

AT A GLANCE

New Officers of the Board Elected

The Board of Trustees held elections of officers at its October meeting at the S.C. School Board's Conference in Myrtle Beach. The newly elected officers are: Mrs. Hannah Meadors, Chairperson; Mr. Devon Belcher, Vice Chairperson; Ms. Linda Spivey, Secretary; Ms. Patricia Watts, Treasurer. Mrs. Meadors has been employed for the last three years in the Governor's Office, Education Division. Her primary work there deals with Early Childhood Education. Mrs. Meadors resides in Columbia with her husband, the Reverend Doctor Marshall L. (Jack) Meadors, who serves as District Superintendent of the United Methodist Churches within the Columbia area. They have four children.

Mr. Belcher is a 1968 graduate of the Opportunity School. He attended and was graduated from Clemson University with a B.S. degree in Textile Sciences in 1972. In 1977 he earned an M.S. degree in Mechanical Engineering, also from Clemson. He presently is employed by Reliance Electronics where he is a Manufacturing Service Manager. Mr. Belcher is married and has two daughters. Mr. Belcher also serves on the WLGO's Alumni Board as its Treasurer.

Ms. Linda Sprivey is a 1978 graduate of the Opportunity School. She was employed by South Carolina National Bank in Columbia for four years and presently works for Southern Bank.

Ms. Patricia Watts is a 1972 graduate of WLGO's. She attended and was graduated from the University of South Carolina where she was an Education Major. She has taught in the Lexington District Two Adult Education Program and presently teaches at Lexington High School.

Congratulations to the new officers!

Student Blood Drive Successful

The first school blood drive of 1985 was held on January 28th in the gymnasium on the WLGO's campus. The project was sponsored by the Explorers, Post 591 and was declared a success. Although many students and staff were suffering from the flu, the student body managed to donate 35 pints of blood. The coordinators for the American Red Cross were grateful for the assistance of the Explorers as each displayed enthusiasm and desire to meet their goal.

STATE DOCUMENTS OPPORTUNITY SCHOOL STUDENTS HELP RESTORE ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

On Saturday, February 23, 1985, ten students and three staff members from the Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School reflected great credit upon themselves and their school.

They helped other volunteers, who had also given of their time and energy, to clean up St. John's AME Church on the Congaree River.

In recent weeks, the old church had fallen prey to vandalism of just about every type and description.

The Lexington County Law Enforcement Association contributed \$1,000.00 towards the Church restoration project.

Other groups and/or individuals who gave of themselves included county inmates and local, county and state elected officials.

A Cayce town official took special notice of the work that was accomplished and has asked the Opportunity School students to volunteer yet again to help clean and clear a park on the Congaree within the corporate limits of Cayce.

The Church congregation furnished lunch and everyone had a good time.

The WIS and WLTX television personnel assigned to cover the project gave excellent coverage and great credit to the students and staff for the work they accomplished.

Those students participating were Robert Lyles, Rhonda Pinckney, Tyrone Goode, Willie Young, Clyde Goings, Rodney Satterfield, Beaver Jett, Robert Long, Tavio Drayton and Pam Ellis. The staff members involved were Dale Bosworth, Scott Carruth and George Smith.

FACULTY NOTES

We are all happy to have Mrs. Dorothy Turner (Teacher of Office Occupations) back with us. Mrs. Turner injured her shoulder in a fall at the school several weeks ago. Although not fully recovered, Mrs. Turner has returned to her students and is doing well.

Faculty, staff and students send their best wishes to Mrs. Linda Owen who is recuperating from surgery. **WE MISS YOU MRS. OWEN!**

GLORIA'S CORNER

(Editor's Note: Items for this column are contributed by our Personnel Specialist, Ms. Gloria Lloyd and will deal with personnel issues helpful to all staff.)

I want to remind all staff members that dental insurance books, cards and claim forms may be picked up in the Personnel Office. Also, if you wish dependent coverage, Human Resource Management will announce an Open Enrollment for insurance programs in early fall. This will include Dental, Health, Dependent Life and Optional Life. Don't overlook those dates as Open Enrollment is only once a year.

Each month I will try and address personnel issues that are of concern to everyone. If you have personnel issues you wish addressed in this column, please forward them to me in writing.

Q. Is annual and sick leave transferrable between school districts and State Government?

A. No. School district employees are not State employees and leave earned according to school district regulations is not transferrable into State service.

