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50 Cents

COLUMN O.N.E

News And Notes From Charlotte
And The Rest Of The World.

Black Males Get In The Spotlight

Black men will be the center of attention at two events this weekend.



Lewis

The N.C. Black Male Showcase USA will be held Saturday at 7:30 p.m. at the Blumenthal Performing Arts Center. Thirty men will be presented for their involvement in the black community.

The event is sponsored by The Charlotte Post, Payless Rental Car and Hyatt Hotels.

Tickets are \$20. For more information, call 553-0286.

The 21st Century Commission on African American Males will hold its annual dinner in honor of "Outstanding Black Men" Sunday at 7 p.m. at Founders Hall at NationsBank Corporate Center at 100 N. Tryon St.

Matthew Perry, a District Court judge in S.C., will be the keynote speaker. Former mayor Harvey Gantt, Elizabeth Randolph and Gerson Stroud are dinner co-chairs.

The 1993 honorees are Reps. Mel Watt, James Clyburn of S.C. and John Lewis of Georgia; James Ferguson; Stroud, N.C. House Speaker Dan Blue, author Glegg Watson, Rev. James Barnett, Anthony Foxx and Orange County (Cal.) district attorney Carl Fox.

The commission was formed in 1991 by Virginia Gov. Douglas Wilder and former N.C. Sen. Terry Sanford to address the issues facing black men.

For more information, call (202) 686-2891.

Focus On Group Advisory Board

Focus on Leadership is soliciting organizations to serve on its advisory board. The body consists of one representative from each organization to support and advise Focus on Leadership.

For more information, call Vivian Mitchell, Focus on Leadership's board chairman at 536-8820.

Once For Old Times' Sake

The old Irwin Avenue Elementary School will bid farewell to the public this weekend.

The school, which has been at 329 N. Irwin Ave. for 20 years, is being dismantled for relocation as a magnet school next year. People who wish to see the old site, which was once home to Harding High School from 1935-61, can do so from 3 p.m.-5 p.m.

Stories, exhibits and photos will be offered from the old building, with an opportunity for visitors to lay claim to artifacts. Former teachers and administrators are expected to attend.

