



**West Charlotte's Lions Will Encounter Raleigh Broughton For State Title**  
Story On Page 8A

**Reconciliation: Black Socioeconomic Progress**  
Story On Page 2A

**Dr. Emma Darnell Is Faith CME's Women's Day Speaker**  
Story On Page 6A



**NOW SERVING CABARRUS AND ROWAN COUNTIES**

# THE CHARLOTTE POST

*"The Voice Of The Black Community"*

**YOUR BEST ADVERTISING MEDIA IN THE LUCRATIVE BLACK MARKET CALL 376-0496**

Volume 11, Number 42

THE CHARLOTTE POST - Thursday, March 20, 1986

Price: 40 Cents

## Bad Check Law Helps Retailers

An informal survey by NCRMA indicates that legislation passed by the 1985 General Assembly, designed to award treble damages for worthless checks is working well. Senator Wilma Woodard (D) Wake County sponsored a bill that allows the receiver of a worthless check to collect treble damages, or three times the face value of the check as penalty. The legislation requires that the receiver of the check send a certified letter to the check-maker stating that he has 30 days in which to make the check good, or the receiver will file in magistrates court and collect treble damages. As a deterrent to the writing of bad checks in small amounts that individually are not worth processing but collectively can represent a large amount of money, the legislation carries a minimum penalty of \$100 and a maximum payment of \$500. This provides a civil penalty for bad checks and an incentive for the maker of a worthless check to make the check good. No penalty is incurred if the writer makes good within 30 days.

"Our conversation with members clearly indicates that this legislation is good for retailers who have been hurt by taking bad checks and this is ultimately a savings to the consumer," said William C. Rustin, President, NCRMA. "This new legislation has assisted Food Lion by making it worthwhile to collect very small checks that previously we could not afford to pursue, and that helps us to keep food prices down in North Carolina," said Tom E. Smith, President, Food Lion, Inc. "We are especially interested in helping the smaller merchant who has neither the time nor the staff to collect on bad checks," said Senator Wilma Woodard.

## The Shriners Are Coming To Charlotte

The Shrine Directors Staff Associates are in Charlotte this week through Saturday, March 22. The Shrine Directors stage productions for the million member service and fraternal organization. This is their first national meeting in Charlotte since 1964. The Oasis Temple, which is hosting the convention, encompasses the Charlotte area and the 48 western North Carolina counties. Oasis is the fifth largest temple in Shrinedom. Highlighting the five-day convention will be a Shriners Parade Saturday morning, beginning at 11:30. In addition to the directors meeting, thousands of Shriners are expected to visit the city from all 50 states as well as Canada and Mexico. Included in the agenda is a joint ceremonial for the Oasis, Amran, and Sudan Temples, which will include the induction of new members.



Seronica Bittle  
.....East Mecklenburg junior

## Seronica Bittle Wins Ushers' Oratorical Contest

By Jalyne Strong Post Staff Writer  
Seventeen-year-old Seronica Bittle is the talented young lady who recently won first place in the Oratorical contest of the North Carolina State Ushers Convention in Raleigh, N.C. She admits she was "nervous" about presenting her speech entitled, "The Dynamics of a Dedicated Usher" before the entire convention. But when it was all over, she was surprised and happy to be the recipient of the \$150 prize, that will go towards her college education. Seronica is a junior at East Mecklenburg High School and she's looking forward to graduating high school next year. She says she's eager to "get on with my life, meet new people, and get started on my goals."

"I like working with computers," Seronica relates and she adds that part of her career interest is to be a computer operator. Interestingly, she also wants to be a recording artist. "I want to make gospel records," she specifies. This week's beauty's favorite type of music is gospel. Her favorite recording artist is Dottie Peoples and the latest record she enjoys most is "I'm Still Holding On" by Deborah Barnes. Seronica has her own opportunity to sing gospel at St. Paul Baptist Church, where she is a member of the Youth Choir and was previously a member of the P.W. Drummond Choir. Seronica's beautiful voice is featured in her many solos for the choir. She is also planning to participate as a soloist in the upcoming Debutante Cotillon, sponsored by the Charlotte Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority. Seronica describes herself as the type of person who "likes to meet new people and is very interested in the future and what she wants to become in life." Born under the zodiac sign of Gemini, her main interests center around her church, St. Paul Baptist. She is an usher and vice president of the Junior Ushers. She is president of the Youth Missionaries and a member of the Youth Advisory Committee. She is additionally a member of the Girl Scouts.

This young lady is the oldest child in her family. She has one sister Tymika, who's 15 years old.

Seronica likes the responsibility of being the eldest. "I can tell my sister what's expected," she relates from experience. Seronica says her advice to other young people is: "Stay in school and connect and apply yourself to a church. Listen to your parents and remember they have traveled the road which we must travel."

James and Janie Bittle are Seronica's parents. Seronica says of her mother, "She's a hard worker. If she says something to my sister and I, we can depend on it. She'll get on our case and we love her. I personally would like to be like her," points out Seronica.

She adds that her favorite reminder from her Mom is the "Golden Rule": "Do unto others." "A frequent reminder from my father," concludes Seronica, "is to never forget to pray."

## Carnival Of Sorts

By Jalyne Strong Post Staff Writer  
What about a celebration of north-west Charlotte; a way to highlight all the positive things about this community? That's the brainstorm Sam Young mulled over with friends, State Alexander, Fred White, Cal Thornton, Kelly Alexander Jr., Bob Alston and Attorney Calvin Murphy and, with their assistance, his concept began to jell into a possible Beatties Ford Rd. area festival.