Q. A probationary employee was given a warning notice for substandard performance. Since receiving the warning notice, the employee's performance has deteriorated even more. Can he/she be terminated before the warning period is completed?

A. No. If a warning is given and specifies a certain period of time in which the employee must correct certain deficiencies, the employer must wait until the end of the warning period to terminate, even though the employee is probationary.

Q. What is the difference between a reclassification and a grade reallocation?

A. With reclassifications, there are functional changes in the duties of the job; however, with a reallocation the duties are essentially the same. An upward reclassification is treated as a promotion and results in a change of an employee's review date. The employee's review date does not change in a reallocation. A reallocation is intended to adjust compensation rates to reflect the job market.

(Note: These Q&A's are taken from "SCENE" Magazine and is reprinted with their permission. "SCENE" is a publication of the State Personnel Division in Columbia.)

SPOTLIGHT ON STAFF

COACH BOBBY ASMOND

Coach Bobby Asmond is very well known and well liked on the WLGO campus. He has almost become a fixture in that he has been with the school since 1971.

He is a very tall and large framed man - no one would probably ever guess that he had played professional football for three years. However, he has done this and much more besides.

The coach is a native Columbian. He was graduated from C.A. Johnson High School in 1966 with a B.S. Degree in Physical Education.

It was at this point that he took a very large step indeed. He signed with the San Diego Chargers as free agent.

Coach says it really took some getting used to when he had to condition himself to playing before huge crowds. But it was not just the crowds that had him intimidated at first. The lights, he says, were unbelievably bright, the stakes they were playing for were very high and he was having to go up against such men as Roosevelt Grier, who had been one of his biggest heroes when he was a boy coming of age in Columbia in the late '50's.

The coach pursued this fast life for three years. He was injured, but not seriously as were some of his teammates who took injections so they wouldn't feel the pain and then were badly hurt because they could feel nothing.

Commenting about those three years, Coach Asmond says he regrets none of it because he was, at last, given an opportunity to do a great deal of traveling which had been one of his lifelong ambitions.

During this time, he was selected for the All Conference - Little All American award.

The Coach then went to Midlands Tech where he had the title Recruiter in Charge of Athletics. He was there for two years during which time he established programs in golf, basketball and flag football. Before Coach arrived on the scene, they had had no organized physical fitness programs whatsoever.

Also, within this time frame, he was the Offensive and Defensive Line Coach of the now defunct Semi-Pro team, the Columbia All Stars.

He has been affiliated with the Community Action Agency where he was the Director of Community Development and was in charge of the activities taking place in a four county area. This organization is, likewise, no longer in existence.

Coach Asmond says he is constantly receiving offers from other schools and institutions to coach and head up their athletic programs but he has always rejected these offers.

He pointed out that within the past month, 15 of the students he works with at the Opportunity School have started attending church. When he was telling this, he was very animated and happy. If you hadn't known, you might have thought this was the face, manner and expression of a man telling how he had made a million dollars.

Coach does not make a million dollars at the Opportunity School but he has been worth a million to the children he has helped, taught, and befriended over the years. They can't give him monetary rewards either. What they do give is their honest love and affection for this giant of a man and, from all appearances, he is thriving on it.

Coach wouldn't trade places with anyone. He is happy and contented to be who he is, doing what he is doing, i.e. helping young people find a better, more fulfilling, production life, where he wants to do it. After all, why should such a man trade?

TIME CAPSULE

FAITH AND A BARREL OF FLOUR

Miss Gray opened the first Opportunity School with a lot of faith and help of individuals and groups concerned about people. Her brother, A.D. Gray, donated a barrel of flour. Volunteers donated their time. Others chipped in with a bit of cash for a total of \$40.00. The State Department of Education's illiteracy commission paid the salary of a teacher and the daughters of the American Revolution donated the use of their school building.

SPOTLIGHT ON STUDENTS

Robert Long

Robert Long is in his third year at the Opportunity School. He is a handsome, intelligent, articulate young man. He is maintaining good grades, participates in sports and witnesses about his Christian faith quite readily. He is also red headed.

All of this, in a very real sense, makes him a unique member of our student body. But there is another label, we can apply, which makes him the most unique person on the Opportunity School campus. Because Robert always strives for excellence and others recognize this character trait in him, he was elected President of the 1984-85 Student Council.

Some of the descriptive remarks used could not have been made just a couple of years ago and Robert is the first to admit this statement is true.

