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To build and maintain our community together and to make our brothers and sisters problems our problems and to solve them together.

Interview With Pete Bridgewater

by Lizette Smith & Marc Zimmerman
Pete Bridgewater, is a local disc jockey who delivers the best in jazz and blues on radio station WDWS. You can also hear him on Monday nights spinning records at Nicci's a late-night club on University Avenue in Urbana. He has seen the black community in Champaign-Urbana change greatly from the time he came here following his high school days in Tuscola.

Recalling his experiences as a bass fiddle player during the 1940s when big bands played "the black circuit", Bridgewater said fortunately he learned to read music. He landed his first job in fact, when he re-

placed Bo Diddley in the Jerry Lynch Band. Diddley could not read music and would play through the bar arrangement.

Bridgewater later formed his own band and established relationships and rapport with many big band performers. He was the first black in the C-U musicians union.

Blacks, then, he explained, were forced to join a union in Springfield and then were allowed to play here by paying the local white union 15 cents on every dollar earned. He says he keeps his union card current even now.

Reflecting on his years as a musician, Bridgewater talked about a time when

restaurants and theaters were segregated. Black bands and entertainers played in an



assembly hall then located at the site of the current Champaign Police Station at First Street and University Avenue. Or, they played, he said, in the Rainbow Tavern, where black community residents and students alike congregated.

Bridgewater and other musicians used these opportunities to talk informally with performers, asking questions about their talent, technique, and skill -- each musician teaching another something more about music. This exchange of ideas gave rise to many accomplished musicians, and Bridgewater said he viewed this informal sharing of knowledge as a major strength in the black community.

More generally, he said he was proud of the black community strength that grew out of the work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. King's influence, Bridgewater said, resulted in a feeling of "togetherness: that made the community stronger than it had been. People are better organized, not only

in groups, but "organized as individuals", Bridgewater contends. "Something just flowed between blacks out of admiration for Martin Luther King," he said.

Statement of Purpose

by The Editorial Staff

We hope the black community newspaper will be for you. For the young and old in you and the black and brown and yellow and white in you. For the part of you that rarely finds a place in the mainstream media. We hope it will be news for you, fun for you, serious and on target for you. We want this paper to showcase the strengths of those we know to be survivors and build on these strengths for a better community.

We hope that a black community newspaper will hold a positive vision for a community rich in heritage and human resources. We are deservng of a vehicle through which to present our concerns, communicate our ideas and share our victories. A black community newspaper is necessary to forge a unity among us while renewing and enhancing a belief in our own power to direct our lives. This newspaper could be an outlet for local news, advertisement and public interest stories that concern the Champaign-Urbana black community. Help us fill these pages with evidence of what is right in the black community. We welcome you to participate in any way. This is your newspaper.....use it!

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Interview With Dorothy Vickers ~ Shelly

By Lizette Smith & Marc Zimmerman

Staff: What are the hidden strengths of the Champaign-Urbana Black community?

V-S: I think the deep religious faith and the people themselves are two great strengths. The people in the black community have a tremendous network. There is also the Douglass Library. That's a great untapped resource.

Staff: What do you mean by a network in the Black community?

V-S: The connections among people and between organizations is the kind of network I'm talking about. But we are far from our potential regarding the benefits the networks can have.

Staff: What networks are there and how can they be developed?

V-S: I guess I see it as unlinked chains. A chain is a network but sometimes there are missing links that prevent networks from connecting. For example: you have the net-

work (or chain) of churches in the black community and you have the network around Douglass Library, but those networks don't combine forces to help each other develop in positive ways. Now, if you could somehow develop connecting links that would really strengthen everyone involved and then some. Other unlinked chains include elderly groups, Black greek organizations, art groups like Symmetry and the Urban League. Now there's a national link! The nice thing about networks and linkages is that they're free.

Staff: What are some links that can be made?

V-S: Well, for one you can link young people and old people, generations apart, but both can help each other. Elderly citizens are a wealth of information of our history, of where we've come from. The youth have energy and visions of where we can go. Who knows what can happen when we get these two groups together. I know you're going to ask how do we get these two groups together, right? Well, for one, young people can help seniors with yard work, or snow shoveling or just friendly visits while the seniors can pass on insights about growing up in C-U or give people a sense of their heritage in C-U. The nice thing is we already have seniors groups at Douglass Center and youth groups like the Boys or Girls Clubs. If we got representatives from the black social clubs and other community organizations together in one room maybe we can figure out what we can do to connect people. It keeps people informed about what's going on in the different networks in town and creates a new network of people who don't usually get together. Look at the church network again. Churches could have a data bank on people's skills so trades could be made

between people with different needs and skills they can offer. And the ministerial alliance is already there to help people make connections. The possibilities are endless.

