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Fall

THE CHARLOTTE POST

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Jerredith Shearin
...Consistently makes 'A's

Jerredith Shearin Doesn't Mind Coming Home And Doing Homework

By Russell Clark
Post Staff Writer

Although it has been observed that children have their own individual study habits, Jerredith Shearin, 12, employs a basic learning technique. "I don't mind coming home from school and doing my homework first," she noted. "Getting a good education is very important to me and I think people in my age group should value their education, too," added Shearin, a seventh grader at Northwest Middle School.

How many of us can reflect back on our school days and recall making straight A's year after year?

Well, Jerredith has been making A's consistently. "I pay close attention in class and take good notes to help me understand the information. I think that has been a key to my success in the classroom," mentioned Shearin, who has brought home only two B's in her life.

At school, she is a member of the Executive Council, and also plays second base on the softball team. "I enjoy playing softball and other sports, but my books come first," she pointed out.

Outside of school, she is a member of the Charlotte Youth Club and the McCrorey YMCA Teen Club. "I'm active in these clubs because we do service projects in the community and it gives me a chance to meet other people my age."

The daughter of Ms. Edith Shearin, Jerredith also has traveled to many far away places. "I've been to Philadelphia, Florida,

New Jersey to visit relatives with my mother. We went to Mexico last summer, but next summer we plan to go to London. I think everyone should travel to other places because it gives you a chance to see how people live in different environments. It is very educational," she commented.

A 1985 graduate of Allenbrook Elementary, Jerredith says that there is a lot of peer pressure to do things to impress people. "At Northwest, there isn't a lot of drug abuse by students that I know of, but there is a lot of peer pressure. Some students do things just to be accepted by a group."

When not busy studying, practicing the clarinet or other school activities, the self-motivated young beauty enjoys listening to music. "I like the music of New Edition, Whodini and Run DMC because most of their songs have a positive message."

The Charlotte-Mecklenburg School System serves more than 72,000 students, but many never reach their potential because they don't get enough support at home.

"I don't push Jerredith, I guide her," says her mother, Edith Shearin. "A child needs a good, warm breakfast each morning before school and plenty of rest the night before school. Jerredith is in the bed by 9:30 every night," she explained.

"Northwest is a good school overall," Jerredith pointed out. "I like my classes and my teachers. My education is very valuable because I plan to be successful in life."

City, Convention Bureau Announce New Grants Program

Help is on the way for organizations that sponsor special events and programs. A new grants program, sponsored by the City of Charlotte and the Charlotte Convention & Visitors Bureau, provides matching fund grants for Charlotte area nonprofit organizations which sponsor special events or projects. To qualify, the event or program must have the short- or long-term potential of attracting visitors to Charlotte, and the potential of improving the quality of life for the citizens of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County.

"This new grant program allows the Bureau and the City to take the lead in helping develop new events and programs which have the potential for attracting visitors," said Doug Stafford, president and CEO of the Convention Bureau. "It is especially unique in that it allows us to promote an event or program as well as underwrite a portion of the operating expenses."

The 1986-87 Special Events and Projects grant fund was created by the Convention Bureau allocating \$34,000 in promotion-dedicated occupancy tax revenues and the

City matching that amount with development-dedicated tax revenues. Since this "50-50 fund" includes both promotion monies and development monies, grant recipients will be able to promote their events or programs as well as underwrite some of the operating expenses.

There will be two periods for reviewing applications each year. For fiscal year 1986-87 the first application deadline is October 31, 1986, and the second is March 31, 1987. Grants for the first period must be implemented no later than June 30, 1987. For the second, the implementation deadline is December 31, 1987.

The Charlotte Convention & Visitors Bureau Underwriting Committee will administer the Grant Program.

Organizations must submit a proposed budget with their grant applications.

For more information and an application form, contact the Charlotte Convention & Visitors Bureau, One Independence Center, Suite 1290, Charlotte, NC 28226; attention Linda Bonine.

NUL Launches National Education Initiative

Declaring that "the future economic survival of black Americans is dependent on improving the schooling our children get today," John E. Jacob, President of the National Urban League, announced the launching of a five-year national education initiative designed to improve black educational performance and involving the League's 113 affiliates.

Mr. Jacob asserted that despite increasing concern over the state of the nation's public school systems and the implementation of various education reforms, the educational needs of black and minority children, for the most part, have been ignored.

In addition, he maintained that some reform efforts may make these problems worse stating, "Stricter graduation requirements, without resources and programs to ensure that every child can meet them, may just raise the dropout rate faster than they raise the achievement rate."

Mr. Jacob cited a national black dropout rate almost double that of whites, the decline in black college enrollment and an overall lag in the black achievement levels, as evidence of the severity of the crisis.

State that the black community has a major role to play in responding to this crisis, he said, "Our Education Initiative will mobilize the community to define key issues, maximize use of existing resources, build coalitions and support for change, and implement concrete action plans."

Jacob added: "The importance of this Initiative is that it coordinates those activities, focuses them to have national impact, measures results, and provides a framework to make them more effective."

"Our Initiative is not an exercise in confrontation, but, a program that mobilizes citizens and



John E. Jacob
...Calls for action

institutions in a collaborative effort to make the public schools work better for our children."

The NUL's Education Initiatives will be implemented through its network of affiliates in 113 cities across the country, which includes school districts that educate two million black children - a third of all black students in the nation.

Urban League affiliates, with support and technical assistance from the NUL, will develop programs targeted to "at-risk" students and assist the community in devising concrete action plans to respond to their needs. These action plans will include several different elements including: mentoring and

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Muhammed Honored For 40 Years

Growing concern over the failure of blacks to start their own businesses and thereby economically develop the black community has now become a hot issue. Studies have shown that only seven percent of the \$22 billion collectively earned by blacks annually is spent with black businesses.

Statistics further indicate that the advent of integration brought the steady decline of expenditure of black GNP with black business. In fact, from 1964-1984 the proportion of black incomes spent with black-owned businesses dropped from 13.5 percent to only seven percent. Therefore, black people have diverted their economic resources away from the areas that are in need of the most help.

The Honorable Elijah Muhammad was one of the foremost proponents of black entrepreneurship in this century. During his 40 years of service in the community, Muhammad inspired thousands of blacks to go into business, in addition to the hundreds of enterprises that his fellows initiated all over America and in the Caribbean.

Minister Louis Farrakhan, following in the footsteps of his mentor, is deeply concerned about the exploitation of the black community by external forces. He has started a campaign to stimulate an upward spiral of business development in the black community as initiated by the Honorable Elijah Muhammad. Toward that goal, Minister Farrakhan has launched a new line of personal care products, Clean N Fresh, the first of the



Louis Farrakhan
...Started campaign

promised POWER products.

In an effort to promote these products and the concept of black business development, Minister Farrakhan will be making several appearances across the country.

On October 7, one year from the historic Madison Square Garden appearance which attracted nearly 50,000, a major address was given in Chicago, IL, at the Pavilion located

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