



KELLI FLETCHER
...Enthralled with life

Kelli Fletcher's Blooming Into Young Lady Of Charm

By Teresa Simmons
Post Managing Editor
April blossoms of delight include our beauty, Kelli Fletcher, who is now blooming into a young lady of beauty and charm. A fourth grader at Paw Creek Elementary School, Miss Fletcher is enthralled with various aspects of life. She sees beauty in small joys, in the small entities one can touch, and even the love songs sung by Diana Ross. "I also like to sing love songs," commented Miss Fletcher. Singing is among her most favorite hobbies. She also enjoys swimming and playing freeze tag with her friends.

Other delights of Miss Fletcher include watching television and reading. "I enjoy 'Good Times' because of JJ, Penny and Wilona. I also like to read EBONY and The Charlotte Post newspaper," she commented. The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Fletcher, our beauty has one brother, Darryl. She is a member of Friendship Baptist Church where she attends Sunday School and is a Girl Scout. Rev. Dr. Clifford A. Jones Sr. is her pastor. Her favorite teachers at Paw Creek are Ms. Green and Ms. Hasto. "I enjoy gym, music and play time in school." But there is also

a certain seriousness possessed by Miss Fletcher. In her other courses, such as psychology, art and working in the library, she has learned the importance of school from her parents, both of whom are teachers. "I most admire my mother and father. Both are teachers and they help me with my school work. They know what's right or wrong and when I do something wrong they teach me the right thing." Others who have had a positive influence on our beauty's life have been Lucille Fletcher, her uncle Robert Richardson, her Aunt Shelly Fletcher, Sandra, Keisha, Sam and Faye and a host of other relatives and friends too numerous to mention. Miss Fletcher is one who has many concerns including the pollution that is now facing our world and the poor. "I wish poor people could all have homes and enough food," she began. "I think that we should always treat people nice because they may treat you nice, too." There is something special about Kelli Fletcher, a dainty flower who seems to brighten each room she enters...a gift from God wrapped and enveloped in kindness towards others.

Concord Arrest Makes Mathis Breathe Easier

By Andrew McCorkle
Post Staff Writer
The arrest of a Concord man, in connection with a cross burning, has made the town's only black city Alderman breathe a little easier. Kenneth Ray Burris, 26, of 95 Reed St., was arrested Monday afternoon by Concord police and charged with burning a cross in the yard of the residence of Cheryl Mitchell - a Barber-Scotia student - and Clarence Hardiman of 97 Reed Street. Shots were also fired into the house, but Burris has not been linked with the shooting. There were no injuries, although Mitchell, who ran from the house while neighbors watched and jeered, was badly shaken. Neither Mitchell nor Hardiman is still living in the house. Alderman Robert Mathis said that Concord police

and SBI agents involved in the probe should be commended for swift action. "I think people feel a lot better now," explained Mathis. "In fact, I think the police should be commended for quick action and not dragging this thing out." There was a deep concern in the community Mathis explained, "and a lot of people wanted to see some action taken." He said that although the cross burning and shooting were the result of Klansmen, the incident conjured up bad memories for many black residents. He explained that although the memories are bad, black citizens are not frightened by Klan terrorist acts, and that violence may be met with retaliatory violence. "This generation of young blacks is not as fearful as those of my generation," stated the 49-year-old Mathis. Moore said that police still don't know what provoked the attack, but hoped to make more arrests. He declined to say how many more arrests, or when to expect them. Moore stated that the arrest proved the incident was not the result of Ku Klux Klan activity, but a neighborhood dispute, as many Concord officials had publicly said earlier. "This is the first time in 15 years that something like this has happened, so it is not a frequent occurrence," explained Moore. Moore stated that two other cross burnings in Cabarrus County last weekend are the result of "copy cats," not a resurgence of Klan activity.

