the choir's singing and it excited him to know that more than 50 percent of the choir members are graduates of Easton.

Assistant principal Hairston was elated to see so many people participate and to hear the outstanding performance of the choir. Jackie Samuels, fundraising chairperson, clapped her hands and tapped her feet as she enjoyed the dinner.

The next event for the choir will

be held Wednesday, Nov. 12, at 12:30 p.m., when the choir will perform for the State Counselors Conference at the M.C. Benton Convention Center.

Members of Voices of Victory donated their time and talents to enhance the event, as did many other people in the community. Gloria Mackin, fourth-grade teacher, coordinated the food efforts.

Adele Knits, where Samuels works, is a business partner of the school. Adele donated two cases of fish. According to Samuels, they sold out of fish and only had a few condiments left. Fifteen parent volunteers came forward to help cook and deliver the dinners and sandwiches. According to Samuels, they almost tripled the money they spent for the event, making it a great success. Steamboat Restaurant donated slaw; Joyce Bros. provided baked beans, and parents supplied enough paper products for the fundraiser.

CALENDAR

from page A7

The public is invited.

The church is at Zion Church and Boiling Springs roads in Tobaccolville.

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 23

WSSU Choir

Winston-Salem State University Gospel Choir will be in concert Nov. 23 at 5 p.m. at the Uncompromising Word Church Inc. The church is at 2800 E. Sprague Street.



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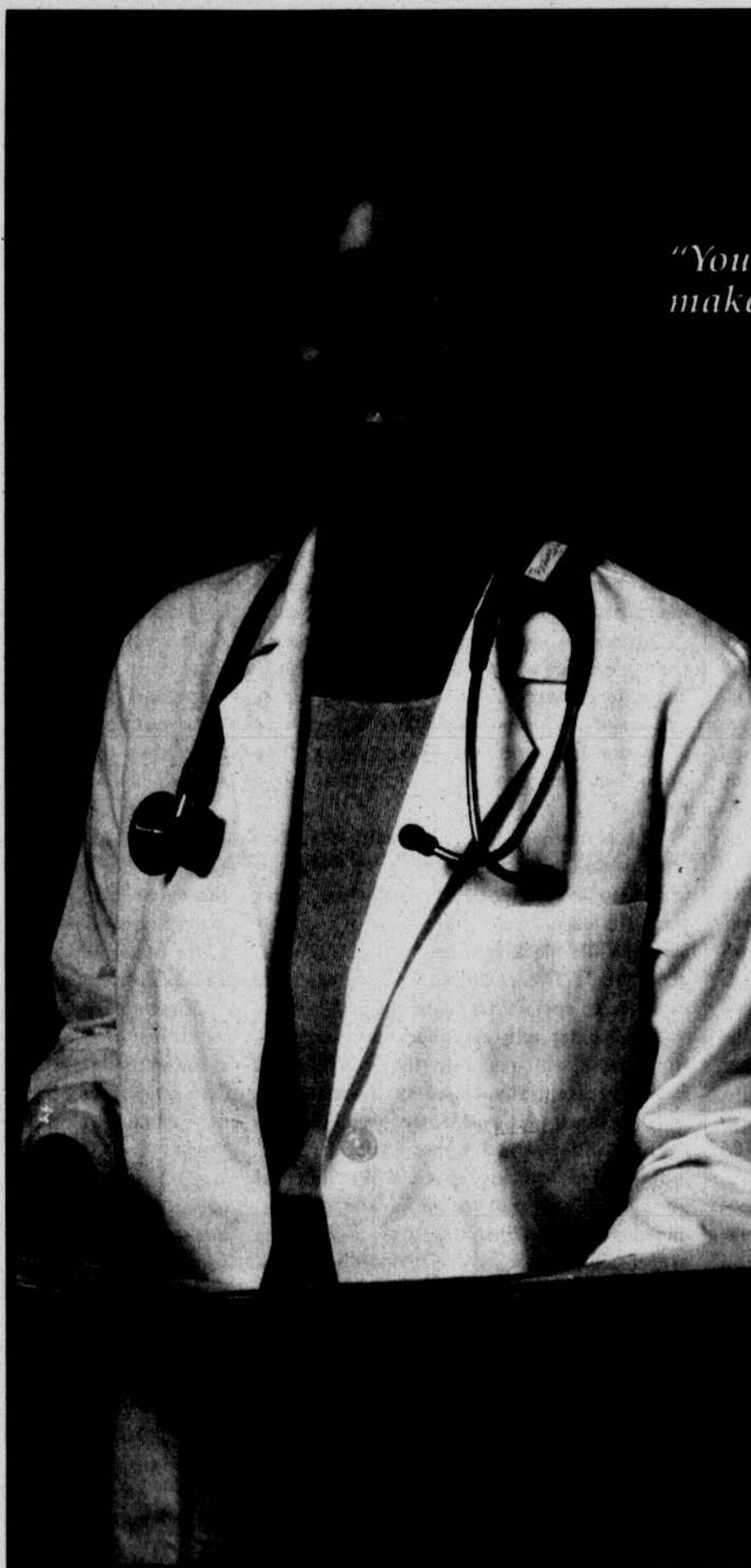
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