

# Word!

News For Young Post Readers



Members and advisors of the Coalition Of Southern Black Youth, known as COSBY kids.

## Charlotte's COSBY Kids Take Action

By FRANKIE ROLFE JOHNSON  
Special To The Post

On Saturday, August 5, the Coalition Of Southern Black Youth, known as the COSBY kids, met at the first Baptist Church on Oaklawn Ave. to close their summer program.

This second conference of COSBY dealt with education, the family and social problems of black youth.

Guest speaker for the closing program was Dorian Joyner of Atlanta. His approach to defining and solving problems was so detailed, the youth in attendance became involved in their own problem solving exercise.

The formula used, cause + symptoms = disease, exposed the focal point of most problems affecting black youth: low self-esteem.

COSBY was established in 1987 when a group of concerned citizens of various southern states convened to design a youth program.

The youth group's first assembly, held at Fort Valley State

College on May 17, 1989, purposefully coincided with the 35th anniversary of Brown vs. the Board of Education decision.

More than 120 black youth from all over the south met to focus on the topic of problems in education from their perspective.

The Charlotte representatives at the conference included B.J. Wilson, Thomas Saunders, Michael Sampson, Kenyatta Waddell, Tamara Smith, Carol Potter and Damlon Moore.

A result of the conference was the decision by COSBY that a full-scale student mobilization is necessary to make the promise of the Brown decision, the desegregation of schools, a reality.

The COSBY kids and the group's adult advisors pledged themselves to work for changes in the categories of racism and race relations, student life, teachers and administrators, school curriculum, educational resource and drug abuse and violence.

The youth, ages 12 - 20 years,

feel it is important to "have a say" in the areas that affect them. Their consensus is "If we have a problem, let our voices be heard when the cause and cure is being discussed."

The Charlotte leaders of COSBY are Dr. Gregg Davis and Ms. Tawana Wilson-Allen.

**COSBY**

The  
Coalition Of Southern  
Black Youth

For more information, please call  
(704) 364-2354.

## Chris Love's Group Is Jamming

BY PATRICE JOHNSON  
Word Page Writer

Twenty-one-year old Christopher Love decided one day to manage his own singing group. The name of the group is called We Jam.

Chris uses the name because it has a ring to it and it was something that everyone could remember. Simply put, the group was "jamming" so they called it We Jam.

The group has been in existence for two years and is quite successful.

Christopher says he started the group because, "I wanted to see a positive outlet for youth and I want them to use this as a tool to redirect themselves."

The young manager does not like to see youth out on the streets doing things such as drugs, alcohol or fighting.

His aim is to promote peace and education.

There are certain rules that the group adheres to and they are:

God comes first, school is next, then comes home, and lastly We Jam!

We Jam got a lot of its members by word of mouth. People would hear about the group through students at school or on the streets and decide they wanted to come to practice. After seeing what it was like, several decided to join.

Most of the group got start-

ed through auditioning.

Seventeen year-old Larry Young, who is one of the members in the group, raps for We Jam. Larry says, "I am nervous rapping on stage." But, since he has a partner, it makes things go a little smoother.

All of the groups' raps have to be positive and cannot say anything about drugs or things of that nature.

Each week, the group has to compose their own songs or raps and present them to the others members for their opinion.

The group raps at clubs, schools, youth functions, and rallies.

They also have gotten exposure to a wider audience. For instance, they presented a rap for Craig Madans, Charlotte candidate for mayor.

Other exposure comes from radio, commercials, and conferences they have attended and for which they have performed.

Being in We Jam allows the

members to express themselves and show their creativity.

Some of the benefits of being in the group are discipline training, building of self esteem, exposure and, for some, money.

As far as Steve Jones is concerned, he is not sure whether or not this (rapping) will be his career. "Rapping is not a sure thing and won't be around forever," he says.

"That is why college comes first," says Chris.

Steve is a student at West Charlotte High and he says that some of his rap idols include: Eric B. and Rakim, and Ultramagnetic.

