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Is One Of Ramblewood's  
Greatest Strengths"

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Sanders

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Thomas

Shirley Grier Chosen  
Ebony & Ivory 1986  
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Colinda Howard  
...Student Council president

## Pretty Colinda Howard Is Opinionated And Aggressive

By Jalyne Strong  
Post Staff Writer

Thirteen-year-old Colinda Howard, campaigned for, and won, the office of President of the Student Council of Hawthorne Traditional Junior High School, this year. Now that she's in the position, her duties are: to preside over Student Council meetings, to make decisions on planned activities for the student body, and to resolve student grievances. She also took part in a conference of Student Council presidents from throughout North Carolina, held in Asheville, N.C., recently.

Are these experiences leading her towards a political career in the future? Not really, says the eighth grader. "I want to be a lawyer."

Colinda says, because she loves speaking in front of large crowds, "if (the law profession) seems like something that was made for me." Her mother, who was present at this interview, agrees. She related, "Colinda is very opinionated and aggressive, these qualities work to a lawyer's favor. And she also has a concern for people. She's always asking me, 'Mommy, do you think this or that is fair?'"

This week's beauty already has plans to join a debating team when she attends high school. And she predicts she'll matriculate to UCLA to study law.

She, additionally, admits that she has a way with words and is certainly not shy about expressing herself. How did she develop her

outspokenness? "From my mom," Colinda expresses. She's in Toastmasters. She's outgoing, always doing something with speech. She drills me on speaking. It kills me," Colinda says jokingly. "But I do real well."

The young orator does, however, conserve some of her time for less serious pursuits. For one, surprisingly, this pretty dainty-looking young lady is a die-hard wrestling fan. "I love seeing Magnum T.A.," she confesses. "And it's funny watching Rick Flair making himself look stupid in front of half of America." Colinda even managed to get her mother to take her to a live wrestling show in Charlotte. But all her mother has to say about the event is she hopes her daughter soon outgrows her interest in wrestling.

But not to worry. Colinda has another hobby. She also plays tennis. She wants to go back to tennis camp this summer at Pfeiffer College and she also hopes to participate in the Sugar Creek Park and Rec summer tennis program. This year, she has a special reason for these particular endeavors, Colinda relates. "Because I want to whip the socks off (write this down, she urges) Cecil Brandon and coach Faulkner."

Her other favorite activities include going to the movies with her five best friends, Jennifer Holmes, Patrice Johnson, Patrice Michael, Constance Jones and Talita Spratt, plus talking on the telephone. "And I save my Thursday nights for the 'Bill Cosby Show,'" she asserts.

One more thing, "I love shopping for designer clothes," Colinda smiles. She assures that all her clothes must be designer. "Because people notice the name brand," she reveals. Fortunately for her, Colinda's expensive tastes are in part financed by a loving grandmother. "My grandmother," says Colinda, "makes sure that I don't want for anything."

One reason is because Colinda is not only the only child in her family but she is also the only grandchild. Asked whether she likes that situation, she responds with a big fat, "Yeah!"

Of course her grandmother, Josie Howard, is one of Colinda's favorite people. "People say I look like her

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## Rental Rehabilitation Program Helps Tenants In Target Areas

By Audrey C. Lodato  
Post Staff Writer

Last fall it was announced that Charlotte was receiving a \$78,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to help rehabilitate private rental properties and provide rental assistance for these properties to lower-income tenants.

It turns out that the \$78,000 was just part of a total of \$783,800 in grants that Charlotte has received for its rental rehabilitation program in the last two years.

According to Barry Norman, Community Development Department's rental rehab coordinator, \$547,000 of this money has already been committed to upgrade housing for lower income residents in selected areas of the city.

The program works this way: a landlord in targeted areas can apply for up to \$5,000 per unit, or 50 percent of the cost of repairs, whichever is less, to bring rental units up to standards.

In order to qualify, the landlord must get the commitment of a lender for the other 50 percent of the cost. The grant money is actually a loan, but repayment is deferred until the private loan is paid off, which may be 20 years down the road.

