

Curtis Wrightt: A Man Of Many Talents

By LORA VANDERHALL
Lifestyles Editor

Curtis Wrightt was recently given the Outstanding Community Television Award for his Cablevision talk show, "Curtis Wrightt and The Family." The general information show airs on cable channel 33, every Tuesday at 8:30 p.m.

"I try to bring subjects to the public that probably would not be seen on regular television. I've done shows on subjects such as: sickle cell, the urban league, consumer credit, AIDS and eating disorders," said Wrightt.

But the television show is only one of the many hats that is worn by Wrightt.

Wrightt, 52, is a photographer, videographer, entertainer, ventriloquist, magician, entrepreneur, real estate broker and a former boxer. He is also active in the Army Reserve and he works full time for WGIV radio.

Wrightt was born in Kings Mountain but moved to Charlotte when he was nine-years-old. Growing up he wanted to be a professional fighter or a grocery store owner.

"I worked in a grocery store when I was a boy," he said.

He entered the Army after attending Second Ward High School.

"I've served 24 years of active duty in the Army and the Army Reserves. I'm currently a senior instructor for nuclear, biological and chemical warfare in the reserves," said Wrightt.

While in the Army he became involved with boxing for five years but today he has very different view on the sport.

"I boxed professionally for a year but that's a hard way to make a living," he said. "I loved boxing but it's a racket. I met a lot of guys who, when they finished boxing, didn't have any money or any sense. Everybody else (managers and trainers) would have sense...but the boxers wouldn't because once you scar your brain tissue it can't be repaired."

Wrightt believes that Tyson and Sugar Ray should retire



and let their money work for them.

"I think it (boxing) should be outlawed," he added.

After moving back to Charlotte, Wrightt, entered CPCC to complete his mechanic training.

He was one of the first blacks to work at a Charlotte car dealership.

After working three years as a mechanic, Wrightt went into business for himself, opening "Wrightt Paint and Body/Used Car Lot."

"I really enjoy selling," said Wrightt. "I've sold vacuum cleaners, Amway products, brushes and real estate."

Wrightt has taken various courses from CPCC over the years, such as: drafting, silk screen, commercial art, tap dance, sewing, carpentry, classical guitar and tennis.

He also took a course from television to become a ventriloquist.

As a community service, Wrightt and his dummy, Johnathan, make their round to one of the 18 hot lunch sites throughout the city each week.

"Anything he, (Johnathan) can do I can do," Wrightt said jokingly. "He says he can do without me sometimes."

Wrightt works full time for WGIV Radio. "I work from midnight until 6 a.m., six days a week and on Sundays I work from 4 until 8 a.m. and 10:30 until 11 a.m."

Surprisingly, Wrightt has leisure time.

"I have several hobbies and interests. I enjoy riding my motorcycle, bicycling, bowling, archery and physical fitness activities.

"I use to raise Russian wolf hounds," he added.

Wrightt also has a bus that he as reconstructed into a mobile home.

"I want to use that for my office when I open my dating service, which will be called, Wrightt One Video Mate.

Wrightt has a hectic schedule but he somehow manages to handle all of it. He says his motto is, "Good is standard. You have to be better than good."

AFRICAN-AMERICAN SOCIETY NEWS

Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Sponsors Little Miss Zeta Amicae Pageant

The Zeta Phi Beta Sorority will sponsor its annual "Little Miss Zeta Amicae Pageant," on Saturday, April 29, 4 p.m. at the Greenville Center.

The theme will be "Petals of Promise."

The contestants are listed below.

Brandy Nakisha Baskin, 6, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lewis J. Gaskins. She is being sponsored by Jeanette Grier and Hazelne Williams.

Donna K. Calhoun, 9, is the daughter of James and Rita Calhoun. She is being sponsored by Carol Kilgo and Addie Pettie.

Tashika Michelle Hall, 6, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Roderick A. Hall. She is being sponsored by Betty Caldwell and Sammie Grier.

