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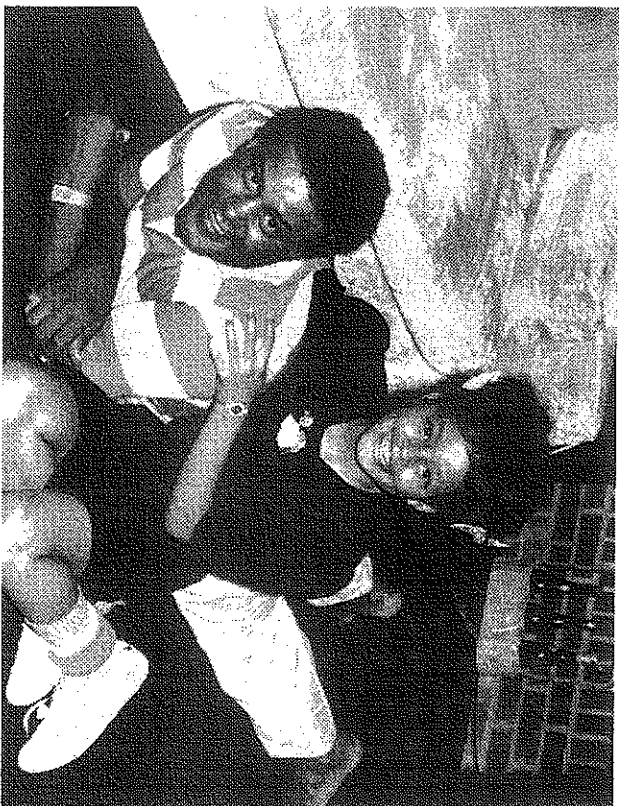
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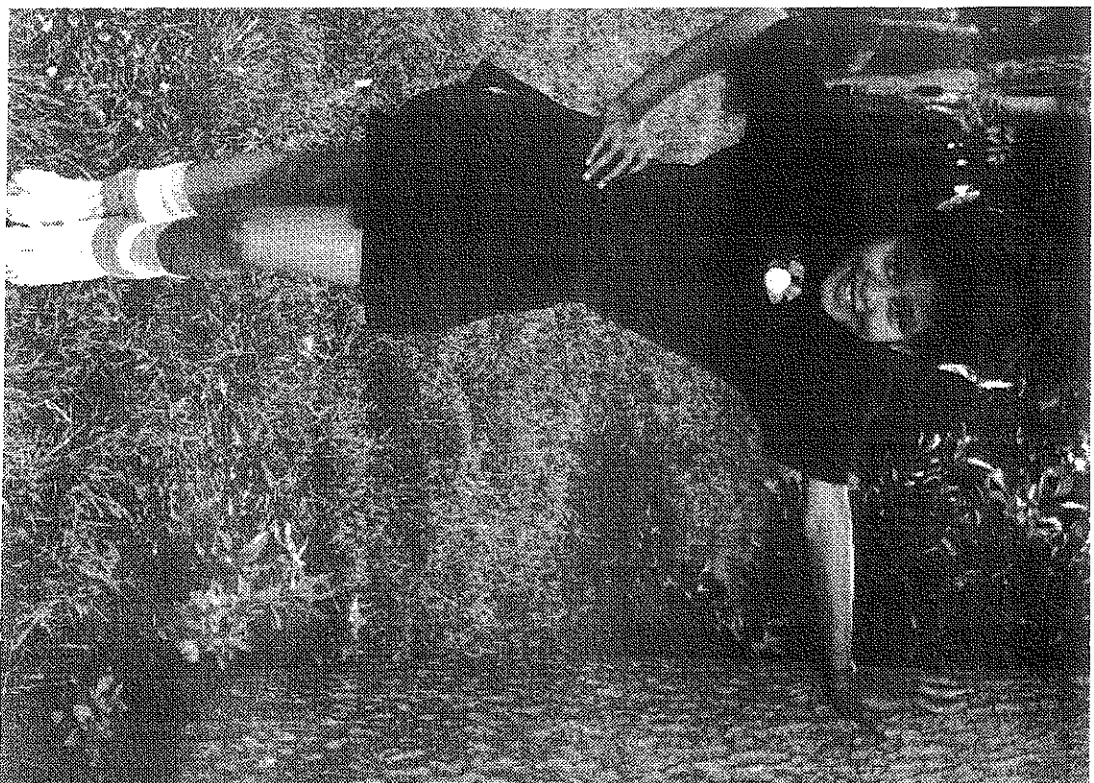
Shining star