Norman said that rehabilitation costs have been averaging 60 percent private financing and 40 percent public.

Targeted areas have included parts of the Beatties Ford area, Tuckaseegee, Five Points, Grier Heights, Optimist Park, parts of north Charlotte, and places near the airport. Because of the criteria used, units on one side of a street may qualify, while those on the other side do not. The target areas, said Norman, are based on census figures.

He added that Charlotte's program has been more successful than in some other cities and

...At McDonald's Cafeteria

## West Charlotte Lions Club To Award Scholarships To Deserving CMS Seniors

By Audrey C. Lodato  
Post Staff Writer

Scholarships will be awarded to two deserving Charlotte-Mecklenburg seniors by the West Charlotte Lions Club at its Athletic and Achievement Awards Banquet on March 21 at McDonald's Cafeteria.

Winners will be chosen from among 200 students nominated by the coaches of 10 area high schools. The scholarships will be awarded to one boy and one girl based on not just their athletic ability but also on their involvement in community and church work.

The 10 boys and 10 girls nominated will each receive a plaque noting their achievement. In addition, there will be a special presentation to a certain female junior high school track star.

L. C. Coleman, president of the West Charlotte Lions Club and coordinator of the banquet, said the Club hopes to make this an annual event.

The banquet is being held in cooperation with radio station WBT-AM. WBT's sports commentator Paul Cameron will serve as emcee. Former professional football stars Roman Gabriel and Haven C. Moses will also be in attendance, as will various city, county, and school officials. The Rev. Bob Walton will give the invocation.

Also expected are members of the Hickory Grove Lions Club and Bill



Little Donyel Stewart rides the range while his mother Jeanette waits at a bus stop on South Blvd. Donyel couldn't enjoy his horse for long because the bus came to take him home. (Photo by Audrey Lodato)

therefore has qualified for grant money beyond the original amount "because of good performance."

The department is hoping for additional money, he said, since most of the remaining funds are already scheduled for projects.

So far, 115 units have been or are in the process of being rehabilitated, in addition to another 60 which were included in the original demonstration project.

Along with the rehabilitation loans, landlords benefit by having tenants in the upgraded units qualify for rental assistance. Participat-

ing landlords must follow an affirmative action marketing policy. If there are low income tenants already in the unit to be rehabilitated, they go to the head of the list for Section 8 certificates, Norman stated. (Section 8 is a form of housing assistance.)

As to the impact the rehab program has had on those needing low cost housing, Larry Loyd, assistant executive director of the Housing Authority commented, "We moved in a substantial number of people from our waiting list." He added, "Any time you address a housing

need for this population, it helps."

According to Loyd, there are over 1,800 families on the Housing Authority's waiting list for all housing assistance programs. A year or so ago, he said, a survey was done which indicated an estimated 13,000 families in the area might qualify for housing benefits if they applied.

Community Development's Richard Woodcock said the program grew out of the Reagan administration and has helped reverse the trend in housing declines for lower income people.

organization encompassing 1,351,000 members in over 37,000 clubs in 157 countries in the Free World.

### South Branch Library Parking Lot Closed

Construction of an expanded and improved parking lot for the South Branch Library, 1361 Queens Road, will begin the week of March 17. The parking lot will be closed throughout the construction period, which is expected to be approximately one month.

South Branch Library will be open on its regular schedule during construction. Library patrons who do not live within walking distance may wish to use another library during this period. Suggested libraries nearby are East Branch at 2001 Commonwealth Avenue, the Main Library at 310 North Tryon Street, Scaleybark Branch at 101 Scaleybark Road, and Sharon Branch at 6518 Fairview Road.

During the month the South Branch parking lot is closed, pick-up and drop-off of films and audio-visual materials must be done at the Main Library. For the convenience of Film and Sound patrons, three temporary 10 minute parking spaces will be located in the lot directly behind the Main Library, at the corner of Sixth and College Streets.

TURTLE-TALK



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