

MAYFIELD KICKS OFF Homecoming Celebration



Rev Diggs

Story On Page 8A

CONCERNED CITIZENS

To Fight Pornography

Story On Page 16A

TODAY'S MUSIC

DOESN'T

Motivate Our Youth To Think!

Story On Page 8B



Murphy

NOW SERVING CABARRUS AND ROWAN COUNTIES

THE CHARLOTTE POST

"The Voice Of The Black Community"

YOUR BEST ADVERTISING MEDIA IN THE LUCRATIVE BLACK MARKET CALL 376-0496

Volume 10, Number 13

THE CHARLOTTE POST - Thursday, September 6, 1984

Price: 40 Cents

City Of Concord Is Celebrating BSC Week

For the first time in its 117 year history, Barber-Scotia College has been formally recognized for its contributions to the community of Concord.

Speaking to a group of students and faculty on the college campus recently, Alderman Robert Manthis presented Concord Mayor Bernie Edwards' proclamation of September 2-8 as "Barber-Scotia Week."

The proclamation read in part "...higher education plays a very important part in the growth and development of our community and nation; and...the students at Barber-Scotia College offer a great contribution to Concord and Cabarrus County by being informed and responsible citizens."

"This is a beginning and a great beginning for all of us," said Dr. Sammie Potts, vice president for institutional development, representing the college.

Concord Mayor Bernie Edwards indicated that Concord is fortunate to have a college in town. Through books and individuals, the school points out Concord to many people who otherwise would not know the town existed.

It has an exciting basketball team that provides sports activity and entertainment for the community. The approximately 100 college employees are mostly Concordians and local folk are also encouraged to utilize campus facilities and attend campus events.

The school brings students to Concord from all over the country and world, points out the mayor, and this enriches the cultural atmosphere. These students also make known their buying power, especially in downtown Concord, which, according to the mayor, enhances the economy.

In recognition of the special week, downtown merchants will be displaying placards welcoming back BSC students and holding special sales.

Graves Warns: Blacks Must Prepare For Renewed Struggle

Black people have endured many terrible times in America, but the most difficult may be yet to come warns Earl G. Graves, publisher of Black Enterprise magazine in an editorial in the September issue.

Responding to two recent Supreme Court cases, Grove City College v. Bell, which found that nondiscriminatory policies need only apply to specific federally-funded departments or programs, and Firefighters v. Stotts, which opens the door to restitution of last hired, first fired status for blacks and other minorities, Graves warned those who would disregard set-aside programs and affirmative action agreements "when they find it politically expedient" that "we are not willing to accept exclusion from the American dream."

"Black America must return to the institutions that have become the backbone of our struggle," urges Graves. If gains made by blacks in the last two decades are to be preserved and new goals are to be reached, Black families must be

See GRAVES On Page 2A



Anita McAfee
.....Urban League counselor

Anita McAfee Likes Working With People

By Jalyne Strong
Post Staff Writer

"The sacrifice is great but the reward is greater," admits Anita McAfee about certain aspects of her life.

Beginning with her work, the 23 year old Urban League placement counselor explains that her job is challenging and often difficult. She is responsible for finding employment for 18-21 year olds. "It can be hard. Sometimes the kids don't want help," tells McAfee.

"But I like working with people. Everyday I learn something new," she relates. And other rewards McAfee cites, "Out of all the kids who've been placed three have called offering thanks for the opportunity. It's nice knowing that someone appreciates what you are trying to do."

McAfee is a 1983 graduate of Johnson C. Smith University. She majored in Social Work. She is a Delta Sigma Theta, and has received the honor of Academic Achievement for Exceptional Standard of Scholarship. McAfee is listed as an Outstanding Young Woman of America.

She claims that her life has been leading up to a career of helping people. "Friends have always come to me for counseling. When I was a Girl Scout I was involved in human services working in convalescent homes. The public services of the Delta's have also allotted me the opportunity to aid people," points out McAfee.

"I like to know I can help someone who's strayed along the way to get their life back in order."

The ordering of her own life involves, among other things, an interest in politics. McAfee has been involved with the Gantt and the Edminsten campaigns.

Justly her interest in politics stems from her overall desire to help people. Says McAfee, there is a need for blacks to become more politically orientated. "Everyone (politicians) is looking toward us to get someone into office," cites McAfee. "Blacks need to know what a person has done. For example Reagan has cut out many human service programs with a lack of understanding of our needs. I think we need to be aware of such things. Ignorance causes us to miss out. We need to stress our opinions through the political process."

When she is not helping others or politicking for a cause McAfee prefers a quiet evening at home as relaxation. She admits she is somewhat quiet though this demeanor does not hinder her from being outgoing. She says her zodiac sign of Taurus marks her as a leader and she readily agrees, "I am a leader or I want to be. I don't want to be a follower."

The idea of sacrifice yielding rewards is a philosophy McAfee has deemed from her own experience. She warns that people especially young people should not look for Golden opportunities to come gift wrapped at their door. "When I received my degree I thought everything would be laid out," remembers McAfee. It was hard and depressing, she relates, when she

See ANITA On Page 4A

Downtown Progress

"Could Have Been Handled Differently"

By Audrey C. Lodato
Post Staff Writer

The inconvenience of downtown construction is not unique to Charlotte. Other major cities - Atlanta, for one - are constantly in the process of construction and reconstruction. Indeed, construction is a part of growth.

Just because it is common, however, does not make it easy to live with - or easy to swallow for those who are uprooted in the name of progress.

The present transit mall construction in downtown Charlotte is only the most recent phase of redevelopment in the Queen City that began over a decade ago. Among those groups most affected by the construction then and now are the independent merchants and their clientele. Some small businesses survived relocation and changes in traffic patterns in center city; others did not.