More ideas, more planning and Young's ready to announce that the "Just Westfest Festival," a carnival of sorts for the communities surrounding Beatties Ford Rd., will be held on Saturday, May 31. "The parking lot of the University Park Shopping Center will be the major focal point of the festival," projects Young. "There will be two sound stages, concessions, arts and crafts booths, a barbecue cooking contest, a road race, the possibility of a hot air balloon and hay rides. It will be a festival everyone can feel good about and enjoy. Clean, wholesome fun for the entire family."

## Rep. William Gray To Challenge Gramm-Rudman

Special To The Post  
Representative William H. Gray III "brings to national politics a new ideology for black progress," says Publisher Earl G. Graves in the March issue of Black Enterprise. "His political style incorporates quick-minded ingenuity with tough wheeling and dealing," continues the cover story. The Philadelphia Congressman from the Second District will get the chance to prove these talents this year. As Chairman of the Budget Committee, Gray has to bring the federal deficit into line with the new Gramm-Rudman Balanced Budget Act.

"Gramm-Rudman completely rewrites the Budget Act," Gray told Black Enterprise, "and with no guidelines or previous experience on how to proceed we'll be going down an entirely new road."

One of his toughest challenges will be to reduce the deficit while protecting much-needed social programs. Gray has already taken measures to exempt Social Security, child nutrition programs, food stamps, and Medicaid from an automatic, across-the-board spending reduction that will go into effect if the Congressional Budget Office and the Office of Management and Budget are unable to bring the 1987 federal deficit to the \$144 billion mark set by Gramm-Rudman.

One of Gray's greatest assets, according to Black Enterprise, is his talent for convincing his colleagues to support his goals - a talent he may be relying upon a great deal this year.

"Gray has been a buffer against further cuts in health, education and housing," says Congressman Walter Fauntroy (D-Washington, DC). "The fact that we have a public housing program at all is a tribute to his leadership in the budget committee."

Despite the demands of being House Budget chairman, Gray still keeps Philadelphia's Second District high on his list of priorities, reports Black Enterprise. His staff of 11, spread throughout three offices, works for a very demanding boss.

"The congressman isn't the easiest person to work for," said one staffer. "He knows what he wants and how he wants it."



William Gray  
.....Philadelphia Congressman

Gray admits he's hard on his workers. "I like things done right, and I want my staff to seek to do a perfect job," he told Black Enterprise. "They may not reach perfection, but that's what they should be striving for."

So what's next for Bill Gray after tackling the mighty Gramm-Rudman? When his tenure as Budget chairman ends, either in 1986 or 1988, Gray will be relegated to the lowest third in seniority on the See REP. GRAY On Page 2A

## NAACP Fundraising Banquet Set

The annual NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund (LDF) fund raising banquet will be held Saturday, April 19, at the Adam's Mark Hotel. Pre-banquet activities will begin at 6:30 p.m. with the banquet following at 7:30.

The affair is being billed as a homecoming for nationally known attorney and former Charlottean Julius L. Chambers who is Director-Counsel of the LDF and banquet speaker. Prior to assuming the top post at LDF headquarters in New

York City, Chambers was senior partner of the former Chambers, Ferguson, Watt, Wallace and Adkins, P.A. Law Firm.

Chambers is perhaps more widely known as the attorney for the plaintiffs in the landmark Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools Desegregation Case.

The association between Atty. Chambers and the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund spans many years. Following his See NAACP On Page 14A

## "Just Westfest Festival" Planned For Westside

By Jalyne Strong Post Staff Writer  
What about a celebration of north-west Charlotte; a way to highlight all the positive things about this community? That's the brainstorm Sam Young mulled over with friends, State Alexander, Fred White, Cal Thornton, Kelly Alexander Jr., Bob Alston and Attorney Calvin Murphy and, with their assistance, his concept began to jell into a possible Beatties Ford Rd. area festival.

More ideas, more planning and Young's ready to announce that the "Just Westfest Festival," a carnival of sorts for the communities surrounding Beatties Ford Rd., will be held on Saturday, May 31. "The parking lot of the University Park Shopping Center will be the major focal point of the festival," projects Young. "There will be two sound stages, concessions, arts and crafts booths, a barbecue cooking contest, a road race, the possibility of a hot air balloon and hay rides. It will be a festival everyone can feel good about and enjoy. Clean, wholesome fun for the entire family."



State Alexander  
.....Committee chairman



Sam Young  
.....Project organizer

The festival is expressly planned to include the residents of the seven West Charlotte communities of the recently passed small area plan: University Park, Oaklawn, Lincoln Heights, Dalebrook, Washington Heights, Oakview Terrace and McCrory Heights. However, Young is looking forward to the participa-

tion of people from all over Charlotte. With just over two months' time before the scheduled date of the festival, the groundwork for "Just Westfest" is being briskly laid by Young and associates. He, along with Alexander, White, Thornton, Alexander Jr., Alston, and Murphy,

are the key members of the "Just Westfest" Board of Directors. "We're in the process of forming an Advisory Committee," comments Young. He drops the names of Charlotte Post publisher Bill Johnson, Bob Davis and Vivian Nivens, Executive Director of the Afro-American Cultural Center, as confirmed members of the Advisory Committee. Councilwoman Cyndee Patterson, organizer of the Charlotte SpringFest, has been named honorary chairperson of the event, Young relates.

That fact taken with its many apparent similarities to the annual SpringFest event held annually in downtown Charlotte may lead many to speculate that "Just Westfest" is merely a black SpringFest. But State Alexander, chairman of the Westfest publicity committee negates that image. He asserts, "The Westfest is our way to express ourselves and define what is important to us. We're proud of ourselves and what we've accomplished in our community. We're proud of the northwest community history and what we have to bring to See WESTFEST On Page 4A

**TURTLE-TALK**  
  
A thing is worth precisely what it can do for you; not what you choose to pay for it.