



GORGEOUS VALIA BLACKWELL
...Has superior thoughts

Valia Dionne Blackwell Is "Beauty Of The Week"

By Teresa Simmons
Post Managing Editor
Being ranked in the top 20 of her class was no accident for Valia Dionne Blackwell. The 12th grader at West Charlotte High School has superior thoughts...not the kind of conceit but the type of thoughts which have elevated her into organizations like the National Honor Society.
"My philosophy is to never let anyone tell you that there is something you cannot accomplish. You always have to believe in yourself," Ms. Blackwell stated.
Ms. Blackwell, who served as Junior Marshall at West Charlotte, has set her ambition on becoming either an engineer or computer analyst. "I would like to attend Duke University or Howard University."
"My favorite subject now is chemistry. This is a big

challenge and I have to place a lot of thought into my work. I feel that chemistry will help me to reach my goal of becoming either an engineer or computer analyst."
Both fields seem to be open for Black women especially, Ms. Blackwell deduced. "It's the type of work I think I would like to do."
"An avid reader our Leo beauty enjoys novels, classics and fiction. "I also enjoy movies, dancing and singing."
At West Charlotte she sings on the chorus, is a member of the Spanish Club and has run cross country on the track team. "I am also interested in becoming a member of a service club at school entitled the Ambassadors. The club members interact with people in school and surrounding community and they help individuals.
I am an outgoing person and I like to help people wherever and whenever I can," she continued.
She is the daughter of Evelyn Blackwell and John Blackwell. She has one sister, Shari. Both of her parents, Ms. Blackwell stated, have been most

influential in her life. "I get along well with my mother and father. They help me through tough situations and they help me to do a lot of things that I need to do."
Randall Lindsay, one of Ms. Blackwell's best friends, has also been a positive inspiration in her life. "We have always been close friends and I can depend on him. He is always there when I need someone to talk to."
As president of the Simpson-Gilispie United Methodist Church Youth Group, Ms. Blackwell feels that spending time in church is important. Her pastor is Rev. Robert McDowell.
Ms. Blackwell is a person with high aspirations and the gift to achieve them. She has been elected to the Society of Distinguished High School Students, received numerous awards in mathematics and science in junior high school and recently received a Superior Minus rating in the National Piano Playing Audition.
She feels that any objective can be accomplished. As long as her feelings remain the same so will it be.

Patrols Will Be Out In Force

Raleigh - The State Highway patrol will be out in force during the July 4th weekend to provide maximum coverage of the state's highways on this most deadly of all holidays in the year.
According to figures released by the Patrol, 18 traffic deaths occurred during the holiday last year. There were 926 injuries and 1,339 accidents.
"This is a very dangerous holiday period," Colonel J.T. Jenkins, commander of the Patrol said. "We urge everyone to be very careful if they are going to be on the road."
Jenkins stressed that the motoring public also can play a great part in making this a safe holiday.
"It's important to plan the trip in advance," he said. "Allow sufficient travel time to stay within posted speed limits and at the same time permit frequent stops to relieve travel fatigue."

How Charlotteans Will Spend July 4th

Celebrating, Relaxing, Cooking Out, Fireworks

By Lori Grier
Post Staff Writer
John Adams said, "I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated by succeeding generations as the great anniversary festival. It ought to be commemorated as the day of deliverance by solemn acts of devotion to God Almighty. It ought to be solemnized with pomp and parade, with shows, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires, and illuminations, from one end of this continent to the other, from this time forward forevermore."
Adams, second president of the United States, spoke about the birthday of the United States of America which is celebrated on July 4th each year in states and possessions of the United States. Independence Day is the anniversary of the day on which the Declaration of Independence was adopted by the Continental Congress on July 4, 1776.
It is recorded in the World Book Encyclopedia that Independence Day was first observed in Philadelphia on July 8, 1776. The Declaration was read, bells were rung, bands played, and the people rejoiced. In 1941, Congress declared July 4th a federal legal holiday.
In the 1960s, many peo-



