Teenager moves from rags to riches

By Sarah Beth Ward
Contributing Writer

The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air, starring Will Smith, was a television series in the 1990s about a young inner-city boy who was sent to live with his wealthy relatives in Bel-Air.

William Arthur Wade III, 22, born in Radford, Va., says he relates to the classic series because it tells his own story of an inner-city boy who finds himself living like a king over night.

“I’m like Will Smith. In 24 hours I went from one food stamp a day to having my own chef,” Wade said.

Family

Both of Wade’s parents have been in and out of jail his entire life. His mother was a prostitute and his father was a drug dealer. He was raised by his aunt and uncle in Charlotte, N.C., Dell Curry, former NBA player, and his wife, Sonya Curry, are Wade’s adoptive parents.

Wade recalls a day as a 16-year-old boy heading out with his friends to “do something crazy.”

According to Wade, they set out to commit a serious crime. He remembers a black SUV pulling up behind them. “They were blowing their horn and flashing their lights. I thought it was the police,” Wade said.

Finally Wade realized it was his uncle.

“He got out of his vehicle and walked to the car and asked me if I still wanted to come live with him,” said Wade.

Wade’s life changed for the better that day. He left his friends and went home to pack his things. “I could have ended up in jail for life. Uncle Dell came just in time,” he said.

Wade says he relates to the classic show when he talks about his journey and how his life went from one extreme to another in one day.

“He got out of his vehicle and walked to the car,” Wade said. “We would share everything. I still talk to him a lot. He helps me out if I need anything but I will only ask him for financial help if I really need it. I try not to bother him with that,” Wade said.

His other cousin, Seth Curry, plays for the Duke basketball team.

During his high school years Wade was asked to tell his story on Chapel Day at Charlotte Christian School.

“I stood up there and talked about my life in front of like 800 people. They told me I was the first one to ever get a standing ovation in that auditorium,” Wade said.

Wade’s eyes light up when he talks about his journey and how his life went from one extreme to another in one day.

“My grandparents are my heart but when I left that day in Uncle Dell’s black suburban, I knew I was going to be somebody,” he said.

Currently Wade is a mass communication student at UNCP. He arrived as a fresh man with a football scholarship and played for two years.

He is the Assistant around the Town Editor for The Pine Needle.

Although he is unsure of where he will end up in 10 years, Wade knows he will be a successful, contributing member of society.

Wade radiates as a 16-year-old boy heading out with his friends to “do something crazy.”

Tutors in the Writing Center help others

By Kimberlee Stepp
Contributing Writer

The UNCP Writing Center, located in the Dial building, provides students with a one-on-one tutoring session to help with papers, resumes and power point presentations. What students may not know is the background about their tutor.

Lonnie Ray Cox, at 19 years old, is the youngest tutor in the Writing Center. He is a social studies education major with a minor in special education.

Cox is from Orrum, N.C., a small town in Robeson County with a population of around 100 people. Cox came from a poor family and lived in a town that did not offer much promise.

“It is very difficult to make it out of that town and having the opportunity to come here is a huge accomplishment for me,” Cox said.

After college, Cox plans on teaching high school history.

“I like working with teenagers and using my personal experience and what I’ve worked hard and researched in college to use to help others,” he said.

Although some might think that growing up poor may have given Cox a slight disadvantage in life, he disagrees.

Cox said he believes it is because of his hard upbringing that he is better able to help people.

“I believe in giving back to society by helping others and using my talents and knowledge by being a tutor,” he said.

Cox went on to say that he believes that because of his experiences he is constantly evaluating himself and what he can do to better himself.

Benefits

Cox said the Writing Center offers many benefits for students at UNCP.

“I believe that most people get out of college by being good writers, rather than good testers,” he said.

“The Writing Center gives both students and tutors learning experiences and the opportunity to better themselves as writers,” he said.

The Writing Center has several tutors like Cox, who are eager to help students.

The tutors in the Writing Center are very diverse in that none has the same major, which gives students more options when it comes to selecting a tutor.

The tutors majors range from psychology to chemistry and beyond.

The Writing Center is open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Mondays and Thursdays and from 1 to 4 p.m. on Fridays.

If students need help they can either call 910-521-6546 or make an appointment online via the University Writing Center link on the UNCP website.