

# YESS means saying no

Program honors youngsters who vow to stay sexually abstinent until married

BY COURTNEY GAILLARD  
THE CHRONICLE

Isaiah Smith, Kelvin McCaskill and Javielle Chamberlain were among more than 40 kids who pledged to remain abstinent before marriage. The preteens are participants in Youth Empowerment Support Services (YESS), which held a graduation July 15 for its Prevention Program at the Anderson Center on the campus of Winston-Salem State University.



Jones

YESS, Catholic Social Services program, promotes sexual abstinence to preteen boys through The Code, to preteen girls through Sisters and to first-time teen parents through Hand to Hand. Equipped with the ideals of chastity, respect, morality, responsibility and self-control, YESS offers guidance, values and tools to youths with regard to sexual activity.

Both Smith, a student at the Downtown Middle School, and McCaskill, a student at Atkins Middle School, said The Code has taught them "new things they wouldn't have learned" otherwise



Members of The Code, a CSS program, pledged to remain abstinent at the YESS Prevention Program Graduation.

Photo by Courtney Gaillard

about sex. Chamberlain, also a student at Downtown Middle School, said Sisters has taught her about sexually transmitted diseases. She said she plans to remain sexually abstinent until she gets married.

"You never know what (STDs) you might catch, and you don't want to end up (sick or pregnant) like other people," Chamberlain said.

Jeff Jones, director of YESS Prevention Programs, said that it's

important for this abstinence message to reach children at a young age before they succumb to peer and societal pressures.

"We want to start the kids early because we're going up against MTV, BET and other TV shows that throw all kinds of messages out at the kids which are really for adults to see," Jones said. "We're celebrating the kids who made a commitment to the program, and we want to celebrate them for having this drive to do

positive things in their lives."

Willie G. Stevens, home school coordinator at Latham Elementary School, was the guest speaker at the graduation. He shared a positive message of his own by telling the graduates and audience members to "take notes because we're going somewhere."

"This is not the end; this is the beginning. Take personal responsibility for your actions," Stevens said. "Take care of yourself. Don't let just anything go into your body

ed they couldn't play with white players. Race was never an issue."

In fact, both siblings say it wasn't until they read about their mother and aunt in books and saw them inducted into the Tuskegee Hall of Fame that they realized what kind of impact they had.

"I was shocked," Walker said. "I used to use my mother's trophies as toy soldiers, there were so many of them. But as a kid, you don't recognize those things."

Weekes and Walker weren't the only ones who failed to recognize the soft-

spoken sisters, Mosley said. "They were reflective of people of color who resisted segregation, but were not going to put their lives on hold because of it," she said. "They succeeded in spite of the obstacles."

Because they succeeded, new paths were laid for players like the Williams sisters, whom the Peters watched closely as they emerged into stardom.

"When Serena and Venus won their Wimbledon titles, I told my aunt, 'It should have been you all,'" Walker said. "She said, 'No. It's their turn

or into your mind...All behavior starts somewhere, so be extremely careful what you start because your behavior is going to follow you wherever you go."

Stevens went on to tell graduates the importance of believing in themselves, respecting others, maintaining a positive attitude and setting goals in life.

"Don't think or act like a victim and then you won't become one, because throughout history we have been known to be victims of something...Don't let anyone tell you that you are nothing! Look them square in the eye and tell them I am somebody and I will be somebody!" Stevens said.

All graduates were awarded certificates signifying their completion of their respective programs. The Code graduates were awarded trophies, and Sisters graduates were awarded charm bracelets (each with a single heart charm). The graduates then recited a pledge before family and other witnesses affirming their promise to practice sexual abstinence until marriage. Parents were asked in turn to pledge their love and support for their children and to set moral examples through their words and actions.

The YESS Prevention Program will start back up again in the fall with groups at six sites: Latham Elementary, Diggs Elementary, Ashley Elementary, Salem Gardens, Winston Lake YMCA and the Salvation Army Boys and Girls Club.

