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ENERGETIC MERCIDENE RICE
.....Assistant managing editor

Lovely Mercidene Rice Is "Beauty Of The Week"

By Teresa Burns
Post Staff Writer
Mercidene Rice knows where she is going - and since she's that determined she is bound to reach her goal.
"My ambition is to become a news reporter," Ms. Rice announced. "My main desire is to communicate with people - I love meeting people because I am a people-oriented person."
For seven years our beauty worked as Assistant Department manager at K-Mart Department Store. Then she decided to pursue a dream. Her first step was to enter into a communications job. She decided to become a courier for WPCQ-TV, Channel 36.
From there she was promoted to receptionist. Within a year's time she was promoted again - this time to Assistant Managing Editor.
"I have a positive attitude. I started at a low level position and made it known that my aspirations were to work in the news department," Ms. Rice explained.
She also volunteered during her spare time and on weekends for duties - learning every step of the way. "I never got depressed - and I prayed."
Among her duties Ms. Rice assists the Assignment Editor and enlightens reports on various assignments. She makes public contact with community organizations, files a video morgue, and performs secretarial work. She also is assistant producer for the "Friday News Magazine."
"The news business is exciting. You never know what to expect. And I now know more about what is going on around me. I enjoy the overall different situations everyday," she remarked.
Our 24-year-old Virgo beauty seems to bubble everytime media is mentioned. Even her favorite television programs are news type programs or

documentaries. "60 Minutes" and "20-20" rank high on her list.
She is also involved in photography, exercising, bowling, actually all types of sports and music and she loves to read. Graduation from the Carolina School of Broadcasting and receiving an Associate of Applied Science degree from Central Piedmont Community College, is only the beginning of her beauty.
"I would like to further my education and improve my writing skills in order to become a more efficient reporter."
Ms. Rice has many philosophies of life - all of them filled with strength. For one, she feels that beauty encompasses "...more than just physical appearance...it's the inner qualities that count." (Ms. Rice was referred by her assignment editor Rick Willis.)
She also feels that "...a person can achieve anything they want to as long as they have a positive attitude and faith in themselves."
"Once one achieves a goal," she continued "one

must remember that it wasn't completely on one's own. God is behind us 100 percent - and we should look to him for guidance."
Mayfield Memorial Baptist Church is where Ms. Rice worships. She is involved with the Primary Age Group as Sunday School Teacher; she sings on the Adult Musical Choir; and is assistant secretary of the Young Adult Missionary Group. She is also treasurer of the Black Media Association.
She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John M. Rice of Charlotte. "My mom is my favorite person - she is really strong and knows exactly what she wants out of life. She is not easily persuaded by other's opinions, and I find myself being this way at times."
Spring Break
Classes at Johnson C. Smith University will be discontinued for Spring Break during the week of March 8-14. Dormitories will close Saturday, March 7, at 12 noon and will reopen Sunday, March 15, at 9 a.m.

"Blacks Need To Rise Up And Say Something"

Half-Way House Needs Volunteers

By Susan Ellsworth
Post Staff Writer
Did you know that Charlotte has a prison half-way house treatment facility for women? This minimum custody prison facility resembles a home; no bars fill the windows. Eight women from the N.C. Correctional Facility For Women in Raleigh, are housed in the Charlotte facility.

Volunteers are needed to help prisoners bridge the transition from prison to society during the six months before parole.
Consider sponsoring a woman. This could mean taking her to cultural events, concerts or even tutoring her in high school courses.
"Be a friend and offer positive support, be someone they can trust and talk with," says Bess Flanary, counselor at the facility.
A 12-hour training program over a two month period is provided to help the volunteers become acquainted with the prisoners.
"We need a strong individual who is empathic with the women...women who will go back into society," she pointed out.
The half-way house in Charlotte has existed for 10 years. Other houses are in Greenville, Wilmington and Winston-Salem. Having a maximum capacity of eight at the Charlotte facility, only 32 women who are the best adjusted to handling society will be in the half-way houses. Ms. Flanary said. To become a volunteer call the Voluntary Action Center at 377-3787.



