

Sports Official

**Karen Byers Calls Them
As She Sees Them**

Story On Page 10A

Byers

**New Freedom Drive
Bojangles' Offers Fast
Food "With A Flare"**

Story On Page 4A

**Sgt. Rudy Torrence
Has Seen Many Changes
During His 30 Years**

Story On Page 7A

Torrence

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SERITHA FUNDERBURK
...West Charlotte junior

Seritha Funderburk Has Already Mapped Out A Career In Psychology

By Jalyn Strong
Post Staff Writer

Seritha Funderburk is a sophisticated 17-year-old. The West Charlotte junior loves traveling; she's active in modeling and already has mapped out a career in psychology.

In school, Seritha is a member of the Junior Class Council, historian for the West Charlotte Chapter of the NAACP, a member of Future Business Leaders of America, the Spanish Club, and the Open Advisory Council.

She is also taking an elective course in psychology at West Charlotte. "I love working with people and listening to their problems," explains this week's beauty as to why she's chosen to pursue the field of professional psychology. She reveals her goals stating, "After graduation from high school, I plan to attend Georgetown University, in Washington, D.C., to obtain an undergraduate and graduate degree in the field."

The elective course is Seritha's way of determining whether she really enjoys psychology. For the career is actually her second choice. The attractive young lady had considered modeling.

A former student at TRIM modeling school, Seritha has been interested in showcasing fashions since she was in the eighth grade, when she was invited to participate in a fashion show in Winston-Salem, N.C.

"Everything went well," she remembers, "and I thought about modeling as a career."

But she eventually changed her mind. "Modeling is not a solid profession," Seritha acknowledges. "They're always looking for a new face."

Though modeling is still nice to do for fun, Seritha says she and friends organize impromptu fashion shows to help raise money for organizations.

Her other hobbies are going to the movies, talking on the phone, shopping, reading mystery novels, long walks, spectator sports and meeting new people.

Seritha says she's the "quiet" type but not timid. "If I see there needs to be a change, I'll make it," she points out. "I like to think of myself as very creative," she adds. "I love to be different from everyone else."

And she has no problem standing out from the crowd. Not only is Seritha good looking and stylish but she is also quite intelligent. Recently she was selected as an honorary member of the AABWE (American Association of Black Women Entrepreneurs) for maintaining a grade point average of over 3.5. Seritha says it's her

"attitude" about school and studies that makes her an achiever.

"I'm self motivated," she maintains. "I concentrate in class and if I'm having a problem in any particular subject I take it upon myself to ask someone for help." Seritha also visits the library every Monday and Wednesday and will stay after school to study.

She maintains that her parents, William and Jacqueline Funderburk, give her the needed encouragement to grow. Seritha also says, "They give me room to breathe, too."

This week's beauty, additionally, greatly admires one of her teachers, Mrs. Williams, whom she says helps her prepare for college. "She tells me, 'You can do it,'" relates Seritha. "To know that an adult believes in you helps a lot."

Katherine Harper Calls Herself "A Thomas Jefferson Democrat"

By Audrey C. Lodato
Post Staff Writer

Calling for unity in the state, senatorial candidate Katherine Harper stated in a recent interview, "The people of the state have got to come together to face common concerns in the light of the (federal) deficit. We're all dependant on one another."

Harper, a Charlotte businesswoman and grandmother, continued, "According to the Constitution, the responsibility of providing for ourselves belongs in the separation of powers among state, federal, and local government. But in recent years, that responsibility has been shifted upward. The people need to be in control of government, not vice versa."

In her January 12 speech announcing her candidacy for the United States Senate, Harper stated, "Government is not head of our household, nor is it our spouse. It is not our conscience and certainly not the best source from which to set standards for our morals. Government, rather, should be of, by and for the people. And, when the people lead, politicians and government will follow."

Harper cited the deficit, the farm situation, and small business over-regulation as primary issues.

Quoting Jefferson that the four pillars of freedom are farming, manufacturing, commerce, and navigation, she asserted, "Those four pillars are concreted in the foundation of the Constitution. If we lose any one of those, we can fall as a nation in the protection of our



Katherine Harper, center, converses with Post writer Audrey Lodato, left, while Harper's press secretary, Deborah Hampton, listens in. This is Harper's first political race as a candidate. She faces five challengers for the Democratic Party senatorial nomination as this goes to press.

freedom." The Federal government, she said, should be a protector, not a provider.

