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THE CHARLOTTE POST

Charlotte's Fastest Growing Community Weekly

BLACK NEWSPAPERS EFFECTIVELY REACH BY FAR MORE BLACK CONSUMERS

NAACP Youths To Celebrate

The North Carolina State Youth Conference of the NAACP will have its Second Annual Youth of the Year Celebration Saturday, June 17, at Saint Augustine's College in Raleigh.

The day's activities will include workshops on education, employment, life skills and sex. Special workshops will deal with the NAACP today and an advisor's training workshop. And a Blue and Gold Coed Volleyball game will end the afternoon's activities.

The workshops will have consultants from the N.C. Agricultural Extension, Bennett College, the U.S. Navy, University Television, the Carolina Peacemaker, the NAACP departments of communication, field services and ACT-SO: Afro-Academic, Cultural, Technical, Scientific Scholarship Olympics, Planned Parenthood of Charlotte and American Federal Savings and Loan.

The speaker for the evening program will be Ms. Althea T. L. Simmons, Associate Director for Branch and Field Services. A seasoned NAACP'er, Ms. Simmons has held staff positions as National Training Director, Legislative Advocate, Special Field Representative, Field Director, Summer Projects Director and Director of NAACP National Voter Registration Project.

Ms. Simmons, a former college teacher and newspaper woman, was a graduate of Southern University (La.) in Business Education and holds a M.S. degree in Marketing from the University of Illinois and a J. D. degree from the Howard University School of Law.

The winner of the youth of the Year contest will be selected and named the NAACP Youth of the Year.

The winner will receive a trip to the 69th National Convention in Portland, Ore. July 1 through 8. The other participants will receive trips to tour the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md. August 3 through 5 and a special trip aboard a U.S. Naval Ship in Norfolk, Va. will be given to the young man who raises the most money. All participants will be presented to the Adult Conference on June 18 at the NAACP Annual Freedom Day Celebration at the Raleigh Civic Center at which time the speaker will be the NAACP's new Executive Director, Benjamin L. Hooks. Anyone interested in participating please contact T. Dianne Bellamy-Small, State Youth President 2730372.

Public Hearing Set For County's Tentative Budget

The Mecklenburg Board of County Commissioners will hold a Public Hearing at 8 p.m., Monday, June 19, for discussion of the County's tentative budget for 1978-79 and for discussion of the proposed uses of Federal Revenue Sharing funds.

TURTLE-TALK



REMEMBER when the ONLY PAY CHECK deduction was the one slipped out for a BEER on the way home from work?



LA'RITA JENE LUSTER ...Pretty ninth grader

La'Rita Jenee Luster Is Beauty Of Week

By Debra Stanley Post Staff Writer

La'Rita Jenee Luster, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Luster, is the Post Beauty of the Week. A ninth grader at Randolph Junior High, La'Rita feels that her past two years at Randolph have been the most important years of her life. "I feel that Junior High years are the most important years in a person's life, because they are the years of molding one's life into manhood or womanhood. They are the years when you begin to find out who you really are," she commented.

La'Rita went on to say that as a newcomer at Randolph she wasn't very involved in the numerous activities that were offered. "The reason being," she cited, "I was really quite shy and not so sure of myself."

Her rapid emergence from her "shy" stage was mostly because of a newly acquired friend, Ann Kale. Speaking of Ann, La'Rita noted, "She was pretty, very popular, had a great personality, and seemed to be liked by everyone at school. She also belonged to most of the school activities and organizations."

It was because of the assertiveness La'Rita saw and liked about Ann that she decided to overcome her shyness and become a part of Randolph by being involved.

Her first goal was to become a cheerleader. During tryouts, La'Rita wondered if she could be a cheerleader, and told herself the only way to find out was to try; she did and made it.

The following month Executive Council elections were beginning. After much encouragement from her parents and the executive council advisor she decided to run. After only a week of campaigning, the student body voted and La'Rita was elected. Later she was elected President of the Student Body for the following school year.

Recalling how she felt at that time, La'Rita said, "I was quite honored, but also a bit afraid of what the coming year would bring. I made up my mind that this would be the best year ever at Randolph. Being president meant a lot of hard work and much decision making. Most of this year's projects were successful; this year's experiences helped me to know that if you really try, you can accomplish anything you set out to do," she concluded.

