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FLORESA EDWARDS
...28 year-old beauty

Attractive Floresa Edwards Enjoys Fellowship With Christian People!

By Jalyne Strong
Post Staff Writer

A native of Middlesex, N.C., this week's beauty, Floresa Edwards, has lived in Charlotte for approximately four years.

"I love it here," she admits. Among the many things the city has to offer, what Floresa enjoys most is her fellowship with Christian people. A member of Faith CME Church, she's a devoted participant in her house of worship. Floresa's involvement in evangelism, and the Young Adult Council. She is also a Girl Scout Leader and a Sunday School teacher.

Her profession is Dental Assistant. Floresa trained for the occupation at Brevard Junior College, in Brevard, N.C., and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and she currently works at Memorial Hospital's Dental Clinic.

She says of her job, "I love it, I love it, I love it! I wouldn't change it for the world."

Floresa admits she initially entered this particular field because she wanted to work in a medical capacity but didn't want to work weekends. "I feel weekends are my time to myself," she notes. Now that she's into her work she's found other rewarding aspects to the job. "I enjoy getting to know the

patients and helping them through dental care," she relates. An important part of her duties involves teaching people the basics of dental hygiene.

But her weekends are still "her time" and Floresa puts them to good use. Her favorite leisure activities include camping, tennis, basketball and snow skiing. "I'm a sports fanatic," she confesses.

Skiing is great fun, tells Floresa. She usually goes to Snow Shoe in West Virginia or Beech Mountain in North Carolina for the activity. It's meeting many different people on the slopes that Floresa finds most enjoyable in this particular hobby. "I just wish more blacks would get interested in skiing," she expresses.

Floresa says she is "friendly," she likes to talk and stay on the go. She especially enjoys going to church. "I like sharing Christ with others," she points out. "to let people know we need spiritual as well as physical enrichment."

What Floresa has learned through spiritual enrichment is, she points out, "the act of building people up." This is very important to her since she has observed that "blacks tend to downgrade each other."

"Instead we need to empower each other," she asserts.

One of the people this week's beauty most admires is gospel singer, Andre Crouch. "There's something in his music that inspires me and means a lot to me," she describes.

Twenty-eight-year-old Floresa has two brothers, who are both ministers, and two sisters, one of which is a minister. "We all love the Lord," she enthuses.

Her parents, Frank and Barbara Edwards, are "the greatest in the world," according to Floresa. "They were strict and when I was younger and I didn't understand and didn't want to listen. But when you're out on your own it all comes back to you to help you out."

Her goal for the future is "to be the best dental assistant I can be, with Jesus first in all," Floresa relates.

Finally, asked her advice for others, she quotes Proverbs 3:5, "Trust in the Lord and lean not on thy own understanding but in all thy ways acknowledge Jesus Christ and he will direct your path."

"That," concludes Floresa, "is good advice for everybody."

According To Graves

Blacks Will Walk Tightrope

Special To The Post

"We have good reason to be pessimistic about the nation's financial health," reports the Black Enterprise Board of Economists in its Annual Economic Outlook for Black America in the January issue of Black Enterprise magazine.

The Board predicts that the economy will grow slower than necessary to keep black unemployment from rising in 1986. Dr. Andrew F. Brimmer, a Washington-based consultant and a former governor of the Federal Reserve Board, forecasts a rise in overall unemployment from 7.3 percent to 7.5 percent, but for blacks the rise will be from roughly 15.7 percent to 16.1 percent.

Part of this increase is due to the emergence of "discouraged workers," people who just stop looking for jobs. Dr. Bernard E. Anderson, a Black Enterprise Economist and a visiting fellow for public and international affairs at Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School, believes that the worker discouragement is related to the large number of unemployed black young adults.

Dr. Margaret Simms, a guest economist and director of the Minorities and Social Policy Program at the Washington-based Urban Institute, concurs with Dr.



Earl Graves
...Black Enterprise publisher

Anderson. "There is growing evidence that unemployed teenagers who remain jobless as young adults may never become a permanent part of the labor force," says Simms.

As unemployment grows, so will the gap between the black middle class and the black poor.

Another problem facing black Americans is the looming trade deficit, which the Black Enterprise Board expects to climb as high as

\$165 billion in 1986.

"While the overwhelming majority of jobs in this country are insulated from the impact of the trade imbalance, many black American workers who are disproportionately employed in industries adversely affected by imports will continue to be harmed by the foreign trade deficit," says Dr. Brimmer. "By contrast, blacks have a smaller proportion of the jobs in industries where U.S. exports remain strong."

Brimmer recommends a sizable tax increase and less federal spending to counter the deficit. A cutback in spending would lead to a drop in interest rates which would, in turn, lower the value of the dollar, cut imports, and stimulate exports.

The Board also took note of a decline in available investment capital, which will lead to fewer black entrepreneurs. One solution, suggests Black Enterprise Publisher Earl G. Graves, is for established black businessmen to form "emergency equal opportunity control boards" to finance young businesses.

