

University raises near-record amount

CHARLOTTE (AP) — Johnson C. Smith University's six-year fund campaign has raised \$63.8 million — one of the highest amounts of money ever raised by a historically black college.

Campus leaders announced Thursday that the six-year campaign raised 127 percent of its \$50 million target.

Of the nation's 117 historically black colleges, only one other Atlanta's Spelman College — has completed a campaign with more money, Johnson C. Smith President Dorothy Yancy said.

"I never dreamed we would raise this much money," she said. "I was just praying to get to \$50 million."

Only a handful of United Negro College Fund member schools have attempted goals of \$50 million or more, said Virgil Ecton, executive vice president and chief operating officer of the fund.

And only Spelman has completed a campaign with a larger total. With the help of a \$20 million gift from Bill and Camille Cosby, Spelman ended a campaign in 1996 with \$114 million.

This is the first time a Johnson C. Smith campaign has received such strong support from Charlotte's corporate community, and that was key to the college's success, Yancy said.

First Union chairman and chief executive Ed Crutchfield chaired the campaign, and his executive committee included corporate leaders such as Bank of America chairman and CEO Hugh McColl, retired *Charlotte Observer* publisher Rolfe Neill, and John Stedman, chairman emeritus of Republic Bank and Trust.

"It makes a difference when you're supported by people who have power, to be honest with you," Yancy said.

UA's freshman numbers lag

FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. (AP) — A month ago, the University of Arkansas bragged about a 23 percent increase in the number of black freshmen. As it turns out, that number declined almost 10 percent.

Dan Bennett, interim vice chancellor for academic affairs, called the error embarrassing. "We regret that the wrong numbers were used to create this error," he told the *Northwest Arkansas Times*.

The school's Sept. 9 release contained eight paragraphs about various enrollment figures. The final paragraph said the number of new black freshmen had increased from 125 last year to 154 this year.

The Northwest Arkansas Times filed a Freedom of Information Act request last week for the current enrollment figures and specifically asked the UA to provide data from the fall of 1997 on freshmen black enrollment. The newspaper said the school's

reply showed that the number had declined from 169 last year to 153 this year.

Last week, Chancellor John A. White distributed a state budget request which contained the Sept. 9 statistics on the number of black freshmen on the Fayetteville campus.

Bennett said other information issued Sept. 9 was correct — including an overall increase in the number of new freshmen and a 300 percent increase in the number of black students scoring 28 or more on the ACT.

The school also had boasted about a 30 percent increase in minority freshman enrollments of blacks, American Indians, Asian/Pacific Islanders and Hispanics. The number rose 3 percent, the newspaper said.

The number of new freshmen is up 14 percent. Bennett said there are 14,707 students on campus. There are 3,867 freshmen, students with less than 29 hours class credits, on campus compared to 3,528 last fall.

Asthma

(Continued from Page 17)
Salon magazine article.

Or, in the words of Eleanor Thornton, an asthma counselor in that same program, "You can't afford to let that \$7.50 an hour go if the kid ain't coughing ... the reality of life is crisis management."

In addition, some health maintenance organizations do not approve on-going asthma medications and follow-up doctor's visits.

One Los Angeles pediatrician, for instance, recounted his own experiences of not having follow-up visits or appropriate medication approved, saying that every

day he receives five messages from HMO reviewers questioning his treatments.

But that neglect of medications for asthmatic children means they often end up in hospital emergency rooms with full-scaled asthma attacks.

Without guidance, many mothers, for instance do not know to vacuum and dust more often or to avoid cigarette smoking, two powerful triggers for asthma.

The Zap Asthma program in Atlanta aims to provide just that kind of guidance to mothers. This project, a community-based model using community health workers, is supported by a

coalition of 16 public, private, academic and community organizations in Atlanta.

Its focus on the Atlanta Empowerment Zone is studying whether changing known asthma triggers in the home will decrease asthma attacks.

Annually some 2,000 emergency room visits and 300 hospitalizations are reported at one hospital in the Atlanta Empowerment Zone.

