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THE AWARD-WINNING "VOICE OF THE BLACK COMMUNITY"

50 Cents

Outspoken Scarborough Looks To The Future

By HERB WHITE
Post Staff Writer

Ella Scarborough says her first term on Charlotte City Council has been all she expected, but there is more to learn and do on the job.

"It's been quite enjoyable and quite busy," she said. "I feel I'm just getting started, just getting used to the process...I'm not even near my learning curve yet."

Scarborough, who replaced Ron Leeper 15 months ago, relied on Leeper's knowledge of council in the early days. She credits him with making the transition easier.

"The first two or three months of council, I talked to him a lot, but since then, I've felt more comfortable," she said. "He was a perfect mentor."

Never one to hide an opinion, Scarborough has been an outspoken champion of her favorite



Scarborough

causes. Some council observers see Scarborough as being confrontational. She has a different opinion.

"I believe in being straightforward and based on the com-

ments of my colleagues, maybe I'm too straightforward, but I don't apologize for that."

Scarborough said she has good working relationships with other council members, although she criticized Mayor Sue Myrick for playing partisan politics.

Scarborough was upset when Myrick appointed her to the Planning and Public Works Committee instead of the Housing Committee. Scarborough said she told Myrick about her desire to be appointed to the housing committee.

"That's still a pet peeve of mine," Scarborough said. "I'm still fussing about it."

Scarborough also disapproves of the lack of Democrats and African-Americans leading committees. "There are no blacks chairing committees, and only

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Springfest, Inc. Resolves To Get More Black Involvement, Input

By JALYNE STRONG
Post Editor

Due to negative reactions from Charlotte's African-American community, Springfest Inc., last week rescinded its newly initiated balloon vendor policy.

The policy, initiated in January, stipulated that Springfest would only require one balloon vendor for its annual downtown street festival. When put in effect, however, the policy forced out a black vendor who had four years experience working with the organization.

Public outcry, since the story of the vendor, Carolyn Mason, became known, persuaded the Springfest organization to rethink its balloon vendor policy.

According to Steve Kaufman, executive director, Springfest has gone back to its prior procedure of having multiple balloon vendors and it has also reopened its invitations for Springfest vendors.

"We have elected to start the process all over," Kaufman said Tuesday. "We have re-sent for applications (of vendors who had already applied) and have extended the deadline for applications to Friday, March 10."

"In the last four or five days we had a reasonable number of requests for applications. I'm assuming a good number are a result of the articles in the Post."

On February 23, *The Charlotte Post* reported the story of Balloon-A-Grams owner Carolyn Mason's exclusion from vendor sales for Springfest '89, to be held April 28 - 30. The news



Patterson

caused the black community to question the practices of the organization that promotes the city-assisted event, asking if in fact African-Americans were going to be left out of the festival's economic benefits.

By Wednesday, March 2, the Springfest organization was meeting with Mason and her attorney, Wayne Alexander, Liz Mills of the City of Charlotte's MWBE office, and city councilmembers Ella Scarborough and Cyndee Patterson to discuss the problem.

Councilmember Patterson is the founder of Springfest. She began the festival in 1982 and worked closely with the festival for the first five years.

But for the last three years, since she was elected to the Charlotte City Council, Patterson says she has not been involved in the administration of Springfest.

Patterson, who's up for reelection this year, says she was drawn into the controversy because she was receiving copies of the correspondence between Alexander and Springfest, Inc. "I was concerned that it was not getting resolved," Patterson said in a telephone interview Tuesday.

"Ella (Scarborough) and I started talking and I called the Springfest office to set the meeting with Alexander and Mason."

"Ella and I pretty much served as facilitators (at the meeting). Liz (Mills) was asked to attend to advise Springfest about what they could do to provide better outreach programs for black vendors," said Patterson.

Last week, the adverse situation concerning black vendors at Springfest worsened when it was learned that the organization had no blacks involved on any of its boards.

