

Word Around Camp

High schools

•Meredith G. Glover, a senior at West Charlotte High School, was recently awarded a Katherine Smith Reynolds Scholarship at UNC Greensboro. The scholarship, which is worth \$3,000 a year and renewable for four years, is awarded for outstanding academic achievement. She was also awarded an Alumni Scholarship worth \$2,500 a year. Meredith is a member of the National Honor Society, Student Council, Students Against Violence Everywhere and the gospel and chamber choirs. She has also served as vice president of the Youth Involvement Council and was selected to Who's Who Among American High School Students. Meredith is the daughter of David and Ida Glover of Pennwood Lane.



Glover

•The National Merit Corporation has announced winners of the National Achievement Scholarships. The program is an annual competition begun in 1964 to recognize and increase educational opportunities for African Americans. Awards are based on academic achievement and leadership potential.

Winners were chosen from among 100,000 black students who took the 1995 PSAT/NMSQT. In 1996, more than 1,500 of the highest scoring participants were named semifinalists.

Local winners are: Timothy D. Cochran, East Mecklenburg High School; Jameelah A. Melton, Charlotte Catholic High School; Melanie K. Shields, West Charlotte High School; Melissa S. Shields, West Charlotte High School.

•West Charlotte will host its first annual Youth Forum Friday at 8:30 a.m. Radio personality, Artie the One Woman party will moderate. For more information, call 366-4790.

Colleges and universities

•Several local Johnson C. Smith University students were named to Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges. Among those tapped were Shameka Barnes and Johnetta Culp of Rock Hill, S.C.; Audrey Burks, Angela Walker, Christal Chapman and Omar Ricks of Charlotte; Latonya Cowser of Gadsden, S.C.; Darniya Powe, Heath Springs, S.C.; Tracey Walton of Greensboro and Karen Williams, Gastonia.

•Charlotte native Tiffany A. Camp was recently named a Young Minority Scholar at Clemson University.

The award, which was given to 80 minority students, recognizes students who maintain at least a 3.50 grade point average. Camp received the award during the Multicultural Awards Banquet held recently.

•Barber-Scotia College will celebrate African American literature, April 18 - 19 with dance, song and literature as part of the Chere Concord Festival. For more information, call 789-2900.

Please submit items for Word Around Camp to The Charlotte Post, PO Box 30144, Charlotte N.C. 28230.

Charlotte students 'ego trip' with poet

By April Bethea  
SPECIAL TO THE POST

"She appealed to all emotions," North Carolina A&T University Student Union Advisory Board advisor Judy Rasid said after hearing a dynamic lecture given by world-renowned Nikki Giovanni at the university.

SUAB sponsored the event March 13 which entertained 100 people of all ages, from elementary students to A & T alumni. Charlotte mentoring group Class Project 2000, Inc. along with the Boys and Girls Club of Greensboro and others were invited to attend.

Giovanni opened her lecture by saying, "It's hard being a black man because you're always watching them and no matter what they do, it's wrong."

She also talked about the destruction of black role models. According to Giovanni, life in the spotlight proved more than many could handle. She spoke specifically of former football star, O.J. Simpson.

"My heart bleeds for Mr.

Simpson," Giovanni said.

Giovanni's anger quickly switched sadness when she began to speak about slain rapper, Tupac Shakur. In her newest book, "Love Poems," she wrote a poem for the late rapper titled "All Eyes on U".

"They're murdering our children," she said. "It's not right."

To honor Shakur, Giovanni got "Thug Life" tattooed on her left arm but was quick to say that, "He was gunned down not because he was a thug but because he was a prophet lot his time."

Giovanni closed her lecture by reciting one of her best known poems, "Ego Trippin'."

Immediately after the lecture, students rushed to buy copies of Giovanni's books. Many were disappointed to find out that "Love Poems" had quickly sold out. Others waited patiently in line to get a chance to talk to Giovanni at a book-signing.

It's not everyday that I as young African-American have a chance to see such a dynamic



PHOTO/THEOLPHALAS T. LETMAN

Poet Nikki Giovanni signs an autograph during a recent visit to NC A&T. Several Charlotte students attended the lecture.

person who is so down to earth and so sincere.

Her poems and essays are about everyday things that can't always be portrayed in movies or on TV. When I asked what inspired her to start writing she answered simply, "Fascination

about people."

APRIL BETHEA is a freshman at West Charlotte High School and a member Class Project 2000. She attended the lecture with 15 other students.

Seniors need to plan for graduation

By Kaia Zawadi  
THE CHARLOTTE POST

There are four weeks left until college graduates march to the sounds of pomp and circumstance. But career planning and placement offices at area colleges are already preparing students for the professional world.

Peggy Duncan, director of career planning and placement at Johnson C. Smith University, receives employment opportunities on a daily basis. It's a matter of how and if the students use these resources.

"Seniors must have a placement file to graduate," said Duncan. "They must schedule an appointment with the office and have a resume and cover letter on file."

Smith's placement office also offers seminars on interpersonal skills, job etiquette and interviewing techniques. "We set up mock interviews with students to build up their skills," Duncan said. "It's also a matter of reading the classified ads and aggressively applying yourself."

Participation has been weak at the JCSU placement office. "Students don't use the resources, so they don't know what is being offered. It can be a job that's perfect for them," said Duncan. Most students who are active in the job search are business and political science majors.

"Most students count on job fairs to see what positions are open and how soon they can be

filled," Duncan said. Career opportunities locally, nationally and internationally can be found in the resource books.

"The placement office is a resource also for alumni," said Duncan. "We will always notify alumni if there is a particular opening at their request."

