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# THE CHARLOTTE POST

"The Voice Of The Black Community"

THE CHARLOTTE POST - Thursday, May 16, 1985

**YOUR BEST  
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## BON To Consider Development Projects

Lawrence Toliver, vice president for the Charlotte Chamber of Commerce Small Business Division, recently announced that three of Charlotte's leading businessmen have agreed to "help create significant minority-owned real estate projects for Charlotte."

John Crossland, Fred W. Klein of Trammel-Crow, Attorney D. G. Martin and several other community-spirited leaders yet to be named have agreed to serve on the Business Opportunity Network's Real Estate Development committee where they will review development proposals submitted to them by minorities or women.

Toliver and BON Action Council Vice Chairman Vincent James solicited the involvement of these three business and community leaders because of their individual and combined expertise and abilities to "develop projects which serve our entire city and county."

Following its June organizational meeting, the committee and Chamber staff will solicit real estate projects from minorities and choose those which merit its combined and individual member support.



Deborah Saunders  
...BON manager

## Deborah Saunders To Head BON

### Programs Activities

Deborah R. Saunders comes to the Business Opportunity Network after having served the United Way of Mecklenburg and Union Counties for four and one-half years. Ms. Saunders was Senior Staff for Allocations and Agency Relations where she managed the budget review process, supervised the allocation of \$7 million to agencies, and managed the activities of the Allocations and Review Board and the Review Panel. A former social services worker, Mrs. Saunders has an M.A. in community organizations from Scarritt College in Nashville.

As the Manager of the BON program, Ms. Saunders will be responsible for managing volunteer activities associated with strengthening M-WBEs, diversifying their economic involvement and becoming integral parts of the business community. Her previous four and one-half years with the United Way have brought her into regular contact with business leaders who praise her communications skills and efficiency.

### TURTLE-TALK



Don't expect too much from the man who talks about what he did instead of what he's doing.



Gail Sanders  
...Tall, Slim and Beautiful!

## Gail Sanders Views Modeling As Glamorous

By Jalyne Strong  
Post Staff Writer

Twenty-seven-year-old Gail Sanders always thought the world of modeling as glamorous. "I'd see models and they were so tall, slim and beautiful. I wanted to be like them," she says. With a lithe figure standing 5'9", Gail could very well have made a stunning model.

However, with the birth of her son, Todd, now 19 months, Gail's priorities changed. All her interest now centers around her young son, who she says, "is a handful but the joy of my life."

"My goal is to work in order to maintain my son to the point when he can take care of himself," states Gail, an employee of Nelson's Restaurant. "I want all the good things for him," she adds.

But when she's not taking Todd to "run, swing, jump and climb," Gail's free time is spent browsing the fashion scene. "I really enjoy

reading fashion magazines," she tells. "I keep up with the latest in makeup, styles, skin care, etc., through them."

Also for pleasure, Gail likes to listen to jazz and some rock and roll. "I appreciate David Sanborn most of all," she maintains. "He'll be in Charlotte on Mother's Day and I plan to go see him."

About motherhood, Gail claims, "It's great." Then she says, "It's hard." She finally decides it has its good and bad. "I still can't believe it," she admits, concerning herself being a mother.

Yet experience around children is one thing Gail is not short of; she comes from a family of 12 siblings. "There are seven boys and five girls," she tells. It's no wonder that her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Cordin Sanders, along with Todd of course, are her favorite people. Even with 12 different personalities to contend with, Gail assures, "They've always see GAIL On Page 18A

# South, Women Show Largest Gains Among Black Elected Officials

Special To The Post

The number of black elected officials rose by 6.2 percent nationwide last year, reports the Joint Center for Political Studies, which has conducted an annual census of black officials since 1970. Between January 1984 and January 1985, the total number increased from 5,700 to 6,056. Last year's increase was 1.7 percent.

