

# Sight not needed to serve

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like to be handicapped with projects that take away senses or physical activity for a day. Burris always points out that their temporary disability isn't forever, something she can't say for herself.

"I have to stop the class sometimes when kids make comments like 'I wanted to be deaf' or 'I wanted to have short arms,'" she said. "Nobody with a disability gets to choose that, and furthermore, you get to take this off when you leave. Mine is a continuing thing. I can't wake up one morning and say 'I can see today.'"

Burris approaches her semi-

nars as a peer, especially with young people. Her strategy is to talk as one of the crew, albeit with a little more experience.

"When I go in, I don't consider myself just an educator but a motivator," she said. "I really like to go in to students as just another student. I try to use the language the students use to be on the level of the students as opposed to being someone there just giving them instruction. I'd rather talk to them than at them."

Krystal Elijah, a Garinger freshman, said Burris' communication skills paint a picture of how people can disagree without becoming dis-

agreeable.

"She gave like everyday situations that people fight over," Krystal said. "She made us see how they react to things and the way you should react to it."

Burris' approach works so well because of her sense of humor, Garinger guidance counselor Brenda Jones said. It doesn't take long for Burris' jokes and down-home advice to sink in for her audience. Burris grabs everyone's attention from the moment she introduces herself with a rap.

"That's all she needed to do to break that spell they have of not being open and real sensitive and not asking ques-

tions," Jones said. "They just love her. Just give them 10 or 15 minutes of her talking."

Burris also works to make life less restrictive to the blind, lobbying Charlotte restaurants to provide braille menus and pushing city government to provide special transportation system for the visually-impaired. She is a proponent of a voucher program similar to Raleigh's that allows the blind to buy a taxi ride 24 hours a day.

"So many things are made accessible to people in wheelchairs, yet at the same time it's not made accessible to a blind person," she said.

# All-black crew honored by Coast Guard

By Laura Meckler  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON - Seven men who plunged into a stormy ocean to save nine people from a sinking ship were honored Tuesday, 100 years after the event.

The rescuers were members of an all-black crew, and racial prejudice is blamed for the fact they received no awards in their lifetimes.

The U.S. Coast Guard awarded each of the men of the Pea Island crew a posthumous Gold Lifesaving Medal.

"As the surf intensified and

the wind howled, they risked their lives as they waded and swam out to the wreck," Capt. Warren G. Schneeweis read from the citation. "Again and again, the Pea Island Station crew went back through the raging sea, literally carrying all nine persons from certain death to the safety of the shore."

The recognition might have never come had it not been for 15-year-old Kate Burkart of Washington, N.C., who read about the Pea Island crew being slighted because of their race and lobbied Sen. Jesse Helms and President Clinton

to do something about it.

"That someone would be denied something that was rightfully theirs because of the color of their skin is outrageous," said Burkart, who is white. "It's shameful."

Stephen Rochon, a Coast Guard commander stationed in Baltimore, had tried for several years to get recognition for Richard Etheridge and his crew: Benjamin Bowser, Lewis Wescott, Dornman Pugh, Theodore Meekins, Stanley Wise and William Irving.

Pea Island, located off North Carolina's Outer Banks, had

the nation's only all-black life-saving crew from 1880 to World War II. It was part of the U.S. Life Saving Service, the forerunner of the Coast Guard.

The crew participated in several dangerous rescues, but its most famous was on Oct. 11, 1896, when the crew - lashed together with ropes - swam into the ocean during a hurricane to save the nine people aboard the sinking E.S. Newman.

Descendants of the crew gathered at the Navy Memorial on Tuesday to relive the dramatic rescue.

# JCSU students help youngsters to learn

Continued from page 1A

floor when people talked to him. With some encouragement from a SCALE member, he is now more responsive and has better self-esteem. That's what volunteers like Michael Glover enjoy most about working kids.

"I love for the kids to call on me when they need assistance with their homework," he said. "I am able to be there for them."

