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AFDC Cuts Unfairly Penalize The Poor!



ENGAGING ROTONDA PHRONEBARGER

...Witty eighth grader

Rotonda Phronebarger Is "Beauty Of The Week"

By Teresa Burns
Post Managing Editor
Spring showers have blossomed our first May beauty, Rotonda Phronebarger. Actually she is already ahead of her time. Her dreams on a scale of one to universe are heaven sent.

Her reality is another's unthought of wish. And when Ms. Phronebarger says change would include a black becoming president of the U.S., she's not saying it just to hear herself talk.

It is certainly a pleasure that the youth of today, such as Ms. Phronebarger, have such high aspirations. History has proven that what one conceives to be possible, one creates.

Ms. Phronebarger is a 14-year-old eighth grader at Kennedy Junior High School. The daughter of Luther and Blondell Phronebarger, our beauty has two brothers, Rico and Monty, and one sister, Tamaria.

Born on September 23

Ms. Phronebarger's Zodiac sign is located on the cusp of Libra and Virgo. Witty, charming and quite intelligent Ms. Phronebarger also has that tinge of innocence and gentleness common to a princess.

To a large degree our beauty has reached into her future and formed a career of glamour and fashion as a highly respected model. "Becoming a famous model is something I really want to do," she explained.

Already she has landed a contract with the Carol Francis Smith Agency in Charlotte. Her modeling is a serious part of her life, but so are other objectives.

So far this year in school Ms. Phronebarger has received all "Bs" and one "C"—an award from the Red Cross organization, and cheered on the Junior Varsity Cheerleading Squad for the school.

Her subjects in school that excite her the most are language and mathematics. She enjoys the classes of Ms. Kimbel and

Mrs. Fisher.

Our beauty also spends time at church and attends New Zion Baptist Church where Rev. Jeremiah Robinson is pastor.

Of course at 14 there are many answers our beauty seeks. But as far as entertainment is concerned Ms. Phronebarger has no difficulty examining her tastes.

"I like Diana Ross and Lionel Richie of the Commodores," she began. "And, you know, 'Endless Love' happens to be my favorite song."

Her most viewed television program is "Different Strokes." "They tell a lot of funny jokes. The characters are about my age and I can understand their problems better."

Demeita Hunter, an older cousin of our beauty, is one of her favorite people. "Demeita lives in Florida now and I hope to visit her this summer. She is modeling and is a fashion designer. She's very nice and she has given me much advice about modeling," Ms. Phronebarger contended.

Even though our beauty has set her goals high, she has not, and will not, forget that universal rule: "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." She may already know that loving others is the beginning and the end to true success.

For Governor's Race

Eddie Knox Breaking Into Stride

By Mac Thrower
Post Staff Writer
Charlotte Mayor Eddie Knox is already breaking into stride in the race for the N.C. governor's office in 1984.

"North Carolina Citizens Who Want Eddie Knox To Be Governor," a statewide committee supporting Knox has filed with the North Carolina state board of elections. The committee papers were filed by Graham McGoogan, a certified public accountant in Charlotte who is serving as treasurer for the Knox committee. McGoogan reported that the new committee was registering with the board of elections to insure that state election laws were followed even though Knox is not yet a declared candidate.

Although Knox has given permission for the group to function in his behalf, he has not formally declared

Nursing

Scholarship

Program Set

Special To The Post
The Veterans Administration has launched a \$4 million scholarship program to help in its efforts to ensure sufficient nursing staff in the nation's largest health care system.

The VA operates 172 hospitals and 226 outpatient clinics around the country, employing some 30,000 nurses.

VA Administrator Robert P. Nimmo said the scholarships will go to about 300 qualified nursing students, providing educational benefits on a pay-back-in-service basis.

In return for each year of the scholarship which provides tuition, educational expenses and a monthly stipend, participants will agree to serve a minimum of two years as a full-time nurse in facilities of the VA's health care system.

The initial scholarship will be for one year, with an option to renew, or for two years depending on the availability of future appropriations for the program. Applications are now being sought for the school term to begin in the fall of 1982.

Approximately 90 percent will go to undergraduate students, and the balance to master's candidates who already are registered nurses, Nimmo noted.

The Health Professional Scholarship Program, authorized by Congress in 1980, will form a small but vital part of the VA's effort to recruit and retain a quality nursing staff according to VA Chief Medical Director Dr. Donald L. Custis.

Applications for the scholarships and information about the program are available from VA Health Professional Scholarship Program, Office of Academic Affairs, DM&S (14N), 810 Vermont Ave., NW, Washington, D.C. 20420.



James Richardson
...36th District candidate

For State House

"Jim" Richardson Kicks Off Campaign

By Mac Thrower
Post Staff Writer
On May 3, James F. "Jim" Richardson formally entered the primary race for the State House of Representatives in the 36th District of Mecklenburg County.

Richardson, who retired as Postmaster of Mt. Holly, N.C. in January, 1981, after having worked for the U.S. Postal Service for 33 years, is seeking one of eight seats in the Mecklenburg delegation. Richardson stated that he wants "to continue to be helpful to the community...as I have tried to be in various activities in past years."