Members of the National Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression (NAARPR) are staging their 10th anniversary conference for May 13-15 in Chicago. The national defense organization will examine issues such as "racist violence, racist attacks on organizations and individuals, repressive legislation, the Voting Rights Act, undocumented workers, labor's rights, the death penalty and inhuman prison conditions," according to the organization. It claims the approach will be based on the formula, "Unity + Struggle + Organization equals Victories." During its 10 years of existence, NAARPR has been affiliated with famous court cases such as Rev. Ben Chavis and the Wilmington 10, Mayor Eddie Carthan, Joann Little, San Quentin Six and the J. P. Stevens Boycott. Coordin-

For May 13-15

NAARPR Schedules Conference

By Karen Parker
Post Staff Writer
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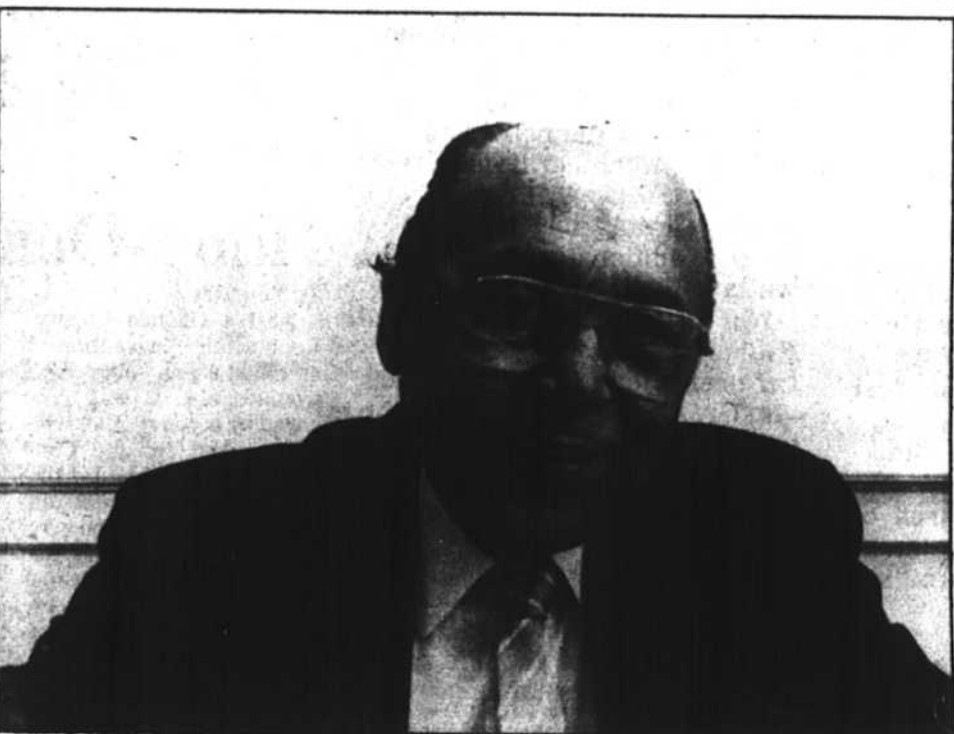


Ben Chavis
...Rights activist
ators emphasized they are calling the conference "at a time of growing struggle and resistance to the Reagan blitzkrieg. Everywhere the people are fighting back. A half-million workers marched on Solidarity Day under the lead-

Report Says: Reagan's Budget Would Break Black Families?

New Attack Launched On Carthan

Special To the Post
According to Frank Chapman, Associate Director of the National Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression (NAARPR), "The Reagan Administration is preparing to launch a new attack on Mayor Eddie James Carthan. It was first announced by the U.S. Attorney's office that they expected to bring Carthan to trial on May 1, 1983 on charges they refused to specify over the telephone. Later, the U.S. Attorney in Jackson, Miss., George Philips, stated that the trial had been indefinitely postponed.