Staff: You also mentioned Douglass Library as a hidden strength. Could you tell me a little about it?

V-S: Well, you know it located near Douglass Park, but few people use it. Information of any kind is at anyone's fingertips; all they have to do is come in. It's part of the Lincoln Trails Library System so if we don't have the information in Douglass Library we can get it from other libraries in the system. That includes the state library in Springfield Champaign or Urbana public libraries and even the Graduate Library at the Univ. of Illinois. Then there's the staff at Douglass Library. They're great. They're very knowledgeable about happenings in the black community.

(Cont. on Page 6)

The Urban League of Champaign County

By Vernon Barksstall

The Urban League of Champaign County was founded in 1962. The first executive director was Robert O. Bowles. The present executive director, Vernon L. Barksstall assumed the helm in 1966, establishing him as on of the longest standing executive directors among Urban League affiliates today.

The Urban League is a United Way Agency, serving black and poor people throughout the country. Some of its programs follows:

Weatherization Program: Designed to help homeowners and renters save money by making their homes energy efficient, the weatherization crew provides services such as weatherstripping, caulking, insulation, and installing storm doors and windows. Both renters and homeowners that meet the necessary income guidelines are eligible.

The Illinois Home Energy Assistance Program: Gives financial support to those having difficulty paying bills and/or who face the prospect of having their power turned off. Income guidelines apply.

The Seniors in Community Service Program: Provides subsidized employment for senior citizens over 55 and support services in a number of areas. One objective of this program is to find unsubsidized employment for seniors. A regular monthly meeting is held to inform seniors in this program about the benefits available to them.

In addition to these programs, the Urban League has initiated several other community related projects: a newsletter entitled The Reporter; The State of Black Champaign County, a comprehensive empirically based demographic study of the economic conditions of black residents; and a series of community forums which are held on the first Wednesday of each month. The annual dinner of the Urban League is a significant time for membership recruitment and fund-raising. This year, the keynote address was delivered by the internationally acclaimed vocalist and Grammy Award winner, William Warfield. Anyone interested in future activities and/or membership in the Urban League should call 356-1364.

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Urban League Report: Single Mothers, Our New Poor

By Bruce Ambuel

Champaign County is a tough place to live if you are a mother trying to raise a family alone. According to a new report by Champaign County Urban League, entitled: The State of Black Champaign County, poverty has increased dramatically among single-mother families. Black single-mothers have been hit hardest. In 1970, 539 Black families were living in poverty in Champaign County. One half of these families were run by women. By 1980, 672 Black families were living in poverty, and 75% or 498 families, were run by women. During these same 10 years, poverty also increased among poor white female-headed families. In 1970, 1 out of 5 poor white families were headed by women, but by 1980, 1 out of 3 were headed by women. The ranks of the poor are increasingly made up of families supported only by women. Single Black mothers are being hit the hardest.

This is only one of the provocative findings presented in The State of Black Champaign County. The Urban League report is a profile of the living conditions and economic conditions among the Black community in Champaign County. The report was edited and compiled by John McClendon and Mary Blackstone. Copies are available at the Urban League office, 17 Taylor Street in downtown Champaign. In addition to chapters on the social and economic conditions of Black Champaign County, the report features a group of factual essays on Champaign County authored by local residents and faculty members at the University of Illinois. These essays include chapters by Taylor Thomas on Black History, Violet Marie Malone on female-headed households, Earl R. Jones on housing and land, Paul E.

Parker on Blacks and high technology, James Anderson on education, Willie Nesbit on Parkland College and Robert Washington on human services.

The Urban League's goal in writing the report is, according to McClendon, to act as a catalyst and encourage action in the Black community. As a result the report makes no recommendations. Vernon Barkstall, Executive Director of the Urban League, explained "We are painfully aware of the history and perhaps political play, wherein 'blue ribbon panels' are commissioned to study a problem, file a report and go out of existence with the report promptly forgotten. Often only a few people are involved in proposing solutions to the problems identified." Instead of recommendations, the Urban League will be organizing a series of community forums and retreats were members of the Black community can develop solutions based upon community needs. The Urban League is challenging the community to write their own recommendations and solutions.

