



## Garinger High volunteers learn value of time and effort

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thinking, "What am I going to do when I graduate?" said Ellerbe. "It teaches them a variety of job skills...and they've learned budgets, and how to balance checking accounts...life skills, basically. They've learned to do things they (could not) imagine they (could) do."

Senior Timmy Green, who has been with the occupational course for three years, admits that in the beginning he didn't quite understand what it was all about.

"Without this, I probably wouldn't have had any experience at all," he said. "It's given me a sense of hope that I can do something."

Green said he's learned how to dress professionally, match colors appropriately and what skills he may be good at. He's enjoyed all the volunteer work and student mentoring they've done, but his favorite project was setting up for the school fashion show, making flyers and selling tickets. Green not only has a sense of pride from volunteering and working with the elderly, but his efforts paid off. He's held a job for seven months at Food Lion, and hopes to be a restaurant manager in the future.

The students' volunteer work with the elderly fits into their graduation requirements, yet this school year alone they sorted items for the Elves for the Elderly project, wrapped silverware for senior nutrition sites, made greeting cards for homebound seniors, and created Cuidis using water bottles for Valentine's Day.

Ellerbe came across the program via the internet, looking for volunteer work the students could do at school.

"I was just stressing to them the importance of giving back to the community," she said. "Personally for me, I think it's important to see

our African American students giving back. You see us in the news all the time, and hear all the negative out there. This shows there is some good coming out of Garinger and it gives these kids a chance to give back."

Lorenzo Broome, a junior, wants to go to barber college where he can continue to do what he's learned he's good at — cutting hair.

"What I think is good is that us young people have something to do to stay out of trouble," said Broome. "I'm the type of person who doesn't mind helping people, and I really like going off campus to do that."

After working at Bryant Park clearing bushes, the students returned to finish their latest project, stuffing 200 bags for an event for seniors sponsored by Mecklenburg County Department of Social Services. As they finished packing and rolling the last 20 bags that contain water bottles, magazines, toiletries and books, there was a sense of achievement in the room.

"I'm getting a lot of good experience, of helping people who need help," said junior LaPorshua Graham, who aspires to work in a nursing home.

"One of our students with a walker puts merchandise in a basket draped on the walker...and she gets out and works, and does everything the other students do," said Ellerbe. "This really is a good program."

"We just like to work," said Green. "We like to prove to people we can do it, even though we might do it a little bit slower than others, we can do it at our pace. And we are doing it well. One day we are going to get old. I'd love it if someone helped us the way we are helping the elderly."

## Parents sue over school segregation

By Sommer Brokaw  
THE TRIANGLE TRIBUNE

DURHAM — More than 50 years after *Brown v. Board of Education* outlawed segregated schools, Durham parents involved in a class-action lawsuit believe it still exists.

Earlier this year, attorney Frances P. Solari distributed flyers with the words "End Apartheid in Durham Public Schools" printed in bold letters at the mini-mart on Magnus Street in a ques-

tionnaire seeking information from parents whose children have been suspended or expelled in the past three years.

On March 24, 2006, Solari filed a class action lawsuit against Durham Public Schools seeking \$10,000 in compensatory damages for unjust treatment by school board members and representatives of the sheriff's department, immediate readmission of every minority stu-

dent who was unconstitutionally expelled since September 2003, and a written retraction for every student accused of gang membership.

Since then, representatives of the sheriff's department have filed a motion to dismiss. A hearing will be held May 30. The Durham School Board filed for an extension until June 3 to investigate the allegations.

Chuck Kitchen, an attorney  
See DURHAM/6A



### 11th Annual Cancer Survivor's Day

5 p.m., Sunday, June 4, 2006

Presbyterian Buddy Kemp Caring House, 242 S. Colonial Ave.

Cancer survivors of all ages are invited to bring their family and friends to celebrate Presbyterian Healthcare's 11th Annual Cancer Survivor's Day, June 4, 2006

Come take "A Walk in the Park" and enjoy live music, great food and fellowship at Buddy Kemp Caring House, 242 Colonial Avenue. Casual attire. Festivities begin at 5 p.m.

Highlights include:

- Face painting
- Balloon art
- Door prizes
- Motivational speakers

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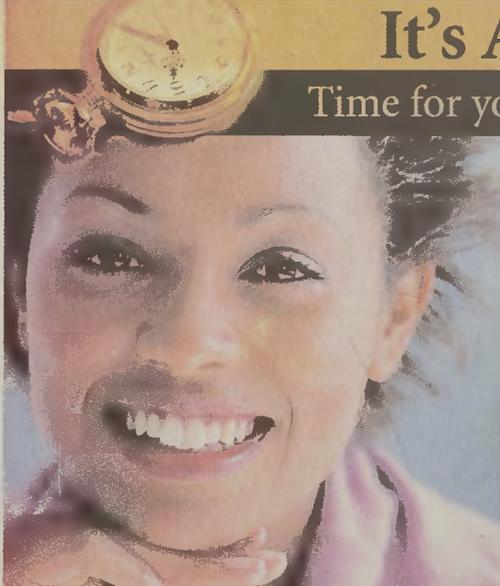
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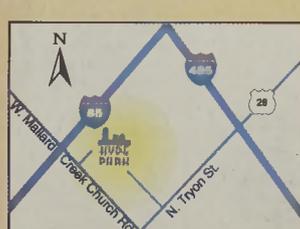
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