He will tell anyone, who cares to listen, what attending Wil Lou Gray has meant to him without embarrassment or hesitation.

We at WLGO feel we know where Robert is going, so let's see where he has come from.

Robert is from Johnston, S. C. which places him within the boundaries of Edgefield County.

He was born at Ft. Gordon, Georgia in the Dwight D. Eisenhower Hospital on September 11, 1964. Robert is a military dependent because his father is career Army.

He attended Johnston Primary School for four years, Johnston Elementary for grades 5 - 8 and Strom Thurmond High School during his first two years in high school.

He dropped out and joined the S. C. National Guard. Subsequently, he went to Ft. Leonard Wood in Missouri for Recruit Training.

It was his desire, at the time, to enter the Diesel Mechanics Program which, if successfully completed, would have allowed him to be a Combat Engineer.

As it was, Robert did not complete Basic Training and it was not for physical reasons or because he didn't have the spunk. Robert admits the fault lay in his lack of formal education. He was Honorably Discharged from the Army.

His parents, Mr. & Mrs. Garfield Bowick, realized their son needed a foundation on which to build his life. By this time, Robert was cognizant of this fact, also.

Thus it was that he became a student at the Opportunity School. He received financial assistance from the Department of Vocational Rehabilitation and entered in 1982.

Robert's attendance at WLGO hasn't been continuous. On March 22, 1982, he decided to withdraw because, as he says, "decisions had to be made" and, he felt, he was standing on the threshold of declaring his "self independence".

Time and experience were to teach him the error of his ways. Robert has not always learned his lessons easily but he has learned them well.

At or about the time of his reentry into Wil Lou Gray, Robert developed a new, positive mind set and the rest (as the expression goes) is history.

He is a member of the Explorers and renders much assistance and aid to Ms. Haney. He participates in football under the tutelage of Coach Asmond. He has earned the right to reside in an Honor Dormitory (privilege given only to those who maintain a good scholastic record). This past summer, Robert took part in a Job Partnership Training Act program on the WLGO campus.

On September 7, he was nominated to the Student Council, gave his campaign speech on September 17th and was elected to the Student Council Presidency on September 18th.

Here are a number of remarks Robert would like to direct to our readers' attention regarding the Opportunity School and the impact it has had on him: (Cont'd on pg.4)

COMMENTARY

I read somewhere that every organization needs torchbearers. These are the people who discover new ideas, systems, or innovations and lead the charge to have them implemented. Torchbearers or champions must always expect that for everyone who agrees with them there will be ten others on the sidelines saying, 'It won't work here.'

Many people feel that there should be a point in their working lives when their contributions have been such that they are entitled to take it easy from that point on. Maybe there should be, but I doubt if there is. The minute any of us start to relax on the oars, we begin to lose our value. This is true of staff and/or students.

Let's face it--what we accomplished yesterday is water over the dam. More important now is what we can do today and tomorrow. When the things we did yesterday and last year are more important than our ambitions for tomorrow and next year, it's time to reassess our lives and let someone else take over. In the case of a student this attitude of complacency is a real tragedy. All of you are far too young to 'give up' at this stage in your lives.

We need more torchbearers and fewer 'quitters.' We need more people, students and staff, who are willing to persist to help themselves and/or others. We need to develop and nurture a positive climate for achievement. More torchbearers could do the job.

Here are some tips for would-be torchbearers. First, if people have trouble accepting an idea, illustrate its usefulness with examples from their previous experience.

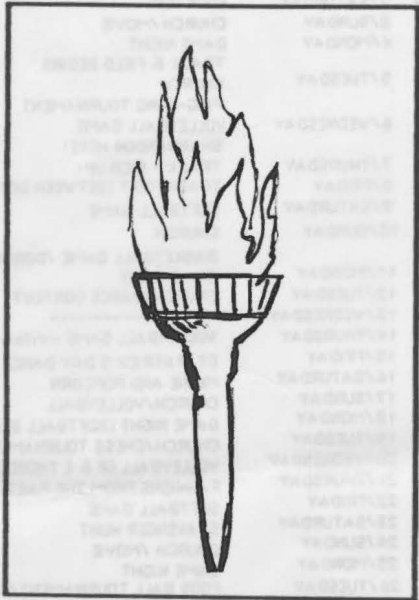
Second, people initially respond to a demand for change by sorting our blame for the original problem. The torchbearer's job is to focus discussion on what's wrong and how to fix it, not on who's wrong.

