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Story On Page 18B

In Commemoration
Of Dr. King's Birthday

Stories In B Section



Dr. King

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SIX-MONTH-OLD SHELLEY ROSE

....Has six months to live

Shelley Rose McConnell Is In Need Of Liver Transplant

By Teresa Simmons
Post Managing Editor
As minutes tick away we often hurry them away without thought. For Nancy, Susan and Shelley Rose McConnell each moment adds a little more dread in their lives. Six months to a year is the life span forecast for little six month old Shelley Rose unless she receives a liver transplant. Her parents Nancy and Susan and thousands of concerned individuals are preparing for the transplant.

Let's start at the beginning of Shelley's story. On June 26, 1983 with bright eyes, alertness and predicted high intelligence, Shelley became a newborn wonder in the lives of her parents Nancy and Susan. Everything seemed normal until the fifth week when Susan noticed a yellowish tint to Shelley's skin tone. It was a hint that something was awry in Shelley's liver. At nine weeks the operation to correct the malfunction in Shelley's liver, known as Extrahepatic Biliary Atresia, was a failure.

The artificial bile duct would not function. She still could not digest food, instead of the bile going into the digestive system, it backed up into her little body, killing liver cells. The McConnells had first heard in Charlotte attending St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, pastored now by Father John Borrego. Father Borrego is the actual expert and local fund raiser-spiritual support on

Shelley's behalf. He recalled that the McConnells moved two years ago to Olympia, Washington, and then last November they moved again to Raleigh. Nancy works for the Carolina Power and Light Company. The company, Father Borrego stated, will insure Shelley for a lifetime to \$200,000. "The liver transplant operation will cost anywhere from \$150,000 to \$300,000," Father Borrego continued. "The donor will have to be a child about the same size as Shelley and have the blood type B positive. The donor will also have to be brain-dead and have no diseases. She will have to receive the transplant within six hours...and with such short notice, a Lear jet must be chartered which will cost anywhere from \$6,000 to \$8,000.

Following the operation Shelley must stay in intensive care from one to three months which will cost \$1,500 to \$2,000 per day and this will not include medicine needed," Father Borrego continued. "Special drugs will be needed for some time following the

operation." The family decided to have Shelley's liver transplant performed at the University of Minnesota under Dr. Deborah Freese. "The University of Minnesota has the best success rate of liver transplants with little children like Shelley," Father Borrego explained. The McConnells would like the Father to accompany them on their voyage when the time approaches.

Father Borrego and his congregation at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Charlotte, has raised \$42,000 in five weeks for Shelley. "We've done everything you can think of to raise money for Shelley. We recently had a raffle and auction for 10 Cabbage Patch dolls and there have been over 250 individual donations. There have been a lot of people involved. One lady told me the other day that she feels Shelley is her own child. The largest donation came from St. John's Episcopal Church Christmas Eve offering - \$3,200. There was one envelope sent in with no name

See McCONNELL Page 7A

Along The Campaign Trail

Bynum Announces For County Commission

By Karen Parker
Post Staff Writer
The politicians of the City of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County should be proud that they haven't elected to wait until 1985 to recognize Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday as a national holiday.

In fact, the County has acknowledged Dr. King's birthday as a holiday since 1961, while the City declared his birthday a holiday last year.

Dr. Raleigh Bynum, a well-known community citizen and optometrist, announced Wednesday he will run for County Commissioner. Bynum is a member of the Board of Directors of the Mint Museum and has served on other community organizations.

Cha. Sellsor Edward Fort



Kelly Alexander, Sr.
....NAACP chairman

of A&T State University has called for "the United States Department of Agriculture to aggressively attack a phenomenon which has resulted in the loss of black farm ownership nationally, as well as in North Carolina, since the 1900's." Dr. Fort reviewed the ac-



Dr. Raleigh Bynum
....Noted optometrist

complishments of A&T's Agricultural Extension Program in assisting black farmers in the state. Dr. Fort's views were expressed during a national teleconference about black farmers. A&T's farm complex in Guilford County will now be the site of a model small farm which



Leslie Winner
....House candidate

will be used to "provide a data base for research and extension and a suitable place to test ideas which are directed to the interests of the small farm," according to Dean Burling Webb also of A&T's School of Agriculture.

As the newly elected

Charlotte Area Fund To Hold Job Seeking Class

Starting January 16, Charlotteans will have some new assistance in finding a job.

An interagency council has approved a two week job seeking skills class to be conducted by the Human Resources Development Department at Central Piedmont Community College.

This class includes such areas as application and resume writing, proper responses to interview questions and job keeping skills. Persons completing this class will receive job placement assistance for a one-year period.

The program is specifically designed for persons who are highly motivated, yet lack the skills necessary to enter successfully the job market.