Other highlights from The State of Black Champaign County:

- Champaign County's Black population is young, 35%, are under 18 years of age.
- The family is strong in Black Champaign County, 68% of the Black households are families.
- Unemployment is a serious problem. County unemployment is 9.8% for Black workers and only 4% for white workers.
- Blacks are at the bottom of the economic ladder in Champaign County. The average Black income in Champaign County is \$15,721, while the average white income is \$25,397.
- The number of Black families earning more than \$25,000 per year increased dramatically from 8 in 1970 to 664 in 1980.

In All My Years

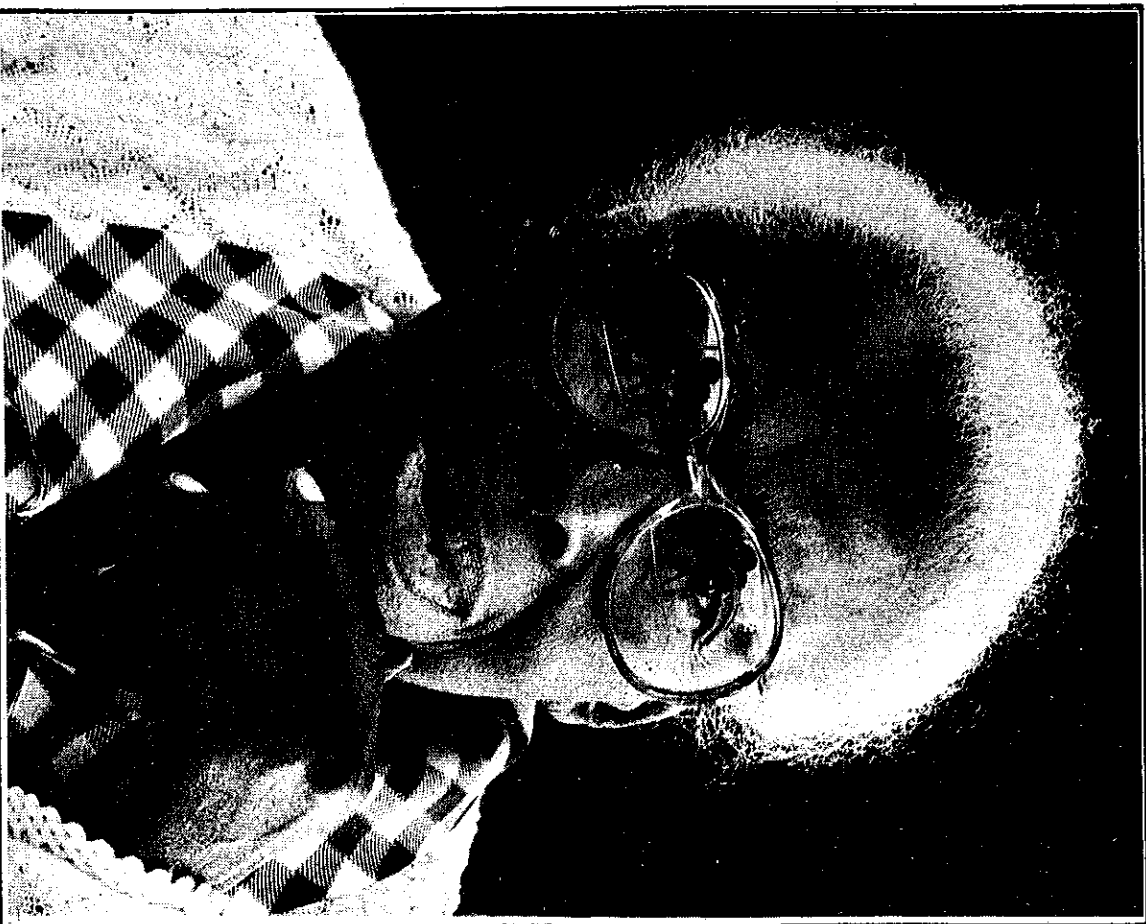
Exhibit of Older Black Residents

by Raymond Bial

In All My Years is an exhibit and a book of 52 distinctive photographs of older Black residents of Champaign-Urbana. It is intended to acknowledge the contribution of Blacks to the history and culture of the twin cities.

grant from the Illinois Arts Council.

Charlotte Nesbit, Director of the Douglass Branch of the Champaign Public Library, which serves the city's Black community, selected each of the participants and scheduled all photo sessions during the summer of 1983.




To date, the photographs have been displayed at the Champaign County Historical Museum, Parkland College Library, and the Champaign Public Library. The two libraries as well as the museum, initially sponsored the project with a grant through the Illinois State Library and a

The photographs are currently available as a traveling exhibit. The book is also available at the museum and most local bookstores. In All My Years has been so well received that preparations are underway for a second set of photographs to compliment the book and exhibit.

