

Washington Adventures

College reps begin annual tour

Students from RCHS attend Gear-Up conference

By BILL BURDETT

Three Rockcastle County High School students represented Kentucky at the National Gear-Up Conference in Washington, D.C. this summer. Only 30 high school students were selected nationwide to participate.

"My favorite part was meeting people my age from different backgrounds," says representative Jenna Cummins, a junior.

At the conference the representatives, along with other Gear-Up enthusiasts from across the country, participated in various leadership training activities. One such activity was to construct a shelter using only newspaper. It had to be large enough for one person to fit in and the smallest, best-constructed shelter won.

The activity was designed to improve communication and leadership skills, explained Cummins, who was on the team with the winning shelter.

For Cummins one notable aspect of the conference was the development of a book, which was created by all 30 members at the summit.

Conference members had a "direct effect on the future of education."

"Everyone in the summit contributed to the book. We broke into groups based on educational topics such as money, teachers, etc.," said junior Harold Burdette. "We gave ideas on how Gear-Up can contribute to fixing such problems."

Copies of the book were presented to Congress.

When asked what about the summit will stick with her the most, Cummins responded, "That we had a direct effect on the future of education."

On the last day of the summit Kentucky's three representatives put on a skit in front of two

congressmen and 1,800 representatives from Gear-Up committees across the U.S. and a few other countries.

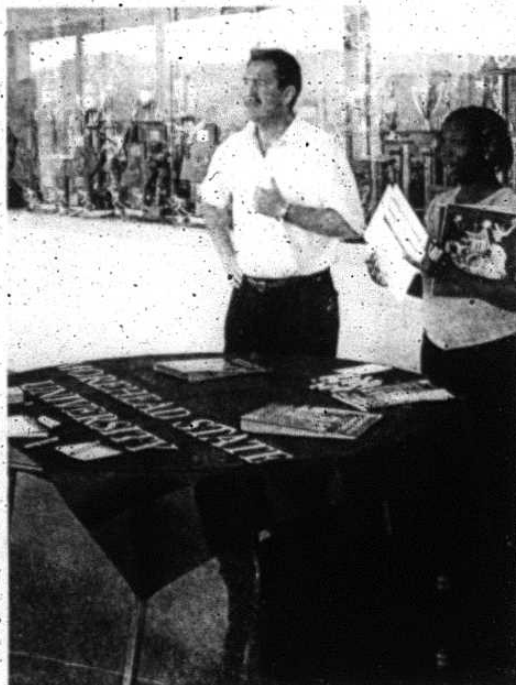
"We sat up late that night planning it out and finally we got the idea to do a construction theme. The entire play was set on construction site and had similarities to real-life school issues," said junior Cody Moore.

Moore feels that overall the trip was a great success, and "we should begin to see results in the next few years."

Burdette agrees.

"The trip to D.C. was a trip I'll never forget. I made relationships with people that won't be lost and I appreciate the opportunity of getting to go."

Gear-Up is a nationwide organization that provides regular fully paid trips and activities for middle school and high school students. Gear-Up also assists students in obtaining college scholarships and educating them about multiple college opportunities and programs.



Guidance counselor Dale Whitaker speaks with a representative from Morehead State University.

As Senior year begins

Don't be the one left behind

By AUDREY BURKE

It's that time, seniors. Time to start looking to the future or, more specifically, to college in order to get a jump on the game.

Guidance Counselor Dale Whitaker named off a few basic things that college-bound seniors need to do now to prepare for their next step of education.

1. Research: Whitaker suggests "researching the colleges and technical colleges that the students themselves are interested in." Mainly they need to find majors and areas of study they are interested in.

"There have been students in the past that have gone to a school that didn't offer the major or area of study they wanted," said Whitaker.

2. Apply: The next thing to do, according to Whitaker, is to get application forms from schools you

are interested in, start filling them out, and go ahead and send them in. He says a common mistake is students waiting until they can take the ACT.

"Most schools have an admissions deadline date. More and more colleges are being selective, so the sooner you can get your name in front, the sooner they decide on you. Even if students apply by deadline the schools will already have admitted students, and they won't be able to take on many more," he added.

3. Take ACT: The next thing to do is fill out the ACT registration form and prepare to take the test. The test costs \$26, or \$42 if one applies late and has to pay the late fee. The deadline for the October test is September 19.

Even if students don't plan on

going to college, Whitaker still encourages them to take the ACT because plans change, and even jobs require people going back later on to further education.

"It's better to take it in high school, to take it while this education is fresh on the mind."

4. Apply for Scholarships: Obtain scholarship applications and be aware of the deadlines. There are approximately 21 local scholarships, but the actual number varies from year to year due to money. Some of the scholarships include National Wild Turkey Federation, Dix River Board of Realtors, National Honor Society, and others. To find out about these and other scholarships students can see Mr. Whitaker for information and applications.

5. Visit Possible Colleges: Stu-

dents need to take advantage of visiting colleges. Universities have open days for seniors to come and tour the campus.

"Going to a college without having seen the campus first, big mistake," Whitaker comments. "The purpose of visiting is to find out the atmosphere of the campus. Some of the things to look at are the size, the friendliness, and safety."

"If you don't get by those things, then it makes it hard to perform well

in class," Whitaker also says.

Whitaker also said that he will be visiting senior English classrooms to give seniors a time line to go by as they prepare for college. He will also be arranging trips soon to several local colleges.

Finally, Whitaker advises students: "Don't let tuition be a factor in selecting the school, because you still have time to get money."

These sites will provide information on applying to college and give basic tips on getting ahead of the game. They also include links where one can enter all the characteristics they are looking for in a college, and the site will provide schools that match the criteria.

petersons.com
review.com
collegenet.com

The site listed below provides information on scholarships and financial aid. It also has a matching database for scholarships.

findaid.org

ACT Deadlines
and
Dates

September 19
November 7
January 2
February 27
May 7

October 25
December 13
February 7
April 3
June 12