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AVONNETTE CECILE MCCULLOUGH

.....Piedmont varsity cheerleader

Avonnette C. McCullough Is "Beauty Of The Week"

By Teresa Burns
Post Staff Writer

Thirteen isn't a very large number, especially when it comes to age. No matter, because for our beauty, Avonnette Cecile McCullough, age does not determine her wisdom. At the age of 13 she has already realized that caring, understanding and thinking of others are important aspects of life.

"I also think that we should always try to reach our highest goals," she smiled. One of her goals is to become an attorney. "I've always been interested in the field of law," she admitted.

Ms. McCullough also enjoys cheering, swimming, shopping and playing the piano. She has even

modeled some for Ivey's department stores. As a Piedmont Junior High School ninth grader, she is a member of the Executive Committee, Varsity Cheerleading squad, the Annual Staff, Project Aries, the Volleyball team, the French Club, and the Student Advisory Committee.

She is a sharp young lady, ready for anything. She likes working with experiments and trying things that are new as she points out. That's why presently, her favorite subject is science.

"I like meeting new people and finding new friends," our Virgo beauty commented. One important characteristic about Ms. McCullough is that she doesn't sit around waiting for friends to come to her.

She is secretary of her age group in the Jack and Jill of America Association. She also attends First Baptist Church where she is president of the 4-H Club, and a member of the Youth Group.

Michael and Randy Jackson are her favorite entertainers. She simply enjoys their music. And her mother, Ruth McCullough, is her favorite person. "She is a friend to me," Ms. McCullough explained, "and she has taken a lot of responsibility." Our beauty's father is Oren McCullough.

Ms. McCullough is 95 pounds of bubbling enthusiasm, excitement and innocence. With this combination no one can deny that she is a living doll.

Patrol Issues

Labor Day

Warning

The North Carolina State Highway Patrol cautions motorists to refrain from drinking and driving during the long Labor Day weekend.

Patrol Commander John T. Jenkins said, "Alcohol creates an illusion of well-being which tends to make some motorists think that they can drink and drive. This irresponsible attitude greatly increases their chances of having an accident and seriously injuring themselves or someone else."

Crime Control and Public Safety Secretary Burley Mitchell echoed Jenkins' sentiment. "Driving during and after drinking is extremely dangerous and potentially very expensive in terms of injury, death, property and insurance rates."

Jenkins stressed, "Our troopers are becoming more proficient in detecting drinking drivers. During the Labor Day weekend, we will have every available member on duty and will be attempting to remove every alcohol-impaired driver that we possibly can."

The holiday begins at 6 p.m. Friday, August 29 and ends at midnight Monday, Sept. 1.

Post Highlights

"Back To School"

In Section B

When Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools re-open on Sept. 2 will your child be ready?

"The Charlotte Post" is highlighting back to school features in this week's tabloid section (1B-12B).

Teresa Burns interviews five students on how they spent their vacations and their attitudes on returning to school. Principal Robert Davis speaks out on changes in the Street Academy.

Congress Tighten Food

Stamp Eligibility Requirements

Special To The Post
WASHINGTON - People applying for food stamps could be asked to provide more proof of information on their application under a rule proposed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Currently, all persons applying for food stamps must document their income, social security number and certain medical and utility expenses. Persons who are not U.S. citizens must prove that they are legal aliens who have been admitted to this country for permanent residence, according to Assistant Secretary of Agriculture Carol T. Foreman.

States are also permitted to require all applicants to provide proof of their assets. In addition, states

must require proof of a number of other eligibility factors, such as rent or household composition, whenever the information provided by the applicant is questionable.

The proposed rule would give states authority to conduct additional verification by allowing states to require proof from every

I-85 Work Begins

Motorist Urged To Drive With Care

North Carolina Department of Transportation Secretary Tom Bradshaw this week issued a plea to all motorists using I-85 in Charlotte to drive with extreme care and obey the posted speed limit in the construction area between



Receiving awards for their organizations' work in the struggle for equal rights are Luciel McNeel (Vote Task Force), Luciel McNeel and Betty Sue Huntley (Clients Council), Hattie Harris (Residents Advisory Council), Jessie McCombs (Southern Advocate), Dr. Wilbert Greenfield (Johnson C. Smith

University), and Herman Thomas (Afro-American Cultural Center). Presenting the awards on behalf of Turner Broadcasting Systems, Inc. is Robert Wussler (center). The awards were designated by the Charlotte Broadcast Coalition, Inc. (Photo by Eileen Hanson)

Local Groups Receive

Awards Totaling \$72,500

By Eileen Hanson
Special To The Post

What started out as a negative situation for Charlotte's black community, turned into something positive last week as an Atlanta businessman presented grants of \$72,500 to groups designated by the Charlotte Broadcast Coalition.

At a press conference and reception August 22 at Johnson C. Smith University, Robert Wussler, representing Atlanta millionaire Ted Turner, presented

\$25,000 to JCSU's Communication Arts Department, and three grants of \$12,500 each, the first of four annual grants.

In presenting the grants, Wussler dedicated them to the late Bill Lucas, a black baseball player for the Atlanta Braves who died last year.

The awards to community groups were presented to The Afro-American Cultural Center; the Southern Advocate newspaper; and a combined project of the Client Council of Southern Piedmont, the Residents Advisory Council and the Vote Task Force.

The groups were chosen because of their involvement in the struggle for

equal rights for minorities.