The same year La'Rita was voted Best All Around Student by the ninth grade Student Body. She also received the DAR (Daughters of the Ameri-

can Revolution) Citizenship Award. She entered the Junior Debutant Pageant, sponsored by the Zeta Eta Theta Sorority held in Greensboro, and was crowned Queen. La'Rita stated that without the love of her family none of her accomplishments could have been possible. "I have two sisters, Candace, 11 and Lynette, 13. My brother, James attends East Mecklenburg High School. That's my family, and without the love, patience, understanding, and most of all sacrifices made by each of them, none of my accomplishments would be possible." When she referred to her experience of being crowned Queen of the Junior Debutant Pageant, La'Rita confided, "The greatest joy of all was to see my parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles sitting out there backing me." She feels that her junior high years have prepared her to face high school with courage and self direction.

La'Rita list her career goals as to become either a sociologist or child psychologist because she wants to help kids "who unlike me did not have parents to love, understand and encourage them." Affirming her reasons for wanting to become a child psychologist, La'Rita concluded by saying, "Maybe through my help they may be able to find their purpose of being and belonging."

La'Rita lives at 1108 Nancy Dr. and attends McClintock United Presbyterian Church.

June 21-24

38th Annual Convention Of NNPA To Be Welcomed To Ohio By Governor

Be Welcomed To Ohio By Governor

Washington (NNPA)--Hon. James A. Rhodes, who is serving his third term as governor of Ohio, will welcome the 38th Annual Convention of the National Newspaper Publishers Association -- Black Press of America -- which will meet in Cleveland at the Park Plaza, June 21-24.

Others who will join in the welcome with the governor on Thursday, June 22, are: Mayor Dennis J. Kucinich, Boxing Promoter Don King, and host publisher William O. Walker of the Cleveland Call & Post, NNPA President Carlton B. Goodlett, announced this week.

Governor Rhodes is a well known author and political figure. His books include:

Sales Training Session

Planned For Minorities

Area Media

Endorse

Airport Bond

By Sidney Moore, Jr. Post Staff Writer

Endorsements from various area media have preceded the upcoming bond vote to build a new \$47 million airport.

Area newspapers and television stations are carrying advertisements and editorials in favor of the bond vote on Tuesday, June 20. A favorable vote is seemingly preferred because proponents of the bond issue say it will not cost taxpayers any money.

Half the costs would be paid out of user fees paid by the airlines. The other half is expected to be realized from parking, advertising and display rentals, restaurant, concession and the like earned by the city owned facility.

The bond package includes a 270,000 square foot terminal area, \$39.5 million; service facilities such as crash fire and rescue, lighting system, utilities and signage at \$6 million; and a fuel supply system at \$1.5 million, according to literature from the Airport Bond Committee.

The present terminal would become an air cargo facility.

After the bonds are approved, said the committee, the new terminal will be scheduled for occupancy in 1982. Borrowing will be for actual needs to meet construction requirements.

President Seeks

Environmental

Protection Funds

President Carter has requested that Congress amend his 1979 fiscal year budget to provide the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) with an additional \$47.8 million, primarily to initiate the environmental provisions of the President's recently announced urban plans.

Carter's plan is designed to rehabilitate cities that have suffered significant economic and physical decay, and to prevent other cities in better health from experiencing the same deterioration.



City Councilman Ron Leeper and Eileen Hanson, Free the Wilmington Ten and the Charlotte Three. Photo by Eileen Hanson

Ran Leeper

Post's "Man Of The Year"

By Eileen Hanson

Charlotte's newest Black council member, Ron Leeper, is the recipient of the Charlotte Post's "Man of the Year Award." The award is granted annually to a Charlottean who has made a substantial contribution to the community through voluntary involvement in civic and social affairs.

Leeper is well qualified for this latest award. Active in church and community affairs, he is known as a man who sees a problem and immediately begins organizing people to solve it.

Five years ago when people in his neighborhood needed more stop lights and sidewalks, he organized the Clanton Park Community Organization to solve those problems. When he and his wife, Phyllis, moved to their current home at 417 Colony Acres Drive, Leeper organized the Colony Acres Homes Owners Association and served as its president until his Council election.

As the father of two, Leeper has a special concern for the future generation. He organized the youth and scouting programs at St. Mark's United Methodist Church where he is an active member. He also chairs the social concerns committee of the church.

"I see some relationship in everything. I see that the lack of recreational facilities in a low-income community directly relates to vandalism and a lot of excess energies not being used in a constructive manner, but rather in a destructive manner," explains Leeper.

