

Black Women's Political Caucus Meet Successful

BY PERITA BRYANT

Despite a stormy business session, often plagued with parliamentary and constitutional question, the third annual conference of the North Carolina Black Women's Political Caucus (NCBWPC) was viewed as a success by the women who gathered at Shaw University on Saturday, March 17. Approximately 200 women from throughout North Carolina assembled to address the issues facing black women and to find remedies for them.

Black women and employment was the focal point of the 1979 session. The program was designed to make available information and workshops on career development encompassing career choices and alternatives. It was also intended to make available information and methods of working in the political process to effect change.

The workshops focused on two areas of concern to black women: Getting the Job and On the Job. Dr. Pamela Green, assistant professor of psychology at North Carolina State University in Raleigh, was among the noted workshop leaders. Speaking on career planning and grants for education, Dr. Green stressed that black women must prepare for making career decisions. "Taking an inventory of your life, the things that you enjoy and ordering priorities are essential to planning a career". Urging black women to improve their capabilities through continuing education and pursuit of occupational interests, Dr. Green added that they must also be willing to take challenges and to assume responsibility for the direction of their lives.

Other workshops concerning Getting the Job were Resume Writing and Business Communication, Job Availability and Employment Services and Re-entry Job Market.

Of prime interest to

many women was the question of discrimination on the job.

N. C. Human Relations Director Henry McKoy and Affirmative Action/Personnel Analyst William Dudley directed the workshop on Discrimination.

Gross inequities still exist in employment. According to McKoy, the 1979 labor statistics show that six per cent of all women employed are in white collar positions and black women represent a disproportionately small percentage of that group. The plight of blacks in unemployment presents a dismal picture with a national unemployment rate of 5.9%, the unemployment rate for blacks is 10.8% and 14.7% for black women.

A major concern of many women present was how to deal with the form of discrimination that is encountered today as it is no longer overt racism but a subtle form that is difficult to identify. McKoy believes that women are mostly unwilling to expose discrimination for fear of losing their jobs or being ostracized. He suggests that women must be prepared to challenge discrimination on the job. They should 1) follow up all interviews with supervisors in writing, restating what proceeded in the meeting; 2) document all encounters, official and unofficial; 3) observe any change in the behavior of supervisors and superiors. "Women also need the support of groups such as NCBWPC to challenge discrimination", continued McKoy. "Coalitions between groups are necessary for our survival".

Other On the Job workshops included Equal Pay/Minimum Wage directed by James Easterly, director of Employment Standards Division of the N.C. Department of Labor and Unemployment Insurance led by Warren Whitmer of Unemployment Insurance

Division, Employment Security Commission.

"New Conservatism" was the phrase used by keynote speaker Mrs. Barbara Sizemore to describe the political climate for blacks in America, especially in North Carolina. Speaking at the annual luncheon, Mrs. Sizemore depicted North Carolina as being "the international spotlight for deprivation of human rights". Mrs. Sizemore is presently associate professor of Black Community Education, Research and Development at the University of Pittsburgh.

Humorously she declared that "North Carolina has replaced Mississippi as the bottom of the ladder for black people". Mrs. Sizemore fingered the political pulse of North Carolina, indicating that blacks in North Carolina allow oppression and "North Carolina will continue to be oppressed until you organize and struggle against it".

"Politics is the management of conflict between warring groups over scarce resources", cited Mrs. Sizemore. The economic situation for blacks has worsened over the last few years and continues to worsen. Corporations are moving outside of the U.S., causing a decrease in the number of jobs available to blacks and the traditional jobs that were once held by blacks are being filled by other minorities. "Black people are in a war", declared Mrs. Sizemore, "and if you are not fighting, you will be a loser".

The shrinking economy has severe repercussions for black Americans. The decrease in disparity between blacks and whites as a result of the 1960's is now threatening whites as they become more intensely involved in the war over the scarce resources.

Mrs. Sizemore discerned that the abandonment of social programs by federal agencies, the increase in the death penalty and prison



MRS. SIZEMORE

Director Named For Statewide Legal Service Program

RALEIGH, N.C. — Barbara Arnwine, a attorney with the North Central Legal Assistance Program (NCLAP) in Durham, has been named Director of Administration for Legal Services of North Carolina (LSNC) according to LSNC Executive Director Denny Ray.

"We're very pleased to have someone of Barbara's dedication,

ability, and legal services experience joining the central office as Director of Administration," said Ray. "Her selection completes the hiring process for the LSNC management team, a process which was begun last spring.

A native of Los Angeles, Calif., Ms. Arnwine did her undergraduate work at Scripps College in Claremont, Calif. She received her law degree from Duke University in 1976 and was admitted as member of the N.C. State Bar in 1977.

While an undergraduate, she was named as a Danford scholar, and in law school she was a Davison-Foreman Post Graduate Fellow.

