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# THE CHARLOTTE POST

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Photo by Jerry Curry

16-YEAR-OLD WANDA MOBLEY  
...Olympic basketball star

## Attractive Wanda Mobley

### Is Post's "Beauty Of Week"

by SHERLEEN MCKOY  
Post Staff Writer

Wanda Mobley, a 5'7" basketball guard on the women's team at Olympic High School, is the Post's beauty for this week.

A junior, 16-year-old Wanda has been playing varsity basketball since her sophomore year and is anticipating playing another season during her senior year.

A sports enthusiast, Wanda said that playing varsity basketball is "o.k." As far as winning is concerned, she said, "we haven't won yet - the season's just now getting started really!"

Wanda said that she is not involved in any other extracurricular activities.

"I'm too busy with basketball," she said, "we

practice a lot in the afternoons."

She also plays on her school's volleyball team.

Playing tennis is also another favorite sport of hers.

Wanda's favorite subjects in school are French and English. "I'm pretty good in English," she remarked. "I've been taking advanced English since the third grade. I like French because it is easy to understand."

After high school, Wanda wants to matriculate at college, preferably an art school.

"I do art," she commented. "I've been doing it for about four years but I'm just really getting into it this year."

"I want to be a commercial artist," she stated, "because they draw almost anything and do quite a bit of travelling." She added, "I like being creative."

An alternate career choice would be to engage in the extensive area of sports. "I'd probably become a gym teacher," she said.

Wanda describes herself as a quiet, hardworking, cheerful person who acknowledges her parents as having the greatest influence in her life.

"Both of my parents encourage me in sports and with my drawing (particularly my father)," she said.

Wanda said that she did not make any resolutions for this year, however, she hopes to "pass all my subjects and do pretty well in my basketball."

The second oldest of four children, Wanda is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Mobley.

## Food Aid

### Important

#### Public Issue

WASHINGTON--Food prices, food safety, human nutrition and food aid will be important public issues in 1979, said economist Thomas A. Stucker of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

"The price of food is of primary concern to consumers. The rapid rise of retail food prices, averaging 1.4 percent per month in early 1978, outpaced average price rises of 0.8 percent for all items. By year end, food price increases will still be greater than for prices generally."

Meat products are the largest single contributor to consumer food costs. They account for more than 32 percent of the overall food-at-home price index. A large food grain harvest in 1978 will provide moderately priced food for livestock and poultry production in 1979. The expected result will be larger broiler supplies and a large increase in pork supplies, he said.

Beef prices are expected to increase again in 1979. Reduced supplies will again be the primary reason unless the breeding herd is reduced further than expected, which would lead to even tighter supplies later.

"But commodity prices are only part of the food price picture," Stucker said. "The remaining 6 percent of retail food costs are attributable to marketing--costs for processing and distribution. The administrator's wage and price guidelines may help hold marketing cost increases to lower levels than would otherwise be the case."

These factors point to smaller food price increases in 1979 unless unfavorable weather conditions reduce agricultural commodity production, as happened in early 1978. The forecast is for food prices to average 7 1/2 percent higher, he said.

"Food safety will continue to be an important policy issue in 1979. Scientific evidence linking food and feed additives to human health condition is growing."



A hundred idled city buses and 12,000 passengers await the settlement of Charlotte's bus strike. A March to get the buses rolling again will begin at 3 P.M. Saturday at the bus garage, 707 N. Brevard. (Photo by Eileen Hanson)

### Here Saturday Afternoon

## Aroused Black Groups To

### March To Get Buses Rolling

by EILEEN HANSON

A march to support bus riders and drivers will be held Sat. Jan. 20 at 3 p.m. The march will begin at the city bus garage (707 N. Brevard) and go to City Hall (600 E. Trade).

"We are marching to call on City Council to get the management company to negotiate, not just stand pat," according to march organizers. "What's the sense of voting people into office if they don't work for us?"

Saturday's march is called by People United for Justice, Charlotte's Central Labor Union and the Equal Rights Council.

According to Rev. James Barnett, president of People United for Justice, "If the union was all white this would have been settled long ago. But because most of the riders and drivers are black, the city is in no hurry to get it over with."

Approximately 90 percent of the bus riders are black; 70 percent of the drivers and 45

percent of the mechanics are black.

"We're the lemons and they keep squeezing us," said Barnett.

In a related action, the Black Ministerial Alliance urged City Council to take action to reach a settlement in the 7-week strike.

