



THE CHARLOTTE POST

"The Voice Of The Black Community"

Volume 13, Number 18

THE CHARLOTTE POST - Thursday, October 1, 1987

Price: 50 Cents

Barnes Faces Suspension

By Jayne Strong
Post Managing Editor

"I can't understand why the school administrators are fighting with my parents. They haven't done anything wrong," says 14-year-old Derek Barnes.

Derek, a top student, who has excelled in academics, school sports and other extra curricular activities, has lately become confounded by his school experiences at McClintock Junior High School.

First, last year, after he had met all the obvious criteria for earning a place in his school's charter of the National Junior Honor Society, he was denied inclusion without a valid explanation.

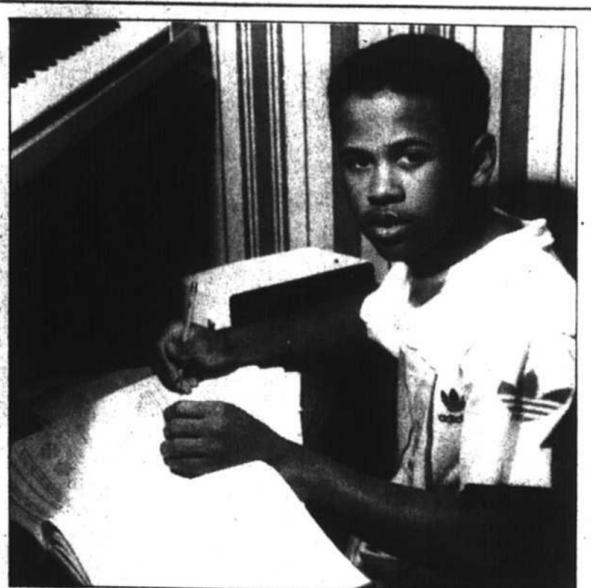
Now, he's facing in-school-suspension (IS-S) for defending himself against another student who assaulted him.

Derek's parents, Richard and Mamie Barnes, expended a lot of time and energy to find out why their son was denied membership in the NJHS. They went as far as taking the issue before the Charlotte-Mecklenburg School Board and having the NAACP investigate the matter.

Now they are embroiled in another battle with McClintock's administration, trying to keep their son from getting suspended.

If Derek is suspended, he is automatically kicked off the school's Executive Council and he loses the opportunity to try to make the NJHS this year.

"It's not fair," claims Derek. The incident prompting the suspension was a "scuffle" between Derek and another young man at McClintock. Derek explains that his classmate had been provoking him for approximately a week. "I told him I wasn't going to fight him and get



Derek Barnes has always been a good student and he can't understand why his school administrators are treating him unfairly.

kicked off the Executive Council," says Derek.

Finally in a first period class last week, Derek relates, the other student shoved him. Derek hit him back. The student hit Derek again. The teacher told the boys to stop and took them to the Assistant Principal's office.

Once there, the teacher, Mrs. Iris Battle, the assistant principal, what had happened. Derek says, "Mrs. Battle asked for a referral (a form needed for IS-S) and Mrs. Richardson said she didn't think one was needed because we were both good students and we stopped fighting when she said stop. Mrs. Battle then gave us

three days cafeteria duty for a punishment and we left the office."

The boys served the first day of their punishment that afternoon. However, by three o'clock when Derek's mother called the school, Battle informed Mrs. Barnes that she had changed the punishment to IS-S.

Battle has been asked to confirm whether this was exactly what happened but she replied she had no comment.

The Barneses did speak with Battle and the other boy involved in the altercation. They say he admitted to provoking Derek and hitting him first. They asked Battle why Derek was being suspended for defending himself.

They've also asked why was the punishment changed.

McClintock Principal James Cockerham would only say that McClintock has a "hard, fast" rule that students involved in fighting will be suspended.

The Barneses have appealed the suspension. They've hired attorney Frank Emery to represent them in a hearing, before Area Superintendent Sam Haywood, scheduled for Tuesday, October 6.

Derek believes this latest occurrence at McClintock is directly related to the problems his parents had with the school about the NJHS. He has never faced in-school-suspension before. "And, I don't think it's fair my parents have to spend their money on an attorney to help me get fair and equal treatment in school," says Derek.