"The access to capital remains the number one roadblock to minority business development today," asserts Graves. "New answers to the problems are not needed. What See BLACKS On Page 1A

Cunningham Enters District 59 Race

By Audrey C. Lodato
Post Staff Writer

Friday at 12:30 William "Pete" Cunningham makes it official. At that time, he'll announce his candidacy for the North Carolina House seat being vacated by Representative Jim Richardson.

Richardson is leaving the State's House of Representatives to seek election to the Senate from District 33, a seat presently held by Mel Watt. Senator Watt announced last week that he is not running for reelection so that he can spend more time with his family.

Richardson's present seat is House District 59.

This will be Cunningham's first bid for elective office. "I've been asked to run the past four years," he remarks, "but I was quite satisfied with the candidates who were running. After Mel Watt decided he wasn't going to run, people approached me to run for the House

if Jim Richardson ran for the Senate."

Although Cunningham has not held public office, he brings to the race a variety of business experiences and community involvements which may very well make him a candidate to be reckoned with.

A Union County native, Cunningham attended Johnson C. Smith University. After serving 20 years in the Navy, he retired to Charlotte in 1973. In 1984, he retired from his personnel business, Hatchett and Cunningham Associates, which specialized in recruiting professional and technical personnel for Fortune 500 companies nationwide.

At present, Cunningham is president of Affordable Used Cars, a business which he says was designed to give him freedom. The business, he notes, would not be a hindrance to his ability to serve in



William "Pete" Cunningham
...First bid for office

Raleigh.

Cunningham's community involvements are numerous. He's been chairman of the trustee board of Parkwood Institutional CME Church for 11 years and also co-chairs the church's benevolent fund.

He co-chairs the board of directors of the Genial Gene Potts Foundation.

He's a member of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Black Caucus, the Tuesday Morning Breakfast Club, the Johnson C. Smith Alumni Association, the NAACP, and the ACLU.

He was founding president of the Charlotte Business League, a group which insured minority participation in the building of the airport; co-chairman of the City Water and Sewer Bond Committee this past fall; and past board member of the Charlotte Chamber of Commerce.

He's also a contributor to the hot lunch program for the elderly.

Cunningham sees a number of concerns that need to be addressed by the legislature over the next couple of years. One of his priorities would be to continue the work begun by Jim Richardson concerning the city's ability to enact its own M-WBE program.

He would also like to see local school boards have greater authority in issuing their own contracts for repairs and purchases, rather than leaving the state to regulate the larger contracts. "This would give greater opportunities to small businesses, especially minority business," he claims.

The candidate says he's concerned See CUNNINGHAM On Page 4A

Proposed Education Bill Leaves Many Questions Unanswered

By Audrey C. Lodato
Post Staff Writer

Three weeks ago, U.S. Secretary of Education William J. Bennett unveiled a new education bill, the Equity and Choice Act of 1985. Under the proposed bill, low income parents would be able to receive vouchers worth \$600 to be used for their children's education. The vouchers could be used to seek remedial help, to send their children to private schools, or to transfer them to other public schools in the system.

According to conservative black columnist Thomas Sowell, half the low-income children covered in the proposal are black. Also according to Sowell, the proposed legislation gives low-income families the same educational choices available to the more affluent. "Private schools," he wrote, "are producing better educational results - especially for black children - at far lower costs."

Support for the bill in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg area seems guarded at best. Ninth District Congressman Alex McMillan is still studying the bill. Among the unanswered questions, said McMillan's administrative assistant



Rep. Alex McMillan
...Ninth Dist. Congressman

Frank Hill, are what effect the bill might have on the public schools and how to insure that those targeted for help actually get the vouchers.

"Congressman McMillan is supportive of quality education," Hill said, "but this is a new concept. The gray area between public and private education needs to be defined. We need to be clear about where the money is going. The



D.G. Martin
...Congressional hopeful

Congressman is supportive of public education and wants to be sure things are done equitably."

McMillan's likely opponent for his Congressional seat later this year, Charlotte attorney D.G. Martin, also sees several problems with the proposal. The legislation, stated Martin, would "create a tremendous drain on Chapter 1 funds which See PROPOSED On Page 13A

Five Million Black Children Live In One-Parent Families

More than half of the nation's 9.4 million black children under age 18 live with only one parent - nearly all of them with their mothers, according to a report from the Commerce Department's Census Bureau.

The report notes that 5.6 million or

53 percent of black children lived in one-parent families in 1984, the mother being the lone parent in 95 percent of them. One out of six white children and one of every four Hispanic children lived with one parent.

Mothers in black families where they are the only parent are more likely than black two-parent families to have a lower family income, to be unemployed or not in the labor force, to be less educated, to live in cities, to rent their living quarters, and to have another adult in the household.

In married-couple black families, 13 percent of the children had a parent with four or more years of college compared with four percent of children living with their mothers only.

Other findings from the report: Black children in one-parent families were most likely to be living with a parent who had never married, while white children were most likely to be living with a divorced parent.

TURTLE-TALK



Memory is the treasury and guardian of all things.