Third, persistence is the most useful tool carried by the torchbearer. When you repeat your message over and over and over again, it eventually gets through. I have heard this referred to as 'Chinese water torture.' It works. For all the frustration and exhaustion of championing change, there is an exhilarating aspect. Torchbearers in general tend to derive a deep sense of satisfaction in knowing that they have made some piece of the world a little better for having been there.

Is there any other reason for being here?

Sam F. Drew, Jr.
Superintendent

No one is as tired as the one who does nothing.



ALICE CARROLL'S GREAT SUCCESS

My name is Alice Carroll. I'm twenty-five years old and reside in Columbia, South Carolina. I am currently a student at the Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School where I expect to be graduating very soon.

I was very pleased to have taken second place at the State Fair. It has always been one of my dreams to enter the fair in one capacity or another. I will always cherish the thrill I received when I was told about the results.

I entered the fair as a class project for the Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School and chose the carrot cake. Around 200 carrot cakes were entered and, what an honor it was, to have taken second place!

But, win or lose, my teacher, Mr. Whitaker's, words sum it all up: "It didn't matter whether I won or not because I was already a winner by just entering".

Mr. William Whitaker, referred to in the article, is the food service instructor at the Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School.

SUCCESS COMES IN LARGE PACKAGES

The saying has been going around for many years that lightning doesn't strike in the same place twice.

The floats, we have entered in the Carolina Carillon Competition for the past two years have won high honors.

The year before last we won first prize for the most original float and this past year we even out did our own previous performance and received the competition's highest award, the Grand Marshals' prize.

Much of the credit for this accomplishment goes to our art instructor, Mr. Scott Carruth.

He is a very modest person and reminds us approximately 50 students and four teachers mounted a concerted effort to make the float the success that it was.

The float featured three papier-mache reindeer in an outdoor sports scene. The two largest deer (they were eight-feet in height) were portrayed skiing and ice skating, while a smaller deer, powered by a motor, was shown breakdancing.

Eight students in elf costumes were seated on bleachers on top of the float and four other students walked beside the float in the parade.

From the project's very inception, Scott Carruth indicated it was to be a much more ambitious project than what had been attempted and accomplished the year before.

The reindeer, made of wood and chicken wire, were wrapped with two layers of papier-mache dipped in glue and water, and covered with two coats of latex house paint.

The reindeer's skins were fashioned from cardboard and the ice skates from pomps (squares of tissue paper). The hats and scarfs worn by the deer were also made from pomps.

The 1 1/2 hour parade began about 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, December 8, 1984, at the corner of Main and Richland Streets.

The students involved in the Opportunity School float included Richie King, Darren Benenhaley, Mike Chavis, Jackie Foard, Trey Missroon, Allen Rouse, Glenn Motter, Willie

Young, Timmy Fennel, Bobby Pound, Raymon Sumter and Steven Tennant.

Also, George Robertson, James Smiley, William Sumter, Paula Carter, Joe Caywood, Robert Leslie, Wayne Richburg, Jody Calhoun, Calvin Smith, Karen Johnson and Alvia Lee.

Also, Cedric Simpson, Thomas Turner, Michael Lott, Tammy Meseroll, Scott Barrineau, Danny Kelly, Craig Tyler, Sonja Banks, John Pinckney, Philip Gossett and Jerry Mixon.

Also, John Billups, Ken Sanders, Lesha Bundrick, Steven Yens, Mike Hallex, Mike Faulling, Robert Lyles and Leon Broomfield.

Mr. Carruth says he owes a special debt of gratitude to the following staff members and faculty: Ms. Bonnie Foster, Ms. Lida Moore, Mrs. Denise Hoco, Ms. Mary Janicki, Ms. Margie Sanders, Mrs. Jackie White, Ms. Deborah Haney and Mr. Fred Flagg.

Asked to comment on how he feels about all of this, an even brighter smile than usual plays across his countenance and he answers quite readily: "very, very good".

SHADES OF GRAY is a monthly publication of the Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School intended to foster better communication among the faculty, staff, students, and parents.

Sam F. Drew, Jr. Superintendent
Hugh E. Gibson, Jr. Editor

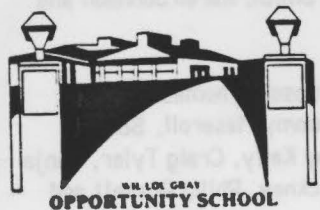
(Long, cont'd from page 2)

"I have grown in maturity greatly through the help given to me by both the day and night counseling staff of WLGOs. Our school is a fine establishment for educational learning in the respect that there are no social pressures through grades. Every student here is able to work at his/her own pace. The pressure of educational deadlines is relieved.