In his work as chairman of the N.C. Social Service Commission, Richardson feels that he has dealt with many key issues facing the community, especially the problems of care for the elderly and child care. Richardson has also served as vice chairman of the Study Commission for

Mecklenburg County District Representation, chairman of the Mecklenburg Board of Social Services, a member of the Mecklenburg Youth Services Board, and chairman of the WTVI (Channel 42) Advisory Board.

Richardson, who is married and has two sons, is a World War II Navy veteran and a graduate of Johnson C. Smith University. He is presently a member of Memorial United Presbyterian Church, and is a Past Master at the Myersville Masonic Lodge No. 687.

In a recent Post interview, Richardson stressed that his past community and civic involvement has led him into the political arena. "I've been involved for many years," he stated, "and I would like to continue to serve the community—especially in spreading the word in Raleigh about what needs. See JIM on Page 8"

Urban League Says AFDC

Cuts Must Be Opposed

Based on testimony taken earlier in the year at 16 public hearings in various sections of the country, the National Urban League said last week that the reductions in the Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) Program, that went into effect in 1981, have seriously penalized the working poor and their children, and in many instances made it more economically feasible for them to give up working altogether and become full-time welfare recipients.

Thus, any further cuts in AFDC, such as those proposed by the Reagan Administration, are "unthinkable and must be opposed," and in fact, Congress should give serious attention to rolling back the initial cuts, the NUL said.

The League's position on the cuts is spelled out in a report on the hearings that takes its title from the plea of an AFDC mother in Peoria, Ill.—"Just Don't Stand There and Kill Us."

While the mother's language was particularly vivid, the sentiment that she expressed was not uncommon among the several hundred welfare recipients who testified at the hearings. As the report said:

"A universal thread that the NUL found running throughout the hearings was a sense of people beating their heads against a brick wall. They were trying to get ahead, but it appeared, at least in their eyesight, that the 'system' was determined to keep them scratching for crumbs. Understandably, they were frustrated, confused and in many instances, bitter."

Nationwide, the \$1 billion cut in the AFDC program last year has affected over 725,000 families who have either had their benefits reduced or eliminated. The cuts struck hardest at the working poor—those whose income from minimum wage and part-time employment was so low that they still qualified for a small AFDC benefit and Medicaid.

Typical of the experiences suffered by the working poor dropped from the AFDC rolls was that of a mother in Jacksonville, Fla., with three children, who lost her AFDC grant last October. She said:

"Nothing has changed in my house. I still have three children that need to eat and have a roof over their heads. I still work. I still work at the same place that I've worked for the last two years. I don't work any more hours. I don't make any more an hour than I did when I first became eligible for AFDC. My gross pay is still \$77 a week.

"Welfare has never really explained to me why I'm not eligible for benefits anymore, the case worker never told me. I received a notice but it just said that I made too much money. Would somebody please explain why I'm eligible one month and I'm not eligible the next month when nothing has changed for me or my kids?"

Commenting on this and

similar testimony, the report said:

"If only one word could be used to describe the nature of the testimony it would be 'depressing.' Time after time witnesses told of how they were struggling to raise their families and get off welfare by working at low paying jobs, but under the new restrictions they had lost their AFDC grants, pushing them further back into poverty and killing their dreams."

Frank McCain

To Manage

Polk's Campaign

By Mac Thrower
Post Staff Writer
Mr. Frank McCain of Charlotte has been named to manage the campaign of Mr. James K. "Jim" Polk for a North Carolina State Senate seat in the 22nd District (Mecklenburg and Cabarrus Counties).

McCain is a group leader for Marketing and Development at the Celanese Corporation, where he has been employed for 17 years. He is a graduate of North Carolina A&T State University. While at A&T during the early 1960's, McCain was involved in the sit-ins at a Greensboro restaurant that are regarded as landmarks in the civil rights movement in North Carolina.

According to his wife, an employee of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg School System, McCain feels "very honored" to be chosen as manager for Polk's campaign. Mrs. McCain indicated that her husband "believes very strongly in the leadership being offered by Jim Polk."

The surprise announcement by the North Carolina Legislature that the primary has been tentatively slated for June 29 has left many campaign managers, including McCain, scrambling to make use of a limited amount of time before the election. Mrs. McCain says that her husband exclaimed after hearing the news of the primary date: "I must get to work now."

Walker Asks

Jesse Helms

To Apologize

North Carolina Democratic Chairman Russell Walker last week called on Senator Jesse Helms to apologize to the people of North Carolina for his lone vote against a Senate resolution backing Great Britain in its dispute with Argentina.

"North Carolinians back the British people and their government. We have been traditional allies for generations. It's embarrassing to have an elected North Carolina senator as the only spokesman for Argentina. It should tell Senator Helms something when even John East didn't vote on his side. Nor did any other senator, Republican or Democrat."

TURTLE-TALK



Those fortunate enough to escape drowning during the swimming season will now run the risk of skating on thin ice.