Another member, Larry Young, enjoys rap artist Big Daddy Kane but also likes the sounds of jazz artist Anita Baker.

We Jam only takes up a portion of these guys' time. When they are not singing, Steve likes to write music, travel, and party, while Larry likes to play basketball and work.



Chris Love, manager, (seated center) and the members of We Jam.

Word! is The Charlotte Post's section for young readers. We're interested in receiving news of youth achievement, events and also articles, poems or illustrations created by young people. Please send submissions to: Word! c/o The Charlotte Post, P.O. Box 30144, Charlotte, N.C. 28230. For more information, call Jalynne Strong, at 376-0496.

### CROSSWORD

ACROSS	DOWN	18. Meleval boat
1. Withered, as a flower	1. Actuality	20. Fabric
6. Baron's estate house	2. Absent	21. Laundry appliance
11. Conscious	3. Native of Copenhagen	23. Previous
12. Run away to Gretna	4. Victorian	24. A Disney employee
13. Appetizer	5. Railroad stations	39. Wicked
15. Abysses	6. Pronoun	40. Shout
16. A rope (naut.)	7. Lofty mountain	41. Old measures of length
17. Possess	8. Knot of short hair	43. Before
19. Ignited	9. Not compulsory	45. Exist
20. Spirited horse	10. Puts in more supplies	47. South Dakota (abbr.)
22. Hawaiian bird	11. Female sheep	
23. Falsifies		
26. French monetary unit		
28. Extraordinary person (slang)		
29. Baghdad is its capital (var.)		
30. Finger ornaments		
32. Cures		
33. Type measure		
34. Beaver		
36. Chatter		
38. Meadow		
39. Needle aperture		
42. Siouan Indian tribe		
44. Traverse		
46. Approaches		
48. Quaver		
49. Blundered		
50. Vends		

PUZZLE ANSWER ON PAGE 10B

### WORD SPOT®

Elements

UMHIEL	<input type="checkbox"/>	-----
GXNEYO	<input type="checkbox"/>	-----
NOEIDI	<input type="checkbox"/>	-----
OBNACR	<input type="checkbox"/>	-----
ONNE	<input type="checkbox"/>	-----
DOLG	<input type="checkbox"/>	-----
ADLE	<input type="checkbox"/>	-----
KNCILE	<input type="checkbox"/>	-----
TNYPOKR	<input type="checkbox"/>	-----
UMITLHI	<input type="checkbox"/>	-----
SCNEAIR	<input type="checkbox"/>	-----
NTI	<input type="checkbox"/>	-----
NRIMUUAU	<input type="checkbox"/>	-----
ONITGENR	<input type="checkbox"/>	-----
YMREURC	<input type="checkbox"/>	-----
SMOUDI	<input type="checkbox"/>	-----

Answers

Platinum  
Nitrogen, Mercury, Sodium (center word)  
Krypton, Lithium, Arsenic, Tin, Uranium,  
Lead, Nickel (center word) Hydrogen  
Helium, Oxygen, Iodine, Carbon, Neon, Gold

### BLACK FAX QUIZ

- In what year did Wally Amos begin his Chocolate Chip Cookie Corporation?
- Who is the founder of Rainbow T.U. Works?
- What was Chubby Checker's name at birth?
- What Black Air Force officer won a gold medal in the 1984 Olympics?
- What is Gordon Parks' profession?
- What company markets Classy Curl hair products?

### LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS

- 1. Auto dealers and service stations
- 2. Woodruff Oldsmobile Inc.
- 3. Thirteen
- 4. Twenty two
- 5. Yes
- 6. Billy Dee Williams



"STOP TRYING TO CONFUSE ME BY PAYING ATTENTION--!"

OFF THE WALL  
© McNaught Syndicate, Inc.  
A SPECIALIST IS A DOCTOR WHO IS ONLY IN 2 DAYS A WEEK

### "KEEP THE FAITH" by CRALT



CARL, YOU DID IT AGAIN! ...WHAT A SUPER IDEA TO HAVE A "COME AS YOU ARE PARTY!"