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Principal's Scholars Program

SYMMETRY Artists Collective

By Tim Davis

Organized in early December 1982, Symmetry is the culmination of a collective idea that Black visual and performing artists in this community have had for years. The need for a "support" group to help promote Black arts has been a major concern for many of these Black artists, and it is hoped that Symmetry will fill that need. The term symmetry simply means uniformity, form and beauty based on excellence of proportion. As an adjective, symmetric is the sharing of ideas and feelings. The term expresses the basic nature of the group, comprised of artists from many areas of the fine and decorative arts, with various backgrounds and training. Symmetry forms and unifies concepts built upon the sharing of ideas, experiences and feelings of the individual members. Through this sharing come harmony which makes it possible to strive for excellence as a group.

During Black History Month, Symmetry had a variety of performances and exhibitions. The first held Feb. 8 at the Illini Union Show, featured many Black professional talents from areas: Musical features included opera, jazz, gospel, and classical; several Visual Arts, painting, drawing, and sculpture were featured. Many Fashions were featured, from sportswear to evening wear, as well as Theatrical performances such as dancers, poets, and actors.

A Visual Arts show was presented at the McKinley Foundation. On February 18th we sponsored a show for the young, gifted, and talented geared toward Douglass Center, in

By Paul E. Parker
Co-Director

It has been said that the schools in Champaign do a poor job of educating Black students. This may be true except for those students who elect to follow the directives of the Principal's Scholars Program (PSP).

The Principal's Scholars Program (PSP) was initiated in Champaign-Urbana in 1980. The major objectives were to: (1) motivate selected students to meet academic challenges; (2) motivate selected students to select a high school curriculum leading to four years of mathematics, 3 years of local board of education requirements; (3) practice competitive skills through academic contests in mathematics, essay writing, science and speaking; (4) expose students to

which young artists were featured in dance, classical piano, and soul music - it was a grand time.

Symmetry also had the opportunity to take part of the package on the road. Traveling to the Danville Community College and sharing a performance with the Illinois State Choir. The response was very positive.

Symmetry also took part in the Black Women's Conference. We would like to thank the Illinois Art Council for the grant money to present these shows for Black History Month along with our co-sponsors, the Afro-American Cultural Center, the McKinley Foundation, Douglass Center, and the Black Student Association at Danville Community College; and all the people who helped and supported us. Any questions, comments, or concerns - please write us at: Symmetry, Box 211, Champaign, IL. 61820.

career fields through speakers and visits to special events at the University or other campuses; and (5) involve parents in the planning and support activities which are developed for the students.

Students selected for the program have demonstrated the potential for academic excellence. By accepting the invitation to join PSP, the students agree to try the outlined curriculum, the parents agree to support the student, and the school agrees to try to schedule the student into a meaningful curriculum which can lead to a solid pre-college program. Although all graduates may not attend college, the objective is to encourage the students to prepare in such a way that a career can be chosen late in high school or after entering college.

In Champaign-Urbana PSP activities center on a meeting which is held on the first Saturday of the month at the University's Digital Computer Laboratory.

P.S.P. Participant: Finds Hope, Pride, & Strength

I became a participant of the Principal's Scholar Program when I was a freshman at Centennial High School. From the moment I attended the first Principal's Scholar meeting in 1981 to the present it has been constantly self-rewarding.

On the first Saturday of every month the students have meetings at the Digital Computer Lab. At each meeting we listen to lecture(s) on various topics from engineering to medicine. This enables us to learn about different careers. One Saturday meeting in particular enlightened me. I have always desired to pursue medicine as my future occupation. Dr. Mary Lee-Byrd spoke at

these meetings to provide career information on many fields, and where possible include role models. Included in some of the meetings are the contests which allow the students to compete against other program participants in Chicago, Decatur and East St. Louis.

Beginning in the Fall of 1984, a series of activities will also begin for students in the middle schools and junior high schools. This level of activity will include even more parent involvement because all trips for cultural or historical development will need adult companions. In those programs, academic emphasis will be on preparing for the high school curriculum. Parents and students interested in joining the program should contact the principal of their school, who will put them in contact with the PSP coordinator at the school. The result of participating in PSP will be a better prepared high school graduate with career options available.

this meeting and throughout her presentation, she resolved so many questions and concerns that I had. When I left the meeting, I was determined to become a doctor. I knew that it would be a challenge and difficult, but Dr. Lee-Byrd helped me realize that I am needed.

