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LOVELY LESLIE VANESSA COLSTON
.....Native Of New York City

Energetic Leslie V. Colston Is "Beauty Of The Week"

By Debra Stanley
Post Staff Writer
Energetic Leslie Vanessa Colston is the Post Beauty of the Week. A native of New York City, Vanessa has been in Charlotte for about five years. She mentioned that Charlotte is quite a change from New York, but she feels that the slower pace is a definite advantage. She feels that being in New York was also an advantage.

Community College and Johnson C. Smith University where she majored in Commercial Art and Communications, respectively.

Quite talented in the art field, Vanessa cited that art is only one of her hobbies. She listed her others as being reading, photography, tennis (on the amateur level), sports spectator, and she also enjoys writing poetry.

Because she has always liked to deal with the public, Vanessa chose to major in communications and hopes someday to be on radio and, possibly, television. She even

has plans, if the opportunity presents itself, of hosting her own show. She commented, "I am very fond of people, and I do like to deal with the public; I'd like to host my own TV show and be successful in the communications field."

Vanessa described herself as being "very happy, pretty easy going, outgoing at times, energetic, talented, with an occasional temper (but rarely often). I have made a close circle of friends, my disposition is generally good, and feel that nothing is more relaxing than spending a nice evening at home with a close friend," she concluded.

Vanessa didn't have to tell me all those things for me to know that she is such an outstanding individual. Her attitude spoke much louder than her words, and it is the type that will carry her far on the road to success, in communications or whatever else she may choose.

Vanessa, at the ripe and prosperous age of 22, is also the possessor of a political streak. She is a member of the Young Democrats, and has also considered being a public servant of some sort.

She also possesses a type of philosophy that she expressed as "a person's inside beauty is much more important than outside beauty; outside beauty does not last."

Vanessa attends East Stone-wall AME Zion Church, and shares an apartment with a roommate.

She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Dan and Memphis Colston of New York.

Study Shows Progress, Disappointment Have Marked Black Progress

New Program To Aid Poor, Jobless People

A new government program makes it possible for poor jobless people to make money, go to school and get a job.

It is called the Skill Training Improvement Program (STIP), an extension of Title III of the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA). Local CETA supervisor, Anne Goodman said the program will help disadvantaged people that have aptitude but no money to go to school to learn a trade.

Another purpose for the program is to meet industry needs for skills, according to material from the State Department of Commerce in Raleigh. The department has arranged to begin the new program at Central Piedmont Community College (CPCC) with a metal working class. It has been determined that such skills are needed in the Charlotte area.

Ernest Standback, director of adult education and contractual program at CPCC, said 18 participants will be admitted from Mecklenburg and 12 from Gaston Counties. He explained that participants would enroll in regular courses and otherwise be treated as continuing education students.

Participants will receive \$2.65 an hour for 30-hours per week training over a six month period. Other STIP courses may take up to 15 depending on occupational requirements.

Job placements are anticipated upon completion of the program.

To qualify for entry into the program, an applicant must have been out of work for 15 weeks or employed earning wages below the poverty level.



Post's photographer Milton Hinnant found local citizens who are beating the heat in the current 90 degree plus weather by spending considerable time in local swimming pool.

Seen above enjoying a refreshing swim in the pool at Revolution Park Center is Anthony Gray.

Blacks Still Have A Dream

By Sidney Moore Jr.
Post Staff Writer
Progress and disappointment have marked the 13 years since the 1965 march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama. Since that historic march, 176 blacks have been elected as mayors. Congress has 17 black men and women. There is a black on the U.S. Supreme Court and another represents the U.S. at the United Nations. A black woman is a member of the President's Cabinet. Advances have been made in a number of areas including government and business.

Yet, over a fourth of all black families still live below the poverty line of \$5,815 for an urban family of four. Unemployment is over twice as high for blacks at 13 percent as it is for whites at five percent.

Studies show black teen-age unemployment at 42 percent. Many either drop out of high school or graduate without employable skills.

Influential blacks have many opinions as to what should be done to further progress in their community. They represent achievement and are often forced to acknowledge disappointment.

