WOCC 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 Dorlan 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 selfesteem

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 perspec-

The Charlotte representatives at the conference included B.J. Wilson, Thomas Saunders, Michael Sampson, Kenyatta Waddell, Tamara Smith, Carol Potter and Damion 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 sesegregation 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 vio-

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 COS-BY are Dr.Gregg Davis and Ms. Tawana Wilson-Allen.

COSBY

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 Christo-pher Love decided one day to manage his own singing group. The name of the group is called

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

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

Most of the group got start-

join.

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 confer-

ences 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 Bak-

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.

Wordl 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 Jalyne

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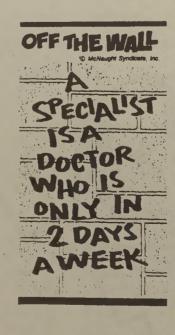
BLACK FAX QUIZ

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

LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS

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

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





"KEEP THE FAITH" CRAH.