Speaking for the Alliance, Rev. James Palmer of University Park Baptist Church, said, "If City Council sits on the bus strike, they may find themselves sitting out after the election."

Palmer said he plans to participate in Saturday's march, but the organization took no official position. Petitions will be circulated in the churches Sunday calling on City Council to take action.

Last Monday 100 bus riders and drivers turned out for the City Council meeting, but were not allowed to speak. They were told to return Jan. 22 at 2 p.m.

One rider, Mary Layne of Piedmont courts said she was there to support the drivers' effort for a good contract.

"I want the bus to start. I'm 75 years old and can't go anywhere without the bus," said Ms. Layne. "I'm here to help the drivers," she said, giving a hug to her bus driver, James Davis on Route No. 4. "Why should the man downtown hold up the buses while we walk?"

Many people at the meeting wore buttons "I support the bus drivers' strike" issued by the Equal Rights Council. Representatives of several unions and community groups are urging their members to march on Saturday.

"This affects all unions," said Bill Brawley, head of the Central Labor Union. "They're trying to cut the guts out of the union - make it powerless."

Hattie Harris, President of the Residents' Advisory Council of public housing residents wants to see the buses rolling because the poor people are suffering.

"You seldom see a rich person ride the bus unless it's to use the free pass downtown," she said. "But it's not a black and white issue. Being poor has no regards for color." Senior citizens groups are also participating on Saturday according to Harris.

Bus drivers' families are also feeling squeezed by the long strike. "I'm feeling it hard," said Mildred Harrison, a driver's wife. "I'm the only one working and the bills are piling up. We were turned down for food stamps." The Harrisons were among 20 people who held a vigil outside Mayor Ken Harris' church Sunday, Jan. 14.

The strike began Nov. 26 after the United Transportation Union rejected the proposed contract of Transit Management by a vote of 162 to 1. The Union has reduced their wage demand more than half, but says that proposed changes in work rules and benefits would be a step backwards for their 40-year old union. Management says they have made their final offer.

However, when negotiations resumed Jan. 16, both sides See Black on page 5B

Rev. Palmer:

## "Our People Have Suffered

### Long Enough"

By SUSAN ELLSWORTH  
Post Staff Writer

Ministers Conference No. 2 called for compromise and an end to the bus strike on local television, WBTV, Channel 36 on Mon., Jan. 15.

"The 25 year old Minister's Conference speaks only when the situations within the city, county or state become a crisis ..." announced Rev. James E. Palmer, president of the Conference and pastor of the University Park Baptist Church in Charlotte.

Fifty pastors and ministers comprise the Conference which is one of the most active groups of black ministers in the city.

In his remarks Rev. Palmer reflected the consensus of the Minister's opinion.

"Rev. William Lee Jr., chairman of the program committee with its members have mapped out our plan step by step against the strike. However, we hope that we don't have to execute all of them," Rev. Palmer stated.

"Our concern comes because of the many appeals made to us by our members and concerned citizens throughout the city telling us how inconvenient the city bus strike has made their way of living. They were faced with this problem during Christmas. Some have lost jobs, many have been docked pay because of being late for work, low income families and people living on a fixed income can't pay the special cab fare to get to places for special help, medical attention or even to get medicine from the uptown drug stores," he continued.

"We feel that our people have suffered long enough, because it is our people who roll the buses in the first place - especially when 80 percent of the riders are black and 60 percent of the drivers are black. We must look at this with deep concern for our people," Rev. Palmer stressed.

"We are appealing to all sides involved in this strike to go back to negotiating tables and stay there until some liveable agreement is made. We are saying in the language of the prophet Isaiah, 'Come Now and Let Us Reason Together,' he emphasized.

"As long as both sides stand firmly nothing can be done. Therefore both sides must realize that each will have to give up something and reach some sort of compromise," Rev. Palmer warned.

"We are strongly appealing to our mayor and City Council to intercede on behalf of this strike until the buses are rolling again. We voted for the best leadership of our city and its time for that leadership to prove it to the citizens who granted them the opportunity to serve us. We don't want this as an issue when they come up for re-election. The people

## Accountants To Prepare

### Tax Returns For Poor

By SUSAN ELLSWORTH  
Post Staff Writer

The Charlotte Chapter of the National Association of Black Accountants is offering to prepare state and federal income tax returns free of charge for low income families and individuals.

