

Young & Gifted

Scholar no stranger to success

By AUDREY WILLIAMS
Chronicle Staff Writer

There's no doubt about it. Meteza Royal enjoys being a winner, which is probably the reason she doesn't remember the one and only time in her life she lost at something.

"No, Mommy, I don't remember that," says Meteza after her mother, Ruby Royal, tries to refresh her daughter's memory about the time when she was five and lost in a church baby contest.

The 11-year-old honor student at Hall Woodward Elementary School, who has made only two B's since she began her academic career, was recently selected as a national scholar by the Pop Warner National Scholars Program in Philadelphia. The selection makes her the only student in the Piedmont to be chosen and the only black student out of this year's 15 winners to be selected.

To even be considered, Meteza, who is a Dancin' Boot for the Tiny Indians football team, was required to bring in her academic progress reports to the squad's advisor, Shirley Goodson.

"After I brought my grades in," says Meteza, "she just looked at the like she was sort of startled and she told me that I could probably make the National Scholars Program."

After entering, Meteza was required to answer seven essay questions on varying subjects. In January, Meteza was selected and in the first week in June, she and her

mother will fly to Philadelphia, all expenses paid, for a \$50 a plate dinner in honor of the national scholars.

"I was elated when my husband and I found out she'd won," says Mrs. Royal. "You think, 'Wow, why my kid? But she's always been the type to want to try everything, do everything her way and strive for perfection.'"

Those who know Meteza, especially her friends at school, know that she is a high achiever and goes after whatever she sets her sights on. As president of the student council and president of the sixth-grade chorus, an ever-smiling Meteza has many responsibilities being a leader.

"I preside over the meetings, head committees, make decisions," she says of her student council work. "You know, I do what presidents do."

Besides that, Meteza is a student of the flute, piano and ballet, and her ultimate dream, she says, is to pursue a career in dancing.

"I try to learn as much as I can," says Meteza, "and I like things that interest me. I want to become somebody when I grow up, maybe somebody famous."

Of the seven questions asked of Meteza on the national scholars' questionnaire, she says the easiest was naming her mother, father (Hardy Royal) and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. as the persons she most admires.

The young scholar, who is the Royals' only child and hopes to study at Stanford or Howard University one



Eleven-year-old Meteza Royal can't remember the last time she lost at something. All she does remember is being a winner, which is something she constantly strives for.

day, realizes she is a role model for other young blacks and she offers a formula for success.

"It takes a lot of courage to really get out there and be successful," says Meteza.

"And then sometimes be aggressive," she says changing her voice to affect a growl. "But I really think it depends on the kind of person you are, like believing in yourself."



She's adjusting to the Southern way of life

By AUDREY WILLIAMS
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Figuring that a native or someone who had lived in Winston-Salem a while would know just what residents did for relaxation and entertainment, Sharon Leyhow decided to ask someone for direction.

However, the 32-year-old associate counsel for R.J. Reynolds Ind. who came to Winston-Salem in October still didn't get the answer she was looking for.

"I asked a lady, 'What do people do for social activity in Winston-Salem?,' and she said, 'If you live in Winston-Salem, you go to Greensboro. If you live in Greensboro, you come to Winston-Salem.'"

As it turns out, the Hartford, Conn., native has only ventured to Greensboro once -- for her Christmas shopping.

Having lived in Washington, D.C., for 10 years, where she studied law at Georgetown University and later worked as a tax lawyer for the Internal Revenue Service for nine years, Leyhow says it was time for a change.

At Reynolds, Leyhow's role is to help corporate employees develop and decide what pension and savings plans will best suit their needs after retirement. She also gives the executives legal advice on any tax inquiries they have from her office of the company's World Headquarters Building on Reynolds Boulevard.

"The job offer from Reynolds was very attractive," says Leyhow. "My job here is challenging and it's a different focus from what I had been doing. Now I'm drafting and writing pension plans instead of regulating them."

Leyhow admits to being shy and says she doesn't meet as many people because of her shyness.

"I'm sort of strange because I didn't know anyone when I came here, and I still don't know a lot of people," she says. "I've tried to

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-- Sharon Leyhow

overcome my shyness because it makes it difficult for me to meet people. But I have met some very nice people here in Winston-Salem."

But after living in a large city, the young attorney says she questioned the motives of Southerners who were extremely nice to her.

"The people here in Winston-Salem are definitely friendlier than in Washington or Hartford," she says, "and sometimes that catches me off guard, but I'm getting used to it." For someone who hadn't been any farther

south than the metro area of Washington, D.C., Leyhow has taken stock in the Southern life. She has purchased a new house in Winston and says a lot of her time is spent making it a home.

