

## Wallace Seeks Measures To Strengthen M/WBE Program's Weak Areas

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## Charlotte's Black Achievers

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SHAMARLA ELENA JACKSON  
...Petite beauty

## There's Something Special About Shamarla Elena Jackson

By Jalyne Strong Post Staff Writer

This young lady may appear to be like any other cute, six-year-old girl but there's something a little special about Shamarla Elena Jackson. This petite beauty is all set to compete in the "Little Jr. Miss America" pageant. The contest will begin on Saturday, March 9, and will be held at the Radisson Plaza Hotel in Charlotte. It's her first beauty pageant and Shamarla claims "I'm not nervous. I'm excited." She was selected to participate in the pageant after her mother sent her photograph to pageant officials. Shamarla is a first-grader at Pineville Elementary School. "I like to write my ABC's," she points out as her favorite school activity. Her teacher, Ms. Mills, and the teacher's aide, Ms. Phillips, Shamarla says, are special people. When she's not in school she enjoys watching her favorite shows on television. They include "Bugs

Bunny," "Webster," and "Sesame Street." She also enjoys listening to the music of Prince. A four-year student of Miss Donna's School of Dance, Shamarla has received one trophy for dancing and three dance appreciation certificates. These dance lessons, she predicts, will help her reach her ambition. "When I grow up," says Shamarla, "I want to be a ballerina and a 'Solid Gold' Dancer." For now, she likes tap dancing best. Shamarla also insisted that she wants to be a flower girl. Her mother's friend told her she could be the flower girl in her wedding, Shamarla explains. But the wedding hasn't taken place yet. Shamarla remains hopeful though. Maybe she can pretend she's a flower girl during one of her favorite activities called, "Let's Pretend." She participates in this program at the Children's Theater. She has taken drama classes there for two years. Shamarla has also taken one year of piano at the Community School of the Arts.

All these creative instructions will probably give her an advantage during the "Little Jr. Miss America" Pageant. The contest involves a personal interview with the judges, a gown competition and an appearance competition. Shamarla, who has three sponsors: The Chimney Bee, Guerra Signs, Inc., Dr. Richard Shanks, and Mr. John Crockett, is all prepared for the show. "I have a baby blue gown with a sash bow, and I have my T-shirt (to be worn with red shorts), and my white shoes," she lists. When Shamarla goes to compete she'll have to leave behind her Cabbage Patch Doll, whom she's named Christine Hancock. But when she has time, Shamarla says, "I teach her to write her ABCs and I give her plenty of love like my Mommy gives me." Her mother is Mrs. Patricia Jackson.

If Shamarla wins the pageant in Charlotte she will go on to compete in the national program. If she wins there she will undoubtedly receive many prizes. But what she wants most in the world, Shamarla admits, is "A Barbie doll house." She explains that she has five Barbie dolls who are currently homeless. Shamarla and her mother attend South Tryon Presbyterian Church.

## City Inspection Is No Guarantee Home Will Be Problem Free

By Audrey C. Lodato Post Staff Writer

You're in the market for a home, and you've finally found one that you like and can afford. The standard contract you've signed has an inspection clause. You've been into the attic and down in the crawl space, and you'd just as soon not put out any money that you don't absolutely have to. How important is it, really, to get a professional inspection of the major systems in the house, such as heating, plumbing, and electrical? And besides, doesn't the City inspect a house before it's sold?

Although a certificate showing that a house has met the minimum housing codes must be obtained before the sale of any house in Charlotte, Stanley Fisher, inspection supervisor with the City Housing Inspections Department, emphasizes that a City inspector is only looking for code violations. "We check only for minimum housing code standards," he advises. "This does not require extensive research on such systems as heating or plumbing." While the inspection will reveal such problems as a leaking roof, cracked windows, excessive air cracks around doors, leaking pipes, and dripping faucets, and will check for the presence of proper piers under the house and adequate ventilation, it does not cover whether or not the furnace will work, or potential plumbing problems, or the condition of the roof if there isn't obvious leakage.

Urges Fisher, "A buyer should have a more extensive research done on major items." Julius Cousar, of J.C. Cousar Realty and Insurance Co., agrees. "A



J.C. Cousar Local realtor

### First In Series

buyer should have the right to have an inspection written into the contract," he notes, adding that the contract should specify that it is the seller's responsibility to repair or replace any items found defective. "This is a safety rule. Most of the people I sell homes to, I advise to do it," he confirms. According to Cousar, the cost of an independent inspection of major systems ranges from about \$65 to about \$110. Muriel Helms, president of the Charlotte Board of Realtors, also recommends pre-sale inspections. According to Helms, the agent who is working with the buyer usually arranges for the inspections. The buyer pays the inspection fee and the seller usually pays for repairs. Inspection fees vary, depending on whether one firm inspects all the systems or if a separate firm in-

spects each system. Total inspections, she says, range from about \$90 to \$125.