"Black people have to stop depending on the government-federal, state and city-as their saviour. We're starting to get the tools. Now, we must go out and do it ourselves," said tennis player Arthur Ashe.

He said there are scholarships for the talented, jobs for those who have ability and better jobs for those who can't get it out.

Muslim leader Wallace D. Muhammed also emphasizes self-help.

"Our community is stressing self-knowledge. We feel a person has to know himself, have a sense of identity and faith in his potential, before he can accomplish anything," said the 44-year old religious leader.

Some leaders say education is the ticket to prosperity. Others say jobs are the key.

"We should start looking to international markets for jobs and business opportunities," according to Andrew Young, U.S. Ambassador to the U.N.

"For example, Nigeria, one of the richest African countries because of its huge oil reserves, wants products that are essentially made in America. Because of our imports of its oil, we have a multi-billion-dollar trade deficit with Nigeria that could be reduced by exporting more of our goods there."

The former Congressman noted that Nigeria plans to spend about \$8 billion this year on health, agriculture, education and industrial development. But the aggressive Africans often seem intimidating to white businessmen. Young recommends integrated trade negotiation teams.

Black Leaders Agree Charlotte Urban League Has "Very Good Chance"

By Linda Florence
Post Staff Writer
A Charlotte Urban League is in the making and has a very good chance of being developed, according to several members of the Urban League sponsoring committee who were contacted this week.

The Urban League, according to some committee members, is a non-profit organization, dedicated to improve the total economic and social lot of the minority and poor white.

"The climate is right at this time, to bring a chapter of the Urban League to Charlotte," said Willie J. Stratford Sr., a sponsoring committee member who led an unsuccessful drive to bring the Urban League to Charlotte in 1970.

The first time around, Stratford a U.S. Postal official said he felt the organization was misunderstood and didn't receive the needed support of the Charlotte business community.

While few major companies supported the drive the first time, this time, the Urban League has already been endorsed by the Charlotte Chamber of Commerce, Allstate Insurance, Western Electric, Wells Fargo and Exxon, to name a few.

On Friday, Vernon Jordan, the Urban League's National president, will be in Charlotte to speak to the sponsoring committee and other community leaders about raising money.

Jordan, 43, succeeded the

late Whitney Young, as head of the Urban League in 1972. He is also former head of the Voter Education Project in Atlanta and directed the United Negro College Fund.

"If I didn't think it would work, I probably wouldn't be a part of it," said David Taylor, sponsoring committee and vice president at Celanese.

"My basic feeling is that every single year the relationship between minority and white business community gets better. I think there's a feeling of fairness in each of us; and I think we realize the black community hasn't gotten a good shake as deserved," Taylor explained this week.

Taylor said that there are more "totally qualified blacks" being placed in more responsible positions and added that 16 percent of the work force is black.

"We need each other. We need the total community and total economic system working," he said.

Efforts to establish a local chapter began with a study to determine the gaps between blacks and whites in all major program areas; such as: housing income, employment, education, social services, health and welfare.

After that, an interracial sponsoring committee was named.

"A lot of work has been done, but there's still an awful lot of work to be done," Taylor said.

He said the first year's goal is to raise between \$35,000 and \$50,000. Then come the naming of the board of directors and staff development," Taylor explained.

Under the national guidelines, each local group must raise its own money and receive only special program grants from the national office.

The Urban League began in New York in 1910 as the Committee on Urban Conditions Among Negroes.

54 Page Publication On Brooklyn Community Will Be Released Shortly

By Sidney Moore Jr.
Post Staff Writer
Selected photographs from the Brooklyn community slide collection of the Rev. DeGrandval Burke have been printed in booklet form.

The 54-page publication is part of the results of extensive research by the 68-year-old retired religious educator. Presentations of his work have been made to community groups. Burke has appeared on television to discuss black culture and history regarding the Brooklyn section of Charlotte.

His work has been sponsored by The Afro-American Cultural and Service Center in Spirit Square. The center has had 1,000 booklets printed and will sell them.