10-year-old DeKalb model hits the bigtime in 'Big Apple'

Stone Mountain child model Gia Bone relaxes with her father, Charles Bone, in their Stone Mountain home. Gia has done work in the modeling world for two years. (Staff photo by Donna Williams)



Devon Thomas, Rena Horton, Gia Bone and Holly Holmes, fourth graders at Mainstreet Elementary School in Stone Mountain share a laugh with Gia on her last day of school before she left for New York. (Staff photo by Donna Williams)



Gia Bone, a 10 year-old Stone Mountain model, strikes a pose in her backyard. Her summer-long modeling work in New York City has already netted her a contract with the Jordache Co. Gia's hobbies include swimming, skating, and fishing. She is excited about her trip to the Big Apple and her possible modeling stardom. (Staff photo by Donna Williams)

By Brad Hundt

Neighbor Staff Writer

Gia Bone is having a very different summer vacation than most of her Stone Mountain peers.

While most 10-year-olds are spending the summer whiling away the hours playing, or at the swimming pool, Gia is in New York — getting her feet wet in the world of fashion modeling — a foray that has already netted her a contract with the Jordache Co., makers of several lines of jeans.

At an age when most young girls are more acquainted with Barbie Dolls than Bo Derek, Gia got her start in the glamorous profession two years ago after a family friend suggested Gia enter a Rich's talent competition, sponsored by the Kiddin' Around modeling agency.

After winning the contest, Gia became the featured model with the agency, earning up to \$65.00 an hour for print work and appearing in television commercials for Macy's, Kessler's, and the American Dairy Association.

Despite being immersed in a lucrative world relatively far removed from most young girls' spheres of experience, Ms. Anne Bone said her daughter enjoys modeling, and there's no pressure being exerted on her to stay in the business.

"I'm not the stage-mother type," Ms. Bone said. "I've told Gia, 'whatever you get to the point where this isn't interesting, you can get out of it.' But she likes it. I've seen lots of moms where they whisper in their kids ears and try to bribe them. I didn't want to do



Staff photo by Donna Williams

FRIENDS: Gia Bone, 10-month-old friend Evan Stencil Flading, and a friend known only as "Richie" have some fun in Gia's Stone Mountain home. Evan's modeling ambitions are unknown at this time.

that."

Ms. Bone said all of Gia's peers in school have been kind, at an age where casual cruelty and ostracism is often the rule rather than exception.

"After the Rich's ad appeared, all the little girls at school ran to her and hugged her. It made her feel really good. Surprisingly enough, everyone has been really nice," Ms. Bone said.

Gia will be working with the Ford Models Inc. firm (which

handles Christie Brinkley) in New York. While in New York her mother will ferry her around Manhattan to jobs and auditions.

The two will also be jetting back and forth between Atlanta and New York, so Gia can continue to work with her local clients.

Gia's other hobbies include swimming, skating, and fishing. She described herself as "very excited" over the trip to the Big Apple and possible modeling stardom.



Gia and her mother, Anne Bone, share a quiet moment in their Stone Mountain backyard. Ms. Bone is accompanying her daughter on her modeling trip to New York. Gia has signed with Ford Models Inc., which handles model-actress Christie Brinkley. Although she will spend most of her summer in New York, Gia and her mother will come back to their Stone Mountain home frequently for local assignments. (Staff photo by Donna Williams)