

North Carolina holds first ASNE Minority Conference

by Joy Thompson
Managing editor

The American press is still backwards in its failure to hire and promote minorities, said Ben Bowers, vice president and executive editor of the *Greensboro News and Record* at North Carolina's first regional conference for minority journalism students.

The challenge of the 1960's was to correct color barriers and establish social and economic equality, Bowers, who was chairman of the conference, said during a workshop. Tokenism in employment is just as unacceptable as exclusion, he added.

Around 100 students and professors participated in the American Society of Newspaper Editors Regional Conference for minority students held Thursday Oct. 3 to Saturday Oct. 5 at the Greensboro Hilton.

The conference, hosted by the *Greensboro News and Record* and N.C. Agricultural and Technical University, gave minority students the opportunity to participate in workshops and interview for jobs and summer internships. Editors also attended workshops.

Out of the 11 schools in North and South Carolina represented at the conference, UNC-CH had the highest representation with 20 students. Twenty-two regional newspapers were scheduled to interview students.

With the exception of one Puerto Rican and two Filipino students, all of the students were black.

The N.C. conference was one of 16 that ASNE is putting on across the country, Bowers said.

"ASNE is working to get the percentage of minorities in the newsroom

equivalent to the percentage of the minority population in the country," Bowers said.

The project started in 1978 when minorities made up only four percent of the workers in the newsroom, Bowers said. Through the efforts of ASNE there are now six percent, which is still a long way from ASNE's goal, he said.

Carl Morris, minority affairs director of ASNE, said last year there were eight regional conferences across the country. The concept of having minority journalism conferences started 15 years ago with the Howard University conference held in February, Morris said. A Los Angeles Hispanic conference followed suit seven years ago, and the Long Island, N.Y. Newsday conference started two years ago.

ASNE decided to make it easier for newspapers to recruit minorities since newspaper editors complained they did not know where to look to recruit minorities, Morris said. ASNE made it convenient for the editors by having a minority conference "right in their own back yard," he said.

"You have to go where minorities are and actually recruit them," Morris said.

The conference is not only for educating students about a journalism career, Bowers said. It is "mainly to provide interviews so students can get a job or internship," he said. Morris agreed.

"You can have all the programs in the world, but if they don't lead to hiring, then they lead to nought," Morris said.

ASNE is also planning to have 16 conferences next year, Morris said. Every year the conference is held in a

different location within the region, he said.

"By 1987 we should hit almost every part of the country," Morris said.

The conferences are as educational for the editors who participate as it is for the students, Morris said. Next year regional editors will be responsible for creating their own conference, he said.

"We [ASNE] act as a catalyst to bring students and newspapers together," Morris said.

Students and newspaper editors were brought together at the conference both

formally and informally.

After registration on Friday Oct. 3 students attended a workshop entitled, "Career Opportunities for Minorities with Journalism." The panel featured UNC-CH Journalism School Professor Harry Amana.

Friday evening students attended a dinner where Jay Harris, executive editor of the *Philadelphia Daily News*, was keynote speaker. Later that evening students had the opportunity to mix and mingle with editors over drinks during a hospitality period.

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Back Then-Vintage Clothiers; just what Karla Whitlock

wanted

by Shirley Hunter
Staff Writer

Back Then — Vintage Clothiers on West Franklin Street specializes in clothes from the '30s through the '60s. And according to Karla Whitlock, co-owner, "it offers quality merchandise for good prices."

At the store, a men's 100 percent double-breasted wool coat sells for under \$60, a ladies' white angora sweater sells for \$8, ladies' casual dresses and dress pants sell for \$5 and up.

Whitlock, a 1981 UNC graduate, said when she graduated with a degree in criminal justice, she did not want a job in her major. "I've always wanted my own store," she said. "I wanted to pursue fashion merchandizing, and I moved here with the intention of owning a store."

A former clothes buyer, Whitlock said she bought *Back Then — Vintage Clothiers* in January 1985.

People are now seeing the advantages of buying clothes of yesteryear, she said. "Most of the clothing is of much better quality, and the way the clothes are made is much more flattering (than today's clothing)," she said.

Most of the store's regular customers are females in their mid-20s, Whitlock said. "These women are fashion-conscious and know the quality of vintage clothing."

Twenty-five-year-old Mark Hollander, however, is not a typical customer. He shops at *Back Then — Vintage Clothiers* frequently because he likes the variety of clothing, he said.

"I actually like to browse, plus I like the white cotton shirts," Hollander said. "For me, it's rare when I can find something that looks good."

Whitlock said the cotton shirts Hollander likes and most other items in the store are bought through antique dealers and the public. But wide-legged pants and paisley shirts that hang on the store's front rack are also sold.

Yet even with the clothes' low prices and good quality, not many UNC students have come to the store to shop, Whitlock said.

"Many students are afraid to create their own ideas and styles, and this keeps them from experimenting with different types of clothing," she said.

Blacks rarely shop at *Back Then — Vintage Clothiers*, Whitlock said, but that has not hindered the store's business.

"Business is thriving, and although we don't plan to have new stores immediately, expansion may be a future possibility," she said.

Whitlock credited the store's good

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Minorities needed in the media

by Joy Thompson
Managing Editor

The struggle for racial equality continues today, and it is time to pass the torch to a new generation of black journalists, said Jay Harris, executive editor of the *Philadelphia Daily News*, during his keynote address on opening night of the American Society of Newspaper Editors regional conference for minorities.

Held in Greensboro, N.C. Oct. 3-5 at the Hilton Inn, the conference allowed college juniors and seniors the chance to attend workshops and interviews for internships and jobs. Twenty-two editors from the United States attended

the conference that was co-sponsored by *The Greensboro News and Record*.

Harris, whose newspaper is on strike, is a former reporter and editor of the *Wilmington News Journal* in Delaware, a former columnist and has served in several positions at Northwestern University in Evanston, Ill., including assistant dean of the Medill School of Journalism.

There are only 2,500 minority journalists in newsrooms across the country today, Harris said. "If that number doubles twice, only then will it come to parity with the number of minorities in American society," he said.

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Karla Whitlock, co-owner
of *Back Then — Vintage Clothiers*