It really makes you feel comfortable when you are being taught by patient, professional educators who really care about what they are doing to benefit their students. They care about what they do -- educationally and personally.

I am presently preparing for the GED Exam and concentrating on obtaining other goals that I have established for my future life as soon as possible. Once I secure these personal goals, I will adjust myself to being Independent and self-supportive."

We would offer Robert good luck but we know he really doesn't need it. **Having a good, positive outlook on life and being a hard worker are what are needed for success in life -- not luck.**



West Campus Road
West Columbia, South Carolina 29169

MARCH CALENDAR

DATE/DAY:	EVENT:	TIME:
1/FRIDAY	MOVIE	6 00-9 00PM
2/SATURDAY	SOCK HOP	7 00-9 00PM
3/SUNDAY	CHURCH/MOVIE	10 45 AM / 6 00-9 00PM
4/MONDAY	GAME NIGHT	6 00-7 00/8 00-9 00PM
5/TUESDAY	TRACK & FIELD BEGINS	
	CHURCH	
	PING-PONG TOURNAMENT	7 30-8 30 PM
6/WEDNESDAY	VOLLEYBALL GAME	
	SHANNANDOR HERE!	
7/THURSDAY	TRACK - SIGN UP!	7 00-8 00PM
8/FRIDAY	TRACK MEET (BETWEEN DORM)	7 00-9 00 PM
9/SATURDAY	SOFTBALL GAME	10 45 AM
10/SUNDAY	CHURCH	6 00-9 00PM
	BASKETBALL GAME /DORMS	6 00-7 00/8 00-9 00 PM
	GAME NIGHT	6 00 -7 00/8 00-9 00PM
	CHURCH/DANCE CONTEST	6 00 -7 00/8 00-9 00PM

11/MONDAY	VOLLEYBALL GAME -Willow Lane	
12/TUESDAY	ST PATRICK'S DAY DANCE	6 00-9 00PM
13/WEDNESDAY	MOVIE AND POPCORN	6 00-9 00PM
14/THURSDAY	CHURCH/VOLLEYBALL	10 45 AM/6 00-9 00PM
15/FRIDAY	GAME NIGHT (SOFTBALL BEGINS)	6 00-7 00/7 00-9 00PM
16/SATURDAY	CHURCH/CHESS TOURNAMENT	6 00-7 00/7 30-8 50 PM
17/SUNDAY	VOLLEYBALL (R & E THERE!)	
18/MONDAY	FASHIONS FROM THE PAST	6 00-8 00 PM
19/TUESDAY	SOFTBALL GAME	7 00-9 00 PM
20/WEDNESDAY	SCAVENGER HUNT	7 00-9 00 PM
21/THURSDAY	CHURCH /MOVIE	10 45 AM/6 00-8 00PM
22/FRIDAY	GAME NIGHT	6 00-7 00/8 00-9 00 PM
23/SATURDAY	FOOS BALL TOURNAMENT/CHURCH	6 00-7 00/8 00-9 00PM
24/SUNDAY	VOLLEYBALL GAME	
25/MONDAY	EASTER TALENT SHOW	3 05 P.M.
26/TUESDAY	EASTER BREAK BEGINS AT	3 05 PM
27/WEDNESDAY		
28/THURSDAY		
29/FRIDAY		

WHAT IS A FRIEND?

A friend is someone who cares a lot. Who'll help you out when you're on the spot.

They try to help you with life everyday. And care for you in a special way.

They look out for you in a time of need. And that's when they are a friend indeed!

You trust and honor what they say. And talk to them in a special way.

They'll love you like your brother and sis. They're someone you thought you'd never miss.

Friends come and Friends go: And in your life their love will show.

And when something happens to this one in your life; It makes you mad and full of strife.

And in your life there'll be some cheer; But never one who'll be so dear.

By: Robert Long

WLGOs RECOGNIZES GIFTS

The Opportunity School was the grateful recipient, recently, of new clothing for its students, valued at \$9,000.00, from Belk in Columbia.

We wish to take this opportunity to thank them, on behalf of the students, for their outstanding generosity and evidence of their public concern for the needs of their fellow man.