Born and raised in New England, Leyhow was surrounded by the Ivy League tradition even though she says she and her family lived in inner-city Hartford. After graduating from an all-girl high school, she entered Smith College in Northampton, Mass., one of the few remaining Ivy League women's colleges in the nation.

"I decided to go to those schools because I wanted to get a decent education," says Leyhow. "But I was fortunate to get scholarships to all those schools, too."

Throughout her academic career, Leyhow says she never removed herself from the black community or the less fortunate, and she says she would like to continue in that same mold while in Winston-Salem.

"Oh no," she says, "I never lost touch. In high school, I was a volunteer for the Urban League and I worked with the Red Cross."

"When I was in college, I took the bus into Springfield, Mass., to tutor the inner-city children," she says. "I'd like to do that here in Winston-Salem once I find out where I can be useful."

Already, Leyhow has joined the YWCA because "I have to have my exercise," she says.

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Newcomer

For Sharon Leyhow, Winston-Salem is as far south as she plans to go (photo by James Parker).

Winston's Shirley Caldwell is known as the 'mouth of the South'

By AUDREY WILLIAMS
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A peppered-gray Shirley Caldwell doesn't take well to conversation with strangers. Turn her loose on a CB radio, though, and she becomes the "mouth of the South."

"I don't talk that much in person, but when I get on the radio, that's what they call me," says Caldwell, who sports two handles, or CB names, over the airwaves. She is known as the "Chocolate Lady" and "Mother Nature," a name she was tagged with for her easygoing personality.

Caldwell, 45, a divorcee and mother of three, has been a citizen's band radio fanatic for nine years now. When she's not "ratch-it-jawin'" -- that's CB jargon for talking on the radio -- she's on her job as a deputy sheriff jailer.

Come quitting time at the Forsyth County Jail, the Chocolate Lady goes home to her choice of any three of her CBs. "I'd be lost without my CB," says Caldwell.

Her base station, a DAK radio, which is by far one of the better and more expensive models in the line of CBs, is conveniently located in her bedroom. "I don't have to have any power for this one," Caldwell says, "because it has so much modulation it really gets you out there. I just key up and talk, and I've talked to the Bahamas, Jamaica and the Dominican Republic."

When the weather is nice and sunny, she will back out her 1976 brown Ford van, which, among other plush luxuries found in an all-purpose van, is outfitted with a CB radio. But her favorite mode of travel is her '59 Ford Fairlane, which she affectionately calls "Black Beauty." It, too, of course, is equipped with a CB radio.

"My son was about eleven and a half when I got this," she says petting the dashboard, "and he was so embarrassed he would hide in the seat so his friends wouldn't

see him riding in it.

"This car is sentimental to me because I had one of these back in the 60s," says Caldwell. "I've had a lot of offers to sell this car, but I'm not parting with it. When I saw it, it was love at first sight."

Just to show off her talent for "rat-chit-jawin," Caldwell grabs one of her two D-104, lollipop-shaped microphones at her base station and keys up.

"Mornin' time to ya". This is the Chocolate Lady readin' the mail," quips Caldwell, as she listens over the airwaves waiting for someone to respond. Within a few seconds, a loud voice comes back to extend greetings and immediately an interchange of CB jargon begins.

"This relaxes my mind," she says. "After I get through cooking dinner, I'll get on my radio and start talking."

Other than CBs, Caldwell relishes anything that reminds her of days gone by, particularly the 50s. Of her numerous collectables, which include classic miniature cars mounted on the front and back dash of her '59 Ford, she has a videotaped collection of the old "Amos and Andy" shows.

One of Caldwell's neighbors sparked her interest in CBs, but her concern for others, which also helped earned her the handle "Mother Nature" from fellow club members in the CB Superstars, realize that she takes pride in her hobby. Twice a week she and her CB club members meet at McDonalds "to rat-chit-jaw or see who we can help."

"I try to be a number one CBER and they know that," she says. "I try to be courteous to others and I don't curse on the band. But whenever I can I like to help people."

Earlier this month while talking on her CB, a CBER in Charlotte keyed up and told her about 32-month-old Shakeeka Richardson, a black child in that city who was

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10-4, Good Buddy

Known to Cbers all over the Triad as the "Chocolate Lady" and "Mother Nature," Shirley Caldwell, one of the area's biggest and best-known CB enthusiasts, says "ratch-it-jawin'" across the country is the next best thing to being there.