During the year the students are able to participate in math, science, essay, and speech competitions against other schools that are associated with the program. This year I participated in every contest that was held and for the last three years have entered the Speech competition. In my opinion, this is the most interesting and

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NORTH-EAST COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

By Nathaniel Banks

(Ed. Note: This article was printed prior to recent city council action.)

The Northeast Area Community Development Corporation (NACDC) has always been concerned about the physical, social, and economic welfare of residents in our area. We have deemed it necessary that the community rally around the issue of the Oak-Ash area redevelopment. To date, the city council is considering two options: 1) The commercial development of 2.5 of the 22 acres vacant, and 2) finding an independent developer to out-line a set of plans. Progress in making a decision is slow. Members of NACDC have observed a catch-22 situation

with regard to positive movement on Oak-Ash area. On the one hand, city officials state that they cannot develop the area until the city council decides what should be done with the undeveloped land. The city council, in contrast, states that a project cannot be detailed until the city officials propose suggestions. This apparent deadlock is especially infuriating given that the NACDC has written several proposals which are ignored because the city council stated that the Black community is not represented by NACDC. The hesitancy

in making a decision on plans to develop the Oak-Ash area are contrasts with the efficiency demonstrated in regard to non-minority investment community.

Further, this apathy towards the economic development of the community is consistent with other matters. For example, nine months ago, \$200,000 was allocated to create jobs for economically disadvantaged. In fact, the money was spent on a sewer project that did not hire a significant number of the Black unemployed. Yet another example of the city's indifference to the economic develop-

ment of the Black community is marked by their putting a detention pond in the Oak-Ash area, making it impossible to locate people with both the capital and the interest in investing.

In spite of these bureaucratic roadblocks, NACDC will continue to present the issue of economic development of Oak-Ash area to those who will listen and desire to help. We envision a comprehensive plan which encompasses housing, economic, and social components. The NACDC has had one plan ignored. The citizens of the Northeast must continue to confront the issue.

(P.S.P. continued) educational of all the contests. I can say in truth that I have benefited greatly from this experience.

This year students from the Champaign-Urbana area went on a field trip to Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana. We were given a tour of the university and a presentation by speakers who were studying Electrical Engineering.

We are proud to have excellent sponsors, people who are dedicated to helping and encouraging students. Telling us that regardless of the handicaps we can achieve whatever we want in life. I feel that the Principal's Scholar Program is an invaluable asset for minority students. The variety of academic competitions and contests, monthly career orientation meetings, field trips to college campuses, and engineering open houses present opportunities to students that they might not have had.

I have done nothing but benefited from this program throughout high school. It is one of the best things that has happened to me and I am proud to be affiliated with the Principal's Scholars Program.

by Kimberly Hambrick

Toward A Definition of the Black Community

By Jeffery Humphrey

Racial Discrimination racial segregation have produced an American phenomena known as the "black community". Black communities are called by many names, for example: the "N side", "Shantytown", "Across the Tracks", "the Ghetto", and even "Nigger Town".

The traditional perception of the black community is that of a geographical area in any city in America where people of color have been forced to live by law and practice. It was initially characterized by substandard housing, dirt or low grade streets, little or no street lighting, and no plumbing.

In spite of these shortcomings there was a strong bond of friendship and dependency. There were many extended families and the community as a whole felt and assumed responsibility for the old and the young.

The most respected person in the community was the minister or preacher. He was judge and jury, the father figure and the spokesperson in good times and bad. Whites looked upon him to "keep the lid on" the community by whatever means necessary. The black preacher had to be clever and cunning, when confronted by whites. It is no accident that the significant leader in the black community today is the black preacher. Through dogged

persistence, pain, burnings and court action, these communities have improved. An unchanged characteristic of the black community is; however, an emotion, a feeling of being longed, a protective shield. Although many blacks today are scattered throughout so called intergrated neighborhoods, often their hearts and minds are still with that of the black community, as is evidence by church attendance, social events, and continued relationships with friends and families. Each year tens of thousands of blacks return to the places of their origin for vacations, funerals, weddings, family reunions, or just to relive nostalgic moments.

In Praise Of Athletes

By Thom Moore

Social change is a two edge sword. One one hand it opens doors that had been shut, offering and opportunity for some to try their skills and talents in a new way. For others the change brings about the end of a way of life. An example is, success of Jackie Robinson in the major leagues. The unseen consequences was the decimation and eventual collapse of Black owned professional baseball leagues. Yet, not only did baseball open up for Blacks, but football and basketball followed suit.