Mayor Geraldine Sawyer of McMullen, Ala., and Carrie Graves, preparing for International Women's Day. (Photo by Eileen Hanson)

First Black Woman Mayor In Alabama To Talk Here

Special To The Post
The first black woman mayor in Alabama, and the second in the entire South, will be guest speaker at International Women's Day reception and ball on Saturday, March 7. The day will honor all working women.
Geraldine Sawyer, 32, is mayor of McMullen, a small town in Pickens County, Ala., in the heart of the Black Belt. She will speak at the 8 p.m. program at the Quality Inn, 201 S. McDowell Street.
Also on the program will be Ruth Sloane-Dew, Charlotte's popular poet and actress, presenting excerpts from "Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide When the Rainbow is Unfurled" and Clara Lowry

Williams, Charlotte's first black woman in television. Music for the ball will be provided by "Zoom," with soloists Sammie Stevenson and Lee Freeman.
Tickets for the ball are \$5 in advance, \$7 at the door. For tickets call 374-0557 or 333-1925.
International Women's Day is an annual celebration sponsored by the Charlotte Equal Rights Council, Charlotte Women United, the Client Council and the Central Labor Council. The day commemorates a march of thousands of textile and garment workers who walked off their jobs on March 8, 1908, to demand better wages and working condition, an end to child labor and the right to vote. Today March 8 is

celebrated on all continents as a holiday for working women.
"Black women are still struggling for the right to vote in Pickens County," said Mayor Sawyer. Last year two women leaders in the NAACP and SCLC were convicted and sentenced to 5 years in prison on charges of "voter fraud." They were assisting black senior citizens registering to vote.
Last year the head of SCLC was arrested while helping illiterate blacks at the polls.
"Repealing the Voter Rights Act would be a total disaster for our people," said Mayor Sawyer.
"We're just getting people awakened to their rights. In 1980 we got 300 people registered, and had blacks running for the first time in Pickens County. But people are afraid. They fear losing their jobs or their homes if they register. It's like the 1960s never happened here."
International Women's Day will begin at the Greenville Center at 12:30 p.m. with a film, "Rosie the Riveter" and workshops about improving women's conditions on the job. Child care will be provided for the afternoon program. There is no admission.
Special guests for the day will be the "Rosies" who worked in Charlotte's industries during World War II. About 50 women will be honored.
The afternoon program will be dedicated to two women who died in the Radiator Specialty explosion last November, Dorothy Graham and Lora Ann Barrino.
"These women died on the job, like thousands of other men and women, because their employers neglected safety procedures and the workers didn't know their rights," said Carrie Graves, a member of International Women's Day planning committee.

Meeting Set For Slained Youths

In light of the Atlanta, Ga., slayings, "Charlotte blacks need to raise up and say something," according to Bill McCullough, director of Christian Education at Clinton Chapel AME Zion Church.
"The Atlanta slayings are not receiving the same national attention or federal funds as the Iran hostages received," McCullough revealed. "And black people aren't doing a lot about it."
Instead of simply sitting around and talking about what is not being done, a meeting to organize an interdenomination service to commemorate all the slain youths in Atlanta will be held Thursday, March 5, 7 p.m. at the Charlotte YWCA, 418 E. Trade St.
Everyone concerned is invited to participate, to place any inputs, help and as much support possible for the solution to this 20-month ordeal in Atlanta.
McCullough, along with others, feels that while the Charlotte community may be familiar with the situation, few know the facts or ramifications.
"Everyone knew that there were 52 hostages, but how many know that 20 black children, to date, have been abducted and/or slain within the last 10 months?"
Clinton Chapel members are not only keeping a prayer vigil each Sunday for an end to the situation, but they have also raised money to be sent to Atlanta.
Eighty letters calling for the March 5 meeting were sent to ministers, political figures, educators, etc., trying to turn concern into action.
"We need the participation of the entire community - not just the black community," McCullough announced. "Anyone who wants to come is invited."
Another show of action involves writing to state and national officials expressing your concern. According to McCullough, presently there are limited funds for the extinction of the fears now harbored in Atlanta. Naturally, he expressed, more funds would be helpful.
If you are interested and would like to do more than talk about your concern about the Atlanta slayings, you are invited to the meeting. There, plans will be made concerning the location of the interdenominational services as well as other related topics.

