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Volume 12

THE CHARLOTTE POST - Thursday, August 7, 1986

Number 9



Elisa Williams
....Rising ninth grader

Elisa Williams Hopes To Travel Extensively

By Jalyne Strong
Post Staff Writer

Fourteen-year-old Elisa Williams will be a ninth grader at J. M. Alexander Junior High School this fall. A busy student, she's involved in her school's NEED committee, a group concerned about teaching others about energy, and she also plays clarinet in the school's band.

Elisa says she joined NEED to see how much she could learn. She's also doing very well in the school's band. Next school year she'll be playing with the Blue Notes, one of the highest respected bands of junior high schools.

This summer, though, this week's beauty is taking it easy. Mainly she's been host to visiting relatives. "I've had cousins come from Lancaster, S.C., and Detroit," Elisa tells. "It's fun. We go to Carowinds, to the movies...out on the town."

In turn, Elisa visits Lancaster to see her cousins and her three grandparents. She enjoys the trips away but still prefers Charlotte most. "Charlotte is better," she's found. "There's more to do here. I think my cousins like coming here better than I like going there," she smiles.

Elisa would like to travel to more far away places, however. "I want to go to New York and maybe vacation in Hawaii," she lists. "I'd also like to see what it's like in Florida and California."

But for now, she's content with hanging around the Queen City with her friends. "I love being with my

best friends," says Elisa. About her buddies, Elisa says she started out with one but now she has five. "We go everywhere: shopping, to the movies, out to eat."

One reason this young lady may have so many friends is because of her personality, which she describes simply as "nice." "I don't judge people by the way they look but how they treat me," she elaborates. "I love being with people," she adds.

"But I also like to be by myself because I like to think," Elisa points out.

What she finds herself thinking about most is her future and career choices. Elisa reveals that she'd like to be a computer operator. She finds computers to be very interesting. She gets a lot of practice on them at school and also at home, where she has a personal computer.

On her home computer, Elisa says she can "make pictures, put in programs, do math," and she comments, "you can put in business information. But I haven't gotten that far yet. However, when I have problems with my homework I get the computer to help me out."

Serious about her homework, Elisa claims, "school is very important. In order to get into a good college or have a good job you have to work hard in school."

She received this information from her parents, Maggie and Lewis Williams, who, Elisa contends, are the people she most admires. "I've learned a lot from them," she points out. "My parents are always right. They're hard-working and determined people."

Elisa's the youngest member of her family with two much older brothers, Javet, 27, and Jeffrey, 24. "I like having big brothers," she claims, "and I'm glad they're not my age because we'd fight all the time," Elisa laughs.

The next people on Elisa's list of most admirable folk are, of course, her best friends. "I can trust them and tell them things," she describes. "I talk out my problems with them. They really come in handy."

Maybe Elisa and her friends trade advice also, for she has a good suggestion to share with other teenagers. She says, "Stay in school and think about books more than anything else. Books are important and they can help you get ahead."

Was Robert Clay A Victim Of Sexual Discrimination?

By Loretta Manago
Post Managing Editor

Robert Clay's brief employment with the City of Charlotte began in the water department and ended at Animal Control in two years.

Terminated from his position as security assistant at Animal Control in April of 1985, Clay still bears the scars of his dismissal.

"I feel that I was discriminated against and that if I had not transferred from the water department to the animal control I would still be employed."

Clay alleges that his former boss, Diane Quisenberry, discriminates against men.

"There was the time when I called in later than the half-hour deadline to say that I would be late coming in. It was the first time it had ever happened and I got AWOL," Clay explained that AWOL meant points were placed against an employee and he or she had to have three before they were fired.

But in the same situation Clay contends that a female employee at Animal Control who came in late but didn't call prior to reporting to work had no action taken on her. "The lady said that her daughter forgot to call as she had asked her to," asserts Clay.

In still another incident Clay recalled what happened to another male employee. "This guy was written up for a tattoo that he couldn't find on a dog, even though the Humane Society said that there was no way that he could have found it. The guy was suspended for three days."

"Diane pressured my immediate supervisor, Nancy Skinner to change my appraisal from expected to unexpected. She (Nancy) later told me that the appraisal I received wasn't warranted," Mrs.



Robert Clay
....Wants justice done

Skinner was contacted; however, because she is still employed at Animal Control she was unable to confirm or deny Clay's statements. She did say that if Clay needed a recommendation, she would be more than glad to give him one.

Before Clay was dismissed he maintains he was at Step Three, one level from being fired, but that a female employee was at step four and should have been fired, but was not.

When Diane Quisenberry was contacted about Clay's allegations, she said, "I know everything he has said and everything he has said is untrue. Other than that I have no comment."

Clay, however, maintains that he is not the only person who has suffered sexual discrimination at the hands of Ms. Quisenberry. He says that Charles Keith was also a victim.

Keith was employed at Animal Control from July of '83 to July of '84. His comments tend to support those of Clay's.

"I think that if you begin to look at the hiring practices, promotional practices and the turnover of supervisors, then you're bound to see that there's some discrimination involved," cites Keith.

