

## NAACP Youth Conference Hears Inspiring Speakers

The N. C. State Youth Conference of the NAACP successfully presented its first Youth of the Year

Contest Celebration at Saint Augustine's College in Raleigh last Saturday. During the Youth

Awareness Session, William Battle, Admissions Counselor at St. Augustine's, talked about preparing one's self for college. Dr. John R. Larkins, Special Assistant to the Governor's Office explained state government structure. He informed the youth that they can get involved in state government through a youth action office in the state capitol. He also said that there are jobs for youth in internships and being a page. Dr. Larkins said one of the secrets of getting into state government is to know the present members of the House and Senate from one's area.

"North Carolina Is My Home" was the topic covered by Charles A. McLean, State Field Director NAACP and T. Dianne Bellamy-Small, State Youth President NAACP. McLean urged the youth to become registered voters for the rest of their lives.

Ms. Bellamy-Small encouraged the youth to sell the NAACP. "Racism and discrimination are still with us," she said, and charged to go back home and get their youth councils functioning and to work on projects at home that are discriminatory to black people.

Kelly M. Alexander, Jr. of Charlotte spoke briefly on

his trip to South Africa. He said the situation there reminded him of the way America was just a few years ago. He said he saw "White Only" signs and the blacks, whites and coloreds all having their own segregated way of life. He explained to the youth that their affiliation with the NAACP could be the best thing that ever happened to them.

Youth Employment was the focal point of Charles Jeffress, Asst. Commissioner of Labor. He suggested that if the youth were interested in the CETA job program for the summer, they should visit their local Employment Security Commission. Jeffress informed the group that there are free training programs for jobs sponsored by the state and federal government.

The first Youth of the Year celebration raised over \$1,000. The winner was Ms. Brenda Aldrich, of Shelby representing the Cleveland County Youth Council. First

### DON KING - THE ECONOMIC ANIMAL

Some quotes from embattled fight promoter Don King as he spoke to representatives of the NNPA Board of Directors who were in NYC to voice their support. "With the Black Press by my side, it gives me compulsion to fight." "I need the Black Press and should give it some funds from my Maryland fight." "I am a total economic animal and many whites are jealous of me." "Martin Luther King took blacks to the Promised Land. I want to take them to the bank."

place runner-ups were Ms. Arnette McKee of Charlotte representing the East Mecklenburg High School Chapter and Ms. Teresa Hairston of the Winston-Salem Youth Council. And Ms. Scynthia Jefferson of Lincoln County Youth Council was second place runner-up.

Awards of appreciation were given to St. Augustine's College, the Rocky Mount Youth Council, and Dr. Ruth G. Kennedy, Associate Professor of English at NCCU.

Dr. Kennedy was the speaker for the first Youth of the Year Celebration. Her topic was "No Longer at Ease". She stressed the importance of young people being aware of the lack of achievements among blacks today. She warned the youth about the new forms of racism that will eventually recapture blacks as its prisoners if we don't wake up now. Dr. Kennedy reiterated the importance of getting a good education in order to be able to survive today.

## Negro Braille Magazine Celebrates 25th Anniversary

By ELVA DEJARMON

The Negro Braille Magazine Project will celebrate its 25th anniversary June 3 and 4 with a series of activities for Mrs. Lyda V. Merrick, founder and editor of the Magazine. The Negro Braille Magazine is synonymous with the name of Mrs. Merrick.

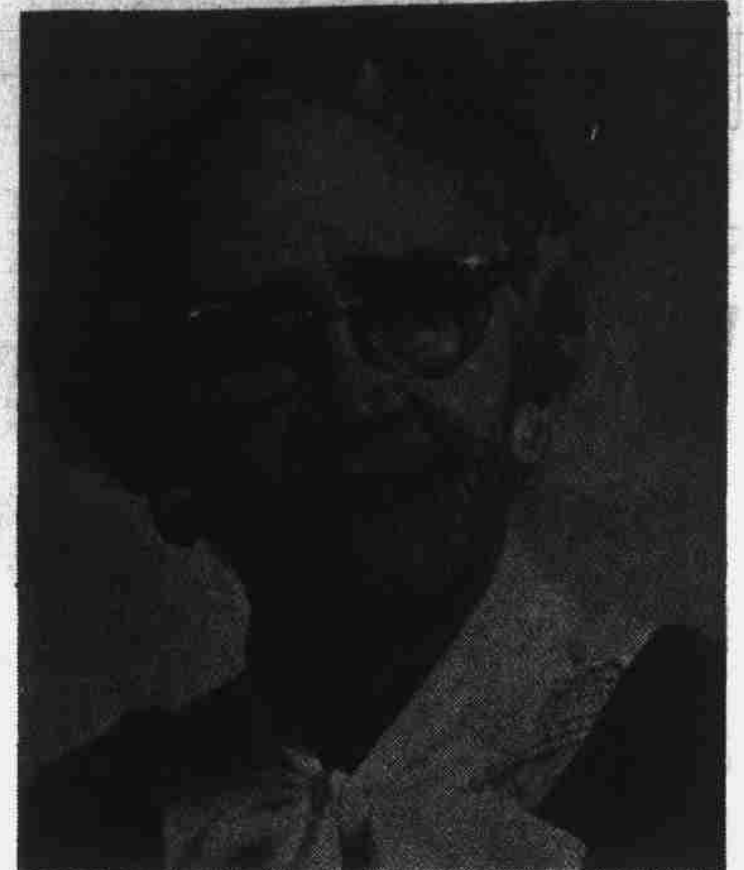
A reception honoring Mrs. Merrick will be held at St. Joseph's A. M. E. Church June 3 at 7:30 p.m. There will also be an exhibit related to the blind. A Blind Choral Ensemble from New York will be presented in a concert at the Durham Civic Center, Saturday, June 4 at 8 p.m.

The first issue of the Negro Braille Magazine was published in June, 1952, by Mrs. Lyda V. Merrick, widow of Edward R. Merrick, former treasurer of North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Co., Durham.

A blind friend, John Carter Washington, was the incentive for Mrs. Merrick to publish this magazine as a news vehicle for the black audience. Seeking help from the American Printing House for the Blind in Louisville, Ky., Mrs. Merrick, with the help of the editors there, put together the first issue, mailed it to Louisville and it was, and still is set in braille and mailed to blind readers.

A great amount of the information in the Magazine is chosen from outstanding black publications such as Ebony, Crisis, Jet and black newspapers.

Mrs. Merrick served as unpaid editor for eighteen years, financing the project



MRS. LYDA V. MERRICK

from contributions, solicitations, support from her husband and out of her own pocket.

Mrs. Charlotte Hackett assumed the position as editor in 1969 upon the resignation of Mrs. Merrick. Under her editorship, the magazine has progressed greatly and a management and editorial board was

formed. Mrs. Hackett resigned in 1975 and the current editors are Mrs. Margaret W. Whisenton and John C. Washington, who serves as Associate Editor for Braille.

The public is cordially invited to both of these activities. There is no cost to attend the reception or the concert.



IMAGINATION AT PLAY - Some youngsters still use their imaginations while playing and make a lot out of a little. Take Michael Hayes, 10, and his sister, Lily, 5. They get a lot of good extra mileage out of a broken vacuum cleaner in North St. Louis. (UPI).



GROVER C. BURTNEY, JR. graduated cum laude from Duke University; Trinity College of Arts and Sciences, May 8, and received his B. A. degree in English. He is president of Burtney Clothiers Ltd, Inc. and an embalmer and funeral director at Burtney Funeral Service. He will enter the School of Law, UNC - Chapel Hill in the fall.

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