

**DELTA DEBS AND SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS**

The Charlotte Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. announced its three scholarship winners at its annual cotillion recently held at the Park Center. Denese Baxter Davis, who was crowned 1977 Delta Debutante, placed first among the scholarship winners. Denese, the daughter of Dr. Mildred Baxter Davis of 916 Westbrook Drive, is a West Charlotte Optional High School Senior and plans to enter Barber-Scotia College in the fall. Second place scholar-

ship winner was Maria Carmencita Chisholm, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Chisholm of 1118 Northbrook Drive. She is a Myers Park High School senior who plans to attend Wingate College. Dekota Vana Grier, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Olin Grier Jr., of 3715 Manchester Drive placed third in the competition. She is also a senior at Myers Park and has chosen North Carolina Central University to pursue her college studies.

**Black Vote Decisive**

**District Representation Gets**

**Narrow Victory, Bonds Approved**

By Hoyle H. Martin Sr.  
Post Executive Editor  
By a narrow margin of 170 votes, Charlotteans endorsed the 7-4 district representation plan for city council. By a substantially larger margin, the voters approved a nearly \$16 million bond package for two cultural projects and utilities for a yet to be annexed area covering 19 square miles involving 29,500 people.

The margin of victory for the somewhat controversial districting plan was assured as a result of an unusual coalition of black and middle-to-lower income white precincts in north, west and east Charlotte, plus a small but unexpected support from the southeast part of the city. All but the latter of these voting groups supported district representation because of their repeated complaints that city government as presently constituted rarely responds to their needs.

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**Communications Workshop**

One of the six task force teams of the Johnson C. Smith University's five year span plan sponsored a Communications Workshop-Conference on the campus on Tuesday, April 19.

The workshops were headed by Andy Bickel, Operations Manager, WBT, AM-FM; Ray Gooding, Public Affairs Manager, WBT Radio; Lou Hecker, Clara Lowry, and Abigail Flanders, Community Affairs Specialists, WBT; John Hammonds, Personnel Manager, WBT; and Milton Jordan, Staff Writer, The Observer. Martin Chisolm, a Senior Communications Arts major

Considerable doubt had been expected about the outcome of the district representation issue because of the assumed apathy of black voters. This view stemmed partly from poor attendance at districting rallies and partly because mostly black civic and community leaders were saying little publicly about the issue. The concern here, according to some sources, was fear of a white-backlash, arising from the possibility that the proposed districting plan would probably increase the number of blacks on the council.

Apparently, the black leaders at the neighborhood level were quietly working to turn out the vote. Their efforts were undoubtedly reflected in the fact that a study of the unofficial returns from 10 predominantly black precincts revealed that of the 13,988 votes in support of districting, 2,254

or 16 percent were cast by blacks.

Therefore, unless the official vote canvass today (Thursday) changes the 170-vote margin of victory for the districting plan, the City Council election on Nov. 8 will result in an 11-member council, 7 from districts and 4 at-large.

Less controversial, but nevertheless of considerable interest because of the possibility of higher taxes, was the bond package of nearly \$16 million for utilities and cultural facilities. Winning voter support by margin in excess of 1,000 each were:

-\$6,305 million in bonds to extend sanitary sewer lines into 10 areas expected to be annexed into the city by Council in December.

-\$675,000 in bond to expand water lines into the same 10 areas.

-\$7.1 million in bonds to build and house a museum of natural history, science and technology called Discovery Place.

-\$2.5 million in bonds to renovate the Spirit Square arts center.

The total voter turnout of 29,514 or 25 percent of total Charlotte electorate was about average for a bond vote according to elections board executive secretary Bill Culp.

at Smith, headed the student task force that sponsored the conference. He said that the purpose of the conference was to "give Communications majors a chance to ask questions and get first-hand information about the Communication field."

"It was also to establish a 'people resource bank' here at Smith," he continued.

The conference, which started at 10 a.m., was attended by students in the Communications Arts and other majors.

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**Viral Infections Triggers Asthma Attacks**

By Otto McClarrin  
Viral infections play a significant role in triggering asthma attacks in young children, a research pediatrician said recently in the first public report that something other than allergic response is involved in the disease.

"It's not all allergy," said Dr. Elliot F. Ellis of the State University of New York at Buffalo. "A large proportion of attacks of asthma during early life can be seen to be clearly related to a viral infection."

"In many kids, you can relate the first asthma attacks to a viral respiratory infection like flu," Ellis said. "In some way, the virus has done something to them."

The findings, developed in the last five years, were reported by Dr. Ellis at a science writer's seminar recently in conjunction with a meeting of the American Congress of Allergy and Immunology - held in New York City.

The findings were called an important advance in basic understanding of asthma and are expected to have a major impact on the future treatment of the disease, which affects nine million Americans. Widespread practice in-

volves desensitization shots for asthmatics.

Underlying the reaction to the virus is the belief that the asthmatic has a basic genetic defect involving bronchial tubes or airways in the lungs. Dr. Ellis said the viral infection has been clearly related to the asthma onset and the worsening of existing asthma in children aged one to five, particularly those two to three.

Viral infections also have been found to be related to "late onset" asthma in persons 40 to 50, such as menopausal women who develop a flu-like illness.

Medical researchers are using the genealogy records of the Mormon Church in a search for the genetic roots of

cancer and other diseases.

As a first step, scientists at the LDS Hospital and the University of Utah Medical Center are putting family histories into a computer.

Dr. Mark Sklnick, the population geneticist heading the team, said it will be a year before researchers are ready to compare the genealogy of 250,000 Mormon families with medical records to test several genetic hypotheses about the disease.

Their research could help in the early detection and prevention of cancer and other diseases, said Dr. Homer Warner of the University's medical biophysics and computerizing department.

The research is funded by a National Cancer Institute

grant. It first will try to determine whether cancer runs in families.

If a strong family relationship is found, search will begin for distinguishing traits of

cancer-prone families.

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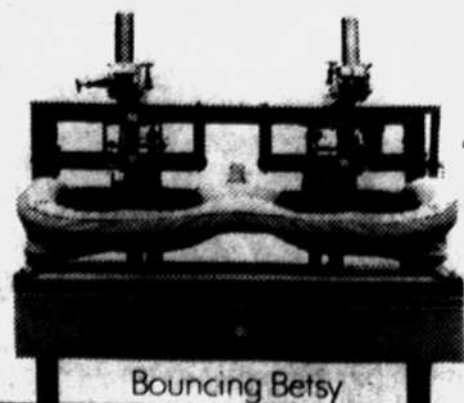
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