

# YOUTH FEATURE



(From left) Jamie Brooks, Tara McGriff, Raina Moore and Brian Harris all went on an Easter-break tour of historically black colleges. Brooks, McGriff and Moore are all parishioners at Immaculate Conception Church in Rochester; Harris is a parishioner at St. Theodore's Church in Gates.

S. John Wilkin/Staff photographer

## College tour clicks for teenagers

### Black youths travel South

By Mike Latona  
Staff writer

While fellow high-schoolers were putting educational matters on the back burner, a contingent of Rochester-area youths used Easter break to explore their scholastic future.

"They (other students) were probably in Myrtle Beach, but I had a better time," stated Tara McGriff, 17.

McGriff, a junior at Webster High School and parishioner at Immaculate Conception Church in Rochester, was one of 44 Rochester-area youths to participate in the 1994 Black Colleges Week tour.

The annual event is coordinated by Jacqueline Dobson, director of diocesan Office of Black Ministries. This year's group departed from Rochester on Monday, April 4, and returned home April 10.

During their trip, the students visit-

ed predominantly black colleges located in eastern and southeastern parts of the country such as Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia.

According to McGriff, the excursion was valuable because she obtained information that she may not have received otherwise.

"A lot of teens don't get to see colleges out of state at all. Jacquie Dobson's tour is one of the rare opportunities anywhere to go tour black colleges," she said.

"Some black colleges don't get a lot of publicity, so you've got to go south to find out about them," agreed Brian Harris, 17. Harris is a junior at Aquinas Institute and parishioner at St. Theodore Church in Gates.

Harris added that he was particularly impressed with Hampton College in Virginia, South Carolina State University and North Carolina A&T University.

In addition to learning about these colleges' educational programs, the Rochester youths also acquired a feel for campus life.

"Mainly, white colleges are a lot bigger. This is more like a family at-

mosphere," noted Harris.

The early-April trip brought about a real-life family atmosphere for McGriff, who was able to pay a visit to her sister, Allison, currently attending Spelman College in Georgia. Allison McGriff had decided to attend Spelman after participating in a previous Black Colleges Tour.

Additional family ties were built between the tourists themselves, said Harris.

"You get to meet a lot of people, and also see people you knew when you were little," he acknowledged.

"Now some of these people are like my best friends," McGriff remarked.

### Performers sought for youth event on May 6

ROCHESTER — Teenage performers are being sought for a Performing Arts Gala to be held Friday, May 6, at 7:30 p.m. at the Edgerton Community Center, 41 Backus St.

Individuals or groups, ages 13-18, are invited to give a presentation of up to 15 minutes in music, dance, drama or other performing arts. This event is being hosted by Edgerton's Flower City Players.

The registration deadline is April 22. Participants must have a sponsoring organization or adult call 716/428-6769 after 3 p.m.

### McQuaid debate squad captures second place

BRIGHTON — The speech and debate team at McQuaid Jesuit High School placed second in the Genesee Valley Forensic League Team Sweepstakes, held last month at Bishop Kearney High School.

All team members qualified for the

state tournament in Albany. McQuaid's team includes Christian Zwahlen, Jerome Broderick, Ian Schillinger, Michael Peck, Brian Carpenter, Michael Doerrer, Patrick Snajder, Kevin Bell, Damien DeLaney, John Gilbert, John Morrison, Michael Pittinano and Steven Shaw.

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