Some 85 percent of the increase took place in the South, which contains 53 percent of the country's black population and 63 percent of all black elected officials. Alabama had a net gain of 61; South Carolina, 47; Georgia, 39; and Louisiana, 37. Louisiana, where 27 percent of the voting-age population is black, remains the state with the largest number of black elected officials—475—followed by Mississippi, with a 31 percent black voting-age population and 444 black officials.

The increases were spread across all levels of office except federal, where Katie Hall's (D-IN) defeat in the May 1984 primary reduced the number of black members of Congress to 20. The number of black mayors increased by 31 to 286—the largest increase of any year since the center began counting. Black elected officials remain disproportionately concentrated in municipal offices—mostly city councils; some 48 percent of black officials are municipal officials, while only 27 percent of all elected officials fall in that category.

Some significant firsts in 1984: —New York State gained its first black mayor: Ronald A. Blackwood, in Mount Vernon.

—Pennsylvania got its first black woman state senator: Roxanne Jones, from Philadelphia. Yvonne Miller of Norfolk, Va., is the first black woman since Reconstruction to win election to the state House of Delegates. Oregon got its first black woman in the state legislature: Margaret Carter, from Portland.

—Alabama elected its first black woman judge, Jo Celeste Pettway.

Despite these firsts and the 6.2 percent overall increase, however, blacks still hold only 1.2 percent of the 490,800 elective offices in the country. Black elected officials continue to be concentrated in black majority districts and generally depend on the black electorate for victory.

The number of black women in office continues to grow at a faster rate than the number of black men. In January 1985, there were 1,358 black women in office, an increase of 99, or 8 percent, over the previous year—as compared to a 5.7 percent increase for black male officeholders. Black women now make up 22.4 percent of all blacks in elective office.

Eddie N. Williams, president of the Joint Center for Political Studies, comments: "This year's growth in the number of black elected officials makes clear that on

its 20th anniversary, the Voting Rights Act of 1965 is still an important tool for expanding black access to the political system. The impressive gains in the South were due, in part, to proceedings under various sections of the Act that reduced voter dilution and other discriminatory mechanisms. And, of course, in 1984 we witnessed an unprecedented number of voter registration activities in black communities throughout the country. As voter participation increases, blacks win a greater share of elective offices and thus a stronger voice to defend their own interests."

**Black Elected Officials: A National Roster, 1985**, which contains detailed statistics and a complete listing of blacks in elective office as of January 31, 1985, will be published in June by UNIPUB. Copies may be ordered by calling 800-521-8110; in Michigan, Canada, Alaska and Hawaii, call 313-761-4700.

## Elderly Black Women Have Survived Many Inequalities

By Mary Duncan Wilson  
Status of Women Chairman  
Special To The Post

The elderly black woman in America today is a superwoman who has survived the many inequalities of her job, educational, socio-economic and environmental opportunities.

In the majority of cases she has reared a family, worked outside the home, has done a full day's work either before or after returning home from a job and somehow she has found the time to extend love and training to her children. Many have survived their husbands and many have always been a one-parent family.

Second in series

Now that their children are grown, more of our elderly black women of low income brackets have moved to public housing units, where rents are controlled and social services are more accessible.

A Rutgers University research project which was funded by grants from the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) women who were born in the 30 years between 1880 and 1910, in order to inform the public about the historic movement in which they have taken part, their study shows that crime against the elderly is a serious problem. They are subjected to abuse in their neighborhoods and through fraudulent business practices. With a slowed economy and high inflation, the nation has diverted its attention from the solving of social problems of the economically deprived black women and their families, to an economic entrenchment from the policies of the seventies.

The interest that once was shown in redressing wrongs which have been done to minority groups, has been redirected to the difficulties which affect whites and majority groups in America. Since Congress cut appropriations to Legal Services Corporations by one-fourth in 1982, families in need of assistance have increased by 35 percent. People must either go without services or suffer a significant decline in the quality of service rendered.

