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Mrs. Breazeale

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"The Voice Of The Black Community"

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## Senator Bradley Is Democratic Dinner Speaker

U.S. Senator Bill Bradley will be the speaker at the North Carolina Democratic Party's annual Jefferson-Jackson Day dinner on April 27, announced Democratic Chairman, Wade Smith.

"We're excited to have somebody of Senator Bradley's stature," said Smith. "He has proven himself a national leader with good new ideas. His Fair Tax Bill started the whole push for lowering income tax rates and closing loopholes. Before anybody else, he was fighting for more equitable tax breaks for small businesses and working people."

First elected to the Senate in 1978, Bradley was appointed to the Finance and Energy and Natural Resources Committees. He has been the leading Senate advocate for building U.S. energy reserves to decrease our dependence on foreign oil. He has also been a Senate leader in education.

Often mentioned as a potential presidential candidate in 1988, Bradley first gained national fame as an athlete. A star basketball player at Princeton University, Bradley played on the U.S. Olympic basketball team in 1964. After studying two years in England on a Rhodes Scholarship, Bradley played professional basketball for the New York Knicks.

Bradley will speak at the Jefferson-Jackson Day dinner at the Raleigh Civic Center at 7 p.m. on Saturday, April 27. Tickets are \$30 and can be purchased from Democratic county chairs or from Judy Hyman at state Democratic Party headquarters at 919-821-2777.

## Monies Available To Assist Youth Organizations

Funds are available to assist youth groups in Mecklenburg County in developing innovative community projects. If you're a member of a youth group or organization planning a worthwhile project for young people, you may be able to receive a mini-grant from the N.C. State Youth Council to assist you.

The deadline for accepting applications for these grants is April 29.

The applications will be screened and approved at the State Youth Council Board of Directors' quarterly meeting which will be held in Fort Caswell on May 10-12. Awards are reviewed by the State Youth Advisory Council before being granted.

For more information and a mini-grant application, contact the Youth Advocacy and Involvement Office, Elka Building, 121 W. Jones St., Raleigh, N.C. 27603-1334 or call 919-783-6288.

The State Youth Council is a component of the Youth Advocacy and Involvement Office and works with youth councils across the state. Although the council advises existing councils and helps new ones get started, the grants are not restricted to youth councils.



Marilyn Donnelly Possesses dominant personality

## Marilyn Donnelly Is Beauty Of The Week

By Jalyne Strong Post Staff Writer

Twenty-seven-year-old Marilyn Donnelly has parlayed a background of radio and television experience into a business. This enterprising young lady is the operator of Toy Jay Video, a video and audio production company.

A native of Mullins, South Carolina, Marilyn attended Francis Marion College and worked her way through college as a radio announcer. She's worked for WOIC in Columbia and WYNN in Florence, South Carolina. "I came to Charlotte to get experience in a larger market," she explains.

"I began freelancing here and it turned out to be lucrative," Marilyn discloses. She established her business two and one half years ago.

"I videotape any event with sound, such as workshops, business meetings and sales promotional tapes," she mentions, adding she owns the equipment necessary for these projects. For large projects, Marilyn employs two sub-contractors.

"I enjoy the creativity of it all. I like putting together the different products. Meeting people and making money is always nice."

She works out of her residence at this time and says she's satisfied with the progress of the company so far. "It's going along as I've planned it," she assures. "The future looks bright," Marilyn alludes. "As Charlotte grows, I see my business as really being a part of it."

"I love Charlotte," expresses Marilyn about her new found home base. "The people are nice and they are helpful." She does maintain contact with people in South Carolina though, Marilyn explains that she still does several radio commercials for clients.

Private time is spent enjoying her favorite activities: racquet ball, swimming and listening to progressive jazz. "Roy Ayers is my number one man," smiles Marilyn. She also enjoys Al Jarreau and Jean Carnes is her favorite female jazz vocalist.

Marilyn has a three-year-old daughter named Latoya. "She's beautiful," the proud mother boasts. Though Marilyn admits it is difficult raising a child and running a business. "In fact, we eat bologna sandwiches a lot of times. But then there are the times when we can splurge. It has its drawbacks and rewards," she concludes.

This week's beauty further admits to possessing a dominant

personality. "I'm outgoing and I like to be in control and call the shots," Marilyn states. A Cancer, Marilyn claims she definitely exhibits a few of the zodiac sign's most dominant traits. "I am home-loving, motherly, sensitive and creative," she describes.

"I like to have fun," relates Marilyn. She also claims that if she could attain anything she wanted in the world the prize would be "a million dollars!" Marilyn says the cool million would primarily allow her financial security. But for girls who want to have fun, a good time can certainly be had on the dividends.

Marilyn attends Little Rock A.M.E. Zion Church.

## Black Executives To Hear Chamber Of Commerce President

Carroll Gray, president of the Charlotte Chamber of Commerce, will be a featured speaker at the fifth annual Black Executive Exchange Program (BEEP) career conference at Johnson C. Smith University March 24 through 26.

Gray and other local business leaders will join the conference at a breakfast gathering Tuesday.

The BEEP seminar will put seven Atlantic Richfield Co. executives in classes, forums and individual meetings with JCSU students. It is sponsored by the National Urban League and Atlantic Richfield.

A plenary session in the Student Union at 4 p.m., Monday, is open to the public.

Robert W. Brocksbank, chairman of the board of the Council on Career Development for Minorities, will speak at a luncheon Monday. A frequent visitor on campuses, he is on leave from a position as manager of college relations and college recruiting at Mobil Oil Co.

