

# Blind Student Says Public School Has More Advantages

By Teresa Burns  
Post Staff Writer

People usually don't perceive Tamara Rorie as being blind. Even though she is and has been since birth, you tend to forget about it. It's all in the way she carries herself; the fact that she has always attended public schools; and the power she has to realize that the sense of sight is not synonymous with understanding or knowledge.

"People say I don't act like a blind person," Ms. Rorie began, "I think I'm more self conscious. I don't walk with my arms out and I'm careful how I eat - I don't make a mess."

Being in public schools has given Ms. Rorie the opportunity to deal with many types of situations and people she may not have confronted in a school for the blind. She says public schools for her has more advantages than disadvantages.

"I've learned to cope with people asking about my handicap," she stated, "Sometimes people are uncouth and tricks are played on me. Sometimes it bothered me, but not to the extent that I wanted to stop living."

Starting out in public school wasn't Ms. Rorie's idea completely. After all she was just six years of age. "My parents decided that I would go to public school those first six years. Then after that I decided I wanted to go to public school."

Now a student at Garin-1100 Libraries

Have Driver's

Handbooks

RALEIGH - Tar Heel motorists soon will be able to obtain copies of the North Carolina driver's handbook at over 1100 libraries across the state.

The books are provided free of charge for motorists preparing for driver's license tests.

Elbert L. Peters Jr., commissioner of motor vehicles, said six copies of the handbook were mailed last week to public, technical college, specialized, senior high school, state government, university and college libraries.

"This distribution will insure that the handbooks will be available in most cases to the state's motorists," Peters said. "We feel it is another step in our efforts to improve the level of service we provide to North Carolina drivers."

Handbooks will continue to be available at the 110 driver's license examining stations throughout the state. The books are loaned to applicants prior to the test by examiners.

ger Senior High School, she ranks 51st among 564 seniors. This year she became a WSOC Scholar of the Month, was nominated for the Morehead Scholarship, and won a scholarship from Delta Phi Beta to the college of her choice. She plans to attend the University of Chapel Hill and will seek a Bachelor of Science degree in Physical Therapy.

Scholarship is evident but not because Ms. Rorie studies all the time. "I tend to have to get things done when working with people. I depend on other people and I get it done because other people's time is involved," Ms. Rorie revealed.

Even though she attends public school she has an itinerant teacher, Naia Jones who helps her with assignments. "She brails tests and work sheets. She will write out the work for me and reads things to me in my study hall. She helps another blind student at Garinger and other visually impaired students in the school system also," she continued.

Ms. Rorie also reads on her own. "I'm an avid reader," she modestly admitted. Most brail materials are ordered from Raleigh. Disc, records, and tapes are sometimes ordered from Raleigh but she can find them at the library in Charlotte also. Brail books seem to be limited in variety. "There's not a lot of black literature. They have regular fiction and non fiction but not extensively, especially black literature," she commented.

Sometimes Ms. Rorie writes notes from the classes in brail, sometimes she tapes the lecture, and other times Mrs. Jones reads a book or chapter for her. Which ever the case, she says she has to do the work other students have. "The teachers never give me different work. I receive the same assignments and I work them out the best way I can," she said.

This year she took a typing course and it will probably help her in college. Once in college she plans to take her typewriter and use it; take her tape recorder and use it; and in a way become a teacher herself. "Once I get to college I'll have to hire readers. It will be up to me to see that it is done properly," she explained. For instance she has to tell the readers what information she needs for a particular paper.

Ms. Rorie is indeed talented, but don't assume that her other senses are extraordinary or super sonic. She says that it is a common myth that blind people automatically hear better. "It simply means that I listen better. I have no better sense of hearing than you, I have just developed it because I use it

more."

Her hobbies include reading, astrology, playing the piano, listening to music, cooking and eating. As far as her social life is concerned she says she goes out sometimes. "I do not have any problems with going out," she stated.

She is president of the Student Council, member of the Honor Society, a member of the Garinger High School Town Singers and Choir and a member of St. Paul Baptist Church. Her essay entitled "Why It's Cool to Stay In School" won in a contest sponsored by WGV and Dial Soap.

Ms. Rorie is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Rorie. Whatever lies ahead for Tamara Rorie, one of seven children remains unknown. For now, however, she realizes that life is not contingent on what one does not have, but rather how one utilizes what they do have.



Tamara Rorie  
...An avid reader

## WomanReach

WomanReach, Inc. is offering a free seminar entitled "Changing Sex Roles" on Thursday, May 8 at 7:15 p.m. at 1009 East Boulevard.

Janice Stroud, a UNCC Sociology Professor, will be conducting the seminar along with a discussion on the traditional roles of men and women in our society and how these roles are changing.

These changing sex roles permit more flexibility and allow men and women to become more fully human.

## Ways You Help Your Husband Earn More

Wives have a powerful influence on how much money their husbands earn - and you can help your husband boost his paycheck, reveals an eye-opening study.

"Our study shows that men whose wives are emotionally supportive not only have happier marriages but also make greater progress on the job," declared Dr. Peggy Draughn.

The findings, she said, hold true for both blue- and white-collar workers. Dr. Draughn, who made the study of 175 married men, said wives who want their husbands to earn more should:

Praise him as a lover. "Our study showed that man's feelings of competence as a husband are strongly tied to his wife's approval of him when it comes to romance and lovemaking."

Give him a hero's welcome when he comes home from work. Greet him with enthusiasm and make him feel like the mainspring of the family.

Let him know you appreciate his efforts as a breadwinner. Never belittle his work or complain that he's not earning enough.

Show respect for his judgement both at home and in public. "The man who commands the respect of his wife can tackle his job with his head held high and be a creative, imaginative worker."

Dr. Draughn said that even a working wife making a lot of money can protect her husband's ego. She should make it clear that she cannot get along without her husband's "love, affection, companionship and friendship."

Dr. Draughn - assistant professor of home economics at Louisiana State University - warned that the study showed wives can also have a negative impact on their husbands' job performance.

"Those whose wives made them feel incompetent as mates reported an inability to deal with job

conflicts, work assignments and relationships with fellow workers. And they were not able to get ahead the way they wished." - Arline Brecher

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# Vote May 6th Bertha Maxwell Democrat Candidate for N.C. House of Representatives



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Raleigh W. Bynum  
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Robert L. (Bob) Walton

District Court Judge, 26th Judicial District  
T. Michael Todd

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education  
(Non-partisan Election)

Phil Berry  
John W. Elliott  
Wade Mosley  
Sarah Belle Stevenson  
Maggie Lamb Nicholson  
Ella Scarborough  
Sarah Belle Stevenson

## Bertha Maxwell

AN EDUCATOR...  
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Classroom Teacher  
Corrective Reading Teacher  
Principalship Morgan Elem. School  
Albemarle Rd. Jr. High Elem. School.

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Frank Porter Graham Professor  
Vice President of Academic Affairs & Planning,  
Johnson C. Smith University

A LEADER...  
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Charlotte Drug Center  
N.C. Women's Task Force on Alcohol and Drug Abuse  
Coordinator of Delta Sigma Theta Women's Education Equity Training & Assessment Project  
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INNOVATOR...  
First Black To Have Principalship of a Predominantly White School in CMS  
Conceptualized & Implemented The Curriculum in Afro-American and African Studies

BERTHA MAXWELL has new visions in government - she will be a representative in the N.C. House of Representatives who will: develop legislation meeting the needs of all CITIZENS; develop a communication network with all CITIZENS; remain visible, viable, accessible and accountable to all CITIZENS.

Paid for by the committee to elect Maxwell



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May 3 • Shows at 3 and 8 p.m.