Since Jackie Robinson, many black men have attempted to make a career of professional sports. By 1979, 71% of the National Basketball Association, 47% of the National Football League and 17% of the professional baseball leagues were black. In less than four decades the complexion of the major revenue sports has changed drastically. Again, the two edged sword; for some the results exceeded their wildest dream in a positive way: respect, prestige, success, and wealth. Others found a trail of unfulfilled dreams, broken promises, and despair.

There is a second effect of the discovery of black athletic talent. Whether we like it or not sports figures hold a special attraction for young people. Ask a young person what they want to be when they grow up and most will name a sport they want to play and a player they want to be like. Black parents on the other hand are skeptical about their children's professional athletic aspirations. Reasons for this lie in the slim

chance one has of breaking into the profession, while another is the short period of time that one actually remains employed. In 1978, it was estimated that 1500 Blacks made a living (in some form) in professional sports.

Perhaps, young people should set their sights on vocations less glamorous but more realistic. But before discarding these athletes, let's take a moment to look closely at the characteristics of these heroes. There is a great deal more to them than meets the eye. One thing that athletes can help teach children about is practice. Few of them reach their station in life without practice. That practice is accompanied by untold hours of boring, repetitive hard work. They can also help teach children about commitment.

The fact that one has focus and promise can only help them later in making tough life decisions. Finally there is devotion. For a child to understand that one realizes goals by sticking to the chosen course is an important lesson.

The rise of the black athlete as a model has created both positive and negative problems. For parents, however, this is a golden chance to enter into a mutual pact with their children. As parents we can feel proud of the accomplishments of black athletes. Parents may even find themselves communicating that pride to their children. But it is the development of the characteristics just mentioned that should be highlighted. While athletics and athletes are exciting, enjoyable, and yes, even, necessary, the lessons they teach are invaluable.

(V.S. continued)
Staff: Is there anything else you would like to add before I thank you for spending time with me talking about hidden strengths?
V-S: Well, I'd like to just emphasize networks and connecting links as a potential building blocks in the black community. Oh, that re-

minds me. The Northeast Urbana Multi-service Center is another strength in the black community, addressing basic human needs. Now that organization could really benefit by involvement of other groups like churches. I could go on and on with these ideas, but I probably should stop.

Roger McClindon: An Athlete With A Positive Attitude

By Lisa McFadden

A newsletter focus on the strengths of the Champaign-Urbana black community would be incomplete if something was not written about Roger McClindon. Roger a resident of the Champaign-Urbana community has distinguished himself through his outstanding athletic achievements. This year approximately 250 schools attempted to recruit Roger into their basketball programs, including Vanderbilt University, University of Cincinnati, University of Louisville, Georgia



Tech. and last but not least, the University of Illinois.

However achieving in basketball is only one of Roger's goals. In a recent interview Roger stated that he is also planning to pursue a career in electrical engineering. He spoke proudly about the academic preparation he had made in high school for a science oriented college curriculum: "I took algebra, calculus, physics and all the courses I would need to be prepared, and I feel ready."

As if being involved with athletics and achieving in school were not enough, Roger mentioned that he was also involved in numerous extracurricu-

community service program called Interact, and the Principal's Scholars Program. Where does Roger get the energy? His philosophy to not dwell on his accomplishments but rather, to keep setting higher and different goals may be his energy source. He stated: "I just keep telling myself I have not done much, I have to keep achieving".

Roger's enthusiastic ambition, especially in the sports is curbed by a healthy dose of realism. He stated: "Getting to the pros is a dream. I know that the odds of getting there are small and I also appreciate the complexities of pro-basketball. Therefore I will not gamble with my education. I enjoy basketball and I will maximize the opportunities available to me through basketball."

Basketball has indeed afforded him many opportunities. He spoke enthusiastically about the people he has met through basketball, notably Andrew Young. "I asked Andrew Young what influence did Martin Luther King have on him and his view of Jessie Jackson running for president? He never did answer me about Jackson, but he did tell me about the positive aspects of Atlanta, particularly in the black community. I think I would like to live there one day."

Throughout the interview, Roger noted his parents as positive influences. He stated: "I am very involved in the Afro-American club at school, a club that did not dictate my decisions about college but he guided me well." This guidance is evident in Roger's level-headed approach to selecting a college. In response to the question: "Will others, e.g. coaches, expectations of you to achieve in sports limit your pursuing other interests?" Roger, "My dad and I made up a

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Quinn Richardson: His Education Yields A Philosophy On Life

By Lizette Smith

As he completes his education at the University of Illinois, Quinn Richardson, well-known football player for the Fighting Illini, takes with him a philosophy of attaining achievement and success in life. This outlook evolved from applying principles he had learned in sports to coping with academic failure.