Syd Chipman, a registered Professional Engineer, formed Home Inspection Consultants of Western North Carolina in 1979. Chipman recommends an inspection even before signing the contract. "Unfortunately," he comments, "most clients sign purchase contracts before they call me. Some have lost their earnest money, loan fee, and incurred unnecessary attorney's fees when they were not willing to accept the house with the deficiencies I found."

According to Chipman, many purchase contracts only provide that all equipment and utilities are working at the time of closing the sale, and many inspection companies check only this minimum requirement. The engineer notes that building codes address health and safety issues and a minimum standard of quality. "I think the usual inspection which is limited just to seeing that the equipment and appliances are working is too little and too late," he remarks, adding, "I haven't found much correlation between the appearance or price of houses and their inherent quality."

Chipman's company offers a two-part inspection program, the cost of which is tied to the price range of the home under consideration. Fees vary from \$125 to \$250 and above for houses in the \$200,000 range. The initial inspection is performed, with the buyer present, before an offer to buy is made. The second inspection is near the closing date.

Next week: The Post will take a look at the availability of housing in Charlotte at all income levels.

## Blacks Support President Reagan

Black Republican leaders praised President Reagan for his continued commitment to achieving economic equality in the black community. In his February 5 State of the Union message, President Reagan said despite the strides made in civil rights, blacks would not have full and equal power until they achieved full economic power.

zones and the job training partnership act.

## No One Excels As Leader Of All Blacks!

## Who Are Charlotte's Black Leaders?

By Jalyne Strong Post Staff Writer

As a Black citizen in Charlotte, who has a civic concern effecting yourself or the welfare of your community, who would you go to for help? The choice of a person to aid you would be difficult. The fact is, there are many people in this city who have been designated as "Black Community Leaders" while there is the additional fact that no one excels as the leader of all Blacks. "There are leaders in educational, medical, political, labor and employment, and business fields," notes L.C. Coleman, a longtime Charlotte activist.

"There is not one leader capable of addressing all the concerns of the Black community," informs Eugene Marsh, a Charlotte resident, also actively involved in the community. So who are you going to call? In Charlotte, when asked who are the most effective Black leaders of the community, people are hesitant to answer. "How many do you want?" they ask. And when they begin to name a few, they continue to add to the list.

L.C. Coleman has one requirement that sets the most effective black leaders above the rest. "If a person holds an office, you must look



Mel Watts New state Senator

at what he or she has done before being elected." Coleman suggests that a person who hasn't been community involved before holding office will not likely make an effective leader.

Coleman names Mayor Harvey Gantt, Councilman Ron Leeper and Rev. George Battle as the top "Black Leaders" that come to mind. But he doesn't neglect to include Sarah Stevenson, Phyllis Lynch and the late Dr. C.W. Williams as



James Polk Works effectively

significant leaders in their respective fields.

Marsh picked James K. Polk, of the Black Political Caucus, Rev. George Battle, for his work with the School Board and Mel Watts, recently elected to the State Senate. Marsh also included Bob Davis and Bob Walton.

Though these persons are perceived as "Black Leaders" of the Charlotte community both Coleman and Marsh feel that a so-called list



Rev. George Battle Plays major role

has the tendency to exclude those whom Marsh calls, "the people who work in the trenches." "There are many people who work hard on the behalf of their people yet their work is not acclaimed," Marsh explains. These people, he suggests, are no less "Black Leaders" than the more recognizable persons already mentioned.

Coleman agrees, "One person cannot say they are the leader of the See Black Leaders on Page 7A"

## Black Voter Registration Turnout Improved "Dramatically In 1984"

Two-thirds of voting-age Blacks said they registered and 56 percent reported casting ballots in last

November's presidential election, according to a survey by the Commerce Department's Census

Bureau. The Black voter registration rate of 66 percent matched previous highs recorded in 1968 and 1972, and the actual turnout was the highest since 1968, when 58 percent reported voting. A total of 12.2 million Blacks reported being registered and 10.3 million said they voted in 1984 compared with 9.8 million and 8.3 million in 1980.

The 1984 registration rate was 6 percentage points higher than in 1980 and 8 over 1976; the turnout was 5 points higher than in 1980 and 7 over 1976. Young Blacks under 25 made the most dramatic gains, increasing 12 percentage points over 1980 in registration and 10 in turnout, both highs since the voting age was lowered to 18 years. In 1980, the under 25 Black registration was 41.3 percent and turnout 30.1

In the South, Black voter registration rose 6 percentage points over 1980 to 66 percent and in the North and West combined, it went up from 61 to 67 percent. Black voter turnout in the South rose from 48 to 53 percent. For the rest of the country it grew from 53 to 59 percent.

The White registration in 1984 was 70 percent, or 1 point higher than in both 1980 and 1976. The White voter turnout of 61 percent showed no change from 1980.

Hispanic turnout was 33 percent in 1984, not statistically different from 1980. But the 1984 rate rises to 48 percent when ineligible non-citizens are excluded.

This survey was conducted two weeks after the November 6 election.



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