THEBAUD JEFFERS
...Competent politician

Jeffers: Being Mayor Is Marvelous Experience

By Karen Parker
Post Staff Writer
A recent interview with Mayor Thebaud Jeffers of Gastonia, NC revealed he has no complaints about his political experiences. He has sat at the throne of this city of 47,000 since 1976 when he was voted by city council members to fulfill an incomplete term after the death of former Mayor Roland Bradley. Before that, Mayor Jeffers was a city councilman. He joined that governing body in May, 1963. A few months as interim mayor was enough for Gastonians to determine Mayor Jeffers, often known as "T" Jeffers, a competent politician. They followed in the footsteps of their council people, and in the 1977 mayoral election voted him as their city leader. "Being mayor is a mar-

velous experience. The people of Gastonia are kind and generous," he spoke of his constituents. Mayor Jeffers noted citizens in Gastonia treat him as a person, and he has never been troubled with racism. Already certain he will seek reelection for 1984, Mayor Jeffers has been the backbone to maintaining a balanced budget for Gastonia, as well as holding a low tax rate. The graduate of Johnson C. Smith University and the University of Southern California has mounting concern for the youth of Gastonia. Supporting the community centers in the city is a prime concern for Mayor Jeffers. "After all," he pointed out, "it was Gastonia's community centers where professional basketball players, (Eric 'Sleepy' Floyd and James Worthy learned the sport."

To honor the mayor, Gastonia City Council renamed the Northwest Community Center, T. Jeffers Community Center, in recognition of his contributions to the city. Those contributions are numerous. Many of the outstanding deeds achieved by Mayor Jeffers occurred before he was an elected official. Probably the most noteworthy is his organization of the Citizens Committee for Voter Registration. "The job of this committee was to visit house-to-house and urge people to become registered voters." Mayor Jeffers explained. As a result, more than 1,000 voters were added to the roll in 1953, when the move was initiated. In 1950, Jeffers established the Highland Evening Adult School. The school provided courses for people who had terminated their education before graduating from high school. Because he realized the value of an education, Mayor Jeffers was always willing to assist students who needed financial assistance-whether it was lunch funds, clothing or payment for classes. Besides being a positive role model in education, Mayor Jeffers also has contributed to Gastonia's business concerns. In 1942 he helped to organize the Excelsior Credit Union. The black-owned and operated company's assets increased from \$9,000 to \$510,000 during my 12-year service as president, he noted. He also serves on boards at Gaston Boys Club, Gaston Heart Association, Boy Scouts Council, and Governor's Blue Ribbon Commission on Public Transportation and Financing.

Economic Crisis Worse For Blacks

Washington, D.C. - Black families face the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression if the Administration's 1984 budget proposal is enacted, according to a new study released by the National Black Child Development Institute (NBCDI). "Budget Cuts and Black Children: A Response to the President's Budget for FY 1984" examines proposed funding levels in 12 specific areas - from Head Start to Vocational Education - and concludes that the Reagan budget constitutes "an unprecedented attack on both the poor and the working poor black family."

"This Administration has transformed the War on Poverty into a War on the Poor," charges Evelyn K. Moore, executive director of the National Black Child Development Institute, a national nonprofit advocacy organization seeking to improve the quality of life for black children. "The supply-side, trickle turned into a cruel hoax for the 42 percent of all black children who live in poverty," Moore observes in her introduction to the report.

If Reagan's budget proposals for 1984 are enacted, the National Black Child Development Institute foresees that Black families will be pressed on the breaking point. According to the report: "Further reductions in Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) are being called for under the guise of reducing the federal deficit, with the result that \$7 billion may be cut in FY '84 with more severe reductions to follow each year through 1986. "A freeze in funding for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) and the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) will seriously erode the purchasing power of programs which maintain the health of 2.25 million low-income pregnant and nursing mothers and their children.

"Keeping families together and black children out of foster homes may become even more difficult, as the President's budget delays implementation of the Adoption Assistance Program which proves states with federal matching funds for subsidizing families which adopt AFDC-eligible children-while increasing funds for foster care. "Once again, the budget will be balanced at the expense of those without public voices - the children of the poor, especially black children," Moore predicts.

Though he is always busy with projects such as city transportation, public housing and new construction sites, Mayor T. Jeffers remains willing to accept one more challenge if it is in the best interest of the city he serves.

Next Week: The Post will take a look at the NAARPR and the impact it has had on the Charlotte community.

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TURTLE-TALK



Good examples have twice the value of good advice.