"I scored above expectancy on my appraisal and got passed over for promotions. Ms. Quisenberry hired people outside of Animal Control to fill openings."

"My feeling was that she (Diane) did not like strong, male figures. It was as if we threatened her power and I never questioned the fact that she was the boss."

"I did duties that were outside of my job classification, but still got overlooked. I have never been one to try and make trouble but one day my supervisor informed me that Diane just didn't like me. She told other people I was stupid. In the end I knew that either I was going to have a nervous breakdown or have to quit," Keith quit.

Keith asserts that he always felt that justice and fairness would prevail, but to this day, he feels he was mistaken. "I still cannot get a job with the City and I have been led to believe by other people that someone Diane knows is keeping me from getting a job with the City."

A third person who wishes to remain anonymous gives credence to the charges that have been made. Also a former employee of Animal Control, John Doe worked there for two and half years on a part-time basis.

"I admit that I am a bit hazy when it comes to the details of Clay's situation, but I know he was out a lot. While I know that absences aren't tolerated, it was still unfair that

female employees who were absent just as much got by with no action taken against them.

"But if there was ever a case of discrimination, there is no doubt that Keith had grounds. Keith was one of the better workers that you would ever see. I've personally witnessed her verbally abuse him like you wouldn't believe."

"Concerning Clay, I do feel that there were some real justifications for his assertions. There was definitely some things that they did with him that they didn't with women. There were always cases of duties that were pushed on men, that the women did not have to do."

Referring back to Keith, John Doe recalled a time when Charles Keith was told to come in at night to do heavy cleaning that should have been done by female employees who were hired to do that very work.

"Eight months ago, I would have said that sexual discrimination was the big issue. But I really believe Diane's problems have gone far beyond that. What's so amazing is that the City knows about it and does nothing. Apparently, she had some strong connections. There are just too many incidents that have happened."

"She's sure gotten away with an awful lot for a long time," agrees Keith.

"I just want justice done," voices Clay. "I don't think it's right for her to get away with what she has done. I feel the discrimination is still going on. To me she does everything in her power to have a female-dominated staff."

Editor's Note: Unsuccessful attempts were made to reach certain City officials for comments. The opinions in this article are not those of the Post.

Farrakhan Introduces New Line Of Products

Chicago - "You tried to stop everybody from making the products for us," Minister Farrakhan said as he held high the bright orange, yellow and red plastic container, "but here it is, Clean 'N Fresh Shampoo made by POWER."

Fulfilling his promise to produce a line of products to be sold in the black community, Minister Farrakhan beamed with the joy of victory as he unveiled the first line of POWER products at his Welcome Home Celebration recently in a downtown Chicago hotel.

Nearly 5,000 supporters joined their voices in an explosive chorus of FAR-RA-KHAN, FAR-RA-KHAN, when a radiant Minister Louis Farrakhan, National Representative of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad, glided onto the stage of the Chicago Hilton and Towers Hotel, surfacing for the first time since his return to the United States from an 11-nation tour that took him around the world.

The ovation grew in intensity as the realization sank in that the internationally recognized leader of blacks in America, introduced as the "greatest living black man on this earth," by event co-sponsor 17th Ward Alderman Allen Streeter, had overcome government threats to arrest and rumors of CIA assassination attempts, and was back with his beloved people.

The audience exploded as the Clean 'N Fresh products appeared one after the other on the rostrum, with an accompanying impromptu commercial by Minister Farrakhan. "You can do your commercial for beer, for wine, for whatever you want. I have never lent my name to



Minister Farrakhan raises bottle of Clean 'N Fresh shampoo made by POWER during June 28 Welcome Home at the Chicago Hilton and Towers. (Photo by James Muhammad, FCN)

anything but Islam, but here it is..." the obviously pleased world traveler stressed.

"Clean 'N Fresh shampoo: gets it clean, keeps it nice, won't burn your eyes, good for the babies, and good for you. Here's some Clean 'N Fresh Body lotion. When you get out of the tub and you're a little shy and you want to rub it on down, Clean 'N Fresh is the way to go..." he said.

Amidst cheers, laughter and even tears, Minister Farrakhan shared these precious moments with an audience that had been transformed into one happy family. The Minister, having a good time, con-

tinued even though tired after his nearly three hour lecture in which he asked the rhetorical question of white Americans, in light of the atrocities and international abuses of the Reagan administration, "Are you any better than your father?"

"And here is some conditioner... living in slavery, working in the hot sun from can't see to can't see, a little conditioner is always needed to keep your curls right, or the kinks right...and here is some Clean 'N Fresh (shower and bath) Liquid Soap, and all you do is just a little dab'll do you; go on and scrub up."

Minister Farrakhan said, surrounded by supporters and family members.

The introduction of the products was one more surprise for the thousands who came to welcome home the paramount spokesman for the black man and woman in America, who also announced a law suit against President Reagan and members of his Cabinet.

The first POWER products, marketed under the Clean 'N Fresh label, will consist of shampoo, hair conditioner, hair pomade, shower and bath liquid soap, body lotion, and roll-on deodorant.



Self-direction is the most important quality of leadership.