

Counts' Honors And Awards Are Numerous!

By Lori Grier
Post Staff Writer

Nobody does it better than Howard Counts when it comes to working with computers, but he's not one to brag or boast about what he does best. He'd rather let the work he's done speak for him.

Counts, 37 year-old Data Processing Manager of the Technical Support Computer Center at Celanese, is one of many Charlotte Post's Achievers. In 1969, he joined IBM in Kingston, N.Y., as a Development Programmer. Since coming to Celanese in 1978, he has served in several capacities. As Technical Analyst his responsibilities included planning computer installations and configurations; as Group Leader for Technical Support, he was responsible for both short and long range planning, installation and maintenance of operating systems on large IBM computers within the Celanese network, and most recently his responsibilities as Corporate Center Manager include the management of all technical areas within the Corporate computing network, such as, Online Systems, Teleprocessing, Office Automation, Performance Management, Consulting and Capacity Planning.

His honors and awards consist of receiving the 1965 Civitan Award of the Year (scholarship to attend Phillips Exeter Academy) during his senior year at West Charlotte High School; principal speaker for Guidelines for Contingency Planning at Sungard User's Security Conference in Philadelphia, Pa., 1980; principal speaker and coordinator of Disaster Recovery at Celanese at Sungard User's Security Conference in Philadelphia, Pa.; principal speaker for Operation System Security at Celanese Corporate Headquarters in New York; speaker for Large System Software Direction at Celanese Com-



Howard Counts
.....Data Processing manager

puter Strategy and Planning Workshop in Walker's City, Bahamas, and Coordinator and Director of Computer Center Design-Installation at Celanese Colombiana in Bogota, Colombia, South America, all in 1981; and speaker for Large System Hardware and Software Direction at Hoogovens Steel Visitation Seminar in the Netherlands and Charlotte, 1981. The professional achievements Counts is proud of exist at Celanese. "I'm one of the few black executives in Celanese management in Charlotte. I have been able to travel extensively both domestically and internationally in Canada, Mexico, and South America while I was doing installation planning of computer machinery. That has been the most rewarding for me. Another thing is being able to command respect from those who are very high up in the organization as well as those who are lower in the organization," he announced.

One of the other achievements occurred while he and his wife lived in New-

paltz, N.Y., during 1971-73. "Stephanie, Assistant Principal at Randolph Junior High School, and I worked together with migrant workers and helped them develop a program for their own self-enrichment and education. She was employed at State University of New York as an instructor, and she developed a Black Student Curriculum for public schools and set up an Urban Center. I worked in Georgia as an instructor with black graduate students who majored in Computer Science and Statistics so they could graduate and get into industry," Counts reminisced.

He confessed that there aren't many blacks in data processing, which he describes as rewarding and lucrative, today compared to 20 years ago. "You don't have to be mathematical but able to think

out solutions logically. I spent the last two years in Career Development for my fraternity, Kappa Alpha Psi, and stressed to high school juniors and seniors the need of continuing their education, the effect that data processing will have on the world, and why they should expose themselves to the field. The more exposure, the more prepared they'll be in the industry. I also told them that if they want to get into the business world, education is important and enables them to raise their concentration on the ability to communicate (verbal, written as well as effective listening), understand the financial world and work effectively with people on all levels."

Counts adds that there are a lot of blacks in very high positions within data processing and that they rise to the top very quickly. "Primarily, blacks seem to apply themselves more towards this career."

Black History Month isn't important to Counts because it recognizes the achievements of past and present black leaders in the community and on the national level solely. "It's a time when we should recognize the achievements within the black family structure. My father, the late Rev. Dr. Herman L. Counts, was the most significant person in my life. He taught at Johnson C. Smith University for 30 years in the Theology and Philosophy Departments and was very well respected in the community. All of us have someone within the family who makes us realize how we've gotten where we are today, because we wouldn't be where we are if it weren't for that person. It's a time in which we can show our appreciation to

those within the family, and this can be done personally or with the media."

The son of the late Rev. Dr. Herman L. Counts and Oletha W. Counts has two brothers—Herman and Wilson—and one sister, Mrs. Dorothy Scoggins. He and his wife Stephanie have one son, Jonathan, six, and attend Memorial United Presbyterian Church where Rev. Edward Newberry is pastor. Counts is a 1965 graduate of West Charlotte High School and attended one year at Phillips Exeter Academy, a prep school in Exeter, New Hampshire. During his freshman year, he attended Knox College (Ill.), and transferred to Johnson C. Smith University where he

received a B.S. degree in Mathematics. He received additional graduate work in Mathematics and Statistics from the University of Georgia (Athens) where he received a Master's degree in Computer Science and Statistics. He is also in the process of opening a computer center and makes periodic trips to Dallas. Howard Counts has been a member of the Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity since 1968 where he was former Polemarch, 1971-72, and member of the Charlotte Alumni Chapter of the fraternity; Executive Board of Friends of Johnson C. Smith University; National Board of Celanese EEO Committee; Guide and Share International.

FISH FARE

Fine Family Seafood Restaurant



FEATURING
All U Can Eat
Fresh Fillet Flounder
\$3.95
Children Under 3 Free

Take Out Orders No Extra Charge

Located:
Exit 1A off 77
Corner of Westinghouse
and Nation's Ford Rd.
11200-B Nation's Ford Rd.

Call 588-2447

We're backing the Bulls all the way
Much Success from

REID'S SUPER FOOD MART

Your Independent Grocer
Where Savings Abound
Every Day...Every Week

Reid's Super Food Mart

2321 West Boulevard

HOURS:
Mon.-Wed. 8-10
Thur.-Fri.-Sat. 8-11
Sun. 8-7

372-4574

CAROWINDS

Is NOW accepting applications.
for
SPRING WEEKENDS

Spring weekend park operation begins March 17, 1984.

APPLY NOW to begin working March 17, 1984!!

You must:

- Be 16 years of age
- Have a social security card
- Provide your own transportation

Benefits are:

- Base rate \$3.35 per hour
- Free use of the park when off duty
- Free park passes

The Carowinds Employment Services Office is open Monday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

EOE, M-F

"Read Your Holy Bible
And Pray To God Everyday"

1/2 OFF

ON DRY CLEANING ONLY
Mon.-Tues.-Wed.-Thurs.
Offer Expires March 1, 1984
Minimum \$4.00 After Discount
**COUPON MUST
ACCOMPANY ORDER**

Full Price After 30 Days
Expert Alterations.....
.....We Work Saturday Too!

American Dry Cleaners & Laundry

1806 North Graham Street
(Next To Hutchinson Shopping Center)

332-1667