In addition to the Zap Atlanta project's community health workers, the project also provides asthma educational materials, conducts programs to help parents stop smoking and works with managed care

organizations to help them understand the on-going medical needs of children with asthma. Asthma is a leading cause of absence from school by children. Yet many innercity schools are unaware that as many as 10 percent of their children are suffering from asthma.

Many school districts have rules which prohibit children from bringing drugs, including medication, to school, so it is even more

important that they be aware which children have asthma.

The costs of asthma are high. In addition to the time missed in school, researchers estimate that the annual medical cost of asthma in children tops \$1 billion. And there is the time parents must miss from work when their children are ill which must also be added into the cost of asthma to our community and our nation.

Eleanor Thornton, who

works in the Howard University program in Washington, sees asthma as one of the quiet, dangerous killers in the African-American community.

Its most vulnerable victims are the children, who suffer not only medically from this dangerous disease.

"You wonder why their attention spans are so short," she said, explaining, "It's because they're sitting there not breathing."

Questions

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Q: Our kids always seem to be in a hurry in the morning, often rushing off to school with little more than a toaster pastry. What should I do?

A: Eating a toaster pastry for breakfast is fine on occasion, but these high-fat, high-calorie goodies generally offer little nutritional value except energy. Breakfast for active children should provide one-fourth to one-third of their daily nutrient and energy needs. Providing a source of calcium at breakfast is of particular importance since most children do not get enough of this bone-building mineral in their diet. Send a carton of skim milk or a box of calcium-fortified orange juice along with that toaster pastry and you can do much to improve the nutritional quality of your children's breakfast-on-the-run.

Other take-along breakfast ideas include: cheese on toast and a juice box, peanut butter on a tortilla and a carton of skim milk, fat-free yogurt topped with granola or fruit, a breakfast bar and a box of calcium-fortified orange juice, and even a slice of left-over cheese pizza and easy-to-eat fresh orange slices.

It's a good idea to get organized the night before to avoid the morning rush hour. Time usually spent looking for the right clothes, lost shoes or homework can be spent on eating a good breakfast.

Studies show that kids who eat a nutrition-packed breakfast do better in school, are more attentive, feel better, and are more likely

to engage in physical activities.

Q: The current junior high craze is coffee shops. Although my girls drink only decaffeinated coffees, I'm concerned that even these have caffeine. Should I be?

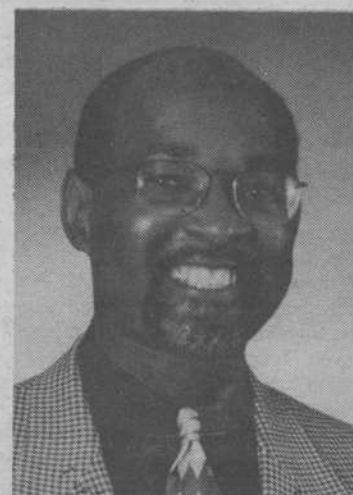
A: Relax. There is little scientific "grounds" for concern over decaffeinated coffee. A 7-ounce cup has about three milligrams of caffeine, or about one-tenth the caffeine found in many chocolate candy bars and cola drinks. The same 7-ounce cup of regular coffee has about 115 to 175 milligrams, depending on brew strength. Other caffeine-containing foods include some teas and citrus-based carbonated beverages.

Moderate caffeine consumption has not been shown to be harmful to adults or children. While individual sensitivity varies, children appear to be no more susceptible to the effects of caffeine than adults. Studies have shown that moderate amounts of caffeine do not cause hyperactivity, or increase the risk of cancer, osteoporosis, or cardiovascular disease.

One real concern is that more nutritious beverages may be ignored by teens who routinely reach for sodas and coffees. For this reason, it's a good idea for teens and adults to limit beverages with little nutritional value to two per day. Moderation is the key. Teens can certainly enjoy occasional caffeine-containing beverages, but should rely on skim milk, 100 percent fruit juice, and water for most of their beverage needs.

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