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Mia Pennington  
.....Nervous about first day

## Mia Pennington Passes First

## Hurdle On Entering High School

By Jalyne Strong  
Post Staff Writer

Fifteen-year-old Mia Pennington is excited about starting her first year of high school this fall. She'll attend Providence Day School as a 10th grader.

Mia has already passed one hurdle of making it in high school: she'll be a junior varsity cheerleader at Providence Day. She made the squad after competing with 18 young hopefuls this past spring. One reason Mia made the squad was based on experience. She was a cheerleader at Albemarle Road Junior High the previous year. "I enjoy the exercises I have to do to get motivated," says Mia concerning her feelings about this energetic activity. "I also like the fact that cheering offers the opportunity to make new friends."

"To be able to meet new people and make friends with whom I'll go to college," cites Mia, are the two reasons she's happily anticipating high school days. "I may be a little nervous the first day," confesses Mia looking ahead to homeroom jitters. But for now she's just not going to worry about it. All she knows is that she's really not ready to go back to school quite yet.

The reason being, this young lady's been having quite a fun time this summer. "I've been helping out at my mom's day care center, attending cheerleader practice and getting ready to get my driver's permit," Mia tells. Her mother has been teaching her to drive, Mia relates. "I'm doing pretty good," she elaborates. "I'm up to 45 miles per hour and can back out!"

But when she's not practicing her three-point and U-turns, Mia can be found doing a few of her other favorite things. For instance, she likes, "reading, writing poetry, and singing," when my voice doesn't crack," Mia laughs. She also "loves" to shop and she confesses she practically "lives at Eastland Mall." Like most teenagers Mia

spends much of her waking hours on the telephone, while in the background the sounds of one of her favorite recording artists, which are New Edition, Whodini, and Whitney Houston, are played.

"Being a teenager has its ups and downs," Mia reveals about her age. "But I like it. You don't have to pay bills and neither do you have to hold your mother's hand," this young beauty analyzes.

But Mia has an eye on the future, noting she often thinks about becoming an adult, a successful one at that. This week's beauty is anticipating college and becoming a lawyer one day.

Her self-described attributes of being "easy to get along with, outgoing, friendly and very outspoken" will most definitely help Mia along the way.

The eldest child with one three-year-old sister named Arlecia, Mia says it's nice being the oldest. "I have authority," she explains.

However, the real authorities in her household remain her parents, Willie and Aris Pennington, who Mia says are the two persons she holds in the highest esteem. "I can go to them when I have problems, or if I just want to talk, or just fool around," Mia claims. "They're

always there for me."

For this young lady embarking on a new phase of life, Mia says her future "looks bright." For other young women looking for similar outcomes, Mia advises, "Stay in school, get an education, then have fun!"

### NOMINATE A BEAUTY

Do you know a young lady who you'd like to see in the Charlotte Post's cover page, Beauty of the Week feature?

The Post will begin selecting young women, from ages 14 years and up, for the Beauty of the Week from Post's readers' and subscribers' recommendations.

All one has to do is send a recent snapshot and an up-to-date biographical sketch of the person they recommend or of themselves to be considered for the feature. Selections will be made based on information received, such as school involvement, community activities, professional activities, etc.; and on appearance. Biographical information should also include one's hobbies and interests.

Let us know who you'd like to see on the cover of the Charlotte Post. Write to the Charlotte Post, P. O. Box 30144, Charlotte, N.C. 28230, Attn. Beauty of the Week, or call 376-0496.

## By Over Six Percent

# Number Of Blacks Elected Increases

The number of black elected officials in the U.S. rose by 6.1 percent last year, reports the Joint Center for Political Studies, which has conducted an annual census of blacks elected to public office since 1970. Between January 1985 and January 1986, the total number of black elected officials increased from 6,056 to 6,424. The previous year's increase was 6.2 percent.

The growth in the number of blacks elected to office occurred in every region of the country and in every category of office for which elections were held in 1985. In addition, 102 blacks were elected in jurisdictions where no black American had ever held elective office. For example:

L. Douglas Wilder became the first black lieutenant governor in Virginia and the first black candidate to win a statewide election in the South since Reconstruction; and Alyce Clarke became the first black woman ever elected to the Mississippi state legislature.

The number of black women elected to office has more than doubled since 1976, rising from 684 then to 1,483 in 1986. Twenty-three percent of all black elected officials are women, and approximately one-third, or 124, of last year's newly elected black elected officials were women.

Of all the elective offices held by black women, 50 percent are municipal positions, including 40 mayoralties. The largest contingents of female black elected officials are in Washington, D.C. (113), Illinois (109), Michigan (98), Mississippi (95), California (94), and New York (91).

