

In unique relationship

Carmen Walker, Latoya Baxter Share Special Feelings

By Russell Clark
Post Staff Writer

The relationship between life and love are much the same as petals to flowers. We want to recapture the forever feelings love arouses in us just as a flower wants to maintain its beautiful appearance.

A simulation of this relationship is shared by Carmen Walker, 27, and Latoya Baxter, 10. They recapture those special feelings at least four hours a week through the Big Sister Little Sister program in Charlotte.

"I really enjoy spending time with her and seeing her happy," replied Walker, a native of Anderson, SC. "She is a real loving child with a bright future ahead of her. I hope that I can give her incentive to strive to reach her goals."

Matched since July 23rd, the duo has seen and done some pretty interesting things. "We've been to Carowinds, Discovery Place and to South Carolina to meet Carmen's family," mentioned Latoya, a fourth grader at Ashley Park Elementary.

"Carmen is very nice and she is like a real big sister. I don't have any brothers and sisters, but Carmen is just like family to me."

Walker, a 1981 Clemson graduate, is employed by Duke Power Co. as a Recruitment Specialist. She became interested in becoming a big sister while living in Greenville, SC. "Initially, I became involved with the Big Sister Little Sister Agency in Greenville, but my job relocated me to Charlotte before I was matched with a little sister," she pointed out. "When I finally got settled down in Charlotte in March I contacted the

Agency here. I applied and I also encouraged others to do so because it doesn't take up much of your time, and it's very rewarding," added Walker, who has a one-year commitment with Latoya.

"This is pretty much a new couple," noted Robin Meyer, counselor for the couple. "Latoya is doing well in school and she is very active. She also gets a lot of support from her grandmother."

The purpose of Big Sisters-Big Brothers is to provide adult friendship and guidance to children ages 7-15, living in one parent families. All matches are supervised by professional counselors.

Volunteers are carefully screened and matched according to their interests, personalities, backgrounds and personal preferences. While the agency asks for only a

See Big Sister On page 10 A



(Photo by Russell Clark)

Carmen Walker (l) and Latoya Baxter (r) share a special adult-child friendship.



Eleven received Life Membership Plaques at First Annual Life Membership Dinner of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg County Branch - NAACP in Charlotte. Front row (left to right) Mrs. Katherine Harper; Mrs. Lillie B. Beckham; Mr. Parks Davis; Rev. Edward B. Newberry for Memorial Presbyterian Church; Rev. Arthur L. Tutt; Mrs. Mammie G. Tutt; Mrs. Emma L. Crawford. Back row (left to right) Robert Lunn; Dr. A.

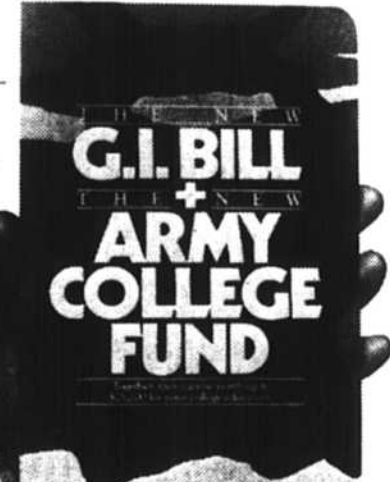
J. Frieson for Nazareth Primitive Baptist Church; Cedric H. Jones for First Baptist Church-West; Dr. Emmett C. Burns, Director, Life Membership Division - NAACP, Guest Speaker of Baltimore, MD; Thomas W. Taylor and Kelly M. Alexander Jr., President, Charlotte-Mecklenburg County Branch - NAACP.

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CRIME OF THE WEEK

Crime Stoppers is seeking information on storebreakings. On June 26, 1986 subjects forced entry into Truck Tech located at 1000 West Craighead Rd., removing a large quantity of power tools, hand tools and tool boxes. Breakins are occurring in the area and on Atanda Ave., 27th and 28th Streets. You can receive a cash reward up to \$1,000 for information leading to the arrest and indictment of the subject. You do not have to reveal your identity. Call Crime Stoppers, 334-1600.



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