Harper recalled the period during World War II when the nation seemed to have its act together. "We were feeding the world and had plenty to eat ourselves. Everybody mobilized and came together for a common purpose. Maybe we should pretend we're at war," she added.

On the subject of small business, Harper commented, "Small business is so regulated by state and federal law that it's getting more and more difficult for anyone to even want to be an entrepreneur. Yet that desire is what keeps free enterprise and competition moving to keep our country going."

The candidate pointed to problems with the nation's health care, then added, "What has happened to

us is our own fault. Now everyone is beginning to say, 'There's something wrong here.'"

When asked what makes her a Democrat rather than a Republican, Harper stated, "I'm a Thomas Jefferson Democrat. We have strayed so far from our basic principles of the Democratic Party. The Republicans have taken the flag and waved it better than we have. We as a party need to clean up our

Growing Trend Towards Child Care May Spell Disaster For Blacks

Special To The Post

Washington - The widespread trend toward housing child care in our nation's public schools is based primarily on expediency, and may well perpetuate the inequalities that penalize blacks in our society, a report released recently by the National Black Child Development Institute (NBCDI) concludes. The report, "Child Care in the Public Schools: Incubator for Inequality?" advocates immediate Congressional hearings and intensified study to determine whether lodging preschool child care in public schools means consigning minority children, the most vulnerable members of our society, to what are, in effect, "diaper ghettos."

NBCDI, a nonprofit organization with affiliates in 33 major urban areas, is dedicated to improving the quality of life for black children nationwide. NBCDI Executive Director Evelyn K. Moore said, "In our nation's cities, blacks have inherited the failures of public policy: decrepit housing, inadequate public services and empty municipal coffers. Here blacks stand to once again inherit institutions abandoned by the mainstream: urban public schools. Rapid implementation of this ill-considered policy is dangerously and unforgivably irresponsible."

"Public schools have clear and explicit drawbacks as early child care providers, not the least of which are a history of discrimination and a stunning failure to fulfill their primary goal of preparing all their students to compete for jobs and be productive members of society," Moore said. "Until the impact of lodging child care in these facilities is better understood and a real effort to counter the drawbacks



John Quincy Stacks, age three, thought he'd help his mom with her car problems. Mama had about run out of oil and stopped to buy some. "Quincy" is the son of Joy and John Stacks of Roddy Avenue. (Photo by Audrey Lodato)

made, NBCDI must oppose further placement of child care in public schools.

"The discussion and debate that should have preceded implementation of child care in public schools is long overdue. NBCDI's report may still serve to catalyze that debate," Moore added.

There can be little doubt that the critical shortage of child care facilities constitutes a growing national crisis, and that finding additional facilities is a pressing need. It is projected that women will constitute two-thirds of our labor force growth in the 1980s. A 1982 Census Bureau survey found that more than one in four mothers (26

percent) not in the workforce said they would look for work if satisfactory, affordable child care were available; nearly half (46 percent) of single mothers said the same.

The need for child care is not a new phenomenon in the black community, since black women have historically worked outside the home. But events have conspired in recent years to make it more difficult for black parents to find quality child care.

Young black women are losing their traditional family support system as mothers and grandmothers enter or remain longer in the workforce.

See GROWING On Page 14A

own act."

Her response to the claim by some black leaders that the Democratic Party is abandoning its principles to woo the votes of white males was that equality, not more, should be the basis for judgment.

Harper reminded those who are dissatisfied that "The biggest voice we have is our vote. People need to begin to demand accountability."

She stated that she is sacrificing to campaign "because I care." According to the candidate, her campaign will be "streamlined."

"Our campaign workers are going to be the people of North Carolina who care," she said.

Harper commented that "The majority of people we do business with are national and international and they have said to us, 'What in the world are you doing in North Carolina?' I said, and I believe, that we're a great state and we're great people, and we need to be balanced in our representation in the Senate. And I believe I can be that balance. God willing, I will."

Harper is co-founder and president of Harper Companies International and has a variety of other business interests. She co-chaired the finance committee for Mayor Harvey Gantt's reelection campaign, was Mecklenburg County finance director for Jim Hunt when he ran for the U.S. Senate, and is a member of the Democratic Women's Club. She belongs to various other civic organizations, including the Council for Children and Friends of Johnson C. Smith University.

She and her husband Ron have five children and six grandchildren.

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What we don't know may not hurt us, but it surely doesn't help