Persons are eligible for this service if their gross income is \$7,000 or less for single individuals, or \$10,000 or below for individuals filing jointly.

The service will be offered on alternating Saturdays between Belmont Regional and the Greenville Neighborhood Centers, according to Ann James secretary of the Charlotte Chapter of the NABA.

Information necessary to prepare tax returns will be collected from taxpayers on Saturday and returned as follows: At the Greenville Center information will be collected Jan. 20 and returned Feb. 3; collected Feb. 3 and returned Feb. 17; collected Feb. 17 and returned March 3; collected March 3 and returned March 17; and collected March 17 and returned March 31.

The Belmont Regional Center will have information collected on Jan. 27 and returned Feb. 10; collected Feb. 10 and returned February 24; collected Feb. 24 and returned March 10; collected March 10 and returned March 24; collected March 24 and returned March 31.

Members of the NABA will be at the Belmont Regional Center from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and at the Greenville Center from 12:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. No information will be collected or distributed by the neighborhood Centers Department personnel.

The NABA prepared 1,000 returns last year while working in conjunction with the Charlotte Neighborhood Centers Department.

### Will Carter

#### Approve Higher

#### Wage Contracts?

Indications that the Carter administration will approve labor contracts that promise wage hikes higher than seven percent is welcome news and should be duly noted by North Carolina General Assembly members, C. Stewart Stafford, NCAE president, said last week.

Alfred Kahn, the President's chief anti-inflation adviser, has quietly ruled that wage hikes higher than seven percent are all right if inflation continues at double-digit levels.

"Inflation," said Stafford, "gives every indication of doing just that."

Kahn made his ruling in a case involving Pako Corporation of Minneapolis, Minnesota. The union was negotiating a new contract with its employees and asked the federal government if it could agree to offer to raise salaries more than seven percent in the last two years of a three-year contract if inflation exceeded that figure the Los Angeles Times News Service reports.

Pako proposed to raise salaries as much as the rate of inflation, up to 10 percent a year. Kahn's office approved.

He said the record clearly shows that NCAE members have lost a considerable amount of purchasing power over the last three years and that if "it is permissible to anticipate inflation in the future it only makes sense to make up for its past ravages."

## Senior Citizens' Confrontation

### Surprises Memorial Hospital Staff

by Sherleen McKoy  
Post Staff Writer

Members of Senior Citizens United will wait 60 days to give the staff of Charlotte Memorial Hospital time to begin working out the problems presented to them in a meeting last week.

Johnnie Evans, spokesman for the local group united to secure benefits for the elderly as well as others, said that the most important issue centered around the Hill-Burton Act which provides funds for hospitals and other health facilities to construct new buildings.

"In return for this money, hospital officials agree to provide persons who cannot afford medical services with free or reduced service," Ms. Evans explained. "Once a hospital receives this money, it is required by law to provide a certain level of free or below



Sherleen

cost care to any person meeting the hospital's income guidelines."

Among hospital staff members present were: Bland Burkhardt, Deputy Director; Frank Rinker, Associate Director; Dr. John Baker, Chief of Emergency Room; and Dr. Carl Lyle, Chief of Outpatient Services.

Ms. Evans said that the staff was surprised when she confronted them with the Hill-

Burton Act and questioned them as to why they did not publicize this information.

According to Ms. Evans, the group demanded that the hospital take the following steps: inform their staff and community groups and agencies, post larger and understandable signs in conspicuous places throughout the hospital (the sign they have in the Emergency Room on a side wall where it is not easily seen), give written information about the Hill-Burton Act to each patient at the time of admission or any other time it is asked for and that a follow-up meeting be set for further discussions.

Other issues centered around the problems of long waits at the clinic and Emergency Room, haphazard appointments, poor communication on the part of doctors towards patients, a different

doctor every visit, insufficient wheelchairs and walkers at the right places and a staff shortage in helping patients.

After members of the group related numerous incidents of unsatisfactory treatment they received previously at the hospital, Ms. Evans said that the staff commented that they "didn't know that people felt that way about Memorial Hospital."

"The senior citizens were talking for everybody," she said, "and not only themselves."

The group further demanded that H. C. Green, Director of the hospital, should make this recommendation to the Board and HA at their next meeting.

At the conclusion of the discussion, the group stated that during their waiting period they would send a follow-up letter to reiterate their problems and demands.

TURTLE-TALK



Only an intelligent man has sense enough to recognize his own limitations.