In 1975, Ms. Arnwine worked as a legal assistant in the Duke University Equal Employment Office monitoring the University's Affirmative Action Program and preparing legal memorandum on various aspects of race, sex and age discrimination.

Following graduation from law school, she was selected as a Reginald Herber Smith Community lawyer Fellow and she joined NCLAP as a staff attorney. During her more than three years with NCLAP, Barbara has developed specialized expertise in employment law discrimination, selective service law, and prisoner rights.

Since becoming a member of the Legal Services community, Ms. Arnwine has participated in new lawyer training programs sponsored by the Legal Services Corporation, and has attended numerous state and national conferences relating to the practice of poverty law.

As LSNC's Director of Administration, Ms. Arnwine will work with the Executive Director in carrying out the broad administrative responsibilities of the statewide program, learn how to administer a statewide or other multi-office Legal Services program, and act as LSNC's

sentences along with an increase in testing and other methods of social grading and sorting are among the methods being used by law-makers and politicians to insure their continued dominance over the political and economic life of America.

Admiring bursts of applause and laughter, Mrs. Sizemore concluded that collective commitments must be made by black women in North Carolina to struggle against injustices. The challenge to the NCBWPC was to 1) find out where the votes are and use them, and 2) continue to educate and define the issues facing black women.

The day long conference ended with the business session and the passage of several resolutions. Among those were: voter registration and education; dedication of support and resources to the efforts for the repeal of the competency test; support of funding for genetic health care (House Bill No. 466); dedi-

cation of support to the statewide boycott of North Carolina merchants; Several bills sponsored by North Carolina Legal Aid dealing with domestic violence, workers compensation and aid to families with dependent children. There was also a call for members to write letters to President Jimmy Carter and the N.C. congressmen recommending Attorney Julius Chambers of Charlotte for the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Recently plagued with resignation of some key officers, the Caucus attempted to get on sure footing with the election of new officers. A Raleigh attorney, Brenda Wagner, was elected to chair the organization. Elected as corresponding secretary was Sheila Jones of Durham and Rocky Mount business woman, Francis Stallings, was elected recording secretary. The sergeant-at-arms position was filled for the first time by Barbara Isrel of Durham.

Black Press Workshop Slated for Governor's Inn

CHAPEL HILL — Robert Williams, former editor and publisher of the Crusader and past president of the Union County NAACP, will be the luncheon speaker at a workshop on the black press at Governor's Inn on Saturday, March 24.

The workshop is sponsored by the Southeastern Black Press Institute, a demonstration project of the African and Afro-American studies curriculum at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Sessions will be held from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

A highlight of the workshop will be a panel discussion "Can the Black Press Defeat the S.O.B.—'Sons of Bakke'?" Among the featured panel participants are Vivian Edmonds, editor, Carolina Times; Paul Brock, associate director for public information, NAACP; Robert Hill, special assistant to the chancellor for affirmative action, Syracuse University; and Ralph Smith, assistant professor of law, University of Pennsylvania.

Leading the workshop "Reporting and Editing from a Black Perspective" will be Milton Jordan, reporter from the Charlotte Observer. Another workshop, "Strategies for Expanding the Advertising Base of the Black Press," will be conducted by William Torry, Atlanta Daily World and Donald Roberts, general manager, Amalgamated Publishers, New York City.

The conference is open to newspaper publishers, editors and staff, community leaders academicians, students and other interested persons. Registration fee is \$30 and for students, \$15. Anyone wishing more information on the workshop may contact Carolyn Stoman at (919) 966-5496/5497.

"Few know how to be old." La Rochefoucauld



HOMECOMING: There may not be a college to come home to.

Fifty years ago, we would have done anything to send our young people to a Black college. Because other institutions were not available to them. Today, things are different. More of our young people have the opportunity to go to other schools. But the truth of the matter is, as

recently as 1973, 60% of Black graduates received their degree from Black colleges and universities.

Progress For The People. We've always been proud and inspired by our many great Black leaders, of which 90% were educated in our Black colleges. But if these institutions are going to provide our communities with Black leaders in the future, they need our support now. Black colleges are in serious financial trouble. Keeping them alive has to begin with us.

Human Energy—America's Greatest Resource. People are America's greatest untapped resource. The young minds that we reach today provide the real

energy that runs this country tomorrow. And if we're going to help our institutions survive, we have to care enough to do something now. As families, as individuals, as local religious and community groups. If you're still as proud as you used to be, you won't let the doors close.

CONCERNED BLACK AMERICANS

Caroline Gault *Benjamin Hooks* *John H. Johnson* *Vernon E. Jordan, Jr.* *Dr. Benjamin E. Mays*

Dr. Carlton Gault, National President, National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA); Benjamin Hooks, Executive Director, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP); John H. Johnson, President & Publisher, Johnson Publishing Co., Inc.; Vernon E. Jordan, Jr., President, National Urban League; Dr. Benjamin E. Mays, President, Atlanta Board of Education, President Emeritus, Morehouse College.

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