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## Rev. L.J. Wallace

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Rev. Wallace

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# THE CHARLOTTE POST

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## Job Training Program Announced For Disadvantaged Citizens

The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Urban League, Inc. announced a job training program in which economically-disadvantaged citizens will gain employable skills in word processing and information systems.

The program, free of charge to participants, will be administered by the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Urban League and is funded by the city of Charlotte and businesses in the Charlotte area. IBM is providing instructors, equipment, supplies and service. The value of this contribu-

tion is estimated at \$900,000. Other contributors have pledged in excess of \$300,000 for the next three years. (A list of contributors is attached). In addition, a contract with the city has been obtained for \$75,000 to provide this training to Charlotte residents during the first year of operation.

The program will have an advisory board, comprised of representatives from corporations, University of North Carolina at Charlotte, Central Piedmont Community College and the

Charlotte Business League.

The North Carolina Employment Security Commission has estimated that over the next three years there will be approximately 7,000 new jobs available in Charlotte-Mecklenburg for people who have word processing and information skills. Over the same period, however, the projected number of unemployed persons is more than 54,000 more than 50 percent of whom will be blacks and other minorities.

This job training program is designed to help underemployed and

unemployed minorities and disadvantaged persons become more competitive by providing them with skills in using the latest technology available in office systems operations.

The goal of the program is to place 80 percent of all graduates within 90 days after graduation in information systems related employment. The program will provide job readiness and word processing training for entry-level Office Systems Operators-Word Processors and will be conducted in cycles involving class-

room and hands-on experiences. Sixteen trainees will be scheduled per class.

Classes will begin November 5, 1984 and will be held at the B.B. & T. Bank building. Entrance requirements include the inability to pay for commercial training, a high school diploma or graduate equivalent diploma, typing speed of 40 words per minute, an acceptable score on an aptitude examination, an interview and ninth grade reading and math ability.

See JOB TRAINING On Page 9A



Robert M. Alston, Jr., UL executive director

## North Carolina Has Turned Tide Against Criminals

By Governor Jim Hunt  
Special To The Post

North Carolina has turned the tide against criminals. After eight years of hard work, reported crime in North Carolina was down 7.5 percent in 1983.

I am especially pleased by the fact that violent crime dropped 7.6 percent compared to 1982 and murder was down 11.2 percent. Property crimes were down 7.5 percent.

This significant drop follows 1982 recording the smallest increase (1.6 percent) in the last several years and a 1.3 percent decline in 1981. I sincerely believe this means we are living in a safer state today, a state where the rights of victims are taking precedent over the rights of criminals.

When I ran for Governor in 1976 I pledged to our citizens that I would make war on crime a top priority if elected. I want to commend law enforcement, the legislature, the judiciary and every citizen in this state who belongs to a Community Watch or participates in Crime-stoppers for joining me in making this covenant work. We are winning the war against crime together. We've forged a partnership of protection, and we are all safer for it.

The real success story in our battle against crime is the untold tale of our achievements in keeping young people from becoming involved in a life of crime. It is with our young people that the fight against crime will be won or lost. By the time a criminally prone person reaches the age of 20, there is little that can be done to pull him back to the straight and narrow path.

That is why I began and supported initiatives to keep our young people in school, increase their chances of getting a good education, counsel them if they get into trouble and strengthen family life.

From 1977 on, we have witnessed initiatives such as the Community Based Alternatives Program. These are locally run programs that work to keep youths out of trouble. In-school suspension is a good example of a CBA. It keeps trouble-makers in school under supervision instead of kicking them out onto the street where they get into more trouble.

I established the Juvenile Code

Revision Commission in 1977 and the Juvenile Law Study Commission in 1981. One result of these commissions was that status offenders were removed from training schools and community programs were established to redirect and counsel these children. This also reduced the training school population which allowed the staff to work more intently with the serious juvenile offenders assigned to training schools.

I began the Governor's One-on-One Volunteer Program in 1982. This program matches an adult volunteer with a youth at risk with the law. The adult counsels the youth and provides a positive role model. The Big Brother and Big Sister programs are fine examples of the One-on-One Program.

