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Dr. Riddick

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KIMBERLY "Kim" THOMAS
.....Admires Mayor Gantt

"Kim" Thomas Has Decided On A Career

By Jalyne Strong
Post Staff Writer

At the very young age of 12 years, Kimberly "Kim" Thomas has already decided on a career as an architect. It's a dream she's had for some time. "I like to design and draw and I'm good in geometry," relates Kim as her developing qualities for the job.

She agrees that Mayor Harvey Gantt, a professional architect, is a kind of role model for her. "He is the only architect I know about," Kim states matter-of-factly.

But Kim, a seventh grader at Cochrane Junior High, has several years of education to go before becoming an architect.

At school, this young lady says her favorite subjects are Language Arts and Lunch—if it can be called one. Language Arts is special to Kim since she likes studying about language and she states, "I'm very good at spelling." And who can deny that Lunch has ever been anything but fun.

When not in school, to keep herself busy, quite busy, Kim has many diverse interests.

For instance, she's an amateur "hack" on her Commodore 64 personal computer, she reveals. Playing on her computer, says Kim, is one of her favorite hobbies. "I can make color schemes, do arithmetic and play games," she relates as the functions she's capable of. Her computer's used to help her with her homework sometimes.

Kim first became acquainted with computers at school. "We use them for math and communication skills," she explains. Her home

computer came with an instruction book and Kim says she's "so-so" at operating many functions. "I still have to learn about the graphs," she admits.

When she turns off her computer, Kim may do a little drawing, or listen to the music of New Edition and El DeBarge, or dance the latest dances, "The Cabbage Patch," and the "Network;" these are other favorite activities for her.

Then again, Kim is probably spending most of her leisure time these days preparing for the Sigma Gamma Rho Debutante Cotillion that she's a participant in. She's been doing a lot of fund raising for the event and confesses that she's looking forward to the possibility of being a winner at the April 11 Cotillion. Kim also states that the occasion is a great opportunity to "make a lot of new friends."

Kim has another interesting hobby. That is, she's a collector of stuffed animals. She has an amazing assemblage of 72. Additionally, she's taken dance and piano. She is also active in the Girl Scouts and is excited about taking a trip with the Scouts to the Bahamas, Puerto Rico and St. Thomas this summer.

All her activities do not keep her so busy that Kim neglects her studies, though. She says she enjoys school. "At school you are taught to have goals," she points out. Kim also maintains good grades. "So I can succeed through high school and college," she assures.

Kim is the youngest in her family. She has one older sister, Sherry, who's 28. Kim says she likes being the youngest. "I get the chance to be a brat," she laughs. She also believes that sometimes she gets on her sister's nerves. "But sometimes she likes it," Kim notes. Being the baby in the family entitles her to "get a lot of things" and she confesses that she's "kind-of spoiled."

Her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Julius Thomas, are the people Kim most admires. "They raised me. They pay my bills and give me clothes and all their love," she praises. This week's beauty advises all young people to "honor their mothers and fathers. And don't get into things that cause trouble."

Kim attends Ebenezer Baptist Church and she sings on the Youth Choir.

Jerry's Celebrating 24 Years Of Service To Black Community

By Joe Brown
Post Staff Writer

Can you recall an old time service station with homemade produce stand (about 20x30 in size) along Statesville Road? That was some time ago when a young man and his mother were selling roadside produce with a smile. The produce stand has been abandoned, but the business hasn't, especially since you can drive a mile or two back down the road and find the same business expanded today called Jerry's Curb Market.

"Back then we sold sausage and had our own milk man and bread man. It was just a little produce stand," remembers Jerry, shaking his head with the memories.

Jerry Wike, owner of Jerry's Curb Market, 4227 Statesville Rd., is celebrating his 24 years in business this March. Jerry started his business back in 1962 and since then the old produce stand has grown into a market building.

"The first 15 years I never took a day off," began Jerry.

"I first started with produce and hauled my own produce. Today, we specialize in meats. You name it we got it.

"If you want to buy a live cow, I could probably hustle it for you," he replied jokingly.

We owe our mothers a great deal and Jerry is no exception, because his mother, Sadie Wike, was one of the keys to starting his business years ago.

"Mommy and I started out with \$200 worth of produce. She paid my first light bill," told Jerry, showing the receipt dated 1962.

"She is 84 years old now in a resting home, but she worked for six years with me."

Jerry moved from the old produce stand along side the road to a new location in 1967. Since the last nine years, the building has been added on to twice, but the customers are always the same people—great people.

"The greatest thing around here is the atmosphere. We take care of our customers," emphasized Jerry.

"We serve the local customers,



Ken Marze
...Popular meat cutter

but people come from all over the United States and buy from us. A woman from Washington bought about \$200 worth of groceries to take back with her the other day. Most of the customers who are passing through will stop by the store to buy the fresh fruits by the bags to take back with them.

"Even the children who grew up in the store, come back to buy or are regular customers now," Jerry pointed out.

Jerry was asked, "How have the prices on foods changed since you started years ago?"

"Everything has tripled in price. Back then, fresh vegetables were 10 to 19 cents a pound. You could buy a watermelon for 50 cents to a \$1.25."