## Project to offer chance to be vocal politically

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

Residents of the Happy Hill community will meet with local leaders on Sunday to discuss voting rights and political participation in a public forum called "Speak Out! Restoring Faith in Democracy." N.C. Reps. Larry Womble and Earline Par-



Garrou

mony along with Sen. Linda Garrou will give citizens a chance to voice their concerns regarding the state of their community.

The student-organized Democracy Summer, an arm of Democracy North Carolina, is sponsoring the forum. Democracy North Carolina is a nonprofit, nonpartisan group that aims to ensure equal access and full participation of all voters in the electoral process.

Low voter turnout in Happy Hill also is expected to be a topic of discussion at the forum.

The forum will kick off with free food and a roundtable conducted by area civic groups. Members of the community will be invited to address state and local officials at the microphone. Also scheduled to attend the forum are Ben Piggott, Rev. Edith Jones, Lee Faye Mack, Rev. Carlton Eversley and Rev. Carrie Bolton.

All who wish to attend the forum are invited to the Sims Recreation Center, 1201 Alder Street, from 3-6 p.m. Legislators will begin speaking at 4 p.m.

For more information, contact Jennifer Frye at 967-9942, ext. 23.

## Tennis sisters

from page A2

play tennis and not being able to use the bathrooms when you stop for gas because you were black," Mosley said.

The two persevered, not only excelling on the court, but graduating in 1941 with degrees in physical education. They were elected to the school's athletic Hall of Fame in 1977.

After getting their master's degrees from New York University, Margaret and Roumania eventually settled back in Washington. Roumania mar-

ried James Walker and started a family, including daughter Frances and son James.

Roumania held tennis camps in the D.C.-area to expose underprivileged blacks to the game and also coached high school basketball. Margaret was a special education teacher.

Weekes and her brother say their famous relatives made tennis a center point of family activity, but never spoke of the racial injustices they battled just to play the game.

"They weren't bitter about anything," Weekes said. "They were never disappoint-

For Great Meal Ideas, Visit BI-LO.com

**Fresh Assorted Quarter Sliced Pork Chops**  
Premium Quality 9 Chops Per Pack

**BUY ONE GET ONE FREE!**  
WITH YOUR BONUS CARD

SAVE 40¢ lb. with your BONUS CARD

**FRESH Whole Chicken**  
USDA Grade A

**59¢** lb.

**BUY ONE GET ONE FREE!**  
WITH YOUR BONUS CARD

**Dole Salads Greener Selection** 12 oz.  
**Classic Romaine** 10 oz.  
**Just Lettuce** 11 oz.

**BUY ONE GET ONE FREE!**  
WITH YOUR BONUS CARD

**Edy's Ice Cream**  
56-64 oz. Asst. Var.  
Frozen Yogurt, Lite or Regular

**BUY ONE GET ONE FREE!**  
WITH YOUR BONUS CARD

**Russet Potatoes**  
5 lb. Bag

**BUY 1, GET 2 FREE!**  
WITH YOUR BONUS CARD

**SALE**

**BUY 1, GET 2 FREE!**  
WITH YOUR BONUS CARD

**Carolina Pride Jumbos**  
16 oz.

**BUY 1, GET 2 FREE!**  
WITH YOUR BONUS CARD

**Bryan Meat or Thick Meat Bologna**  
12 oz. (Does Not Include Beef)

**BUY 1, GET 2 FREE!**  
WITH YOUR BONUS CARD

**Pictsweet Frozen Vegetables**  
32 oz. Asst. Var.

**BUY 1, GET 2 FREE!**  
WITH YOUR BONUS CARD

**Dannon Yogurt**  
6 oz. Asst. Var.

**July** WEDNESDAY 23 THURSDAY 24 FRIDAY 25 SATURDAY 26 SUNDAY 27 MONDAY 28 TUESDAY 29

These Prices Good At Your Local BI-LO Store.

For Great Food Ideas, Visit [www.BI-LO.com](http://www.BI-LO.com)

Our Prices Are So Low, We Reserve The Right To Restrict Quantities Of Merchandise. No Sales To Dealers. BI-LO, LLC © 2003.

Now Welcomes The American Express® Card.