Arthur Griffin, former member of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg School Board, also believes Derek's being treated unjustly in light of this suspension.

"If the facts are true that the boy assaulted Derek, then the one who has the personal guilt should be the one punished. There's no other way to respond," says Griffin.

"A school's policy for fighting is not designed to punish the victim. That goes against fundamental fairness and due process," continues Griffin. "In society at large we don't punish someone unless they have personal guilt. And in our Constitution



Griffin

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Jolyn Robichaux Featured W.B.O.

Women business owners from North and South Carolina will gather in Charlotte October 5-6 for the third annual Women Business Owners Conference of the Carolinas.

The Conference, which will be held at the Adam's Mark Hotel in Uptown Charlotte, will feature national and local business experts from a variety of fields to conduct seminars, workshops and speak on topics that will help women business owners become established and expand their businesses.

"Successful business owners from North and South Carolina will participate on panels and lead workshops on management techniques, marketing concepts, employee selection, computers, public relations and employment law," says Fay Skidmore (Mecklenburg County Women's Commission), who chairs the WBO Conference committee. "We have publishers, personnel consultants and other business owners scheduled to share their insights and accomplishments with conference participants."

Skidmore said that conference goers would also get to hear three nationally recognized speakers: Jo Foxworth, Jolyn H. Robichaux and Jeanne Robertson. Foxworth is president of a New York Advertising Agency and author of "Boss Lady" and "Wishing Up." She will speak the morning of October 5. Robichaux is president, CEO and owner of Chicago's Baldwin Ice Cream Company, the only black-owned and operated ice cream company in the country dealing in wholesale and retail sales. She will address the conference at lunch on October 5. At Tuesday's luncheon, the featured speaker will be Jeanne Robertson, a professional speaker and humorist. She grew up and lives in North Carolina, and in 1984 was named by Quote magazine as one of the "Ten Most Quotable Humorists in America."

Pat O'Connor (Mary Ryder Realty), chair of the WBO Conference advisory committee, said that many organizations and businesses have given financial support to the organization. They include the Women Business Owners Association, NCNB, Touchberry & Assoc., Castleberry & Co., Ethan Allen Galleries, The Lyerly Agency, Harris Teeter and Mary Ryder Realty. For registration information, contact the Charlotte Chamber at 704-378-1332.

Community Celebrates Gantt For Mayor

National, State, and local politicians will be among the 500 people expected to attend "A Celebration of the Candidacy of Mayor Harvey B. Gantt" to be held at the Marriott City Center Friday, October 2, 7:30 p.m. until 10 p.m.

The guest list includes Senator Terry Sanford, Thurgood Marshall Jr., and a few of the 1988 presidential candidates. The general public is also invited to pay tribute to Gantt and contribute at this fund raiser.

The "Celebration" is presented by several Charlotte community members, including George Shinn, Dr. Spurgeon Webber III, Dr. and Mrs. Wesley Clement and Mr. and Mrs. Mel Watt.

Music for the occasion will be provided by classical pianist, Karl Moore.

The Marriott City Center is located at 100 W. Trade St. Ticket price for the tribute to Gantt is \$30.



Claude Odom

C.M. Odom Joins Sanford's Staff

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Claude M. Odom, formerly the director of admissions and student activities at Roanoke-Chowan Technical College, has joined Senator Terry Sanford's North Carolina staff as constituent services representative.

"Claude has excellent credentials and a wide-range of experience, and he will make an excellent addition to our staff," Sanford said. "I'm pleased to have him with us."

A native of Gates County, Odom now lives in Hatterville and has been a member of the Hertford County Commissioners since 1984. He also is a member of the N.C. Association of County Commissioners Agribusiness Economy Steering Committee, the board of the Chowan Area Development Association, and the board of the Hertford County Social Services. He also is pastor of the First Baptist Church, Kelford, N.C. Before joining Sanford's staff, Odom was director of admissions and student activities at Roanoke-Chowan Technical College.

He has degrees from Roanoke-Chowan Technical College and a bachelor of science degree in business administration from Shaw University. He also is working toward a master's degree from N.C. State University. The U.S. Jaycees named him an Outstanding Young Man in America in 1981. Odom spent three years in the U.S. Army, including a year in Vietnam.