The SCALE concept is growing. Salisbury's Livingstone College plans a program similar to JCSU's.

The program has nine mem-

"Reading is very important, if it is started at a young age it will build up a child's vocabulary."

-Natasha Jones

bers who work at two sites: Tarlton Hills and Mayfield. Each volunteer, who can receive \$2,362 for repayment of school loans and graduate school, must complete 900 hours over two years in the program. SCALE members have a group of students they tutor and read to everyday.

The members are only

allowed two years in the SCALE program. Six are already on their second term. The volunteers stress the importance of reading to their students.

"Reading is very important, if it is started at a young age it will build up a child's vocabulary," Jones said.

Every student is required to

maintain a log that includes information on the names of books read, pages completed and the date read. A SCALE member must sign the log to ensure that the child has read the book.

SCALE has other projects planned, including on-campus literacy events, Support Our Students program and Time to Read, which are sponsored by local businesses and community organizations. Although the program is still in its infancy, the effects on children's reading habits are evident.

"The changes are remarkable," says Jeter.

# YMCA may manage Greenville center

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McCrorey YMCA, also a predominantly African American facility, is north of I-85, so they YMCA needs a new base site for the expanded program.

Greenville residents say they want the chance to run the center themselves.

"The community is empowering itself," said Thomas Sadler, president of the Greenville Neighborhood Association. "This is another case of bringing something in and shoving it down our throats."

Sadler said he met Monday with Gene Shipman, head of neighborhood redevelopment department about the city's plans.

"We left with understanding that that was going to be put on hold," Sadler said. "They are privatizing. The city is trying to get out of human service programs. They are trying to get private organizations to take it over."

Judy Mooney said the Y is making a greater commitment to community development and plans to establish a planning task force to study needs in the northwest area between Graham and Freedom.

The Y is looking for sites to base programs, but to say it will "take over" a center such as Greenville "is very strong," Mooney said.

"We have been in conversation with the city about a partnership," she said. "We

are exploring storefront sites to begin to focus on the corridor."

Neighborhood redevelopment staffer Lynne Jones Doblin said the turnover idea is in the early stages. "The city managers office has referred the issue of how best to manage Greenville and Belmont centers to the council's City Within a City committee," Doblin said. "That committee will be looking at the whole issue of how the centers should be operated. And, importantly, what process will be used to obtain community input. We have not identified all the options."

"We are re-evaluating how we do everything," she said. "How we do business."

Goblin said only Greenville and Belmont centers will be discussed at the March 25 meeting.

"The YMCA is just one agency that might be interest-

ed, there may be others," Goblin said.

Sadler said people in the Greenville neighborhood did not know about the discussions with the YMCA until a community development meeting last month.

"We couldn't embrace that program as it is," he said. "We were not included in their process. I don't know what they have to offer the community."

"We would like the opportunity of doing something for ourselves, for a change," Sadler said. "Who knows best about what you need in the community, but the community."

We hope that one day, even if we would get the center, to possibly work with the Y. They may have a program we would want one day. We intend to fully pursue our efforts."

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## ALEXANDER MUTUAL BURIAL ASSOCIATION, INC FINANCIAL REPORT, PERIOD ENDING 12/31/95

BALANCE DECEMBER 31, 1995		\$5,403.12
RECEIPTS	\$950.60	
Total Receipts		\$6,353.72
DISBURSEMENTS		
Miscellaneous expenses	\$374.31	
Total disbursements		\$374.31
BALANCE TO BE ACCOUNTED FOR		\$5,979.41
ASSETS:		
Cash in banks		\$5,979.41
LIABILITIES		
Total liabilities		\$11,135.70
SURPLUS		(\$5,156.29)

Number of assessments during year 14, Membership in good standing at close of books 180.

I hereby certify that the information given in the foregoing report is true and correct to the personal knowledge of the undersigned

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME

this 15th day of February 1995.

Barbara A. Carr, Notary Public  
my commission expires 11/8/00

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