

# Quality Education Institute holds Bestowal of Blessings Ceremony

Special to THE CHRONICLE

Friday evening, June 4, the brand new gymnasium of Quality Education Institute was bursting with pride, encouragement, hopefulness and solemn sincerity as the second annual Bestowal of Blessings Ceremony was held. About 60 students from the third, fourth, fifth and sixth grades were adorned with stunning, monogrammed silk scarves after each student's parent, grandparent, or guardian shared his or her hopes, expectations and prayers for the child's life with the child and the audience.

The blessings that God was asked to bestow on each student were very personal and spiritual. The requests ranged from careers as a teacher, nurse, architect, minister, businesswoman, athlete, dancer, tennis player, doctor, veterinarian, psychiatrist, jet pilot, attorney, musician, computer engineer, leader; to character building traits of faith, love, wisdom, knowledge, strength, kindness, understanding; honesty, hard work, patience, forgiveness and dedica-

tion. All requests were very powerful - expressed with love and using words that painted beautiful visions and images.

Here are a few samples: Idris Adams Devlin's mom wants him to be blessed to "the blessing of growing up to become a builder of hopes and dreams, as he may be the next great architect."

Ashley Hardesty's parents want her to be blessed to be "the businesswoman, teacher, hairdresser, dancer and all the things that she has in her mind...She has a lot of talent, and we expect no less from her."

Christina Reid's parents asked that "she be blessed to be a great educator in the same manner that God has blessed her grandmother Francis Crosby; her grandfather, Evon Reid; her grandmother Queen Reid; her mother, Valerie Coplin; and myself, Aldolphus Coplin, to be educators."

Napoleon Holmes Jr.'s father said, "Last year we bestowed the blessing for him to be the best that he could be. This year I

would like to bestow the blessing of love - that he learns to love his fellow man, love relationships with others and love Jesus Christ."

Deja Mitchell's mom not only asked for her to be blessed to be a veterinarian and to have the wisdom and knowledge to make the right choices, she also asks Deja "to remember her ancestors: the strength of her grandpa James, the intelligence and beauty of her grandmother Dorothy, the sweetness and kindness of her grandma Babe, the faith of her great-grandpa Lester and the wisdom of her great-grandma Cathy."

Crystal Coleman Glenn requested the gift of guidance for her son Joshua: "That God continues to guide him on a direct path, continues to bless his heart, to bless his mind and bless his soul in whatever he chooses to do. Let him follow in God's footsteps."

Lenore Carter said, "I wish to ask the Lord to bestow upon my grandson, Brandon Wade Carter, the blessing of wisdom, the blessing of under-

standing and the blessing of knowledge. These I ask in Jesus' name."

Dwight Alton Moore II's mom asked that he be blessed to become a great educator, "because of the wisdom and the knowledge and the compassion that have been shown to him by the great educators and administrators here at QEI and QEA (Quality Education Academy). He is continuing to learn self-control, self-discipline, but most important, self-worth. He is a fine young man. We are proud to call him our son, and it is our hope that as an adult he will be able to impart to others some of the blessings he's received here at this fine institution."

Veronica, the mother of Dominique Sides, wants her to have blessings of prosperity and success in each endeavor and "to remember always to put God first and never forget that all blessings flow from Him. Be mindful that qualities such as hard work, honesty, fairness, patience, love, forgiveness and dedication will take you a long way in life. And remember that in life's disappointments and

hard times to reflect upon ... Philippians 4:13: "I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me."

The evening started with recitations and readings from students of various grades, followed by words of encouragement by Nigel Alston, a native of Winston-Salem and vice president of human resources of Integon Inc. He began by saying how impressed he was with the confidence that the students displayed by standing up and talking with a lot of assertiveness - skills that he said would take them a long way in the future.

As Alston prepared to share some thoughts on hope, he quoted Frederick Douglass: "We are one, our cause is one and we must help each other if we are to succeed."

Alston said that events around the nation suggested that there is an absence of hope, but he saw a lot of hope at the Bestowal of Blessings Ceremony at QEI this night.