This administration sponsored the Inter-Agency School Discipline Project in 1982. Nine pilot communities worked with their school systems to promote better discipline in the schools. They met with great success in stemming absenteeism, drop-outs and instilling pride among children in their schools. These communities are now resource models for other North Carolina communities to use.

These initiatives and others like them have resulted in juvenile arrests for all crimes dropping 27.8 percent since 1977. The number of children appearing in court for the first time dropped 26.2 percent. The number of school drop-outs is down. Training school admissions declined 46.8 percent during this period. Juvenile arrests for car theft declined 56.3 percent; juvenile arrests for drug offenses are down 40.8 percent, and juvenile arrests for burglary are down 30.8 percent.

Also, while juvenile crime has decreased nationally since 1977, juvenile crime in North Carolina has shown a greater decline than the national average. Our arrest rate for juveniles dropped more than 27 percent in this period while the national rate dropped about 19 percent.

This is a success story in which all North Carolinians can take pride. It is a story of grassroots efforts to make life better for our children. Children are our most precious resource - God's gift to all of us. We cannot afford to neglect them.



Willette Roberson  
.....Hates to be bored!

## Hyperactivity Is Normal Schedule For Our Beauty

By Jalyne Strong  
Post Staff Writer

"If I want to succeed I have to work hard," explains Willette Roberson referring to her exceedingly high amount of activities.

And hyperactivity is a normal schedule for her. She states matter of factly, "I hate to be bored."

For example, Roberson is involved in the Upward Bound Program, having just completed six weeks spent in advanced study at Johnson C. Smith University. She was also a part of the Junior Toastmaster Leadership Program sponsored by Junior Achievement during the summer. Roberson attends Mayfield Memorial Church, sings on the choir, participates on the Junior Usher Board and the Young People's Association. She had been a Girl Scout for seven years.

Some of these activities will still be in progress, yet Roberson is gearing up for making the track team this year at Myers Park High School where she'll be a junior. Other plans include participating in the Computer Club, the NAACP, the Keyettes, DECA Club and Latin Club. "I'm determined to get in the Latin Honor Society," projects Roberson, explaining that she'll have to maintain a 90 or above average in

Latin to qualify. She also hopes to get a sports scholarship in track.

But that's not all. "I'm planning to take voice and dance at the Community School of the Arts this year," she reveals.

It's no empty statement when Roberson claims, "I try to have something to do always."

Roberson began her quest for achievements when in junior high school she played on the volleyball team and the track team. She was awarded for having the highest academic average of those participating on the team, two years on the track team and one year on the volleyball team.

Since then Roberson has collected trophies for a variety of endeavors including one for being a top seller of Girl Scout cookies.

"I like success," admits Roberson. "Achievements are my way of proving myself and building self esteem."

At 16 years of age it would seem that this young lady would be concerned with having a little fun. But, she points out, "It's fun representing my school and proving the potential of what I can do."

"My aunt says, 'You're going to kill yourself. You're too young to see WILLETTE ROBERSON 4A

## 500,000 Children Are Sexually Abused Each Year

By Loretta Manago  
Post Staff Writer

Last year, two Charlotte-Mecklenburg teachers were dismissed from their positions after charges of sexual exploitation and abuse of their students were placed against them. "In California Virginia McMartin, 76, the owner of Virginia McMartin Preschool, and six of her former teachers were brought to trial to face 115 counts of child molestation within a 10 year period. In Chicago, a janitor was charged with taking indecent liberties with children at the day care center. And in Minneapolis the artistic director of famed Children's Theatre Company was arrested and charged with sexually assaulting three male students."

Those cases are only a tip of the iceberg that have some experts estimating that "as many as 400,000 to 500,000 children are sexually abused each year."

It is reported that "in the United States today, one in three girls and one in 10 boys are sexually abused by the age of 18. Fifteen to 25 percent of the victims are under the age of six."