"Sometimes people don't want to identify with us. We don't mind stepping on toes, no matter how big they are," said Coalition spokesperson Carrie Graves. "We are giving these grants to those who walked in the streets with us for the Wilmington 10, the Charlotte 3, for Food Stamps and other human rights issues. We are joining hands in the battle for a better future."

Dr. Herman Thomas, Chairman of the Afro-American Center Board, said the grant would be used to further the Children's Art Program and the general work of the Center, located in Spirit Square.

Receiving the award on behalf of the Southern Advocate, a monthly regional newspaper which started in Charlotte two years ago, Jessie McCombs said, "We must use our news media to spread the truth."

Receiving the third grant were Betty Sue Huntley and Luciel McNeel of the Clients' Council; Hattie Harris of the Residents' Advisory Council, and Lonnie Graves of the Vote Task Force.

On receiving the grant to

Johnson C. Smith University, President Dr. Wilbert Greenfield announced that the university will soon build a Fine Arts building which will house the Department of Communication Arts.

"We would like to see a Turner Studio for Communication Arts, so what Ted Turner and the Charlotte Broadcast Coalition have done here today will live on and on," said Dr. Greenfield.

According to Department Chair Barbara Moran, the grant, which will total \$100,000 over four years, will enable JCSU to modernize its TV training studio and introduce color capability. The program currently has 129 students majoring in the fields of broadcasting, print journalism, speech and drama.

"We will use the money to improve our communications program and to better prepare students for the job market," said Dr. Moran.

The awards were part of a 4-year agreement between the Coalition and Turner Broadcasting Systems, Inc. made in April. In 1978 the Coalition, which monitors the treatment of blacks by local broadcast media, filed discrimination charges against WRET, Channel 36, then owned by Turner.

In petitions to the Federal Communication Commission, the Coalition accused WRET of not hiring enough blacks in decision making positions and not adequately representing the black community in its programming. The charges were dropped after the April agreement, which cleared the way for Turner to sell the station to Westinghouse.

The Coalition also announced that three scholarships of \$3,500 each will be awarded next month to black students in communications or journalism. Recipients will be selected by the three original groups in the Coalition - the Charlotte Equal Rights Council, People United for Justice and the National Organization for Women.

For application forms, contact the Charlotte Broadcast Coalition, P. O. Box 34004, Charlotte, N.C. 28234 or call 374-0557.

\$212 Billion Spent For Health Care

In 1979, the nation spent an estimated \$212.2 billion for health care, an amount equal to 9 percent of the gross national product, Health and Human Services Secretary Patricia Roberts Harris announced today.

On a per capita basis, 1979 health spending, from all sources, amounted to an estimated \$943 per person. And of that amount, \$406 or 43 percent represented public spending.

These latest comprehensive spending estimates were compiled by HHS' Health Care Financing Administration and are published in the current issue of HCFA's quarterly journal, the Health Care Financing Review.

The journal notes that outlays for health care benefits by the Medicare and Medicaid programs administered by HCFA amounted to \$29.3 billion and \$21.7 billion respectively, combining to pay for 27 percent of all personal health care in the nation. Benefits for hospital care alone amounted to \$29.7 billion for both programs.

Highlights in the report: + Health spending in 1979 increased 12.5 percent from 1978 levels, up from the 11 percent growth seen in 1978.

+ Expenditures for health care included \$54.4 billion in premiums to private health insurance, \$60.9 billion in federal payments and \$30.5 billion in state and local government funds.

+ The \$85.3 billion bill for hospital care represented 40 percent of total health care spending in 1979. These expenditures increased 12.5 percent over 1978.

+ Spending for physician services increased 13.4 percent to \$40.6 billion - 19 percent of all health care spending.

+ All third parties combined - private health insurers, governments, philanthropy and industry - financed 68 percent of the \$188.6 billion in personal health care in 1979, ranging from 92 percent of hospital care services to 64 percent of physicians' services and 39 percent of the remainder.

+ Direct payments by consumers reached \$60 billion in 1979. This represented 32 percent of all personal health care expenses.

The HCFA report of the latest tabulation of money spent for health care in the United States in 1979 continues a series of annual reports begun in 1964. The series comprises the national health accounts of the United States and is the most complete and comprehensive compilation of health expenditures available.

On Ambulance Services

Proposed Regulations

Would Expand Medicare Rules

The Department of Health and Human Services Monday proposed to expand coverage of ambulance service for hospitalized Medicare patients.

Current ambulance service regulations provide coverage for transportation, under certain circumstances, only to another hospital, to a skilled nursing facility or to the beneficiary's home.

The proposed regulations would include coverage for ambulance transportation to such facilities as clinics, therapy centers or physicians' offices to obtain necessary diagnostic or therapeutic services not available at the hospital in which the beneficiary is a

patient.

Current rules specify that Medicare will only pay for ambulance services to the nearest institution with appropriate facilities. The proposal would add the availability of a physician or physician specialist capable of providing the needed care of treatment to the criteria for deciding whether an institution has appropriate facilities to provide the care needed by the beneficiary. For instance, some small rural hospitals may not have a physician on duty 24 hours a day and therefore might not be equipped to provide the type of care required. In such an instance, Medicare would cover ambulance transportation to a more distant hospital where a physician was available.

"This proposal represents a program improvement that would make the Medicare ambulance service benefit more responsive to patient needs and consistent with developments in medical care that have tended to centralize certain diagnostic and therapeutic services," said Health Care Financing Administrator Howard Newman, and we are so-

liciting comments and suggestions on the need that may exist in other situations.



Some minds are like concrete - they're either all mixed up or permanently set.