One of every three persons on Food Stamps is black. Governmental spending on Food Stamps has been cut four percent. According to the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) in 1983, four out of five tax dollars given through the 1981 Reagan tax cut went to households whose income was above \$20,000 a year. Two-thirds of white families in America are in this category. Under this administration appropriations for the expansion of housing programs for the poor have fallen 72 percent.

Younger black women should avoid the following most common mistakes which the majority of our elderly black women have made about money and security.

1. They don't save money. For painless saving, women should try an automatic deduction plan, from their employer or their bank.
2. They have equated budgeting with poverty. We should not spend money impulsively.

See ELDERLY On Page 11A

## "Churchworker Of The Year" Contest To Offer Numerous Attractive Prizes

By Loretta Manago  
Post Staff Writer

While the pot at the end of the rainbow for the contestants involved in the "Churchworker of the Year" contest is the luxurious cruise to the Bahamas via Eastern Airlines for the winner and a companion, in addition to a trip to anywhere in the United States that Eastern flies for the winning contestant's pastor and companion, the road of the six-week contest will be filled with a bounty of gifts and prizes.

Gift certificates from fashionable clothing shops, beauty salons, and an automotive service store only scratch the surface of the potential prizes to be won by the churchworker contestants. Throughout the contest, top sales in subscriptions for The Post will garner some deserving prize for a contestant.

These prizes don't come out of the thin air. Rather, they are donated by community conscious individuals like Hazel Simons of D'Essence No. 2, Don Hill of Peak's Drugs and Bill Holder of Ledford's who all feel a responsibility to contribute to a worthwhile endeavor like the "Churchworker of the Year" contest. Some advertisers even have sentimental reasons for becoming involved in The Post's contest through a contribution to one of the participants.

Ms. Simons, who is an operator at D'Essence No. 2, remembers when she was just starting out in the cosmetology field that Fran Farrer-



Charles Williams  
...House of Charles

Bradley, The Post's Director of Advertising, helped her considerably.

"Fran helped me out, so whenever she calls and makes a suggestion about a particular thing, I usually follow through," remarked Ms. Simons.

Ms. Simons also commented that she was glad when Fran suggested that she donate a prize to The Post's contest last year, because it helped her pick up additional clientele.

"I think the contest is a real interesting idea," emphasized Ms. Simons.

Don Hill, owner of Peak's Drugs attributes his long association with The Post as one of the main rea-



Eloise Ferguson  
...Hair Original

sons for participating in the annual contest. "My wife and I have been owners of the drugstore for five and one-half years and we've always advertised with The Charlotte Post. Before we owned the store, the owners preceding us also advertised with The Post. So to my knowledge, The Post and the drugstore's ties go back as far as 20 to 25 years."

Participating in The Post's annual contest and other special promotions of the paper is Hill's way of fostering good community relations. "We try to be a vital part of the community."

Hill attended one banquet which culminated the activities of the contest and considered it very in-

teresting. "We don't get a whole lot by participating, but our name stays in the foreground a lot and, hopefully, people will see that we're trying to do some good," concluded Hill.

At Ledford's, a men and women's clothing store, Bill Holder reiterated the sentiments of the other advertisers by saying that he thought the "Churchworker of the Year" contest was a good idea.

Ledford's has been involved with the contest every since Robbie Thompson, an account executive, has been handling their account. Holder credits her persistence as an influential factor in their store being in the contest this year.

"What we hope to gain by participating is increased sales from the readers and subscribers of The Charlotte Post. It's a little different direction than most advertisers take, but one that we definitely feel is worthwhile," he confirmed.

Those three advertisers are a small representation of the growing list of advertisers who are joining the bandwagon to give away good prizes to some well-deserving individuals.

Here are the names of some of the other businesses that will be participating in the "Churchworker of the Year" contest: Montaldo's - a \$50 gift certificate; Buffalo Tire - a \$50 gift certificate; Naturalizer (South-Park) - a pair of shoes; D'Essence No. 2 - a \$35 valued hairdo; See CHURCHWORKER Page 15A