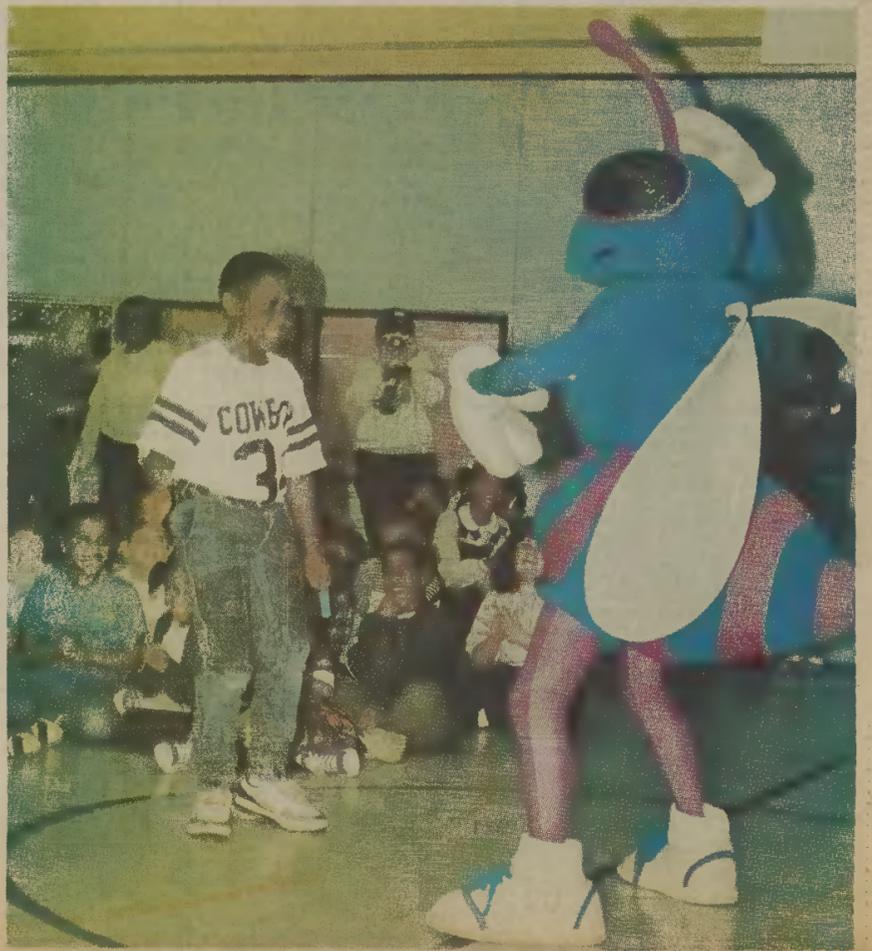
Patterson admitted the situa-

tion did not look good for Springfest.

"As founder of Springfest it bothered me to see something like this going on. When I was with the organization, I tried to keep two to three blacks on the board." But, Patterson pointed out, "We never have been successful in getting blacks involved in all levels of the organization. It still tended to be all-white."

Patterson said the organization was not in essence precluding black involvement. "It just

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Photo/CALVIN FERGUSON

LET'S DANCE... Seven-year-old Clayton Pride, a second grade student at Devonshire Elementary School, joins Hugo, the mascot of the Charlotte Hornets basketball team, for a dance. Monday, March 8th was declared "Hornets Day" by Devonshire's principal, Eulada Watt and Hugo visited the school to give out Hornet hugs and basketball certificates awarded by Coach Hallas. Hugo also

danced, to the delight of the students, to the "The Twist", by Chubby Checker and The Fat Boys, and "Twist and Shout." Hugo's visit was sponsored by the Minority Achievement Committee. It served to expose students to the variety of cultural and athletic activities in the Charlotte area and also to reward students who earned points for good behavior.

Black Health Care Bills Coming Due To N.C. Soon

RALEIGH (AP) --- A billion-dollar bill for AIDS and other health problems afflicting North Carolina blacks will be due soon, and nobody knows who will pay it.

That was the conclusion of medical, insurance and legislative experts who assembled at the North Carolina Central University School of Business to grapple with the cost of health care for blacks.

"Too many of us, right or

wrong, feel that AIDS, drug abuse and sickle cell (anemia) are conditions that we don't risk," said John F. Sipp, an insurance industry consultant who moderated the February 28th seminar. "They're somebody else's problem."

"As long as that attitude persists, the question of 'Who will pay?' ... will be answered by saying, 'Somebody else.'"

AIDS is one of the biggest medical problems threatening blacks

because it is spreading from big cities to smaller towns and hitting blacks harder than whites. In North Carolina, 44 percent of AIDS victims are black, although blacks make up only 22 percent of the state's population.

By 1991, the annual cost of hospital care for AIDS patients in North Carolina could total \$1.3 billion, said M. Lynn Smiley, a Burroughs Wellcome Co. researcher. Perhaps \$30 million of that care will be given to pa-

tients who can't afford to pay for it and don't have health insurance.