Sam Johnson Has Made Tremendous Success In The World Of Car Sales

By Teresa Burns
Post Staff Writer
American success stories are numerous. But when the success story concerns a black businessman and his tremendous success in the world of car sales it becomes a rarity.
Despite the economical situation, gas hikes and other anticipated setbacks, Sam Johnson, owner of Sam Johnson Lincoln-Mercury, Inc., 7301 South Boulevard, has reached the top - and what's more he has managed to stay there.
He is the top volume dealer in the Atlanta District, which consists of 164 competitors located throughout the southeastern part of the United States.
Sam Johnson Lincoln-Mercury is a multi-faceted organization, selling or leasing new and used cars.
Mark Johnson with American luck or idealism if you must, but he'll explain his success in more realistic terms.
"We merchandise well and we have top quality people," Johnson stated. "We promote within the organization." There is little turnover in management at Johnson Lincoln-Mercury.



SAM JOHNSON
.....Car Dealers President

"In fact our used car manager, parts manager, service manager and many others have been with me since the day we opened the doors."
A tribute to organization helped Johnson to open those doors in Charlotte in 1977. He had been in the car sales business since he was 17 years old. And in 1973 he started his first

car dealership business in St. Louis. In 1977 he moved to Charlotte, utilizing his business talents to manipulate the number one position.
"Charlotte is a medium sized town and the right size town," Johnson observed. "It represents growth in the Southeast."
The key, he explained, in developing a successful car

dealership is choosing the "...right type of dealership ...the right town and the right type of place."
Experience concerning the business is a must also. No type of readings or lectures can give the same knowledge as on-the-job experience.
Even with experience, knowledge and a business mind, one must look out for rough times. "When the

economy is up the sales are good and when the economy is down business is bad," Johnson explained.
"You must be well capitalized in this type of business. You can be rich today and broke tomorrow. It's simply a hazard type business. You could lose money for an entire year. So you must have enough capitalization to keep going," he continued.
Johnson does have the car manufacturers on his side. Lincoln-Mercury Division, Ford Motor Company are producing lines of quality cars.
Cars are no longer considered 'big cars', Johnson said. They are labeled 'luxury cars' today. The gas efficiency of each model has improved.
"When gas was 60 cents some cars were getting 10 miles per gallon. Now cars are getting 24 miles per gallon and the gas price is \$1.20 per gallon. The situation is equalizing itself off," he stated.
Not only does Johnson's incorporation reign as the top volume dealer, Johnson, the man, has made history.
Mayfield Memorial Baptist Church is where Johnson worships.

working condition, an end to child labor and the right to vote. Today March 8 is

Health Clinic
A new senior health clinic has opened at W. H. Belk Presbyterian Church, 7410 Nations Ford Road for citizens 60 years of age or older. The membership fee is \$2.
Initial tests offered by the clinic are hemoglobin (test for anemia), blood pressure checks and urinalysis. The clinic will open quarterly to offer these services. Clinic dates are May 21, August 20 and November 19 from 2-4 p.m.
Other tests provided by appointment are glaucoma, diabetes and lung function.

Celebrate Life
"Celebration of Life" is a week long series of events designed to involve the Charlotte community in happenings affirming life itself. "Celebration of Life" is scheduled for March 21-28.

TURTLE-TALK

A tongue doesn't weigh much, but many people have trouble holding one.