One of the establishments that did not survive was Hope's Hallmark Shop located at 4th and Tryon from 1965 to 1968. When the building where Hope's Hallmark was situated was torn down to make way for the NCNB building, the card shop moved to Trade and Tryon. That move, according to owners Millie and Hanley Green, was fatal to the business.

The Greens sold out the following year because they lost trade. Customers, the couple said, "wouldn't cross Trade St. The bus stops had people standing on the corner and it was hard to get through. The location was only one block different, but we lost 90 percent of our trade when we moved," they insisted.

In addition to fewer customers, rent at the new location was 63 percent higher than they had been paying - a jump of \$250, from \$400 to \$650 a month.

Despite the intervening years, it's hard for the Greens not to sound bitter. "It's politics," Mr. Green maintained. "I'm not against progress, but the way they treated people was ridiculous." According to Green, the city found the relo-

First In Series

cation site for them and then threatened them into moving there. Those who hung on to their old locations fared better financially, Green said. The city, he continued, had promised to help them rebuild their business, but all they got was moving costs. In the end, the Greens, who had hoped to be able to use the store for their retirement, lost \$22,000.

The now-retired couple admits the downtown area looks better than it did 25 years ago. "In 50 years it may look beautiful," said Green, "but all the small people have been forced out. Mom and Pop places are going by the wayside. They can't afford shopping center rents."

Green believes Charlotte should take a lesson from Atlanta. "They developed their downtown instead of destroying it," he said.

Home Furniture, which had been in the Pliner family about 30 years, was another business affected by downtown construction. In 1972, the business was forced to move from its E. Trade St. location to make room for the Civic Center. "Fifty-eight businesses were displaced on that block," remarked David Pliner. Many, he said, did not relocate. "A business community is like an ecological system," he explained. "When you upset the balance, all suffer."

One of the major problems, according to Pliner, was limited space downtown and the city offering only minimal relocation assistance. "We had a thriving downtown," said Pliner. "It was always busy. Maybe it wasn't the type of business that bankers and executives wanted, but it was bustling. Bankers don't understand retailers and don't care," he added. Pliner admits some buildings may have needed renovation but thinks the city fathers want a "high class shopping area or another Wall St. with beautiful concrete buildings."

According to Pliner, a number of merchants wanted to develop, but

the city had already negotiated with others before official notice was given that land was for sale. "We were supposedly an area of declining property values, yet some politicians and corporations got huge amounts for property. We who were downtown knew the true values," said Pliner. "This made me see how corrupt government is at all levels," he continued. "There were all sorts of violations of HUD regulations and no one was ever really held accountable. HUD said they couldn't help because of the political atmosphere in Charlotte. You'll always have problems as long as people can hide behind government and no one is accountable. The point is, the people in power - when they want something, they get it in this town."

Pliner is still angry about what he says happened to his family's business. "They flooded our warehouse," he said, "and split the building while we still occupied it. We got a court injunction until the city came up with a feasible plan to help merchants, but we never recovered the damages we sustained. We had tremendous legal fees," he added. The company's business declined because of the demolition while awaiting the court order.

Although Home Furniture did relocate to Statesville Avenue, the business never fully recovered. After 65 unresolved break-ins in eight years, Pliner decided it was time to quit. He blames the problem on the city. "I couldn't get police protection," he declared. "I believe this was retaliation for not cooperating downtown."

Another independent to lose out was Mr. High Style. "We were forced out in the name of progress," said Ron Liss, who now operates Great American Fashions in North Park Mall. "Mr. High Style was the original young men's shop in Charlotte. The business was 53 years old when we were put out in 1981," Liss explained. He described what happened. "The city gave them a permit to tear the building down

See DOWNTOWN On Page 18A

FOCUS Performers Portray Life Experiences

By Karen Parker
Post Staff Writer

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools just opened, and students can be heard everywhere talking about how much tougher school life seems.

Coping with school, peers, and family can sometimes be difficult for teenagers. Physicians and school counselors all agree if a teenager can trust in someone and have good communication habits, he or she is usually able to confront problems and live happy lives.

On September 15, a volunteer troupe of Charlotte teenagers, known as FOCUS, will come to life for the third season to help teens and parents discover answers to typical problems. The opening performance begins at 7:30 p.m. in Charlotte Country Day School's auditorium.

FOCUS performers portray life experiences as seen from their own points of view. When a vignette ends, the performers remain in character and have an open discussion with the audience.

FOCUS director, Phil Hines, emphasizes "there is no script." He noted the students select a situation and from there act from their heart not words on paper.

The improvisation adds realism to the vignettes, but for teens it seems it'd be more difficult to compose an act in the mind. "Well, we have the main points of the situation we're



FOCUS performers, l-r (standing): Terressa Smith, Tuesday Williams, Lem Hames and (seated) Jay Ferguson.

acting out," stated 13-year-old Jay Ferguson. "From there we just have to trust each other."

Tuesday Williams, 16, and entering her second season with FOCUS, noted maintaining the realism on stage requires concentration. "I mean a lot of concentration," she stressed. According to Tuesday, she sometimes does research on the subject she portrays

to make the scene even more tangible.

"When you're on stage, and you become a character, you know that character better than anyone else," Jay added. His roles are mostly of people who display an "overflow" of emotions. "Whether it's exploding with anger or an equal amount of happiness, my character is usually someone who is extremely ex-

citing," stated the ninth grader at Piedmont Middle School.

Tuesday, joins performers Lem Hames and Terressa Smith in a vignette that focuses on a number of issues teens are bound to face at some point in their life.

In 15 minutes or less the actors give a vivid illustration of young adult frustration. It ranges from

See FOCUS On Page 17A

TURTLE-TALK



To make dreams come true - don't oversleep.