"The expected course of the epidemic is staggering," Smiley told NCCU students at the seminar. "The health-care costs for this are going to continue to mount. It's going to swallow up other things."

Neither government nor the insurance industry has figured out how to pay the bill, the speakers said.

Push Is On For National Malcolm X Observance

By Chester A. Higgins, Sr.
NNPA News Editor

WASHINGTON, D.C. - A move to establish the May 19 birthday of Malcolm X as nationwide African American holiday beginning in 1990, was launched February 21, the 24th anniversary of his assassination (in 1965).

Ron Daniels, of Youngstown, Ohio, former deputy campaign manager for the 1988 Jesse Jackson's Democratic presidential campaign, is spearheading the drive. Other members of

the planning group are Dr. James Turner, chairman emeritus of the African Studies and Research Center at Cornell University; Dr. Ronald Walters, professor of political science, Howard University, and Ms. Charshae McIntyre, president of the African Heritage Studies Association.

This embryonic group will work towards the creation of a Malcolm X coordinating committee consisting of a number of outstanding African American

leaders. The committee will make "a major effort...to encourage the African American media to incorporate articles, interviews and biographical sketches into their publications and programming leading up to May 19 this year." Daniels said, "is key to the success of this important effort."

The political campaign will culminate in a national symposium on the life and legacy of Malcolm X at the Schomburg Museum, Harlem, NY, May 20th.

Daniels said there are no plans to push for a federal government approval for the holiday. Said he: "As there is a St. Patrick's Day and other special days celebrated by only small segments of the U.S. population, Malcolm X Day will be a holiday when African Americans across the nation, and others who choose to participate, will pause to pay homage to one of the most significant individuals in the development of black consciousness."

Black History Month Spawns Drive To Rename Streets After Black Leaders

By HERB WHITE
Post Staff Writer

Black History Month gave the Rev. James Barnett time to reflect on the contributions African-Americans have made to Charlotte.

It also spawned an idea on how to honor them, with streets named after the city's black leaders.

"Black History Month gave me an idea that we should honor our leaders," he said with emphasis. "The whites honor their leaders by naming streets that go right through our communities, and it's time we do it for ours."

Barnett, chairman of People United for Justice, a community-based self-help organization, asked the Charlotte City Council last month to rename Senior Drive to Alexander Senior Drive, in honor of Fred Alexander, the first African-American elected

to office in Charlotte since Reconstruction.

The first black elected to city council in 1965, Alexander served five terms on the board. He later went on to win a seat to the N.C. Senate, the first African-American from Mecklenburg County and one of the first two elected to the legislature this century.

Alexander, who lived on the street that may one day bear his name, died in 1980.

Renaming Senior Drive, which runs through a predominantly black neighborhood and is home to West Charlotte High School, is a way to remember Alexander much like whites honor their own, Barnett said.

"We have Brookshire Freeway, Belk Freeway and Billy Graham Parkway, and they go through our communities. Naming streets after blacks is a way of remembering our heroes and

what they did."

The request to rename Senior Drive has been referred to the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Planning Commission, which makes the final decision. The commission will poll residents of the street to gauge sentiment for the change. Barnett will also circulate a petition among residents before returning it to the commission. In a letter sent to residents, Barnett sought their support.

"We need to become a part of history and to see that it is written right," the letter stated. "Just think of the new highways that cut through our community and not one is named to honor our leaders."

Public response to the proposal has been good, Barnett said. "I don't see any problem in getting it approved. We hope to get the petition to the planning commission by April and we

hope to have the street renamed by May," he said.

Alexander Senior Drive isn't the only proposed street change Barnett has in mind. He would like to see the outerbelt currently under construction named after former Mayor Harvey Gantt.

Also, Barnett would like to see streets named after Alexander's brother, Kelly Alexander Sr., Phil Berry, Betty Miller, and Coleman Kerry.

"We'd like to do about two a

year," Barnett said. "Instead of having them (proposed) all at once, we'd like to do one or two a year."

Barnett said he would like for the street renaming proposals to accomplish the same goals as Black History Month.

"Twenty or 30 years from now, black kids will ask 'who's Alexander Senior?'" he said. "It's important that we remember our leaders and heroes."



Barnett stands at the crossroads of Senior Dr., hoping to have the street renamed.

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