Albert Franklin
...To watch softball game
ple began to plead for a "safe and sane Fourth," because fireworks, gun fires, and cannons caused hundreds of deaths and thousands of injuries each year. As a result, many cities and states passed laws forbidding the sales of fireworks, while some cities permitted fireworks but hired trained people to explode them at a community celebration in the evening.
Many cities celebrate the day with programs, games and picnics. The Charlotte Post asked residents of the Queen City what July 4th means to them and how they plan to celebrate the holiday.
Children add excitement to all holidays, and for them July 4th begins with a blast. Hot dogs, hamburgers, and french fries are



Alice Ruth Diamond
...To attend cookout
usually at the time of their menu, but on July 4th these food items create an extra craving and seem to taste better than before.
July 4th means exactly hot dogs, hamburgers and french fries for Kenya Chiles, 5. How will she celebrate the holiday? "I plan to play with my friends - Michelle, Peppi, Tanesha and Deidra. I might ride my bike up and down the street," she said.
This day will also be one of remembrance for Mike Anthony Jr., 7, a second grader at Shamrock Elementary School. "It's the time when children play games, watch TV and eat hamburgers and french fries," Mike added. "We plan to go on a picnic or Myrtle Beach."
"It's a time for celebrating and being with



Kenya Chiles
...Might ride bike
your family," informed Wanda Harrison, 14, an eighth grader at Sedgefield Junior High School. Wanda will attend cookouts and spend the day with her family.
"Fun, celebration, cookouts, and fireworks are the meanings of July 4th for Shawn Gerald, 12, a sixth grader at Bruns Avenue Elementary School. Shawn plans to go camping with Boy Scout Troop No. 84.
Celebrating, relaxation, fireworks-you name it - it's always for the adults. If July 4th means nothing more than a day off the job, adults, get ready to keep up your heels.
"July 4th is the Declaration of Independence which symbolizes the freedom of America," declared Mrs. Dorothy Kitchen, an assistant nurse. She would like to have a devotional

and fellowship hour in her home and give honor to her family and friends, but she will probably have to work all day at the Providence Nursing Home.
"I don't give much thought to July 4th other than it being a holiday," replied Mr. Albert Franklin, leader of Gospel Choir No. 1 at St. Paul Baptist Church. He plans to watch the ladies' and men's softball teams at St. Paul play a game at the Hornet's Nest Park, work around his house and yard, and finally make July 4th a quiet day.
Celebrating with friends is the meaning this holiday has for Alice Diamond, owner of Fancy Alice Boutique, 600 North Graham Street. How will she celebrate? "I'm going to friends' houses for cookouts," she related.
For Rev. Don DeGrate, pastor of the Christ Gospel Church, this holiday means independence and knowing the Lord as Jesus Christ. "There will be no relaxation for me, because I'll be in Louisville, KY for a convention at the Christ Gospel Church," he mentioned.
Whatever your plans for this occasion, The Charlotte Post extends a joyous but "safe and sane Fourth" to all.



In these days of uncertainty, the only thing you can count on is your fingers.

25 Churches Join Post's Contest

By Loretta Manago
Post Staff Writer
Over the airwaves at WPEG announcers have been encouraging churches to "get in on the fun" of The Charlotte Post's third annual "Churchwoman of the Year" contest; for the past two weeks The Charlotte Post has been making personal contact with churches and clueing them in on the rewards of becoming involved in what is expected to be the "biggest and best" campaign yet.
Obviously, the message has been getting across. To date 25 churches have agreed to "get in on the fun" by participating in this year's affair.
By becoming involved in the WPEG-Charlotte Post "Churchwoman of the Year" contest the churches and their chosen candidates will be eligible for all types of prizes and cash rewards for themselves. With the new changes in the contest's program, everyone who participates can be guaranteed of being a winner.
The churches that have committed themselves to working in this year's campaign are: Logan Chapel CME Methodist, pastor, Rev. Roderick Lewis; St. Michael & All Angels, pastor, Rev. Richard Banks; Noah's Ark Outreach, pastor, Rev. Estelle Thompson; Pentecostal Temple, pastor, Rev. J. H. Sherman; New St. John Baptist Church, pastor, Rev. R. H. Leak; Nazarene Baptist Church, pas-

See 25 on Page 5

...Crisis Declared

Severe Shortage Of Black Doctors Exists



WILLIE STRATFORD SR.