"In the decade ahead," he recently told a college audience, "new jobs and new kinds of jobs will be created at a far faster pace than ever before in American history. And this means opportunity for you."

JCSU President L. Albright will address the visiting executives and members of the university community at a dinner Monday.

The BEEP conference was arranged by Ann Akiko Kusumoto, equal opportunity affairs coordina-

## First Ward's Earle Village: An Urban Mistake?

By Teresa Simmons Post Managing Editor

The streets are wide and a bit busy for the number of children walking to school or to the school bus stops each day. In 1960 the rows of apartments were "modern" with hot running water, inside plumbing... which became a blessing for some of the residents.

But today the buildings have torn screens, barren yards consisting mainly of dirt and in some areas large rocks, which were never removed during the initial clearance. Standing 15 years old there are complexes with roof leakages causing serious mildew problems and one elderly resident lives with hot tar dripping onto her front porch area because of improper repair of her front porch roof.

While many of the apartments need repainting on the inside, inadequate garbage receptacles aid in the increase of the rodent population. And, finally, a fire sits idle in a front yard, a reminder of how the community seems to be going nowhere.

As familiar as these descriptions may sound they are not examining the ghettos of New York's Harlem. Instead this is the way people live in Charlotte's own Earle Village. Located in First Ward, Earle Village is a 409 public housing unit.

After residential homes in First Ward were bought by the City and bulldozed or carted out to the suburbs for resale, "Great expanses of open lots were simply left vacant as a result of the 60s' renewal which erased the structures, the history and the community of First Ward."

This quote comes from authors Nancy Jones and Debbie Fullbright. They are now in the process of writing a comprehensive book about First Ward for the Charlotte-Mecklenburg School System in connection with the First Ward School's 85th anniversary in April. The theme is "Sake's Alive: We're 85."

"There is such a wealth of information we have uncovered," Mrs. Jones commented. "We've



This is First Ward today. "Tee" Hall, a resident of the projects, stands in front of a couple of the 409 units. It makes one wonder why the beautiful homes bulldozed were not renovated for occupancy in lieu of erecting dwellings that are now experiencing interior delapidation.

come across so much valuable information that we didn't know was there."

The book will be published by the Charlotte-Mecklenburg School System but Jones and Fullbright may go on to publish a more extensive hardback edition. The two have been working on the present edition since January, which didn't give them a lot of time for the April deadline and celebration.

"I can't imagine not going on," Mrs. Jones stated about the future hardback cover. "The hard bound book will be more detailed."

Both Jones and Fullbright feel that the public's image of Earle Village is that of an undesirable place to live or work, and that the residents not only desire improved external conditions, but would prefer that the City improve living conditions within their homes first. The present City plan, the Frenchman Plan, calls for external facelifts, according to Jones' and Fullbrights' investigations and in-

terviews with people like Warren Burgess, senior urban designer, Planning Commission; and Elaine Burgwyn, member of the Planning Commission.

Edgar Alexander, presently a home owner on 8th Street in First Ward since 1955, recalls that First Ward had started to become run down in the 1950s. "There was a bad element. You could not leave your home without someone breaking in." But now, he says, mostly church-going people live within the two blocks of the residential area (from Myers to McDowell).

"I'd like to see more single house dwellings instead of projects," Alexander commented. "The area is so densely populated."

Alexander feels "pretty good" about the development of Earle Village. Malik Tillman who lived in First Ward for 20 years, however, feels a loss.

"I grew up in First Ward in a big house. I'd like to see First Ward return to a neighborhood. I think the public housing was a mistake in the long run. I don't think the planners anticipated that Charlotte would be growing as fast as it has. The 50 or so homes in First Ward should have been remodeled or revitalized instead of the erection of Earle Village. It is a social and economic step backwards. Urban renewal to me has always been Negro removal."

"I remember the thoroughway of black businesses from McDowell to College Streets. Like the Thad Tate Barber Shop. But when the neighborhood was destroyed," Tillman said, "the businesses were either forced to relocate or close."

Tillman, a writer-businessman, is now working on an historical overview of blacks in Charlotte since the 1600s and also is working on the archives for the Afro-American Cultural Center.

Tillman did see positive ramifications of Earle Village. "Some of the residents did not have hot water before, the apartments were safer dwellings than some of the 'shotgun houses.' Some of the houses they left experienced roof leakages, for example. It was a positive opportunity for some."

"But in my case the move was negative. My family had a 17-room house which to me was beautiful, with a beautiful front yard and garden in the back. The people I had run to the store for were all moving away. It was as if a door was being closed in my face and my entire life as a child was being disturbed."

"I've also found out in my research for the book," Tillman continued, "that 90 percent of Urban Renewal involved black neighborhoods. In First Ward's case, the renewal stagnated relationships between blacks and whites (the present First Ward population is now 90 percent black, whereas the population was once integrated before the 1960s). Also the renewal attempted to erase the historical contributions blacks made to Charlotte."

## Black Chemists

### To Hold Fundraiser

The National Organization of Black Chemists and Chemical Engineers, Charlotte Chapter, will hold its first fundraiser of the year on Saturday night, 9 p.m. until 1 a.m. at the Excelsior Club. Donation is \$3 per person, and door prizes will be awarded.

Calling it "A Night To Remember," spokesperson Betty McKinney explained that the proceeds will go toward the NOBCE's scholarship fund. Each year, the organization sends at least one high school senior to Howard University's Science Academy. The group hopes to raise enough money to be able to provide college scholarship funds.

## HEALTH TALK



Growing old is a question of MIND over MATTER. If you don't mind, it doesn't matter.