

Student strives to make county a lovable community

12/19/96

By **Pauline Patrick**
Editor

Phillip Davis of Winnsboro was one of six students chosen to attend the Lovable Communities Conference held recently in Charleston.

The students had the unique experience of attending as "reporters" covering the conference sponsored by the S.C. Downtown Development Association. The six were expected to attend all sessions, tours and other events of the three-day meeting.

The students' and their chaperones' expenses were paid by the S.C. Department of Education. All were lodged at the Francis Marion Hotel, where the conference sessions were held.

The students were chosen by application screening from those who participated in the Downtown As A Classroom program. The state Downtown Development Association is one of the sponsors for the program that places eighth graders for a day in downtown businesses and professional offices.

The Lovable Communities Conference was designed to bring together people and organizations concerned with making their communities a better place to live. About 300 people from several states attended the sessions that covered rebuilding, restructuring and improving communities.

Davis and the other students participated in the wrap up session moderated

by Charleston Mayor Joe Riley. Each student discussed the conference and his or her views on community. The session was broadcast by Educational Television to schools in the state.

Each student focused on one aspect of community. Davis chose architecture.

"I've always been interested in architecture," he said. "I use anything I can get my hands on to build models. I like combinations of the traditional and contemporary styles. I think that looks good."

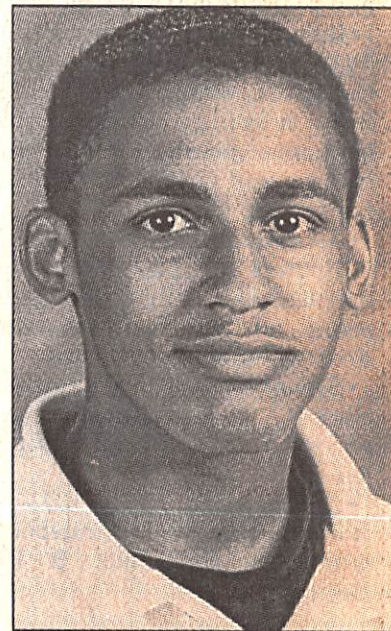
Davis sees community at work in Winnsboro in the rallying of agencies, businesses, the Chamber of Commerce, school district and organizations to meet the needs of citizens.

"Community service is important to all who live in the community, including youth," Davis said. "Our youth are involved in community service projects, leadership and other projects which support the overall mission of Winnsboro."

Since participating in the Downtown As A Classroom program, Davis has seen more of Winnsboro first hand. He was offered a job at Winnsboro Builders as a result of the program, and he has the opportunity to meet the public through his after school work. He was interviewed at work last year for a WIS-TV feature on youth employment.

Davis' work also gives him extra credit in his carpentry

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**Philip
Davis**

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class at the Fairfield County Career Center. He combines pursuing his interest in building with academic courses and plans to go on to college and major in architecture. Clemson University's School of Architecture contacted him following the Lovable Communities Conference and expressed interest in having him as a student after high school.

Davis is an active participant in the school community. In addition to the Downtown As A Classroom

program, he participates in the Partners for Minorities program held each summer at the University of South Carolina, plays football and basketball and is vice president of the Fairfield Central French Club.

Davis, a 10th-grader at Fairfield Central, is the son of Vandell and Maude Davis of Wateree Farms.

His father attended the conference as chaperone: M.W. "Snooks" Chappell, Winnsboro Downtown Development manager, and Hannah P. Phillips also attended the sessions.