In last Fall's City Council election, Leeper gained a reputation as a "grass roots man." "I am from the grass roots," asserts Leeper. "I'm a working man and I feel the needs and concerns of working people." Leeper currently works as assistant manager of B & B Supply company.

The son of a mill worker and a domestic, Leeper grew up in Belmont, N.C. where he started doing odd jobs at the early age of 10, to help the family income. "I come from a low income family and I can't forget it," Leeper

remembers. "I feel a responsibility to try to get rid of these conditions that cause impoverishment."

Feeling that many elective officials lack sensitivity to the people's concerns, Leeper decided to run for City Council last year. At age 32, he was young, with no previous elected experience. But he had been active in Democratic precinct work and in the Black Political Caucus, and had spearheaded the campaign for district representation.

Through the new district plan, Leeper saw the potential for more citizen involvement in the crucial questions of housing, public transit, parks and recreation. Now as the Councilman from the Third District, he holds regular meetings with the District Three Committee, composed of precincts, community organizations, and a broad base of his constituency. "It's a give and take situation," says Leeper. "I keep them informed and they keep me informed."

At a recent District Three meeting Leeper sought the support of his advisory committee for the airport expansion referendum, which he strongly favors because he feels it will bring jobs to the area. He also wants to be sure that minority businesses have an equal opportunity to bid on a competitive basis for airport contracts if the airport bill should be adopted.

After only six months on the Council, Leeper already points to several accomplishments. He introduced proposals to guarantee public transport where the need is greatest, and is currently working to get funds for park improvements in the new budget. Another Leeper proposal was \$800,000 for low income housing, one of his top priorities.

Jobs is another of Leeper's concerns. "Some officials think there's nothing wrong with low incomes," he says. "But people can change that attitude. What's good for our people? Lack of unions and that state's 'right-to-See Leeper on page 7"

13-Week

Session To

Begin July 10

By Sidney Moore, Jr. Post Staff Writer

Minority business development is the business of Charlotte's Business Resource Center.

Funds for the Office of Minority Business Enterprise, U.S. Department of Commerce, are used to support services offered by the center. It is also associated with Charlotte Chamber of Commerce.

Cooperation with other agencies that support minority business development is also encouraged by the center. Currently, it is pulling together a sales training course through the Metrolina Regional Minority Purchasing Council. It is an organization of local and national companies.

"Because Of Who You Are" is how the course is entitled. It is expected to be offered for 13 weeks beginning Monday, July 10. This is the fourth year of this annual project.

Harriston Jones, center executive director, said the probable time for the course will be 6:30 or 7 p.m.

This course will provide minority business owners and managers the professional sales techniques needed to approach the corporate market," said a statement from the agency.

Areas of study will include classroom instruction and discussion, closed circuit television for taping and replay of role playing and actual sales presentations with corporate buyers, the statement said.

The course will be presented "On the Square" at Central Piedmont Community College, said Jones. A \$10 registration fee will be charged.

In previous years 21 businesspersons have completed the course, according to Jones. He hopes to have 15 participants this year. If demand is sufficient, the business promoter said, another session can be offered.

In another project the center proposes to establish a One-Stop-Center for minority economic development to serve Mecklenburg, Gaston and Union counties. This center will be one-of-a-kind in this area and will have professional staff and volunteers to offer a wide range of services, said the statement. Among services listed were expanding a business market, identifying opportunities, raising capital, education and training, loan packaging and diversification.

This new service is expected to be in operation by July 1, according to the statement.

County Wins 4

National Awards

Four programs of Mecklenburg County government have been named winners in a nationwide competition sponsored by the National Association of Counties (NACo).

The programs that are recipients of the 1978 NACo Achievement Awards are as follows:

Fire Safety Education Program for Fourth Grade Children, developed and administered by the County Fire Administrator's Office.

Ferris president of United Airlines; and president Goodlett who will deliver his annual message.

Greetings are to be brought by Mrs. Martha "Bunny" Mitchell, Special Assistant to the President; Marc T. Henderson, Associate White House Press Secretary; Ambassadors Olujimi Jolaoso of Nigeria and Francis A. Dennis of Liberia; Richard Tullis, Harris Corporation; and General LaVern Weber, Chief of the National Guard Bureau.

The convention sessions will focus on the programs and objectives of NNPA, newspaper production costs, circulation problems, and advertising salesmanship.



William O. Walker

day program will be addressed by Congressman Louis Stokes of Cleveland, Richard