"Without hope you are down; people quit trying. When

you don't have hope, you don't have anything. It doesn't matter how difficult it gets, whether you are depressed, whether you lose something, you must not give up hope. Our youth must always know there's hope, that they are not in a state of hopelessness," Alston said.

Quality Education Institute is a private, non-profit, year-round elementary school that is fully accredited and that serves prekindergarten through fifth grades. QEI still has a few openings for the 1999-2000 school year. Applications may be picked up at the school, 4381 Carver School Road, directly across from the new Mazie Woodruff Center. An open house is scheduled July 9 at 5:30 p.m. Stop by, tour the facility and have your questions answered, or call (336) 744-7138 to schedule an appointment, or send e-mail to Qualityaca@msn.com to receive more information.

Quality Education Academy is a public, charter middle school.

## Rival files suit against Master P

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW ORLEANS - Rap music producer "Master P" is being sued for \$10 million by a rival producer who claims he was threatened and undermined by the music tycoon and his associates.

The federal lawsuit says Master P, Tevester Scott and unnamed associates threatened to ruin Roy Joseph's business, now known as Slaughter House Records.

At the center of the lawsuit is a New Orleans rap star named Mia X, who is known as the "first lady" of Master P's expanding business empire.

Joseph claims Master P - who has raised Percy Miller - and his associates threatened him with death, bodily harm and jail time if he did not release Mia X from her contract.

Joseph says he signed Mia X to record on his rap label, Emoja Records, after meeting her at a Thibodaux rap concert in 1994. Master P convinced her to break the contract and join his fast-growing No Limit Records in mid-1995, Joseph contends.

Joseph has sued under federal racketeering laws, claiming Master P and his business associates used threats, extortion to steal Mia X, induce other artists to break their contracts and damage Joseph's standing in the music industry.

Scott, described in the lawsuit as a Master P employee, said Joseph could avoid such problems and get "an enormous

amount of money" if he dropped his claim to Mia X's contract, the lawsuit says.

As recently as February, Scott, Mia X's manager, told Joseph's attorney that her original two-year contract with Emoja was invalid because Joseph forged her signature, according to the lawsuit.

Joseph's suit names as defendants Master P, No Limit Records, Mia X and Scott.

An attorney for No Limit said the lawsuit is frivolous.

"This is a vicious attempt to extort money from us," No Limit attorney Edwin Hawkins said. "Legal extortion, that's all it is."

Hawkins said Joseph's claim that Mia X was under contract to Joseph is without merit.

Attorneys for Joseph could not be reached for comment, and Scott's attorney declined to comment. Mia X did not return a phone call seeking comment.

Joseph's lawsuit says Slaughter House is due 40 percent of Mia X's album sales since she left the company.

Four days after the lawsuit was filed, in mid-May, Master P and No Limit Records succeeded in getting the court record temporarily sealed, saying it contained "extremely inflammatory" statements that would damage the business relations of Miller, his companies and his associates.

A judge has ordered Joseph to file a more specific complaint by July that describes the allegations of racketeering in more detail.

## Treatment

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community has mobilized around the disease, educating its members about treatment options and the importance of getting care.

But while the AIDS epidemic hit homosexual men first, blacks are the fastest growing group of victims, now accounting for nearly half of all new infections, making the disparities in care even more alarming to public health officials.

There are many AIDS clinics in the gay community but few that are targeted to drug users, said Peter Lurie of Public Citizen's Health Research Group.

"The injection drug users are

a relatively forgotten part of this epidemic," he said.

The new research comes from the HIV Cost and Utilization Study, the first national data on care for people with HIV and AIDS. Researchers identified about 231,400 American adults with HIV who were receiving at least some medical care outside the military or prison, in all states except Alaska and Hawaii.

From this group, a random sample of more than 2,000 patients was chosen for interviews beginning in early 1996 and again in early 1998. Researchers measured six components of care - three relating to use of medication and three related to use of doctors and hospitals.



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