

Serving Gaston County

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**WPCQ Gets Tower Of Power**

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**AKA Debs Ready For Debut**

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**Getting Ahead With Head Start**



Brooks

**Education On Black Culture**

By MILICENT LINK  
Alliance Staff Writer

The Black Heritage Committee of Gaston County is striving to bring about the awareness and appreciation for African-American history, culture, and arts, with a local and regional emphasis.

The Gastonia-based organization was founded in August, 1986, at the request of an affiliate of the United Arts Council, under the United Arts Council direction, to help communities understand the importance of black culture.

The committee consists of an alliance of 54 members from service, government, and educational agencies that serve as volunteers to plan and present special programs, exhibits, and educational series promoting black cultural awareness.

Members of the committee include church groups, civic organizations, sororities, fraternities, Gaston College, Gaston County Public Library, Gaston County Museum of Art & History, United Arts & Science Council of Gaston County, and several other organizations.

"We need to bring about the awareness of black culture throughout the community of Gaston County," says Josie Brooks, chairperson of the committee. "I did not realize how much blacks have contributed to society."

Gaston County schools include information about black history in some of the curriculum; however the schools are limited by time and sources of offering such information. She said there is not enough

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Gaston County high school students arrive at North Carolina Central for career day.

**Club Sponsors A Career Day**

By MILICENT LINK  
Alliance Staff Writer

The Gaston Boys Club sponsored its annual career-day program at North Carolina Central University for two bus loads of high school students of Gaston County.

W.R. Perkins, health and physical education director, initiated the trip, by sending out letters to various churches and organizations.

"The purpose of the event was to give high school students an exposure to a black university," says Vernon Perry, executive director of the Gaston Boys Club.

The students registered for career-day and spoke to the department heads about their intended majors. The recruiters provided a campus tour, luncheon, and social functions for the students.

The group attended the NCCU vs Virginia Union football game. The students were entertained by a Greek step-show, the university's choir, cheerleaders, and the Eagles band.

Perry says, "The students loved the trip. Many of them have not had the opportunity to visit a college campus."

He said the environment of a college campus must be conducive to learn. "Going to a black university gives an individual a positive self-esteem. A black student may not get the personalize and individual attention that is needed at a white college. A black college gives the student a sense of belonging, confidence, and the opportunity to participate, whereas at a predominantly white school, he may not get that chance," says Perry.

Perry said most black students can adapt better in a smaller setting. Perry says, "The student feels more at home and they have a better opportunity to develop leadership skills, utilize their talents, and enjoy their interests."

Perry a native of Raleigh, is a graduate of St. Augustine, where he received a BA in biology and a mi-

nor in health and physical education.

Perry has been a program director since 1967. He worked with the Wake County schools in Raleigh and became executive director of the Gaston Boys Club in 1974. Perry is the former chairman for the South East Regional Administrative Conference. He serves on the committee of the South East Regional Man Power Development Committee and the National Task Force Committee of Boys Club of America. Perry is a member of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity and Golden Rule Lodge no. 82.

He is married to the former Patricia Neely of China Grove, a teacher in Gaston County. They have one son who is a sophomore at NCCU.

Perry says, "Kids really do not care how much you know, until they see how much you care."

**Gov. Campaigns**

RALEIGH- Governor Jim Martin will bring his reelection campaign to Gaston County for an 11 a.m. rally at Lineberger Park in Gastonia on Saturday October 8.

The Governor will be the featured speaker at the Gaston County rally, which is one of many rallies being held around North Carolina this fall.

"This campaign, just like the one in 1984, is a people's campaign with rallies such as this one which will give me a chance to meet and talk with North Carolinians to discuss their issues and their concerns," Governor Martin said.

"I want to welcome everyone to this event regardless of their party affiliation," the Governor said. "Our goal in this campaign is to carry our message of better schools, better jobs, and better roads for a better future to the people of North Carolina."

Admission to the Gaston County rally is free. Food, refreshments, and entertainment will be provided.