

Sterilization patients in N.C. victimized again

By Cash Michaels
Special to Sentinel-Voice
WILMINGTON, N.C. (NNPA) - There is confusion about exactly how victims of the state sterilization program can get their medical records.

And from whom?

After the story broke in 2002 about how the state of North Carolina, from 1929 to 1974, involuntarily sterilized the majority of the 7,600 victims of its eugenics program,

notarized requests from some of those people were sent to the State Archives in the Dept. of Cultural Resources for their medical records documenting the operations and the reasons for them.

Only those persons can legally obtain their records.

Many of the sterilizations were performed in state hospitals, which may or may not still retain a copy of those records today.

When the General Assem-

bly created the five-member Eugenics Board in 1933 to review and approve sterilization cases that were "in the best interest of the individual's mental, moral, or physical health" and "the public good," a copy of the eugenics candidates' medical records was attached to the recommendation from a social worker or other authority to operate.

The recommendation was usually a social history that

determined whether the person would be fit later in life to have children.

The program was designed to sterilize poor females, and some males, mainly Black and White, who were determined to be "feeble-minded, mentally retarded, insane or epileptic." But many, in fact, were not. Those who were deemed promiscuous or "problem children" were also sterilized.

According to The *Winston-Salem Journal*, which revealed much of the startling information in its 2002 five-part series "Against Their Wills," social workers and other authorities wrote disparaging assessments of the victims, and their communities, in their medical records.

In the file of Ernestine Moore, for instance, who was sterilized in 1965 in Pitt County at the age of 14, a

social worker wrote that the people who lived near her were "of low incomes and low morals." Moore was classified as feeble-minded, even though she wasn't.

In fact, the social worker wrote, "Ernestine has no appearance of retardation."

Upon reading what was written in her file, Ms. Moore, 54, told The *Journal* that North Carolina should "pay for the pain" and suff- (See *Sterilization*, Page 7)

College

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Students concentrate on how they interact with adults attending the college, dealing with college professors and understanding the difference in appropriate behavior from high school to performance on a college campus.

Students attending any area high school generate a yearly value paid from state funds, and it amounts to about \$5,000 per student based on the average daily attendance formula which is then allocated to the school. For NSHS uses that funding to help pay for college tuition, textbooks, staff, classes, labs, insurance and other operating costs.

Eden McAllister, a 16-year-old student entering her senior year, attending her second year at NSHS, shared her perspective on being apart of this educational learning environment. She said, "When I first started attending Nevada State High School, it was a bit intimidating because I was an incoming junior going to college. I was 15-years-old going to school with people who were a lot older than me, and it was scary. But I worked hard and learned a lot about the college environment and the principles of becoming a successful student, being motivated, disciplined, and hard work."

McAllister commented on the reason she decided to enroll at NSHS. She stated, "My first motivating factor was free college, of course. At the close of my sophomore year at Las Vegas Academy



Sentinel-Voice photo by Lés Pierres Streater

Dr. Wendy Hawk, right, principal of Nevada State High School, which she co-founded with husband, John, stands with Candy Best and her daughter, Edén McAllister, a 16-year-old student entering her senior year. This is McAllister's second year enrolled at the campus.

of Performing Arts and Dance, I needed three or four credits to graduate from high school, and I didn't see the need to waste two more years on 4 classes. So, at first, I heard about the community college high school program, and then I heard about this program [NSHS]. I brought them to my mom, who first resisted, and after researching both programs decided she liked this one better because it offered me more of an opportunity to succeed, stepping out of the box, and advancing my career options."

McAllister sees herself as one who is pioneering a new paths for future students to follow and feels she can be a part of helping this program grow and develop. She will be pursuing a double major in business administration and digital media focused on the film industry.

Candy Best, McAllister's mother, shared her thoughts on her daughter's vision and the NSHS program: "Well, I was resistant to Eden [thinking that she would be] possibly stopping her progress and not completing her high school ca-

reer at Las Vegas Academy of Performing Arts and Dance. I had my mind set that way, and I wasn't willing to listen to anything else. When she finally said that she wouldn't ask me about the program anymore, I felt so badly about it that I did take the time to research the matter."

Best continued, "I went to the community college campus and enrolled her for the fall program, and then someone told me of the program offered through the Nevada State High School. I contacted Dr. Hawk, and when I went to the campus realized that I knew her when she was the Dean of Students at Eden's former school. When I took the information back to share with Eden, she told me that this was the school she was trying to get me to enroll her in," Best recalled.

"Now, I am glad that she decided to get involved at this school, and

she has blossomed there. She has grown tremendously in an area of thought that she wasn't exposed to in high school. They taught her to become a critical thinker instead of just repeating facts as taught in high school."

The school would like to diversify its student population and have more minority students enrolled in the program. Parents of junior and senior students are encouraged to contact the program and get more information about NSHS. The school can be reached at 992-2017, or you can contact them at www.earlycollegenv.com to download an application. School begins on September 6 and there are limited slots still available now on a first come, first serve basis, so administrators advise interested students and parents to not wait until the last minute.

G-Unit rappers Banks, Young Buck arrested on gun charges


NEW YORK (AP) - G-Unit rappers Lloyd Banks and Young Buck were arrested on felony gun possession charges after a concert at Madison Square Garden, police said.

Banks, whose real name is Chris Lloyd, and Young Buck, whose real name is David Brown, were riding in a van with 10 other men that allegedly ran a red light at about 11:30 p.m. Monday near the corner of West 41st Street and


Eighth Avenue, authorities said.

Police said one of the 12 men was carrying a loaded handgun and another weapon was found on the floor of the van. All the occupants were charged with gun possession.

Lloyd, 23, and Brown, 24, had just performed at nearby Madison Square Garden on the "Anger Management 3" tour, which stars Eminem and 50 Cent, another member of G-Unit.



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