Denise Dwight Shea, director of the university career center at UNC Charlotte, says students can find employment opportunities on the school's Internet home page as well as the career center. "We provide internship programs as well as co-op programs," Shea said. Unlike Smith, there is a large amount of participation in the use of resources. "Most of our seniors use resources depending

on their majors," Shea said.

Teaching students how to find jobs is the top priority at UNC Charlotte. The earlier the student gains experience, there is more of a chance of employment after graduation. "We try to get our students focused as early as their sophomore year," Shea said. "We conduct classes on interpersonal skills as well as informing students on the dress code for an interview."

Coreen McFarlane, a junior at JCSU, feels the placement office meets her needs in trying to find employment. "Even though I am a junior, it is never too early to think about my future," she said. "This way at least I'll know what company I can send my resume to."

Sex debated on local campus

By Brian Powe  
FOR THE CHARLOTTE POST

SALISBURY - For students and administrators at Livingstone College, sexually transmitted diseases are a hot topic.

Young people at the highest risk for all STDs. Two thirds of the estimated 12 million new STD infections in the U.S. each year occur in people under 25.

One fourth occur in teenagers and college age students.

The Rev. Mignonne Snipes, a residence hall director at Livingstone, believes that much of the concern stems from young sheltered individuals suddenly coming into a new environment where life is unrestricted and care-free.

"It does not always start off this way for some students," she said. "When you come into a new open environment from a sheltered lifestyle, sometimes many students just get caught up in the game of the dog chase the cat, and vice versa. I believe that it comes from a lack of awareness, experience, and exposure. I have watched many try to be strong, but peer pressure is prevalent, and many times even the more reserved ones start to indulge."

Snipes, who is moving into her fourth year as a hall director, has observed hundreds of students male and female on the campus pay serious consequences for their actions. A graduate of Tuskegee University, she has seen first hand the destruction of STDs.

"I have friends who were my classmates at school who have already died from AIDS," Snipes says. "And, not only that, many of them have been diagnosed

with other serious STDs."

An ordained minister, Snipes, believes if the students are educated as freshmen and sophomores on the social structure of the Black campus, its glories and the downfalls, then most of them wouldn't participate in these type of lifestyles.

Some Livingstone officials have suggested implementing more programs, like coed dormitories, curfews, or in-room visitation, to curb the prevailing problem.

"We need to hit this problem head-on," Snipes said. "If we need more workshops, lectures, support groups that would bring in outside perspectives to help our situation, let's do it. It's time we stop hearing the problem so much, and start pondering and listening to what will make the difference in the end."

Yet, some students see proposed solutions as "leaves blowing in the wind."

Junior Toi Hood said that the problem is much bigger than what's on the surface.

"Maybe, if they (school officials) strove for more privileges rather than restrictions, they would get a better response," Hood said. "I feel like if we were given more privileges, we will prove to be more mature about our decisions."

"They have to look much deeper than a curfew or in-room visitation because its too accessible now for members of the opposite sex to secretly creep into dormitories and into person's rooms. Giving us more privileges would lessen the problem because I think we would realize this is a privilege and if it is abused, it will be taken away from us."

One student, who asked to remain anonymous said that its

hard for "brothers to be faithful or cautious when its so much out there."

"The female to male ratios on most black campuses most times is like 8-1," the freshman said. "And, if you're young, free, and

available, like I am, it's hard for a brother to say no.

"The best thing I can do is protect myself and the person I'm with, by wearing my hat (condom)."

Be creative... there's plenty to cool stuff to do after prom

By Josephine George  
THE CHARLOTTE POST

The DJ just announced this is the last dance.

Couples are on the floor grooving and asking the inevitable question, "What do we do next?"

The prom has ended. Your date is walking with her high heeled shoes in hand.

Is it all over? Does this have to be the end of the evening?

Not exactly. Dancing is not the only way to spend your prom night.

You saved up for this event and you want to go out in style. Here are a few tips on where to go and what to do, including price ranges.

You should try the Lamplighter, Harper's, Bravo Ristorante located in the Adam's Mark Hotel or Morrocroft's in the South Park Hotel. The average cost of entrees is \$15-25.

Maybe you would like to visit Japan or China.

Try cultural restaurants. The Thai Orchid features fish, duck and shrimp. There is no MSG or salt used in food preparation. Or you can try Wan-Fu Chinese Cuisine where there is an unusual selection of chicken and shrimp.

If you like a little spice, you should look at the Cajun Queen and Azteca Mexican Restaurant. The Cajun Queen specializes in spicy Louisiana fare on its diverse menu. Specials include swordfish and blackened steak. All prepared Cajun-style, with lots of spice and rice. The Azteca serves festive dinners plus a live performance by a Mariachi band.

After all that food, you may just want to lose some calories. There is a perfect way to do just that. If your prom is held on a Thursday evening, you might want to try The Comedy Zone. There are always prom after-parties that include restaurants and the comedy club.

Fat Tuesdays also has live music every Friday and Saturday nights and jazz on Wednesdays.

Remember, nothing is more romantic than a nice walk along a lake or in the park after the perfect evening.

CAMPUS PROFILE

FLORIDA A&M

Tallahassee, Florida



Location: Tallahassee, Florida  
Founded: 1887  
Enrollment: More than 8,000 full-time students and over 1,100 part-time students  
Achievements: FAMU is one of the largest black colleges in the South. The University led the nation in the recruitment of National Achievement Scholars, the most sought after students in the country and boast of \$30 million in endowments, the largest among publically funded black universities.

For more info contact the Florida A & M University Office of Admissions South Adams Street Tallahassee, Florida 32307 (904)599-3225 or http://www.famu.edu