

# Alice Speas: "To Get A Job,

## You Must Have A Goal"

Special To The Post

WINSTON-SALEM - "If you don't have a plan," says Alice Speas, "you may not go anywhere. To get a good job, you must have a goal."

Speas, an accounting supervisor for R. J. Reynolds Industries, Inc., and a participant in the National Urban League's Black Executive Exchange Program, says it takes more than education to get a job. "You must sell yourself, and once you obtain a job, you must show you are capable."

Speas, who has lectured at predominantly black colleges on the recipe for success, says many students are naive about the business world.

"They think the decision about getting a job is made by deciding to go into business, or economics, but it has got to go a lot further," she says. "You've got to have an idea as to how you want to get to your goal and what it takes to get there - what type of positions you would like to have and where you want to go, no matter what field you choose."

Getting ahead requires a combination of many things, Speas says.

"I would stay in school through college or graduate school. There are a lot of people in the job market and a degree will give you an edge."

"Also, shop around. Send resumes only to companies you would like to work for. Choosing a company is important over and above a single job you may want."

"Think of areas you would live if you had the opportunity. Where are you willing to go? Being mobile is a good asset."

"Be persistent when seeking interviews." Getting an interview may be one of the hardest things to do, Speas says.

Speas believes the job interview is the most important part of getting a



Alice Speas

Accounting supervisor job. "If you get an interview, it means the company needs someone. You must convince a company that you are what they want. Be prepared to sell yourself. Have confidence in yourself and what you can do, and communicate that to the interviewer."

"At the same time," she adds, "make sure you want to work for that company. Don't be afraid to ask a lot of questions about job opportunity and advancement. By asking these questions, you show people what you are interested in, and in what your career goals are."

Finally, Speas says, "The more diverse your experience and responsibility, the more valuable you will be to the company. It is important to consider what other areas you would like to get involved in - what you want to learn. You must decide what other areas might enhance your career on the way up."

A supervisor of expense reporting with RJR, Speas started working in high school and joined the company in 1973 as an accounting clerk. Within a year she received a first promotion to accounting assistant, then to senior accounting assistant before assuming her present position. While moving up in the ranks she attended night school, graduating with a B.B.A. in accounting. Speas says she

hopes to get through graduate school the same way.

The former Head Start volunteer recommends that students stay in school, something some consider against even in college.

"Many students very strongly believe they don't have a chance that being black means job opportunities are for someone else. That may have been true 10 years ago, but not today."

Speas tells students they can suddenly find themselves without opportunity because they haven't looked for it, worked for it, or haven't known where to find it.

"Companies," she adds, "are doing a better job at letting people know about opportunities, through such things as visits to college campuses."

Speas says she enjoys working with BEEP. "Students need to know that there is a real world out there. It's fun growing up, but sooner or later, you have to take responsibility for the things in the world you are criticizing."

### Small Animals

### Will Be Auctioned

Some 100 rabbits, ferrets, guinea pigs, gerbils, hamsters, rats, parrots, doves, parakeets, goldfish, and a lovebird will be auctioned on Friday, May 2, 1:30 p.m. at the City Animal Shelter, 2700 Toomey Avenue.

The animals and birds were seized six months ago as police evidence for a cruelty to animals charge against a local pet store. The court case is now settled and the animals have been released for sale.

Diane Quisenberry, Superintendent of Animal Control, says that, "all we hope to do is break even on what it has cost the City to feed and care for the animals for the last six months."

### Special To The Post

Atlanta - The massive Fiscal Year 1981 budget cuts proposed by the Carter Administration and the Congress are drawing criticism from every segment of this nation's inflation-riddled society. With the inflation rate hovering at nearly 20 percent, the President and to a greater extent, the Congressional leadership which has proposed even more drastic cuts than the president, are asking America's already overburdened poor, low and middle income citizens to bear the brunt of the

### Fraternity To Honor Dr. Roy Witherspoon

A social fraternity at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte has honored a religious studies professor who serves as their advisor by establishing a scholarship in religious studies.

Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity brothers set up the fund to show appreciation for the work Dr. Loy H. Witherspoon has done in serving as their advisor.

The scholarship will be given next fall for the first time and would be based on merit and on involvement in campus activities. Recipients will be juniors or seniors.

Dr. Witherspoon is also director of the United Religious Ministry at UNCC.

The Black community has not realized the importance of their vote! Remember, it's important that you go to the polls - May 6 AND VOTE!

government's inflationary spending policies, despite the fact that they contribute least to inflation.

Dr. Joseph E. Lowery, president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), says SCLC will oppose the budget cut-backs. "Balancing the budget is a noble precept but not at the expense of blacks, the poor, senior citizens and other minorities."

The National Board of Directors of SCLC met in Tallahassee, Fla., April 15 for its Annual Board meeting. Following is a summary of SCLC's opposition

to the proposed budget cut-backs and alternatives to the budget proposals which SCLC will seek to see implemented.

The nation must find an effective means of fighting inflation and the dollars to put people to work. The resulting increase in productivity will inject new life into the economy. The ills of inflation cannot be cured by putting more people out of work. Increased unemployment will cost the nation \$20 billion in lost taxes, unemployment compensation, welfare payments and lost productivity.

The proposed cutbacks in the Fiscal Year 1981 budget will increase the unemployment rolls by 2 million people. Cutting 25 billion dollars from the federal budget will only decrease inflation by one-tenth of one percent. Therefore, instead of a 20 percent inflation rate the nation would have a 19.9 percent rate of inflation.

At the same time the budget cuts will add to unemployment, reduce services to the aged, poor and ill and fail to promote training opportunities for the hard core, unskilled, and unemployed.

Rising interest rates for housing have not only put home ownership out of reach of low and middle-income persons, but also adds millions to the unemployment rolls by bringing the construction industry to a halt. It is predicted that more than one million construction workers will lose their jobs this year.

Increased production of better designed more competitive products would improve the nation's chances in the world market where the U.S. is taking a beating from mass produced, efficient, economical products.

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Corn **6 For 69¢**

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