Nichola Miller, 6, is the daughter of Bonnie Miller and Donnell Howard. Her sponsors are Alberta Prince and Diane Jones.

Joy Pettis, 9, is the daughter of Lawrence and Treva Pettis. Her sponsors are Sarah Stevenson and Rohenia McCullough.



Brandy Baskins



Tashika Hall



Donna Calhoun



Nichola Miller Howard



Joy Pettis

Pan-Hellenic Honors Students

The Charlotte graduate Pan-Hellenic Council of the National Pan-Hellenic Council, Inc., will hold its annual high school awards program on Sunday, April 30, at the Afro-American Cultural Center, 401 N. Myers Street, at 6 p.m.

The Charlotte Council sponsors this senior recognition program yearly to recognize youth for their achievements.

The following students will be honored: Samantha Barnes, Sharon Nicholson, Marrison

Nichols, Christina White, Xerxes Bailey, Angela Beamer, Natarsha Witherspoon, Charisse McKay, Jerome Cherry, Terry Emehe, Cherice Ray, Demetrius Poage, Tiffany Eubanks, Stephanie Cornwell, Tiffany Smith, Kymra Motley, Tanya Tucker and Tekita Lockhart.

The Charlotte Graduate Council of the National Pan-Hellenic Council is composed of eight Greek-letter organizations; Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Delta

Sigma Theta Sorority, Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, and Omega Psi Phi Fraternity.

Adelaide H. Hunt of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority is the president of the local council.

Marilyn C. McClain of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority and Smith Turner, IV, of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity served as co-chairpersons for this year's award program.



Scarborough

Sigma Conference

Special To The Post

The Beta Omicron Sigma Chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority Inc., will host the 47th Annual Northeast Regional Conference at the Sheraton Airport Plaza, April 28-30.

Many activities have been planned for the weekend. The banquet will be held on Saturday, April 29 at 7 p.m. The culminating activity will be a prayer breakfast on Sunday at 8:30 a.m. with city council member Ella Scarborough speaking.

All sorors and affiliates of Sigma Gamma Rho are cordially invited to participate in the weekend of activities.

Sam Wallace Grier

Celebrates 100th Birthday

Special To The Post

Sam Wallace Grier will celebrate his 100th birthday on Sunday, April 23 with a birthday party at FDY.

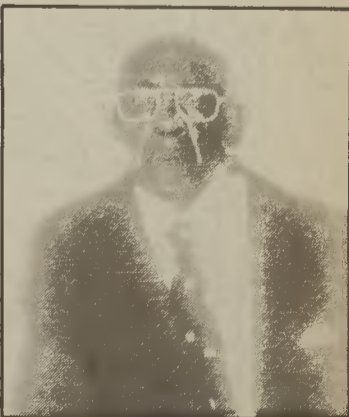
He has spent his entire lifetime as a resident of Mecklenburg County, residing in the Steele Creek Community.

Grier and his wife of 71 years, Maggie, are the parents of eight children: Hiwatha, Samuel, Mary, Mabel, Lucille, Eunice, Elizabeth and Nannie. They graciously blessed with 22 grandchildren, 27 great-grandchildren and one great-great grandchild.

During World War I, Grier helped build Camp Green, which was a military base at the time. In World War II, he worked at the Shell Plant, which is now the Arrowood Industrial Park.

In 1945 he purchased a farm in the Steele Creek area where he raised cotton, vegetables and livestock. He retired from farming in 1980.

He joined McClintock Presbyterian Church at an early age and he is still an active member of the church. He was a deacon but later became an ordained elder of McClintock. He also



Grier

served as Sunday School treasurer for 40 years and he is the oldest member of the congregation.

Grier is one of the founding members of the Knights of the Guiding Star of the East #32.

A strong believer of family unity and love, Grier has provided hours of inspiration and strength to his family and a host of others who also call him "Papa Grier."

Grier says his secret to such a long life and good health is, "I put God first and follow."