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USDA Restricts Wholesalers

Special To The Post
WASHINGTON, D.C. - In a measure designed to reduce the potential for abuse in the food stamp program, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture Mary Jarratt today announced rules that will significantly reduce the number of wholesalers currently authorized to accept and redeem food stamps.

"Under these new rules, all of the 2,300 wholesalers currently authorized will have their authorization withdrawn. The department will then authorize only those wholesalers who are needed to serve as redemption outlets for specific nonprofit cooperative food purchasing ventures, group living arrangements for the blind or disabled, treatment programs for alcoholics or drug addicts, shelters for battered women and children and retail food outlets which have no access to a bank," Jarratt said.

Those wholesalers authorized to serve treatment programs, group living arrangements and shelters for battered women and children will only be allowed to accept food stamps in exchange for food," Jarratt added.

Wholesalers were authorized to redeem food stamps when the program first began to remove any obstacles that might prevent retailers from participating in the program. But rather than continuing to allow retailers to give the stamps to wholesalers who then turn them in to a bank, the department decided that the best way to avoid any potential for misuse is for retailers to take the stamps directly to the bank themselves.

The department's inspector general recommended restricting wholesalers participation in the program investigating several cases where wholesalers were illegally redeeming improperly obtained food stamps.

The department proposed rules last November and received 42 comments which were considered in developing final rules.

Nationwide's Auto Rate Decrease Approved

The North Carolina Department of Insurance approved this week a November 30 filing by Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company for a 7.0 percent reduction for automobile insurance.

In response to an earlier comment of the Insurance Commissioner, Bernard H. Parker, vice president.

Peace Vigil

The monthly Silent Peace Vigil, sponsored by Charlotte SANE, Charlotte Friends Meeting and the Equal Rights Council will be held this Sunday, January 10, from noon to 1 at the corner of Queens and Providence Roads.

Over 50 people attended the December Peace Vigil.

TURTLE-TALK



A NARROW MIND and a WIDE MOUTH often go together.



ALLURING VANESSA BROWN
...A&T sophomore

Vanessa Brown Is Beauty Of Week

By Teresa Burns
Post Staff Writer
Being a student at North Carolina A&T State University has both inspired and boosted the intellect of Charlottean Vanessa Brown.

At 19 years of age, Ms. Brown is a sophomore at A&T where she especially enjoys the topics in Political Science.

"That's my favorite subject. The only way to get by in the world is to know more about the government and how it operates," she exclaimed.

Her major, however, will involve her efforts in helping others. "My major will be Social Services, mainly because I enjoy aiding others. I'm not quite sure, but I think that I prefer to work with adoptions," she continued.

Like other college students Ms. Brown faces the rigorous schedule of classes and tests. But in our beauty's case her objective is determination. "I'm easy going yet strong minded. I go after anything I set my mind to."

"I feel one should never let anything hold them back. If you see something that you want, go after it."

she added.
An East Mecklenburg graduate, Ms. Brown is also a member of Bethany Baptist Church. She has two sisters, Rita, 15 and Latonya 10. She also has one brother, Anthony, 17. Her mother, Mattie Beatrice Gaines, is her favorite person. "She always stands by me and she doesn't try to criticize. She backs me up 100 percent. In raising a family of four I know that it has been pretty hard, but she's pretty sure of herself," Ms. Brown stated.

She is fascinated by roller skating, baking, the actor Billy Dee Williams, the stunning jazz of artists like Luther Vandross and the television sensation "The Jeffersons."
On the national political scene our Gemini beauty would delight in changing the aspirations of our president. "I would like to change his ideas...especially when it comes to the budget cuts," she submitted.
Strong intentions have led Ms. Brown to her present point in life. From here on, will and grace will dominate her life patterns. For now it is obvious that her goals are for the enlightenment, not only of her being but for society as well.

Here January 15 Gala Celebration Set For King's Birthday

Reames Road Hearing Set For Proposed Landfill

A Special Use Permit Hearing will be conducted by the Mecklenburg County Commissioners on January 11 to consider the City of Charlotte's request for permission to operate a landfill on Reames Road. The hearing will begin at 3 p.m. and will be held at the Long Creek Elementary School on Beatties Ford Road.

This crucial proceeding marks the first time that the County Commissioners (our only elected representatives in local government) will hear arguments for and against the proposed site. Since the City Council chose Reames Road in June of last year, the Long Creek Citizens Committee has spent \$17,700 in its effort to stop the City's plans, and an additional \$5,000 to \$10,000 will be spent in the immediate future. All of this comes on top of \$11,000 spent in 1972 by Long Creek citizens in fighting a hazardous waste dump proposal for the same site.

At the hearing, the citizens of Long Creek will provide technical testimony and data which show conclusively that the Reames Road site is unsuitable for landfill use.

"We will be represented by legal counsel and an independent technical consultant from Raleigh, as well as by residents of North Mecklenburg whose credentials enable them to testify as experts. Among the latter are engineers, a geologist, a hydrologist, and a registered environmental engineer."

Misconceptions Surround Report

Lowery: False Fronting Has Been "Grossly Exaggerated"

By Gayle Hinson
Post Staff Writer
Recent reports by the TV news media make it seem that the minority firms working at Douglas Municipal Airport are not legitimate minority firms but white-owned companies with blacks fronting as owners, who were able to get contracts for work at the airport under the city's minority program.