ATTRACTIVE CHALLENGE

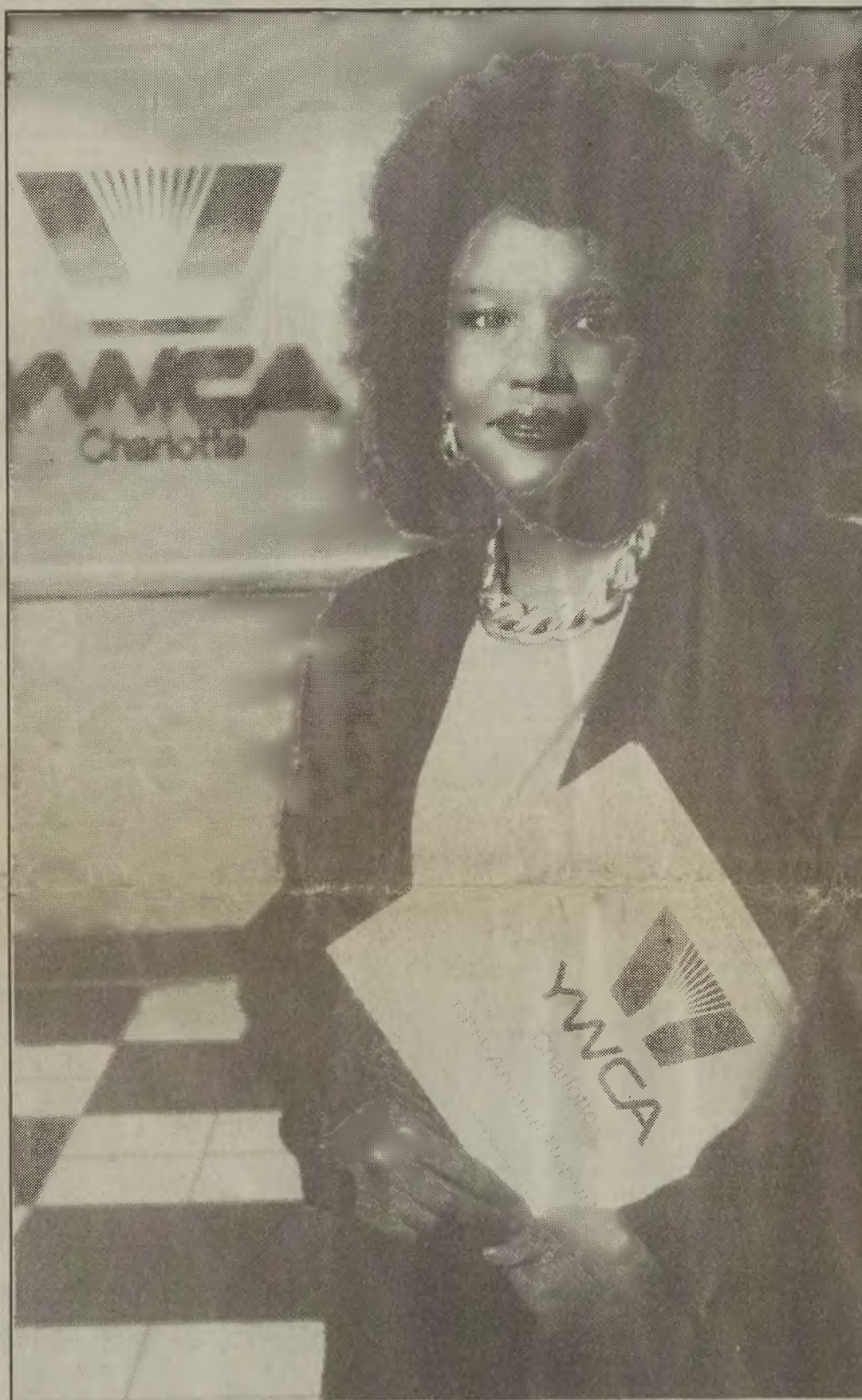


PHOTO: CALVIN FERGUSON

Stephanie Counts, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools' magnet programs coordinator, is leaving to become chief executive officer of the Charlotte YWCA.

Stephanie Counts Takes New Responsibility As YWCA Head

By Cassandra Wynn
THE CHARLOTTE POST

At every turn, Stephanie Counts, Charlotte-Mecklenburg's magnet schools coordinator, has accepted a tough challenge and succeeded.

Now the Charlotte educator has decided to take on the biggest challenge of her life. She has accepted the position as chief executive officer of the Charlotte YWCA.

The announcement that she would leave Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools June

30 came as a surprise to many.

But for Counts, it's the natural outcome of commitment and hard work.

"I have been tapped for things when it was right," Counts said. "Sometimes change is wonderful. I have career goals, but at the entry of one position, I never knew the next one was on its way."

Counts made it clear that she did not seek the position. "When I was approached by the executive search firm, my first reaction is that I am an educator. As I began to consider the position, I saw that the Y's mission is to serve women and children in the community."

One key element in Counts' decision to become YWCA CEO was that she

THE COUNTS FILE

- **Age:** 41.
- **Present Job:** Coordinator of magnet schools, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools.
- **New Job:** Director of Charlotte YWCA.
- **Education:** Bachelor's in sociology and education, State University of New York at New Paltz (1972); master's in sociology from same school (1973) and master's in administration, UNC Charlotte (1981).
- **Previous Honors:** N.C. Principal of the Year, 1991-92; National Distinguished Principal by the National Association of Elementary and Secondary Principals.
- **Family:** Husband Howard, a strategic planner at Hoechst Celanese; son Jonathan, 15.

In The Public's Interest

Sen. Jim Richardson Moves Up In Effectiveness In General Assembly

By Herbert L. White
THE CHARLOTTE POST

N.C. Senator Jim Richardson is on a roll. The Mecklenburg Democrat is becoming a force in Raleigh, according to a poll conducted by the N.C. Center For Public Policy Research, a non-partisan watchdog group that monitors the General Assembly. He continues a steady climb in effectiveness, from 42nd his first term in 1987 to a tie for 32nd in '91.

But how good are Mecklenburg's other black legislators doing?

Reps. Pete Cunningham and Howard Barnhill have made slight improvements during their tenure. Through 1991, the last year available, Cunningham, a four-term Democrat, was No. 87 in the 120-member House of Representatives while Barnhill was a spot behind, making the five-term Democrat the lowest-rated member of the Mecklenburg delegation. The highest-rated Mecklenburg representative is John McLaughlin at 36. Fountain Odom is the highest-rated senator at No. 21. Jerry Blackmon was lowest at 48th. There are 50 state senators.

Overall, three blacks are in the House's top 10: Speaker Dan Blue (D-Wake) was first in '91; Toby Fitch (D-Wilson) was No. 8 and Mickey Michaux (D-Durham) was ninth. Blue has been a representative since 1981; Fitch and Michaux since 1985.

The rankings are the result of surveys of lobbyists, capital news media and legislators, said Ran Coble, the center's director. Legislators are ranked according to their participation in committee activities, ability to guide bills through floor debate, expertise in special

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Good Old Boys Club: Pa. Hunters Refuse Black Applicant

ASSOCIATED PRESS

MIDLAND, Pa. — A private hunting club refused to give an application to a black police officer because only white males can join, according to the club leader.

"This is a private club. We can do what we want," said James Boyle, president of the Midland Sportsmen's Club. "We don't want blacks. We don't want women."

The state Human Relations Commission is investigating the club's membership rules, said spokeswoman Laura Treaster. "Right now, we can't answer if it's legal or not, but we can certainly say it's not right," she said.

Kenny Williams, 40, was denied an application several times during the last two years. Williams, who is black, is a policeman and crane operator in Midland, about 25 miles west of Pittsburgh.

Williams said he first was told he couldn't apply because his brother broke a screen door at the club during a graduation party in 1976. Later, friends who belong to the club told him privately he couldn't get in because he was black.

"I think it's dumb," Williams' 11-year-old son, Gino, said in Sunday's Beaver County Times. "What does it matter what color I am? I just want to fish."

The 50-year-old club has between 400 and 500 members. It boasts a lake, social hall, archery range and gun range.

Last week, the club was advised to stop discriminating by the Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs.

"We can not, and we will not, defend racism," said Bonita Hoke, the federation's executive director. The club is a member of the federation.

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