The classes are open to the general public and will be held at the Elizabeth Avenue campus of Central

SCSC To Plant

Tree In King's Honor

Orangeburg - South Carolina State College will participate in the National Ceremonial Tree Planting in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s 55th birthday in the Martin Luther King, Jr. Auditorium-Nance Hall courtyard on Monday, January 16, at 11 a.m.

Dr. Edward Jackson, chairman of the Department of Political Science and History, will preside.

The program is open to the public.

Piedmont Community College. Class fee and tuition are \$11.

The interagency council is comprised of representatives from the Charlotte Area Fund, Department of Social Services, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, Energy Committed to Offenders and the North Carolina Conference of Christians and Jews.

For more information, contact Eileen Dwyer or Connie Hilliard, 372-3610.

CPCC Plans

Small Business Conference

"How To Make It Big In Your Small Business" is the theme of CPCC conference to be held at the Civic Center, January 20-21. The conference, also sponsored by The Veterans Office and The Small Business Administration, is designed to help small business owners and anyone planning to start a business.

Seminars will deal with how to plan a business, when an attorney is needed, how to find start-up capital, record keeping, managing people, tax obligations, computers in small business, advertising and cash flow.

There will be time for private discussion with the seminar presenters. More than 30 exhibitors will have displays.

Registration for both days, including lunches, is \$20. For a descriptive brochure and more information, call CPCC at 373-6900 or 373-6521.



Miss Carla Burton
...."Our Beauty of Week"

Carla Burton's Gift Is Intelligence

By Teresa Simmons
Post Managing Editor
God gave each of us one or more special gifts. In Carla Burton's life there is no shame in announcing that her gift is intelligence.

Presently a student in advanced classes at South Mecklenburg Senior High School, Ms. Burton received straight A's and one B. She competed recently in a Spanish II competition at Clemson University against high school students from North and South Carolina and Georgia and won first place. About 800 students were involved in the competitions and about 12 competed in her category.

"I will go to Salem College for another competition in February and I will

take the National Spanish Exams at UNCC in March. Spanish is one of my main subjects and I enjoy it. Each day, however, I spend at least 15 minutes studying each subject," Ms. Burton commented.

Future plans for our Gemini beauty include attending the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. "There, I would like to major in Criminal and Domestic law with a minor in accounting. I like to help people get out of corners and I feel that I can do a good job at being an attorney because I am a good speaker. Later, I plan to attend law school," Ms. Burton continued. Her concentration will probably encompass business and domestic law.

In addition to being studious and a striver, Ms. Burton has this contention, "Once you set a goal, strive to reach it." But her thoughts are not ones merely of herself. Many have viewed her as a caring individual, who tutors other students and one who cares about the poor and the future of American involvement in nuclear strategies.

As a member of the Church of the Living God, Rev. Donald Brown, pastor, Ms. Burton has come to realize the importance and serenity of love.

Her hobbies include singing, dancing, macrame, and playing the clarinet. At South Meck she enjoys playing in the marching band and being a member of the International Club. She also listens to entertainers Michael Jackson, Lionel Richie, Diana Ross and Debarge for musical delight.

Her parents are Etta Moore and Herman Odell Burton, Jr.

Blacks Forced To Cancel Rights

By Karen Parker
Post Staff Writer
If you have grand or great-grandparents who can sit down and tell you what it was like even to think about voting in the late 1900's, listen!

It's a history lesson that will probably never be taught in public or private schools. It's a subject touched lightly in the history books which

abound on library shelves. A pamphlet written by the American Civil Liberties Union may not tell the story as dramatically and descriptively as your

grandparents, but it gives the facts. In 25 pages, the education Department of ACLU outlines the Voting Rights Act of 1965. The opening statement reads: "...Before the 1965 Voting Rights Act, the right to vote was legal fiction for most Black Americans. Furthermore, until 1975, most American citizens who were not proficient in English did not vote, because the ballot was not made comprehensible to them."

According to The Voting Rights Act: What It Means, How To Make It Work For You, the Constitution outlawed official discrimination, which should have allowed all people to vote. However, Blacks were still forced to ignore their right. Visiting ballot boxes were risky business. They were intimidated and their lives were often threatened. In most instances the threats were carried out.

Southern states were notorious for holding constitutional conventions which devised so-called "legal" methods of dishonoring Blacks the right to vote. Researchers for ACLU noted: "The avowed purpose of these conventions, in the words of U.S. Sen. B.R. 'Pitchfork Ben' Tillman who addressed the South Carolina Disfranchising Convention of 1895, was to 'take from the ignorant Blacks every ballot that we can under the laws of our national government.'"

The pamphlet points out those methods which Tillman referred to most often included bias literacy tests and burdensome registration requirements. To illustrate how successful the disfranchising conventions were, ACLU pointed out in 1896 in Louisiana, 130,334 Blacks were registered to vote. By 1900 the number decreased to 5,320. The misfortune continued for another 70 years.

Not until 1965, with the Voting Rights Act, was the vote returned to minor- See BLACKS On Page 8A.



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age is the
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