Although he came to the University of Illinois on a 5 year

(McClindon cont.)

list of 25 questions to ask of school recruiters. One question was: Will the coach allow team members to grow facial hair, like a mustache? For us the answer to this question indicated how much freedom of choice the player would have and how much the coach draws the line between coaching and determining the direction of the athlete's life."

In the end Roger chose the University of Cincinnati because he felt there he could pursue both his academic and his athletic interests. This decision indeed seems to reflect a balance that is characteristic of Roger. He noted: "I was pleased to have been contacted by some Ivy League schools on the basis of my grades, but I turned them down because basketball is also an important part of my life and basketball is not emphasized in these schools. I also turned down the University of Illinois because they emphasized the basketball and I am interested in pursuing career interests. The University of Cincinnati will let me do both."

This summer Roger is off to the University of Cincinnati to work in a computer lab and will begin school and playing basketball next fall. He stated: "I want to get involved in as much as possible."

Good luck to you Roger in achieving all your goals.

basketball scholarship, Richardson was ineligible to play basketball during the second semester of his freshman year because of poor grades. According to Richardson this academic probation resulted, not from his inability to do the work or a lack of hard work on his part, but because of underdeveloped study habits.

Emotionally crushed by this turn of events, Richardson thought about quitting school. Fortunately his successful experiences in sports related experiences included hard work, organization and positive thinking.

Utilizing these experiences a now self-confident Richardson set about the task of reordering his academic life. He did this first by taking responsibility for directing his own course of study. He took the initiative to gather information from several sources to organize a curriculum suited for his interests and needs. Second, he realized that the most productive study method for him was being very

structured by making a list of priorities. Third, his positive thinking lended a favorable emotional boost to his growing self-confidence; for example, he told himself that the majority of students here do well and that he was definitely a part of that majority. He now has a B average as he leave the University of Illinois, a personal success that defied the odds!

Being positive is a theme prevalent in Richardson's general philosophy of life. Rather than brooding over a negative situation, he suggests doing something to alter it. In light of his recent experiences he advises young blacks to develop good habits while they are still young, even if it is in doing mundane tasks such as taking out the garbage. He also emphasizes that these mundane tasks should be done with a positive attitude. Richardson feels that if good habits are developed early, along with good attitude toward doing tasks there is

sure to be carryover to school work.

Speaking of young blacks, Richardson views them as a major force in his wanting to succeed. He feels that being a role model has done alot of for him. There is a special tie between himself and the younger guys in his own small, all-black community of Robins, Illinois, a suburb of Chicago. Whenever he goes home, he speaks to the youngsters at the community centers. He feels that they really listen to him. He shows them that he, just like any other kid fro Robins can overcome both academic and athletic obstacles in a very big way and that they can do the same in their own endeavors.

In closing, Richardson's words inspire the young and the old.

"If I can come back from that (the academic setback), I can come back from anything. If it's meant for me, no man can stop me. I'm lucky for my health, education and just setting to play ball for awhile."

WANT TO SEE ANOTHER ISSUE OF THE

?' VANGUARD ? WE NEED YOUR HELP !!

If you are interested in volunteering your talents toward keeping the Vanguard alive, we welcome your help. Perhaps you are a good storyteller, writer, historian, photographer, typist or organizer. Whatever your talents (and everyone has some) we're sure that you can contribute to this paper in some way. We also encourage and welcome suggestions and letters. Please send in your name, along with your address and telephone number to: Jeff Humphrey

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We look forward to hearing from you ! !

Meaning of Unity

The following was written by an Urbana High School Senior. Hopefully, articles by school aged persons will be printed in each issue of the newsletter.

One thing minorities, mainly Blacks, must remember is that their vote counts. The government gives minorities a weapon to use, and they don't know how to manipulate it the way they should. Many don't even vote, and then complain when their candidate doesn't win the election. They spend four years talking about the candidate that did win the election, when they could have made the difference.

The one thing I'm saying is: use this voting tool to build a foundation to stand on. After all, man didn't make New York in one day. The only way minorities can fight back is to stop fighting each other as well as the system and work within the system by voting.

Minorities in the big cities are stealing from one another. The poor can't get rich stealing from the poor. The way the lower class people will get a little more money is by uniting with each other and doing something about it. Use the tool you already have to build more tools to help you.