At the federal level, the number of blacks elected to the U.S. House of Representatives remains the same: 19 voting members and one non-voting member.

States with the largest number of black elected officials include Mississippi (521), Louisiana (488), Illinois (426), Georgia (417), Alabama (403), South Carolina (329), Arkansas (315), Michigan (314), California (287), and Texas (281). These states also have three characteristics in

### Local Officials



Ron Leeper  
.....City Council member



Charlie Dannelly  
.....Council member



Harvey Gantt  
.....Charlotte's mayor



Dr. Mildred Baxter Davis  
.....District supervisor

common:

Women compose more than 12 percent of the state's total number of black elected officials and, except in Texas, are represented at both the state legislative and the mayoral level.

Blacks constitute at least seven percent of the state's voting-age population; and

During the past year, at least one officeholder with "first black elected" status was elected within the state.

In three cities (Boston, MA;

Birmingham, AL, and Mitchell, SD), blacks were elected to the office of city council president for the first time. Voters in New York City (Manhattan) elected a black borough president, and incumbent black mayors returned to office in Atlanta, GA; Charlotte, NC; Detroit, MI; Hartford, CT; and Los Angeles, CA.

At the county level, 70 additional black elected officials were sworn into office, most of them in Georgia.

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# Hundreds Of Homeless Drawn To NUL Conference

New York City - Over 15,000 people from across the nation attended the National Urban League's recently concluded 76th Annual Conference at the Moscone Convention Center in San Francisco, CA. Also drawn to the conference were hundreds of the city's homeless.

In a special wrapup press conference, NUL President John E. Jacobs cited the plight of the homeless as a problem that had gained increasing prominence over the course of the four-day meeting, as a multitude of the area's hungry and homeless came to the Exhibit Area to receive free samples of food and other products.

Jacobs said the situation was tragic and clearly indicated that "even in affluent San Francisco there is a need, a great need." He added that it was a reminder that the NUL was an agency that existed, "to serve the poor, the friendless, the helpless."

That point was made again and again in the major plenary sessions, workshops and special forums and through the conference theme, "Working Together To Make A Difference,"



John E. Jacobs  
.....NUL president

which examined a variety of problems confronting Black America and effective strategies for dealing with them.

At the keynote session, Jacob formally announced the launching, in September, of the NUL's national five-year education initiative designed to improve the educational performance of black students.

He declared, "the time is ripe for an Urban League intervention to make the schools work for children of the poor as they now for the children of the affluent," in describing the initiative that will involve the NUL's 113 affiliates.

The affiliates will develop individual programs based upon specific local needs, including the formulation of coalitions for improving the schools and to serve as advocates of issues of particular importance to black and minority students such as greater access to science and math courses.

In his keynote speech, Jacob also dealt with several other important issues. On the subject of South Africa, Jacob said that the current U.S. policy of "constructive engagement" had failed and that "time is no longer running out-time has run out on South Africa and we call on our government to reserve its policies toward South Africa."

Jacob called for a policy of "constructive pressure" that would include among other things, direct intervention by President Reagan to secure the freedom of Nelson Mandela, White House

insistence upon serious negotiations on constitutional change between the Botha regime and all major groups in South Africa and sweeping sanctions.

Jacob also scored the nominations of Justice William Rehnquist for Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and Judge Scalia as Associate Justice which he said were made for ideological reasons.

He asserted that both men have consistently demonstrated insensitivity to civil liberties, the Bill of Rights and individual

## United Way Sets Goal Of \$12,067,670

United Way of Mecklenburg and Union Counties, Inc., announced its goal for the 1986 fund-raising campaign.

A goal of \$12,067,670 was approved by the United Way Board of Directors and Trustees during a 9 a.m. meeting at the human service organization's Charlotte headquarters located at 301 S. Brevard St. The goal represents a 7.6 percent increase over the 1985 campaign total of \$11,217,581, according to campaign Chairman C. Don Steger.

freedom and that the Senate, "should withhold its advise and consent for any nominee whose record shows persistent hostility to minority rights."

In a later session, Gov. Thomas H. Kean of New Jersey called on the leaders of the Democratic and Republican parties to make the upgrading of the public education system a national priority. Kean declared, "the fact is that we will never break the back of poverty unless we provide a decent education to every child in our cities," and "don't let government off the hook."

Steger is an assistant manager with the City of Charlotte.

At the news conference held at Goodwill Industries, Inc., a United Way agency, Steger said, "All of the members of this year's campaign cabinet agree that a 7.6 percent increase is an ambitious goal; however, it represents the minimum request United Way agencies feel is necessary to operate activities next year."

This year's United Way campaign officially begins September 25.

### TURTLE-TALK



Learning is a treasure for eternity.