Jerry's Curb Market is a neighborhood grocery store with a hometown atmosphere that serves the Charlotte community. The market is known for its fresh meats and customers come especially for the private-style service. It also

features nice sausages, country ham, frozen fresh blackberries, and other home-style foods. His employees love to work in the store. Some have been there as long as some of his faithful customers. Jerry has 24 employees working in the store. He said there was once a time when he had 32 employees. Sue Crowe has worked there for nine years. "She was the third person I ever hired full time," Jean Carpenter has worked at the store for four years and is the bookkeeper and head cashier.

"It's been great. I enjoy the people who come here. Out of the clientele we do sell to, I would say 99 percent of them are great customers," stated Mrs. Carpenter.

Jerry's wife, Patricia, has worked with him for six years which proves to be a loving spouse, and his youngest son, David, 21, is the manager.

"David has worked here since he was 12 years old. If my boy doesn't

let me down, I am going to build another store one day," predicts Jerry. He has three more sons - Terry, Reggie, and Gary.

This businessman also owns a car lot which is his hobby called North 21, 4500 Statesville Road. It features several model cars. Jerry's adventure in business is not as easy as it was years ago, he said. "Back then you could have a little and grow, but now, you can't open with a little and do well," Jerry advises.

"One reason you don't have growth now is because places like McDonald's. I had growth every year for 21 years straight and it fell a little."

Herry was asked, "What were some of your hard times?" He answered, "When times get rough, you work a little harder."

Troopers Get Ready For Easter Holiday Traffic

Raleigh - Many families across North Carolina are making travel plans for the first holiday weekend of the year, and State Highway Patrol plans to make the highways as safe as possible.

During the four-day Easter holiday weekend, troopers will patrol the highways and interstates, paying special attention to speeders and impaired drivers. Colonel Jack Cardwell, Commander of the Highway Patrol, said, "Studies show that half of the car crashes and resultant deaths are alcohol related."

Last year, there were 1,192 traffic accidents during the long Easter holiday weekend. Fourteen people were killed and 983 were injured.

"There are ways to reduce the number of fatalities and injuries this year. Drive at the posted speed limit, obey traffic laws, wear your seat belt and if you must drink, don't drive," said Colonel Cardwell.

The Easter holiday period begins at 6 p.m. Friday, March 28, and ends at midnight on Monday, March 31.

YMCA To Hold "Community Family Worship Service"

By Audrey C. Lodato
Post Staff Writer

The YMCA of Charlotte-Mecklenburg is sponsoring a "Community Family Worship and Fellowship Service" on Sunday, April 13. The featured speaker will be Bill Curry, head football coach at Georgia Tech and ACC Coach of the Year.

According to Harry Brace, General Executive, the service is an outgrowth of the Y's Metropolitan Christian Emphasis Committee, whose goal is to bring into greater focus the YMCA's Christian principles.

Brace said he hopes the worship service will become a yearly event.

Methodist Bishop Bevel Jones will be presiding over the service, which will include hymns, scripture readings, and prayer led by a priest from St. Patrick's Cathedral. "It will be an ecumenical service," he noted.

Following the service, which is scheduled for 6 p.m. at First United Methodist Church, 501 N. Tryon St., a light meal will be provided. A free will offering will be accepted.

Bill Curry, known as "the architect of Georgia Tech's football



Bill Curry
.....Football coach

resurgence," has overseen the team's return to national prominence. He played for the Green Bay Packers in the first Super Bowl in 1966, for the Baltimore Colts, the Houston Oilers, and the Los Angeles Rams.

Curry is a firm believer in helping student athletes earn a meaningful degree. "Motivation and teaching are central to my coaching

philosophy," he said. "All we need to become successful in our lives is either a boost, a hug or a shove at some point. My goal is to be that kind of person, that kind of coach."

Brace commented that, although many people think of the Y as a secular organization, "it was founded as a Christian organization with the purpose of developing Christian personalities and a Christian society."

The YMCA's Christian emphasis permeates its programs, according to Brace. The focus is on "The application of Christian principles in our daily living rather than the teaching of the Word," he said.

The YMCA was founded in 1844 by George Williams. The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Y completed its 111th year of service at the end of 1985.

During its past year, the Y served 56,000 people in its seven locations. Facilities are located at 400 E. Morehead St., 3801 Beatties Ford Rd., 3025 N. Davidson St., 6824 Democracy Dr., 5900 Quail Hollow Rd., in Cornelius, and Camp Thunderbird in Clover, SC.

Programs offered include youth sports, summer day camps, swim classes, parent-child programs, and fitness classes.

NAPFE Awaits Postal Selections

Special To The Post
Washington, DC - "Mergers and reorganization designed to promote greater efficiency in the U.S. Postal Service may prove to be 'hi tech' methods of eliminating minorities and women from key management positions," said National Alliance of Postal and Federal President, Robert L. White, commenting on recent developments within the U.S. Postal Service.

In his first two months of office, U.S. Postmaster General Albert V. Casey has eliminated 42 U.S.P.S. district offices, realigned the boundaries of the five U.S.P.S. regional offices and altered the management structure at postal headquarters. Postal operations will be based on approximately 80 key mail service centers which are being redesignated divisions. The remaining mail service centers will report to the divisions. Postal officials are meeting this week to make selections for division chiefs.

According to NAPFE President White, some black postmasters of key mail centers have indicated they have already been advised they will not even be considered to head newly designated divisions. And, White is gravely concerned. White's Union sounded the alarm for black postal managers in mid-February, after the Union's leadership reviewed postal personnel statistics.

WITLES-TALK



They tell me an optimist laughs to forget and a pessimist forgets to laugh.