...Owns impressive list of honors

Willie Stratford's Joy Is Working With Others

By Angela Chambers
Special To The Post
In today's world of "for myself only" way of thinking, it is always a delight to come across another person who is glad to be a part of others...someone who works with others for the progress of all.
Willie J. Stratford Sr. is this type person. A big man in reputation, he is an even bigger man in heart. He

finds great joy and satisfaction in working with others.
"Growing up, I was taught to share and give of yourself," Stratford explains. "Whatever you have, give to others."
It is this desire to help others that accounts for his many involvements with area organizations.
"It's the idea of serving and helping people," Strat-

ford said.
And perhaps it is this type of philosophy that gives him the popularity in Charlotte.
Stratford shuns any spotlight or glory. "I've never done anything," Stratford says. "I'm simply an instrument through which things are done."
He also sees himself as a doer and an organizer.
"I've always been interested in organization," he offered. "A lot of people don't know who I am. I'm not the person out front...I do quiet things like writing the ads."
But try as he might, Stratford cannot deny that his name is familiar to many Charlotteans. This popularity in addition to his sincere concern for mankind may prove to be an asset to his campaign for city council.
He announced his candidacy in a speech given May 16. His speech, which reflected his attitude of working for and with others, touched on several issues.
He commented that issues facing Charlotte in the 80s are not new issues. Continued growth of Charlotte was mentioned. He also discussed other issues including unemployment, continued alliance between businesses, government and labor. He spoke of the need to continue a good transportation system, the need to alleviate and combat crime in Charlotte, the financing of government services and the cultural interests of our community.
Above all he stressed working together to make Charlotte a better place for generations to come.
Several times Stratford has been asked what can he bring to city council. In answering this question, he says, "I tell them I bring myself in that I've been able to work with people...hoping that we can bridge gaps between people and

Problems Expected To Worsen

First In Series

By Karen Parker
Post Staff Writer
The Association of Minority Health Professions Schools (AMHPS) released a recent study claiming a "severe shortage exists in the nation's supply of minority doctors, dentists, pharmacists, and veterinarians."

The problem is expected to worsen in the future unless remedial action is taken. The AMHPS is composed of eight minority health schools in the United States. They are: Meharry, Charles R. Drew Post Graduate, and Morehouse Medical Schools; Meharry Dental School; Xavier, Texas Southern and Florida A&M Schools of Pharmacy; and Tuskegee Institute School of Veterinary Medicine. AMHPS works to improve educational opportunities in the health professions for minorities and disadvantaged persons.
The study, "Blacks and the Health Professions in the 1980's: A National Crisis and a Time for Action" was funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation of New Brunswick, N.J. Ms. Ruth Hanft, a Washington, D.C. health professions consultant was selected to direct the study.
The report released this month recognized an increase in various health fields; however, the number of minorities in those fields is low. "Predictions of impending surpluses of physicians and other health professionals simply do not apply to Blacks," the report stated. It also pointed out in 1980 Blacks comprised 11.7 percent of the U.S. population. Nevertheless, only 2.6 percent of them were among all doctors; 2.9 percent among dentists; 2.3 percent among pharmacists, and 1.6 percent among veterinarians.
Louis W. Sullivan, M.D., President and Dean at The Morehouse School of Medicine, stated in the preface of the report, "Compared with whites, Blacks are aware of the fact that their lives are shorter, their pregnant mothers and their infants die more frequently, and they have a greater burden of illnesses and disabilities. The statement that the United States has the best system of medical care in the world has a hollow ring," noted the dean.
Dr. Sullivan emphasized the number of Blacks in health fields needs to increase immediately to assure the opportunity for true freedom of choice of health professionals by the consumer of health services.
How can more minorities be encouraged to enter a health profession and decrease the alarming statistics reported by the AMHPS? The Post will review the subject and report to its readers the findings next week in Part II of this series.