With this project under wraps, Burke is planning to extend his study of black history to include all of Charlotte and Mecklenburg

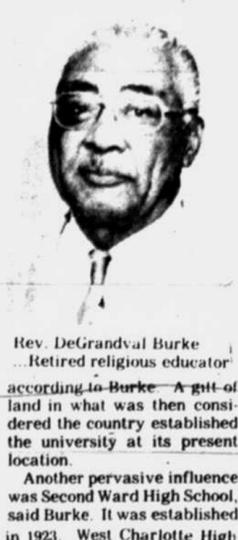
County. He said the study began two years ago when his last class at Johnson C. Smith University (JCSU) surveyed the history of area churches.

The fact that many churches traced their beginnings to the Brooklyn area perked Burke's interest. Further study snowballed after his retirement from the university. He worked there for 18 years.

Since retirement, Burke has become known as a local expert on the culture and lifestyles of Brooklyn.

In a recent interview, Burke said Brooklyn probably began as a community of service workers for whites who occupied houses along Morehead and in the Dilworth section. The Brooklyn neighborhood apparently represented the beginning of urbanization of blacks in this area.

JCSU started in Brooklyn.



Rev. DeGrandval Burke...Retired religious educator according to Burke. A part of land in what was then considered the country established the university at its present location. Another pervasive influence was Second Ward High School, said Burke. It was established in 1923. West Charlotte High

School was built in 1938. Myers Street Elementary School also played a significant role.

Before these public schools went into operation, blacks either did not go to school or they went to private, usually church related schools. JCSU had a high school for many years, Burke said.

His research has shown that the county began to educate blacks as far back as 1841, before the Civil War.

Burke complained that many official records are lacking to validate the history of the black community. He said much of the material he has developed has come from private rather than public sources.

The former educator and minister is a native of nearby Matthews. He holds advanced degrees in religion and was recently named to Who's Who Among Black Americans.

Of Changing Times Area Fund Deals With "Flexibility"

By Linda Florence
Post Staff Writer
Flexibility is what the Charlotte Area Fund is all about, according to agency executive director, T. H. Sanders. Last week, Sanders talked about the benefits of flexibility in such an agency.

"We need to be flexible so that we can serve the needs of the people who don't come under the guidelines of other community agencies," Sanders said.

"We are the only agency going that deals with the flexibility of the changing time. We are given the attitude to change as the needs of the people change," Sanders explained.

But in order to stay abreast of the changing needs of the people, Sanders said the 42-person administrative and outreach staff must continuously stay in touch and assess the needs of the people.

CAF is a federally funded non-profit private Community Action agency set up to assist the poor.

Sanders, 37, who joined CAF about a month and a half ago admits he's still learning about the specifics of CAF. But community action agencies are not new to the Forsyth

County native. Sanders, came to CAF from the State Economic Opportunity Office in Raleigh. Before that, he'd worked at the Davie County Community Action Agency.

Having come from a poor background, Sanders said he could identify with the poor. He said that flexibility in assisting the poor is one thing that attracted him to CAF.

Sanders isn't sure of the exact number of people that CAF is presently serving. But he estimated that between 85,000 and 90,000 Mecklenburg residents are eligible for services.

To be eligible for assistance a non-farm family of four must not earn over \$6,200 a year. A farm family the same size must not earn over \$5,270 a year.

Sandra McMullen, director of CAF field operations, said the agency doesn't attempt to speak for the poor an elderly, but instead, "assist in organizing and enabling the poor to speak for themselves."

For example, a CAF representative might contact an already existing senior citizen organization such as Senior Citizens United or The Council on Aging. They would help the group organize or prioritize their needs, assist in planning an agenda or strategy to accomplish those needs and if necessary, assist in a letter writing campaign to the legislators.

Or if the group wanted to present a proposal to the County Commissioners, the representative might assist the group in planning a presentation, according to Ms. McMullen.

CAF is presently serving nearly 100 senior citizens with their Hot Meals Program.

Some of the meals are carried to the citizens, but the See CAF on Page 12



Nothing makes some people go into debt like trying to keep with people who already are.