Fuller Takes N.C. Small Business Award

By Herb White
Post Staff Writer

After 25 years of struggle as an independent businessman, Charles Fuller of Fayetteville has worked hard to be where he is today.

And today, the owner of Fuller Oil Company, Inc. is the 1987 North Carolina Minority Small Business Person of the Year.

Fuller, 55, started his company in 1962 from \$23,000 in savings and benefits he accumulated with his wife Evelyn.

"It was very difficult," Fuller recalls. "At the time I was 30 years old and I was working at the VA hospital."

With two 6,000 gallon storage tanks, a used delivery truck and himself as the only employee, Fuller ran his petroleum dealership from his home before his wife asked him to find a more suitable location.

"She made me leave because she didn't have any privacy," he said.

Fuller Oil now employs 14 people, including Evelyn, who works in the accounting department. Fuller credits his wife with supporting him when business wasn't booming.

"We worked very hard, my wife and I," he said. "We watched our funds very closely."

Once the equipment was in place, a gasoline supplier had to be found. The Fayetteville-Cumberland County market was cut off because an established competitor had the contract of a major wholesaler. Fuller went instead to a Wilmington supplier who sold him gasoline in small quantities at a higher price.

With the high cost of running the business and the national energy crisis in the 1970s, Fuller participated in the Small Business Administration Procurement Assistance Program from

1975 to 1984.

During those years, Fuller Oil revenues took off, increasing from about \$500,000 per year to over \$10,000,000. Most of the company's business now comes from municipalities and the federal government through bids to supply petroleum.

In 1982, Fuller started a gas station convenience store to increase commercial sales.

Fuller's firm has expanded operations recently, with two new convenient stores and has a franchise for the distribution of Petro Fina Oil and related products for Cumberland County. A transportation company has also been formed and is a common carrier to haul petroleum products for other oil companies.

Running a business is hard work, but Fuller revealed his formula for success.

"You have to have good marketing, pay the bills on time and have faith in a superior being," he said.

Equal Rights Director To Visit Charlotte

The Executive Director of the National Equal Rights Congress will be the keynote speaker at a special dinner in his honor to be held Friday, October 9, sponsored by the Charlotte E.R.C. chapter.

Nacho Gonzales, a 20-year veteran of the civil rights struggle, will speak at the Greenville Center, 1330 Spring Street, following a buffet dinner at 7:30 PM. Reservations for the dinner are requested by calling 372-9575 or 333-4007.

"Equality and Justice for All: How Do We Stand After 200 Years?" will be the theme of Gonzales' address, which will highlight the struggles of minorities today around the country, with special focus on the South.

"As we commemorate 200 years



Charles Fuller of Fayetteville (left) is awarded a plaque declaring him N.C. Minority Small Business Person of the Year from Gary Keel, District Director of the U.S. Small Business Administration Wednesday at Johnson C. Smith.

of the U.S. Constitution, it's time to take stock of where minorities stand in this country and why we are facing increased attacks on our civil rights and our living standards," said Gonzales, who is currently on a Southern Tour.

As Executive Director of the National E.R.C. since 1980, Gonzales has spearheaded the national campaign to Free Mayor Eddie James Carthan and 6 other black officials in Tchula, Mississippi. Last year he led the E.R.C. in raising \$20,000 on behalf of the Alabama Black Belt Defense Committee in support of voting rights activists victimized by the Justice Department.

Currently his organization is leading efforts in the Southwest against abuses of Immigration

agents against undocumented Mexican workers and their families.

Since its formation in 1976, the Equal Rights Congress has been in the forefront of issues facing minority communities, including police brutality, the Ku Klux Klan activity, voting rights, quality integrated education, low-income housing, and immigration. Local E.R.C. chapters have established themselves through the South, the Southwest, the Midwest and on the West Coast.

The Charlotte E.R.C., established in 1978, has led local anti-Klan efforts, worked to free the Wilmington 10 and Charlotte 3, advocated

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Main Library Temporarily Relocated

As part of the new Library construction project which began July 1, 1987, the Charlotte Main Library at 310 North Tryon Street will close for at least a year of extensive renovation, beginning Monday, October 5. A temporary Main Library for essential services will open at 425 South Tryon Street (the former Sterchi's building) on Monday, October 12.

The temporary library will house reference and business services, film pick-up, and the Carolina Room collection of local historical materials.

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