Bobby Lowery, president of Charlotte Business League and vice-chairman of the national minority input committee, says that false fronting here has been grossly exaggerated. According to Lowery, there are two major misconceptions surrounding the media's report. The first myth is that most of the minority firms are not from Charlotte but out-of-state. Lowery said that in fact only three or four of the 30 to 35 minority businessmen are from out-of-state.
He explained that the ratio of local minority companies to out-of-state min-

Misconceptions Surround Report

Lowery: False Fronting Has Been "Grossly Exaggerated"

ority companies is not out of proportion.
"Only a small percentage of these companies have home offices out-of-state. The percentage is not greater than the number of major companies that are from out of state," he continued.
Lowery states that the second myth is that the majority of the companies were false fronted for whites and non-minorities.

of situations. Even though the sanitation division is "fine tuned," White expressed he wants the image of the 450 employees to improve. (One of which is a female.)
"My primary interest is to improve the image of sanitation employees," White began. "I would like to see citizens more appreciative of them and the job that must be done."
It's simple to imagine the havoc created when rubbish is not collected—



SIMON A. WHITE JR.
...Sanitation Division Superintendent

Simon A. White Jr. Is Pleased With New Position

By Teresa Burns
Post Staff Writer
Simon A. White Jr. is pleased with his new position as superintendent of the City's Sanitation Division.

The appointment which was effective December 23rd, finds White among a competent staff which is highly motivated. "My working experience is most pleasant," he announced.
But a mark of a true superior leader is improving even the most suitable

remember the sanitation division's strike several years ago.

In case of a strike White, a well versed young man would act as liaison between employees and management. "I would also take steps to identify and solve the problem(s)," he continued.

In addition to directing a staff White's responsibility revolves around residential collection, bulky trash collection and street cleaning services for approximately 106,000 locations throughout the city.

He is also amenable to the operating budget of more than \$10 million.

Employed by the city since 1969 White has worked as City Personnel Department's Sanitation operations supervisor and acting Sanitation superintendent. He attended Morehouse College, graduating in 1966 with a bachelor's degree in psychology with sociology and education as minors.

He enjoys his two children, Corwin and Ingrid White, playing cards, entertaining, tennis and swimming.

He is a member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity and Southwest Optimist Club.

AACC To Exhibit
Afro-American

Decorative Arts
The Afro-American Cultural Center (AACC) and the Mint Museum of History are jointly sponsoring an exhibit of Afro-American Decorative Arts beginning January 11 through March 26, weekdays 9-5 in the Afro-American Cultural Center located in room 301 of the Spirit Square building and the Mint Museum of History at Shamrock Drive.

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2 Programs Planned For Observance

By Gayle Hinson
Post Staff Writer
On January 15, the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Community Relations Committee (CRC) in collaboration with WBTV's Black Advisory Council will sponsor a Martin Luther King memorial observance.

The observance takes on two parts. First will be a half hour service at Dr. King's memorial statue at noon in Marshall Park. Speaking at the statue will be James Clyburn, director of the S.C. Human Relations Committee. Also featured will be West Charlotte High School band Delano Rackard, who is noted for his impersonation of Dr. King, will recite excerpts from the late leader's speeches.

At 5:30 p.m. at the Civic Center there will be special Martin Luther King exhibits from the Martin Luther King Center in Atlanta, the Afro-American distribution center in Chicago and the Afro-American Cultural Center here in Charlotte. Displays include films and posters.

The Steady Drum Synchronette will also provide music as a special feature. The public is invited to bring a boxed supper for a community picnic at the civic center.

At 7 p.m. the formal memorial service begins featuring N.Y. congresswoman Shirley Chisholm as the keynote speaker.

Because Dr. King stood and fought for equality for all people, the affairs are open to all people and will feature all sections of Charlotte-Mecklenburg and surrounding community.

All services are free including free parking at the Civic Center.
In the evening service a community choir representing both black and white churches will sing. An offering is to be collected which will be donated to local charity.

WBTV's community affairs director, Ken Koontz, will preside and serve as emcee for noon and evening services. Koontz says the idea for the King observance was presented by WBTV's Black Advisory Council as a station project. He adds that while WBTV supports the idea of a King observance he felt that to ensure broad-based community appeal and support another organization would be needed to help make the observance a successful reality. Thus the Charlotte-Mecklenburg CRC agreed to accept sponsorship of this event and to work with the Advisory Council's community affairs committee which is headed by Charlotte-Mecklenburg School Board member, Sarah Stevenson. The CRC has sponsored memorial services for Dr. King for the past three years.

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Bobby Lowery
...NMIC vice chairman



George Wallace
...M-WBE director

The whole issue has been blown out of proportion, according to him.
"Only three or four of the minority companies doing business at the airport are questionable. Out of the 35 that are working there that is pretty darn good," he commented.
"When a question is raised as to the validity of a minority owned company there is a procedure or guideline that is followed.

It may take three or four months to find out if the questionable firms are not minority. Then it's turned over to an attorney," he pointed out.

"There is no way to totally eliminate false fronts," he said, "there are loopholes, but the process used presently is as good as any used anywhere in the country."

Lowery explained that as more opportunities are made available for minority contractors the more you'll find false fronts taking advantage.

"There are a number of dollars being siphoned off out we try to police that as best we can," he stated.

He suggests that the community has a large role to play in helping to stop false fronts. "We must make the community aware of false fronts. If there is a front, we in the community are usually the first to know and to say that someone needs to look at this a little closer," he told.
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