An issue that was previously considered to be cloistered is now the center of attention in headlines throughout the media. Myths of whom child sexual abusers are, information on how to protect the victims and new laws and legislation are being enacted to ensure that the persons committing these offenses will not get away.

But with all of the attention that is being focused on child sexual abuse there are still too many people who believe that the abuser is a "strange dirty old man." Children are still not believed when they tell their parents that someone has touched them in an area where they don't think they should have. And even after a parent knows that their child has been abused, too many of them are opting to keep silent.

The series, "The Prevention Of Child Abuse: What Your Children Should Know" to be shown on channel 58, September 17-20 is especially designed to help make the public aware of child sexual abuse and to teach the public how to effectively deal with the issue.

To begin the five-part series will

be an introduction program for the parents. In this program, parents, teachers, and other adults who work with youngsters will be informed of the facts of child sexual abuse. It is the program's intent to convince those who doubt the seriousness of this crime and to set the record straight on who the abusers and the abused are.

Following this 90 minute program on September 19, is scheduled two programs designed specifically for children and their parents to watch together. The two half hour programs are divided by school grades: kindergarten-third grade and grades-four-seven. Mary Ellen Stone, director of King County Rape Relief in Renton, Washington, will conduct these programs.

See ABUSED CHILDREN Page 12A



June McLaurin Jeffers  
.....Prestigious woman

## June Jeffers Is Second Female To Head National Group

June McLaurin Jeffers, owner of McLaurin Funeral Home in Reidsville, NC, was installed as President of the National Funeral Directors and Morticians Association, Inc at the 47th Annual Convention in New Orleans, La.

Jeffers, a native of Reidsville, is the second female to head the national organization of more than 3,000 members from 32 states and the Bahamas. She was appointed Director of the Education Commission and served the organization in that capacity four years, and was subsequently elected to the offices of Corporate Secretary, Vice President, and President-Elect. She was presented the prestigious Woman of the Year Award in 1974.

An active participant in local and state affairs, Jeffers ended a term as President of the Funeral Directors and Morticians Association of North Carolina, Inc. this year. She now sits as Chairman of the Board of that organization.

Ms. Jeffers is a relative of Betty and Daniel McLaurin of Charlotte. Eugene Grier of Grier Funeral Service in Charlotte also attended the convention in New Orleans.

## Jay Walton: Community Development Department's Objectives Are Diversified

By Karen Parker  
Post Staff Writer

James W. (Jay) Walton has been appointed director of the Community Development Department.

The assignment was made recently by City Manager Wendell White. "I am pleased to appoint Jay Walton from within our organization to this position of leadership," White stated.

Before his present appointment, Walton was the assistant director in the Community Development Department. He has replaced Harry L. Jones who became director of Housing and Neighborhood Services in Dallas, TX.

Even though Walton was among five finalists for the directorship, he



James "Jay" Walton  
New CDD director

noted he was probably selected because of his familiarity with the

projects in Community Development. "I was assistant director for 2½ years," he commented.

According to Walton, he worked with the former director to improve the local relocation program for people living in substandard rental housing. "By increasing the development of new housing," Walton said, "the Community Development Department reduced the waiting list from about 250 to 75."

The relocation program is put in effect whenever there has been failure in the local housing code which specifies safe, decent, and sanitary conditions. "Sometimes it takes months to correct the problems, so residents have to be relocated," Walton continued.

"The objective of the Community Development Department is a diversified one," stated Walton, who supervises a staff of 73. "We work to preserve and reserve housing." Communities which have been influenced most by the Community Development Department include Five Points, West Boulevard, Grier Heights, First Ward and the West Morehead area.

Working with a budget of \$7 million, the responsibility doesn't stop at funding low to moderate income housing. "We monitor human service agencies under contract with the Department," Walton stressed. The Gethsemane Enrichment Program and Charlotte-  
See WALTON On Page 4A

School Opens Tuesday...  
Watch Out  
For Our Kids!

### TURTLE-TALK



A determined man can do more with a rusty wrench than a loafer can do with all the tools in a machine shop.