If the minorities want to go any place or achieve anything, then, they must unite and stop opposing one another.

submitted by an
Urbana High School Senior:
Theotric Hunt

Mission Possible Outreach

Mission Possible Outreach is a non-profit organization designed to help people help themselves. We try to deal with people's physical, mental, and spiritual needs. If you or someone you know needs food, clothing or spiritual guidance we are here to help. We are also accepting old clothing or household appliances. So please help. You will be hearing us on WEEF every third Sunday at 7:00 a.m. We can be reached at: Mission Possible Outreach, P.O. Box 65, Champaign, Illinois 61820; 328-5159.

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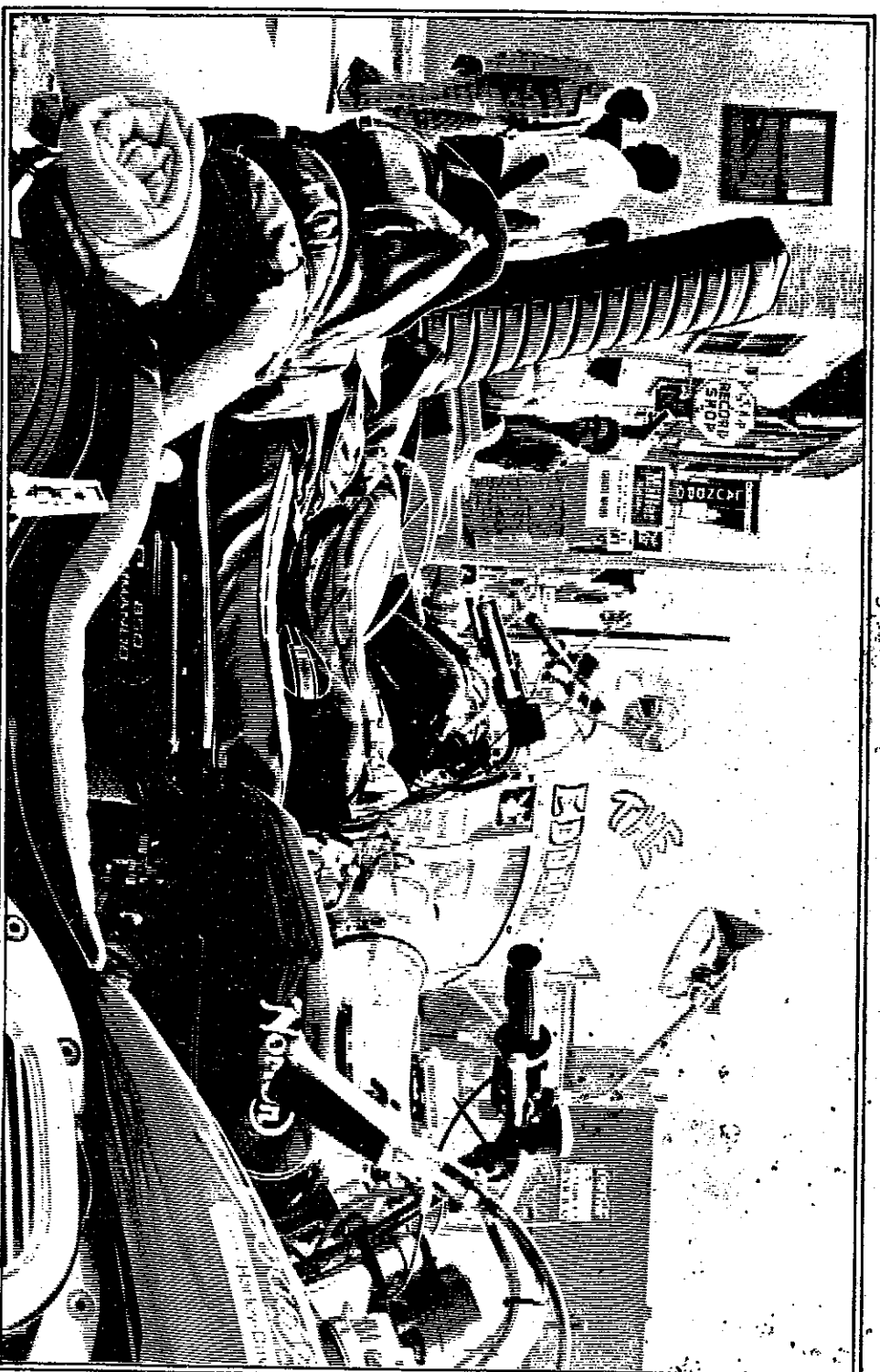


Photo by Danny Taborn