



**BLACK AND GOLD CONTESTANTS** - Miss Sharon Allison, left, was crowned Betu Nu Lambda Chapter of alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity's first "Miss Black and Gold Queen-1976" last Friday night at Charlotte Civic Center. Other contestants are: left to right, Phyllis Black, Second Place Winner; Frances Kay, Third Place Winner, Sylvia Denise Gaither; and Cheryl McCullough. Photo by Peeler.

## Miss Sharon Allison Wins "Miss Black, Gold Contest"

Betu Nu Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity held its first "Miss Black and Gold Pageant" last Friday night at the Charlotte Civic Center.

The 8 p.m. affair was attended by a sparse crowd of approximately 150 persons who saw Miss Sharon Allison crowned the first "Miss Black and Gold Queen" and awarded the Frist Prize of \$300.

Contestant Phyllis Black won Second Place and a prize of \$200.

Frances Kay won Third Prize of \$100.

The two other contestants in the competition were Sylvia

Denise Gaither who won First Place in the modeling of Dress Apparel and Cheryl McCullough who won First Place in the Evening Wear Category. Both Miss Gaither and Mrs. McCullough won material to make garments of their choosing.

Preston Allison and Mack McRae were co-chairman of the hour-long program which was presided over by Ken Koontz of WBTV.

Fraternity president Rev. M.A. Cochran presented winner Allison with a bouquet of long-stem red roses.

Co-chairman Allison termed

the affair a success and said that the organization plans to have a larger affair next year.

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## CMS School Bus Rodeo Set For Friday

Twenty-nine of the best school bus drivers in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, will compete for a total of \$1,200 in prizes in the system's first School Bus Rodeo since 1969.

The competition will be held Friday, May 14, at the school bus garage, 3901 Craig Avenue.

The rodeo winner will receive a set of four white-side-wall, steel-belted Uniroyal radial tires and \$100 in cash.

The contest will begin at 8:30 a.m. Friday with a written test. Between 9 a.m. and 12:30 p.m., each driver will maneuver his or her bus through an obstacle course designed to test skill and judgment.

Some of the problems will include a serpentine course, an offset alley, wheel clearance, right and left turns, diminishing clearance and backing.

The competition will be judged by a panel of experts in the field of safety, law enforcement, trucking and school bus transportation.

The finalists have already demonstrated their driving skill in a road test, shown their knowledge on a written test and proven their dependability through superior ratings by their principals.

They must also hold a valid N.C. school bus driver's certificate, have driven a minimum of 120 school days by the end of the school year, be a

regular driver not be on probation and not have had a license cancelled or revoked.

Winners will be announced in ceremonies at the bus garage, beginning at 1:30 p.m. In case of rain, the competition will be held on Saturday, May 15.

The local school bus rodeo is aimed at providing incentive for drivers to do their best during the entire school year.

Transportation Director Ron Baucom said, "We hope the rodeo will stimulate the drivers' interest in safety, promote good driving skills and habits and improve the working relationships between drivers and school officials."

"We also want to recognize the drivers and the excellent job they do," he said.

Charlotte Mayor John Belk and Mecklenburg County Commission Chairman Liz Hair have proclaimed May 10-14 "School Bus Driver Appreciation Week" in honor of the hundreds of school bus drivers.

Currently, CMS operates 584 school buses—the largest fleet in the state. The buses travel more than 29,000 miles each school day while transporting more than 45,000 students. The fleet will log five million miles this school year.

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