



Gilbert Neal, president of General Tire, presents award to Deborah Cousar while her father, Robert Cousar, a General Tire employee, proudly looks on.

## Deborah Cousar Merits GenCorp National Achievement Scholarship

Deborah Cousar, a senior at South Mecklenburg High School, has been awarded the GenCorp National Achievement Scholarship for Minority Students. The four-year scholarship covers tuition, room and board, books, and related expenses at the school of Ms. Cousar's choice.

Her plans are to major in electrical engineering at North Carolina State School of Engineering.

Deborah is the daughter of General Tire employee Robert Cousar. Nationally, six scholarships are awarded each year by GenCorp, General Tire's parent company.

This is the first time the child of an employee at the Charlotte facility has won. Noted Deborah's father, "It makes the employees here feel a lot better knowing someone from Charlotte has won."

The South Mecklenburg senior said she was "very excited" about winning the GenCorp scholarship. Her plans to study electrical engineering grew out of her interest in math. She considered majoring in computer engineering but was advised that she would be limiting herself if she chose to concentrate on a narrow field. Electrical engineering, she thinks, is a better option.

A member of the South Mecklenburg band, Inroads Charlotte Corp., and the usher board and choir at Little Rock AME Zion Church, Deborah has also been awarded a \$5,000 scholarship from the Horatio Alger Association of Distinguished Americans and a \$1,000 scholarship from the N.C. State School of Engineering.

Deborah scored very well on the PSAT test and maintains a 3.6 GPA.

Robert Cousar has been employed at General Tire since 1967. He has four other children. "When you're raising a child, you just hope for the best," he smiled. "So far I've been blessed with all of them."

The Cousars reside at 1509 Chestnut Drive in Charlotte.

## NAEYC To Focus On Importance Of Children And Their Needs

By Audrey C. Lodato  
Post Staff Writer

The week of April 21-27 is being celebrated as the "Week of the Young Child" in Charlotte as well as throughout the country. Sponsored by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), the "Week of the Young Child" is intended to "help the community focus on the importance of children and their needs, and how we can work together to help meet those needs," explained Julia Saunders of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools. Saunders, a curriculum specialist for grades K-3, is the CMS representative for the local week-long series of events.

"Parents play a very important role in the education of their children," Saunders emphasized. "They need to be aware of agencies in the community that can help. They also need to be aware of the kinds of things they can do at home to help their children." Among the week's activities will be a "Parents Festival" on Thursday evening which will feature community resource people. The "Parents Festival" will take place at Dilworth School from 7:30-9:30 p.m.

Other activities include: "In Celebration of Children," featuring games and entertainment by and for children, Sunday, 1:30-5:30, Memorial Stadium; "Teddy Bear Parade," Monday, 11-11:30, Marshall Park; "Teaching Pre-Reading Skills Through Delight," Tuesday, 1-2 p.m., Central Piedmont Community College; "Film Festival," Wednesday, 12-1:30, First Union Bank auditorium; "Very Special Arts Festival," Friday, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., First Presbyterian Church; and "Fun Fair for Children," Saturday, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Nature Museum.

Charlotte Pfeifer, vice president of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Association for the Education of Young Children, (CMAEYC) is chairing the week's activities. She remarked on the need for parents, teachers, and other adults who work with children to recognize the value of childhood and to reflect on how well the needs of children are being met.

Besides CMAEYC and the School System, other cooperating agencies and organizations include the Council for Children, Child Care Resources, Inc., Charlotte Public Library, Community School of the Arts, Nature Museum, CPCC, Johnson C. Smith, and UNCC.

Local leaders and celebrities involved in the events include Mayor Harvey Gantt; School Board Chair, Carrie Winter; musician Thomas Moore; and Dr. Richard Brice, president of NCAEYC.

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